

OUTLOOK 2023

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

The Malone Telegram

MARCH 2023



MAJOR EXPANSION

\$45 million project on local dairy farm has eco-friendly features



The rotary milking unit at Bilow Farms as seen under construction last year – it is slated to be completed this year. The barn in the background is also nearing completion and will house some of the dairy cows at the farm. PHOTO BY RICHARD ROSENRETER

By Richard Rosentreter

These days it's not uncommon to read reports of dairy farms across the nation hitting hard times due to things such as inflation, supply chains issues and drought, but one local farm is bucking that trend and have embarked on a large-scale expansion project that is slated to be completed sometime this year.

Bilow Farms, a family-operated dairy farm on County Route 24 in the town of Belmont Malone, is in the midst of a \$25 million expansion project that will include a rotary milking unit able to handle 100 cows at a time, and two new barns, each about the length of five football fields. The farm owners have also partnered with a company called Rev LNG that is investing \$20 million and will turn methane gas generated from cow manure into renewable natural gas – making the total project a \$45 million endeavor. The project will also include an observation area for people to view the operations during tours of the facility.

The farm is owned by Vincent and Truly Bilow - their son Andrew works full-time at the farm and their daughter Jessica Kelley manages the books and does community outreach for the farm in her spare and vacation time. She works full-time teaching fourth graders at St. Joseph's Elementary School.

"We're going to be ultra-modern. We're also going to have large groups of farmers coming in touring the facility. It's going to be a tourist attraction for northern New York," Vincent said, adding that the manure gas aspect of the project is going to reduce the farm's carbon footprints. "And that is what consumers today like to hear. It's good for the environment."

The project has been in the

See BILLOW E4



Andrew Bilow, of Bilow Farm on County Route 24 in Malone, greets some of the nearly 2,000 cows in one of the barns on the family-run dairy farm, which is in the middle of an expansion project that will provide the livestock with a newly constructed barn. The project will also have a positive environmental impact and reduce the farm's carbon footprint, according to the Bilow family. Read about the project in an upcoming issue of the Telegram. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

Chateaugay eyes day camp proposal

By **TREVOR BUCHANAN**
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This story appeared in the Feb. 14, 2023 Malone Telegram.

CHATEAUGAY — A proposal to start a summer day camp for students who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade was well received at the regular meeting of the town board Monday evening.

Kate Dwyer, principal of Chateaugay high school, said the effort was born out of concern for many local kids who may lack meaningful activities and socialization during summer vacation. She grew up in Keene Valley and said a program there is also inspiration for her proposed initiative.

"It gave kids a place to go in the summer with a little bit more supervision," Dwyer told board members. "I think about these kids that live on Main Street and they don't have a lot of activity for the summer. Unless they go to summer school, some of them are stuck in their houses all summer. I would love for them to be able to socialize and play games and do things like that.

"I think it would be a really nice feature for our town and for our kids," she said.

Dwyer was the director of the program in Keene Valley for two years. Her vision for the camp is a six-week program at the Chateaugay recreation park with counselors hired from the ranks of high school students.

She said cursory plans would have the camp run from July 7 through Aug. 11, assuming that does not conflict with previously planned events at the park. Tentative plans would have the camp open to residents of Chateaugay and Burke.

She said that while the program she ran was free of charge, Chateaugay could potentially charge a fee for the camp and seek local sponsors and grants to cover kids from families for whom that fee creates a boundary.

"We could charge a fee that parents could afford," Dwyer said. She added that once kids were registered for the summer, daily attendance would not be mandatory.

She envisions hiring four to five Chateaugay high school students as counselors as well as a director to oversee the entire operation. The camp would tentatively run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, with campers bussed to the rec park or dropped off by parents or guardians.

After attendance is taken at 9 a.m., campers would have varied planned activities until 11 a.m., which could include sports, arts and crafts, or other pursuits planned by counselors. At 11 a.m., campers would have swim lessons or free time followed by a provided lunch until 1 p.m., when more planned events would continue through 3 p.m.

Board members expressed support for the effort, and asked whether Dwyer would



The Chateaugay town building on East Main Street. Malone Telegram

accept the directorship.

"I don't know that I could because I have to work at the school over the summer," Dwyer said. "But I would be happy to work with the director, especially for the first couple of years and just help them through it."

She added that the bus would potentially pick up at two spots in the town, not yet determined, as opposed to a bus driver making individual stops at campers' homes, and a counselor would be present on those buses.

Dwyer said the number of counselors needed would be decided on after the registration process, which would help determine the level of interest in the community, and that she believes state law requires one counselor per eight to 10 campers.

Board member William Trombly suggested beginning the program without a fee until the costs of, and interest in, the camp is better understood.

"It all gets very complicated," Trombly

said. "If you want to keep it simple to start with, I would suggest trying it without the camp fee."

Other board members agreed.

"I would almost think that no fee would be fine," town superintendent Donald Bilow said. "Most of these people don't have a lot of extra dollars."

Dwyer said the biggest expenses would come from hiring counselors, a director, and some supplies, such as soccer balls and basketballs and arts and craft supplies.

"I would say proceed," board member Kirby Selkirk said. "Come up with a more well-developed plan and see what kind of support you can get from the community."

OTHER BUSINESS

Highway superintendent Roger LaBombard updated the board on the efforts of his department and workers. He said Franklin County has increased the reimbursement his

department receives for their work mowing along county roads.

