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Historic tax credit for newspaper & broadcast media spurs resurgence of local journalism in New York

Earlier this year, Niagara Frontier Publications joined over 200 other local newspapers in New York to launch the Empire State Local News Coalition...

Now, the fruits of this effort are paying off. Spurred by the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program - the nation's first tax credit incentivizing hiring at local media outlets...

Two of the three Westchester communities that lost their newspapers earlier this year saw the founding of the Rivertowns Dispatch (Ardsley, Hastings-On-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington) and The Recorder (Bedford, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge). A third newspaper, the Floral Park Villager, debuted on Long Island...

"When we support local journalism, our communities win," said Zachary Richner, founder of the Empire State Local News Coalition and director of Richner Communications. "The launch of new local, independent news outlets in Westchester and Long Island is a testament to the momentum created by New York's passage of the nation's first tax credit for hiring at local media outlets..."

The Empire State Local News Coalition, which represents over 200 New York newspapers, was instrumental in advocating for the program's inclusion in the state budget, which offers a 50% refundable tax credit on the first \$50,000 of each employee's salary, with a cap of \$300,000 per business over three years...

Publishers of the new newspa-

pers shared their optimism and positive outlook for their industry in light of the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs program.

Allison Schulte, publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch, stated, "We launched the Rivertowns Dispatch to bring back local news to the communities of Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry, New York, after our old local newspaper closed earlier this year. We launched the Rivertowns Dispatch because we believe starting with a shared set of facts makes for richer community life, and that newspapers can be fun, as well as useful..."

Lloyd Trufelman, co-founder and publisher of The Recorder, highlighted the critical role of local news in preserving democracy: "The launch of The Recorder, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom, shows New

Yorkers recognize that a healthy democracy depends on access to reliable, quality news sources to stay informed."

Trufelman expressed hope that similar policies would continue to bolster nonprofit news outlets and support a diversified local news ecosystem.

On Long Island, Meg Morgan Norris, publisher of the Floral Park Villager, emphasized the program's importance in the decision to launch the new paper: "The loss of Floral Park's longtime newspaper, the Gateway Bulletin, during the COVID-19 pandemic, was devastating for this tight-knit community..."

As local journalism continues to face evolving challenges, the Empire State Local News Coalition and Niagara Frontier Publications remain committed to advocating for long-term sustainability in the industry so that communities like ours have trusted local news sources. These new publications mark a hopeful step forward in the resurgence of local media across New York, with the coalition pushing for continued legislative support to ensure the long-term sustainability of local journalism.

Can you help? Benefit slated for Muhammad Z. Zaman

Submitted

Friends of Muhammad Z. Zaman and members of the wider Buffalo art community are coming together to host a special art sale and benefit at Hunt Gallery/Beebe's at the Gallery.

In the spring of 2023, Muhammad was diagnosed with an especially aggressive form of signet ring cell carcinoma. After multiple surgeries and many months of chemotherapy, the cancer has refused to move into remission. As Muhammad undergoes palliative chemotherapy, now is the time for his community to come together to support him and his family...

Muhammad is a Buffalo-based artist whose deeply personal style incorporates three languages that make up his identity: English, Bengali and Arabic. As a Bangladeshi Muslim living in the U.S., Muhammad looks for ways to present positive messages about his culture through his work. His aim, in everything he does, is to inspire people to learn from each other in harmony and mutual understanding.



Muhammad Z. Zaman (Submitted photo)

Muhammad is a Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) studio artist who has shown regularly at museums and galleries throughout Western New York. He is also an active part of the WNY public art program creating murals and installations with the Buffalo AKG, People's Park, Artpark and the Castellani Museum...

Art Center, The Buffalo History Museum, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

As Muhammad's friends, we invite our wider community to join us for this benefit, which will also be an important celebration of life, art, and connection. This sale will include over 100 original artworks by Muhammad and 30 additional works donated by WNY artists...

The benefit for Muhammad Z. Zaman and his family will be held from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Hunt Gallery and Beebe's, 403 Main St., Suite 105, Buffalo.

As friends and fans of Muhammad, we are asking for community support.

To purchase a ticket for the benefit, visit the Eventbrite ticket link. To donate directly to the GoFundMe, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/benefit-for-muhammad-z-zaman-and-his-family. To share the event across your networks, visit https://www.facebook.com/share/W9iM-RnB5tcuq57zd/.

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