

WARREN COUNTY

COUNTY CELEBRATES SUMMER WORKFORCE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nearly 370 local workers and supervisors from area businesses enjoyed Monday's celebration.

Annual tradition thanks hospitality, retail workers for their hard work to benefit local economy

LAKE GEORGE – Warren County thanked its hospitality and retail workers for their hard work this summer with a celebration Monday night.

The nearly 370 local workers and supervisors from 80 area businesses enjoyed a free tour boat ride on the Lake George Steamboat Company's Lac du Saint Sacrement as well as prizes, food, awards, music and more.

"This tradition is important for so many reasons," said Warren County Director of Workforce Development Liza Ochsendorf, in a statement. "It helps us recognize the skills, effort, and talent of this essential workforce to our local economy while also providing an opportunity to connect with businesses they never experienced or knew existed. It's imperative that we retain

a workforce that is informed about other local businesses so they can promote and recommend them to visitors. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of businesses who donated funds and prizes to make this event a complete success."

The event was organized by the Warren County Department of Workforce Development and the Warren County Tourism Department to reward the individuals who serve as the backbone of our tourism and retail industries, the county announced. This year marked the fifth annual Warren County Hospitalist Workforce Awards celebration, and the attendance figure was the highest in the event's history, the county announced Thursday.

Local businesses donated money to help fund the event, and 30 businesses donated

prizes for attendees worth \$5,500. Those prizes included restaurant, retail and lodging gift cards and free tickets to local attractions that were handed out during the cruise.

"Our hospitality workers are at the heart of the Lake George Area's tourism industry," said Warren County Tourism Director Heather Bagshaw in a statement. "Whether they work at a resort, hotel, restaurant, attraction or another tourism-related business, they play an important role in creating the experiences our visitors remember. This is our opportunity to recognize their hard work and make sure they know how much they are valued and appreciated."

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Balloon Festival more accessible with free wheelchairs, rollators

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QUEENSBURY – This week the Adirondack Balloon Festival, Southern Adirondack Independent Living (SAIL) and Warren County Emergency Services have teamed up to make this year's balloon festival more accessible.

The 53rd annual Adirondack Balloon Festival will run Sept. 18-20 and this year wheelchairs and rollators will be available for festival attendees who need them.

SAIL Director of External Affairs Cam Cardinale said that many people know SAIL for its free equipment loan program. Through that program, SAIL is able to provide equipment for local events, such as the Adirondack Wine and Food Festival and the Washington County Fair, and for the first time this year, the Adirondack

Balloon Festival.

"We were able to create a partnership between SAIL, the balloon festival and the Warren County Office of Emergency Services, so we're very excited to be able to offer this for free to the community," Cardinale said.

Cardinale estimates they will help 100 or more people at this year's balloon festival through the equipment they are able to offer.

"We will be right on the tarmac near the accessible parking lot, which is very ideal for the folks who may need the equipment we have to offer," Cardinale said. "It's no cost to the consumer, it's completely free they just come, we fill out a quick info form and they take the equipment for the day."

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SHAWN LACHAPELLE, SPECIAL TO THE POST-STAR

Balloons take flight Sunday Morning during the 47th Adirondack Balloon Festival at the Warren County Airport in Queensbury.