"We went from \$100 per mile to \$180 per mile," LaBombard said. "In 2022 we got \$4,022. For 2023 it will be \$7,239.60. The raise was more or less to offset the fuel costs."

He also said the department is aiming to get a new worker his CDL license so that worker can plow roads and complete other jobs with heavy town vehicles. He suggested a program at CV Tech in Plattsburgh, and said that cost could be offset by taking a portion of hourly earnings over the first three months on the job.

Other board members felt an arrangement that requires workers who have their training paid commit to three years working for the town, or pay back the training costs if they decide to leave before the three-year mark.

The board, by and large, agreed with that plan and will revisit the issue in a future meeting.

Proposed teaching certificate to focus on Indigenous cultures

By **BOB BECKSTEAD**
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This story appeared in the Feb. 17, 2023 Malone Telegram

MASSENA — State Education Department officials have proposed creating an Indigenous Culture and Language Studies (All Grades) certificate for teachers in an effort to increase the capacity and number of teachers who can teach Indigenous cultures and languages while increasing the awareness, knowledge and appreciation for Indigenous peoples.

Those who would like to teach an Indigenous language in the state's public schools can obtain a permit, which authorizes an individual to teach in public schools, but is not equivalent to a teaching certificate.

Teachers who hold a certificate demonstrate their content, pedagogical knowledge and skills through the certification process and may be eligible for tenure in a school district.

Additionally, the professional teaching certificate is continuously valid, while individuals who hold a permit would need to apply to renew their permit every five years after their first two-year permit. State Education Department officials said having both the permit and proposed new certificate as options would allow permit holders to continue practicing in the classroom while also attracting new teachers to this area.

They said the department is conducting ongoing consultation with Indigenous Nations regarding the proposed regulations.

"All voices must be heard, respected, and considered. By expanding opportunities for teachers, we are advancing access to educational excellence and equity for all students. Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education, such as learning about indigenous languages and cultures, affirms cultural identities, develops students' abilities to connect across lines of difference, and elevates historically marginalized voices," Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa said in a statement.

Officials with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe say it's a "substantial step forward."



State Education Department officials have proposed creating an Indigenous Culture and Language Studies (All Grades) certificate for teachers in an effort to increase the capacity and number of teachers who can teach Indigenous cultures and languages while increasing the awareness, knowledge and appreciation for Indigenous peoples. Johnson Newspapers

"NYSED's Indigenous Culture and Language Studies (All Grades) certificate is a substantial step forward in creating pathways for indigenous students to obtain teacher certification through the proposed regulatory changes. We are optimistic that Indigenous nations across the state will begin to see more individuals demonstrate a willingness to pursue this opportunity," St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Education Director Stephanie Cook said in an email.

"This marks a historic moment in our educational history and we commend Commissioner Rosa and the NYSED Board of Regents in recognizing the importance of not only hearing our collective voices, but also putting measures in place to support the need for culturally relevant teaching practices, knowledge and opportunities. Our language is vital to our identity and we support all efforts that ensure continued importance on sustaining and supporting our educators at all levels in their

learning," she said.

The state Education Department will accept public comments on the proposal through May 1. Public comments may be submitted via email to ohergcomments@nysed.gov.

Following the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its June 2023 meeting.



Back left to right- Addie Metzler, Addy Clookey, Emily St.Mary. Front left to right -Jordyn Miner and Kinsleigh Covey

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All That Jazz sweeps Elite Dance Challenge

The All That Jazz dance company, with studios in Malone and Moira, swept the Elite Dance Challenge, a dance competition held recently in Burlington, Vt. The company competed with just two groups of the team's dancers and both groups won high awards in their classes. "You Belong With Me", a tap routine choreographed by Miss Katie Poupore won highest scoring recreational routine out of more than twenty competing routines. Jazz routine, "Spice Girls", choreographed by studio owner Miss Rachael Ghostlaw won the highest scoring intermediate routine of over thirty routines at the competition.



Dancers (left to right back) - Reese Hanna, Zoe Debose, Raven Barse, (front row left to right) Kinsleigh Covey and Jordyn Miner

All That Jazz offers a way for local dancers to showcase their talents in other areas, give them goals to work towards as a team, and create lasting memories. In the spring, applications will be accepted to join the 2024 company team. Registration begins in May for the summer program welcoming children of all ages to join! Fall classes begin Sept 11th. Call 518-521-3675 or Facebook message for more information.

Twisted Scissors offers variety of services

Twisted Scissors Salon was established in 2022. We are a group of talented, experienced, independent stylists with our focus being on you, our guest. We provide a clean and professional environment with an upbeat atmosphere. Not only do we offer the latest hair trends, we also offer hair removal, ear piercing, tanning and Red Light Therapy. We carry Redken and Fairy Tale hair products to maintain your gorgeous new look and Australian Gold tanning lotions for your beautiful glow. Call us for your appointment at 518.319.4009 or stop in and see us at 3076 State Route 11 West, Malone. We are open Monday through Friday 9am -5pm. Other hours by appointment.

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Happy Tails Animal Hospital excited to serve your pet in 2023

Happy Tails Animal Hospital, PLLC has been proudly serving the North Country since December 2019. As always, we are extremely grateful to our wonderful clients for allowing our team to serve the medical needs of their furry family members. Over the past year our team consisting of Dr Jennifer Gallagher, Dr. John Cogar, Dr Susan Bregman, Mindy Cornell (LVT), Dharma Chevalier (LVT), and Lydia Gratton (Vet Assistant/ Receptionist), have worked diligently to provide top notch medical care via curbside service to our clients.

We are proud to announce that in October of 2022, our very own, Dr. John Cogar travelled to Ukraine to volunteer his time to help abandoned animals in the war zone. Dr. Cogar spent 12 days in the city of Irpin, which located near the capital of Kyiv. During his time there, he was able to provide much needed medical care to many abandoned animals. He also had the honor of providing care for working military dogs. He performed more than 75 spay and neuter surgeries during this time, many lit by flashlight as electricity was unreliable and mainly provided by generators. Less than 48 hours after returning from his mission trip, he was back at Happy Tails providing services for our local animals!

Our team is looking forward to serving our furry friends in 2023. As many animal lovers are aware, there is a currently high-demand for veterinary care. With the high demand for care coupled with



Dr John Cogar from Happy Tails Animal Hospital, PLLC performs a spay surgery by flashlight on an abandoned cat in the city of Irpin, Ukraine. Dr Cogar travelled to the war zone to help provide care to animals as part of a veterinary mission. (Photo provided by John Cogar)

significant staffing shortages; we are taking measures to maintain efficiency so that we can care for as many pets as possible all while maintaining the high quality of medicine you have come to expect from our facility.

As we have done over the past two years, we will be continuing to offer curbside only service. As every team member is integral to our daily operations, staff will be working to avoid spread of contagious illness that could interrupt the services at our facility.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am-2:00pm for scheduled appointments and surgeries. We ask that folks plan ahead when making their appointments for annual examinations and vaccinations, as our schedule books up very quickly. For clients with patients on chronic medications or prescription diets, we ask that you plan as far ahead as possible for all refills, as we have experienced delayed shipping. As always, we require a 24-48 hour notice for all in-house prescriptions

and 72 hour notice for all written prescriptions to ensure product availability and proper review of the medical information. We thank you all for your continued support and patience. For questions or to make an appointment, please contact us at (518)-521-3929. Happy Tails Animal Hospital, PLLC is located at 2782 State Route 11, North Bangor, NY 12966. We look forward to serving all of your furry family members medical needs in the coming year.

Bilow

From E1

planning stage for two years and got off the ground in April, and the Bilows were able to do that with a loan from Farm Credit East.

"It probably won't be completely done until late 2023 or early 2024. There's a lot to this," Vincent said. "We're doing this on our own. We have no grants for this at all. We have no outside investors."

The centerpiece of the project for the Bilows is the rotary milking parlor, which will help the farm operate more efficiently with its manpower.

"When that is up and running, our goal is to milk 750 cows an hour. It's set up for the efficiency of what we're doing, and that goes back to the labor part," Andrew said. The cows step on the parlor and ride it around while getting milked. Once they get around they will exit it and return to their group to eat and rest.

"It's like a merry-go-round. It rides on a circle," Jessica added, and explained that the central building will also house the main office of the dairy farm along with the public viewing zone.

"Sometime in the spring of 2023 we'll be milking," Vincent said, adding that right in front of the rotary milker will be the main farm office and the observation area, which will give the farm a new look. "Even though it's a dairy farm, it's not going to look like a dairy farm in the front. Our image is very important to us."

WE ARE FAMILY

The land that the farms sits on was originally purchased by Vincent Bilow's grandfather in 1942 and then the property was purchased by his father in 1946, which is when the dairy farm sprouted and had about 20 cows at the time. When Vincent

and his wife Trudy bought the farm from his father in 1988, the farm was up to about 80 cows.

During that time, dairy farming has become a passion for both father and son.

"It's in our blood," Vincent said.

"When you do something and grow up with it, that's what you do," said Andrew, who takes care of the cows and calves all day. "When I grew up, I was in the barn all the time taking care of the calves, and then it transitioned to heifers and cows."

Jessica said that while she was growing up, she didn't do much work for the farm, but in 2015, she started helping out in the office. These days, one of her primary objectives is doing community outreach and trying to bring in more field trips to educate the community, including school children.

"We're big on community outreach, because at some point, everybody knew somebody who had a farm," she said. "Now when you ask a kid 'Have you been to a farm?' they answer 'No.' There's such a big gap now where kids don't go to a farm or they've never been to a farm or know what goes on at a farm."

One thing about the dairy farm is the changes that have taken place as far as how the cows live on a daily basis. Prior to 1999, Bilow Farm used tie stalls, which is a form of housing in the dairy industry where cows are tethered to their stall. The farm has since moved to a freestall housing system, which provides a comfortable place for dairy cows to lie down and rest.

The size of the farm also grew – and in 2015, the Bilows bought a farm in Oriskany Falls, and the total number of cows is approaching 4,000, with about half of them at the Malone location. Vincent said that once the new barns are completed, all the cows from the other location will be moved to Malone.

"Currently we're milking about 800 cows at that location, but there are more on site. All those cows will be coming here," Vincent said. "We want to bring everything back home (to Malone) for labor efficiency."

Vincent said that once the project is complete and all the cows are in place, he expects to add about 80 more jobs at the local dairy farm.

"Our goal is to create jobs in the barn that are 40-ish hours in a week. We're trying to create good-paying jobs but people don't have to work 60-70 hours per week," he said.

Being a family operation is good as it keeps the family together, and although it's not always perfect, the family has plenty of pride in being a close-knit unit.

"I think it's great," Trudy said "People don't realize that even though it's large, it really is still a family farm."

"I look at it when I started to where I am, and I'm super proud. It makes me smile. I'm hoping that our grandsons and granddaughters will get involved with the farm," Vincent said. "It's a sense of pride. I don't know about the future and where it's going to go, but this is my future right now."

"It has its challenges, but it has its rewards. At the end of the day, we're still a family," Andrew said, adding that he'd love to keep the family line moving with his daughter getting involved. "I'd like to think maybe she'll get involved with the farm but she's only five now."

"It also goes back to what people have said that this is a large farm and it's not a family farm, but it still really is a family farm," Jessica said. So far, she said her oldest son is most interested at this point, and that during the summer her kids are at the farm and enjoy hanging out with the calves.

Vincent said that having a farm this big is harder for the grandkids to do what his children did while they were

growing up on the farm, mainly due to the increased amount of equipment.

Trudy said that when Andrew was little, he'd say "I'm going to the barn with dad," and she wouldn't have to worry about it. That's not the case anymore.

"Back then they could go into the smaller barn, but now we have equipment running. Safety is always a main concern for us," Vincent said.

When the project is completed, a connection will hopefully be made between the farm and its ability to teach both young and old not only about farm life, but all the aspects of a modern farm.

"I think it will make me feel proud to have some of the kids, and even some of the adults that stop by, go home and have a better understanding of what we do and we do a good job caring for our animals," Vincent said. "Our motto at Bilow Farm is that cows come first. It's very important to treat our animals well."

"People who have never been on a farm people just don't know," Trudy said, and then described an interaction that epitomized the lack of knowledge. She said that some kids from the city were visiting the farm and she had the task of making breakfast.

"Our daughter said, 'Oh, wait until you try the bacon we have here,' and one of the kids replied to her 'No, I'm not eating that, it's not from a store.' So I asked, 'Where do you think the milk comes from?'"

For the Bilow family, the project marks another chapter for the dairy farm, and one that continues to build long after the project is finished.

"This is all I've ever done. We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't enjoy it," Vincent said. "It's a long way from being done. I just look at it as this is what we do. We just want to supply a good wholesome product to the consumer."

Home-Farm and Garden Center ready for 2023

The Home-Farm and Garden Center is located in Burke, NY on Route 11-formerly Dutch Oven Bakery and Greenhouse and Yoder's Farm and General. Owners are Cristy and Lydia Yoder.

In August of 2022 due to shortage of help and rising cost of supplies, we decided to close the Bakery and bring the Farm Supply into the same building with the quilts, crafts, etc. This helped make the workload easier for one person to manage the store and greenhouse. At this time, we decided to change the business name to the: Home-Farm and Garden Center.

We try to carry products our local community has a need for. With the cost of shipping, especially now, it makes sense to shop local as much as possible and it also helps the local economy. Please feel free to stop by and see what we have to offer.

Store hours are

Monday thru Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Our Greenhouse usually has plants ready to go by May 1st. We try to have a good variety of vegetable plants. We also sell vegetable seeds, a variety of bedding plants and hanging baskets.

We also own Yoder's Auction Service, where we do onsite auctions or auctions at our auction hall. When the greenhouse opens, we schedule our in-house auctions for Friday night so we have enough parking for everyone.

We believe to have the Lord's blessings; you need to be a blessing to people and we hope our business can be a blessing to the local community. We would like to thank everyone that supported us in the past and may do so in the future.

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Brookside Solar Project takes a step

Application process complete for site in Chateaugay and Burke; buyer for energy still needs to be found

By **TREVOR BUCHANAN**
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This story appeared in the Feb. 15, 2023 Malone Telegram.

CHATEAUGAY — A 100-megawatt solar energy project may soon move forward in Chateaugay and Burke after the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) issued a notice of completed application to Brookside Solar on Feb. 10, according to town officials and Applied Energy Services (AES), the engineering firm overseeing the sustainable energy construction.

According to aes.com, the Brookside Solar Project is a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility proposed to be located in Franklin County. The project will span approximately 1,100 acres and plans to connect to the nearby Chateaugay-Willis 115kV transmission line.

According to AES, the project is expected to positively impact both the environment and the local economy by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 131,000 metric tons per year of its operation, which is equal to powering roughly 23,800 homes per year. Local economies will benefit from tax revenues and “other economic benefits,” the AES website states.

The application was originally submitted by Brookside Solar, LLC on Feb. 18, 2022 and was amended on Aug. 6, Oct. 25, and Dec. 12 of 2022 and on Jan. 24 and Feb. 1 before final acceptance. The firm now awaits either a draft siting permit, which requires public hearing in the municipalities where the project is being developed, or a statement of intent to deny the application.

Chateaugay town supervisor Donald Bilow said although he expects the permit to be issued and construction to take about a year once started, he is unsure of when work will begin and directed questions to Brookside representatives.

AES officials said the project is expected to create more than 150 construction jobs, and Bilow said the economic impact on his town will stretch beyond the jobs it creates.

“Mostly there will be some jobs, and they’ll help with tax payments,” Bilow said, referring to the town’s host community agreement with the firm.

“The Brookside Solar Project will support New York State’s climate goals and will have minimal impact on neighboring landowners, nearby communities, and surrounding landscapes. The

facility has been designed to minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable and unavoidable impacts will be outweighed by the economic and environmental benefits of the facility,” according to the AES website.

AES aims to limit impacts to the environment to temporary and minor permanent impacts to agricultural land (pasture and row crops), forested land, and successional shrubland. Tree clearing has been limited to 46 acres of the 1,471-acre facility site, and .03 acres of wetlands will be unavoidably impacted. A wetland mitigation and restoration plan will be developed in accordance with state regulations. There will be no impacts to streams or waterways and AES has developed a net conservation benefit plan (NCBP) for the short-eared owl, northern harrier, and Henslow’s sparrow through grassland bird habitat conservation.

Traffic impacts will also be minimal, developers said, and noise and visual impacts are expected to be limited.

Eric Will, senior manager of development for AES, said while the initial proposal was made several years ago, regulations have changed and his company has had to be agile to deal with these changes.

“We started it several years ago but since then (New York State) has implemented this new 94c siting process that did not exist back when we started,” Will told the Telegram. “So we’ve had to adapt to that. Nothing ever happens as quickly as you’d like it to.”

“They should offer a draft permit around April 10.”

Will said he expected it will take several more months to finalize everything AES needs to begin development at the site. He said concurrent to the permitting process, AES has been working to develop agreements to sell the power the site generates, as well as the interconnections necessary to transport that power.

“The permit, in and of itself, although it’s a critically necessary hurdle, that alone doesn’t trigger construction,” Will said. “You’ve still got to have two other important components – interconnection, and you’ve got to have an agreement to sell power. You can’t build a project if you don’t have someone to sell the power to.”

The solar farm will have a lifespan of roughly 30 years, AES and town officials said.

Franklin County Historical Society ready for 2023



Cheryl Learned, a volunteer and board member of the Franklin County Historical & Museum Society, gave a tour of the House of History in June to Brushton-Moira Central School students (left to right) Gracie Parent, Kylie Wood, Skylar Durant, Madison St. Denis and Shyreesha Cayea from Burton Peck’s Independent Living class and Melissa Roberts Modern Living class. Tours of the museum will be back in full swing this spring, offered Tuesdays through Fridays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Visitors should call (518) 483-2750 in advance to arrange.

Pine Country Outlet offers unique items for all

Sisters and co-managers of the Pine Country Outlet, Patty Stickney and Eileen LePine, strive to offer an ever changing selection of unique and interesting items to peak the interest of shoppers and browsers. Pictured here is one of the latest vendors- a new antique dealer featuring crystal, silver, Victorian furniture and accessories, and framed prints and photos. The store, located in the former Malone Grange Hall building on Raymond Street in Malone, offers quality second hand goods, antiques, a variety of local crafts, as well as local goat milk soap, honey, and maple syrup. Watch for the Spring Cleaning Sale and stop by to see more new vendors. Updates are posted regularly on Facebook.



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franklinhistory.org

NBT Bank providing superior services to the north country

Since opening its doors in 1856, NBT Bank has remained committed to providing customers with superior banking services and helping to make the communities it serves a better place to live and work. This commitment to building long-term financial relationships with individuals, businesses and organizations in and around the rural communities NBT serves was affirmed with multiple outside recognitions in the past year.

In 2022, NBT Bank again secured a spot on the Forbes World's Best Banks list, earning the highest-ranked bank based in New York and the highest-ranked bank in Connecticut and Vermont. The company was also recognized as a best place to work by the Central New York Business Journal and Albany Business Review—a testament to NBT's strong focus on ensuring a positive environment to cultivate the best employees in community banking.

More locally, former Branch Manager Andrew Knowles moved into a fraud investigator position at NBT and experienced local banking expert Stacey Brunell was named branch manager for NBT Bank of Malone, which is located on State Route 11.

Committed to community involvement, NBT team members participated in a number of activities, including working with Franklin County emergency services personnel and rescue squads to help support their projects. The NBT team was also proud to support the Harison Place development. This transformational affordable housing project by Citizen Advocates is being constructed on the site of former blighted properties in downtown Malone.

The company ended the year with the announcement of an agreement to merge Salisbury Bank with and into NBT Bank, pending regulatory and Salisbury shareholder approval. The acquisition will add 14 complementary branches to NBT's current roster of 140 offices. Salisbury Bank branches are located in northwestern Connecticut, southwestern Massachusetts, and the Hudson Valley. This expansion marks positive news that demonstrates the overall strength and health of the company.

ABOUT NBT BANK

NBT Bank offers personal banking, business banking and wealth management services from locations in seven states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. The bank and its parent company, NBT Bancorp, are headquartered in Norwich, NY. NBT Bancorp had assets of \$11.74 billion as of December 31, 2022 and is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol NBTB. More information about NBT is available online at www.nbtbank.com. Member FDIC.



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Malone Home & Farm Center ready for every season

Ryan LaValley is ready for the changing seasons at Malone Farm & Home Center in Malone. Here he's discussing the pros and cons of various equipment with a customer. Maple syrup producers can see Ryan for supplies and advice for all they need to get through the 2023 maple producing season. They continue to stock a full assortment of maple sugaring equipment by CDL, including the hobby evaporator pictured here and NY State jugs, and can special order, also. Now is also the time to talk to poultry expert, Pete Vaughn, about spring orders of chicks, turkeys, and ducklings and poultry raising supplies, along with sage advice. Pete suggests ordering soon, as supplier stock is going fast. Malone Farm and Home is easy to find at the corner of Elm and Raymond Streets. Call 518-483-8072 or check their Facebook page.





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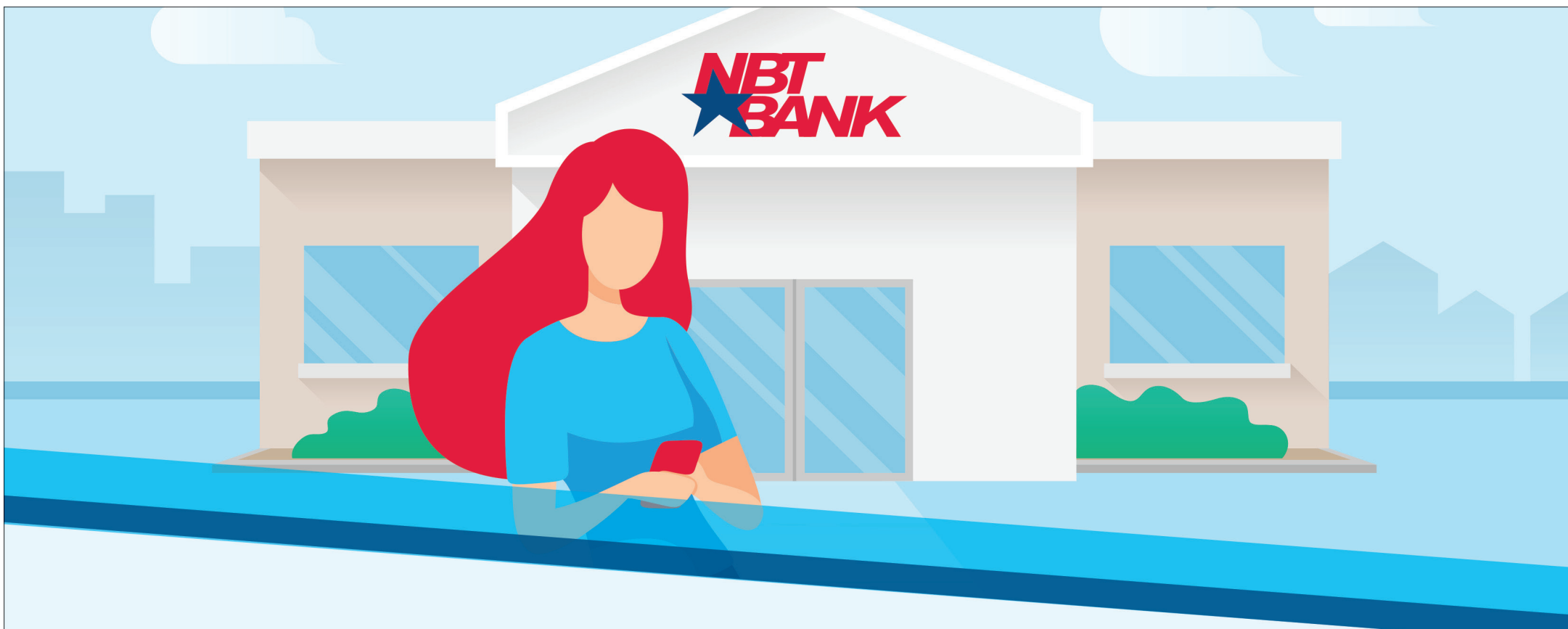
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Innovative cancer treatment coming to region

Staff report

BURLINGTON — The University of Vermont Cancer Center will offer a novel, highly effective form of cancer treatment called CAR T-cell therapy beginning this month, when final accreditation and approval to begin treating patients is expected, according to a news release issued Wednesday by UVM.

The Cancer Center will be the only healthcare institution in Vermont and northern New York to provide the treatment.

CAR T, as it is known, uses the body's immune system to fight cancer, and, unlike other immunotherapies, CAR T uses genetically modified T cells from the patient to attack cancer cells, according to the release.

Approved by the FDA in 2017 for a variety of blood cancers, CAR T-cell therapy induces a "complete response" — where no remaining cancer is detectable — in 50 to 80 percent of patients treated with it, depending on the cancer type, including in 70% of patients with mantle cell lymphoma and 80 percent with follicular lymphoma. Up to 90% of patients with these two cancers see a "partial response," where the cancer has been significantly diminished. The therapy is typically used after other forms of treatment have been unsuccessful, the release said.

Blood cancers account for 10 percent of all cancer diagnosed in the United States every year, according to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Although long-term data for CAR T-cell therapy is not yet available, the treatment has the potential to cure cancer. Of the first patients treated over 10 years ago with CAR T-cell therapy in clinical trials, few of those who achieved a complete response have seen their cancer return, the release said.

CLINIC HAS EXPERIENCED LEADER

The Cancer Center's new CAR T program will be led by James Gerson, M.D., assistant professor in the Larner College of Medicine's Department of Medicine, who came to UVM from the University of Pennsylvania, where CAR T-cell therapy was discovered and developed, the release said. Gerson worked directly with the team of researchers who created the therapy, led by Carl H. June, M.D., and was among the first clinicians to use it in a commercial setting.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Dr. Gerson's caliber directing our CAR T clinic and offering this life-saving therapy to patients in our region," Randall Holcombe, MD, MBA., director of the UVM Cancer Center and Associate Dean for Cancer Programs at the Larner College of



James Gerson, assistant professor in the Larner College of Medicine's School of Medicine, is the lead physician of the CAR T program. Dr. Gerson joined the University of Vermont from the University of Pennsylvania, where CAR T-cell therapy was discovered and developed. Dr. Gerson worked with the creators of the treatment and is one of the first physicians in the country to use CAR T in a clinical setting. Provided photo

Medicine, said in the release.

"The Larner College of Medicine was honored to work with our partners at UVM Medical Center to recruit Dr. Gerson to our academic medical center," said Dr. Richard L. Page, dean of the UVM Larner College of Medicine. "The CAR

T program is yet another example of the profound value that the UVM Cancer Center brings to our region."

AVOIDING UPHEAVAL IN PATIENTS' LIVES

Currently, patients in the UVM Medical Center's catchment area who want CAR T

therapy need to travel, usually to Boston, New York, Dartmouth or Rochester, to access it, the release said.

The remote treatment can cause significant upheaval in their lives, Gerson said in the release, since it requires multiple episodes of care over the

course of three to six months. Many patients live in the area where they're being treated for four weeks.

"Our goal is for you to be able to access this therapy without uprooting your life," he added.

According to UVM, CAR T works by training T cells — a type of white blood cell used by the immune system to kill viruses and other foreign bodies — to recognize and attack cancer cells. The treatment has several steps. First, T cells are removed from the patient's blood. Then, in the lab, they're modified by adding a receptor gene — a "chimeric antigen receptor" or CAR — that can recognize a protein on the cancer cell, latch onto it and kill the cell. Finally, cells are multiplied and given back to the patient.

CAR T is currently approved only for blood cancers: lymphoma, some leukemias, and multiple myeloma. Research is ongoing to apply the method to other cancers, the release said.

"We look forward to bringing this innovative new treatment to the patients who need it in our region. I've seen first-hand its potential to save lives," Gerson said.

Patients interested in the therapy should contact their oncologist.



The Community Health Center of the North Country in Malone will receive a portion of nearly \$1 million in state aid to the agency. The funds are slated to be used for renovations and improvements to clinics in Malone, Canton, Gouverneur and Ogdensburg. Trevor Buchanan/Malone Telegram

Area health centers get \$900K

From staff reports

CANTON — Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul announced in a news release Wednesday more than \$658 million in state funding to support 127 projects aimed at protecting New York's health care delivery system. Community Health Center of the North Country was one of the awardees receiving just over \$900,000 to help with renovations at both the Malone and Canton health centers.

"New Yorkers deserve access to quality healthcare and a strong, stable, and equitable healthcare system," Hochul said in the release. "These grants will provide critical funding for improvements at hospitals and other facilities throughout our state to ensure they deliver the top rate care New Yorkers deserve."

The Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program is aimed at supporting efforts to reduce health care costs and improve the health outcomes of state residents by expanding access to inpatient, primary, preventative, and other ambulatory care services as part of regionally integrated health

care delivery systems. These awards are also focused on projects which will help ensure the financial sustainability of safety net providers.

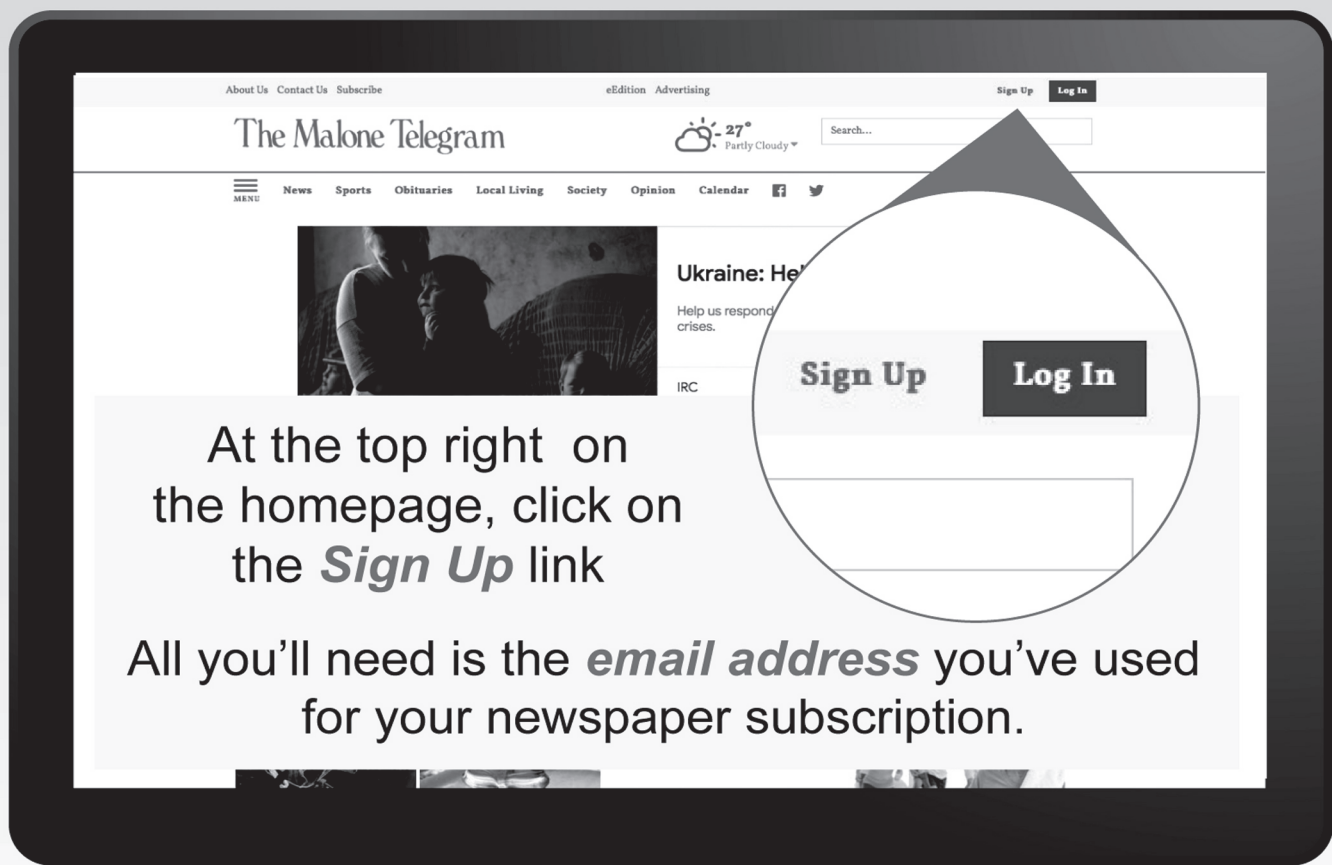
"Our entire team is once again thrilled to receive support from New York state," said Anne Richey, CEO of Community Health Center of the North Country. "We have been a part of the Malone community for almost 50 years, and this type of investment allows us to further solidify our commitment to building a healthier community for all."

Community Health Center of the North Country is an independent provider of health services for people of all income levels across the North Country, and is part of a national network of Community Health Centers serving over 30 million patients including 300,000 veterans, 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries, nearly 1.2 million homeless, and over 7.5 million children. They have locations in Malone, Canton, Gouverneur and Ogdensburg. An optometry center is also located on Arsenal Street in Watertown.

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The Home-Farm and Garden Center is located in Burke, NY on Route 11-formerly Dutch Oven Bakery and Greenhouse and Yoder's Farm and General. Owners are Cristy and Lydia Yoder.

In August of 2022 due to shortage of help and rising cost of supplies, we decided to close the Bakery and bring the Farm Supply into the same building with the quilts, crafts, etc. This helped make the workload easier for one person to manage the store and greenhouse. At this time we decided to change the business name to the: Home-Farm and Garden Center.

We try to carry products our local community has a need for. With the cost of shipping, especially now, it makes sense to shop local as much as possible and it also helps the local economy. Please feel free to stop by and see what we have to offer.

Store hours are Monday

thru Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Our Greenhouse usually has plants ready to go by May 1st. We try to have a good variety of vegetable plants. We also sell vegetable seeds, a variety of bedding plants and hanging baskets.

We also own Yoder's Auction Service, where we do on-site auctions or auctions at our auction hall. When the greenhouse opens we schedule our in-house auctions for Friday night so we have enough parking for everyone.

We believe to have the Lord's blessings; you need to be a blessing to people and we hope our business can be a blessing to the local community. We would like to thank everyone that supported us in the past and may do so in the future.

Feel free to call us at 518 483-4484 or stop by at 5004 State Route 11 Burke, NY.

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Healing Grace: Center for hope and healing and grief center for the north country

Finding hope in the face of loss

Based in Plattsburgh, NY, Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing serves families in Clinton, Essex, Franklin. Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing, is a center for grief support. They focus on supporting families of infant and pregnancy loss and are expanding to support all those that face grief and loss. They offer in person groups and are available to meet with families to discuss their specific needs for support. They provide peer driven groups and many other programs developed to give grace and support to families of loss. These programs include Champ Boxes filled with comfort items to area hospitals for mothers of pregnancy and infant loss. Bodhi's Toties which are totes filled with comfort items for children of all ages and all types of grief. Birth weight stuffed animals, a library of grief support books, Comfort Cubs which are weighted teddy bears and personalized remembrance items.

Healing Grace is now offering groups outside the Plattsburgh area in Saranac Lake and Malone. Currently offering a group for mothers of infant and pregnancy loss coffee and connection group. They are

committed to expanding these peer driven groups to the many different types of loss.

The organization is a New York State recognized charitable organization and is a Federally recognized 501(c)3 not-for-profit. Board members include Father Christopher J. Looby, spiritual advisor and board president; Kathryn LaValley, physical therapist and board secretary; Dr. Anthony Garami, pediatrician and medical director; Maria Hayes, RN; Pam Davis RN and Assistant Director of the Alice Miner Women and Children Center at CVPH; and Michele Armani, chairperson of the fundraising committee. The Executive Director is Sarah Munn Wojtaszek.

Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing was founded by Sarah Munn Wojtaszek in honor of her daughter, Grace, who lived for only five hours. Grace was diagnosed in utero with anencephaly, a neural tube defect. Sarah and her husband, Keith, then residents of the Kansas City area, received support from Alexandra's House, a perinatal hospice in that region. When the Wojtaszek's returned to the North Country, they

discovered that there were no similar organizations offering support for families who've experienced infant or pregnancy loss in this region, and Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing was born.

To continue its planned growth, Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice needs financial and material support.

Financial donations can be made online via their website www.healinggraceph.org or mailed to Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing at 62 Brinkerhoff St., Suite 104, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

The organization is also seeking: Items such as handprint/footprint kits, memorial items and infant hats to be included in Remembrance Boxes, gifts for families who experience infant loss.

Items for our children's grief totes to include crayons, coloring books, small stuffed animals, etc.

Counselors and medical professionals who are willing to create a referral connection for families seeking support after loss.

Community members looking to join our board to help facilitate sustained growth



Cornell Co-Op preparing for summer camps



The weather may still be chilly, but 4-H Camp Overlook preparations are in full force, and they are looking forward to seeing all the smiling faces this summer! Join us for family camps, residential camp, or rent camp for your own gathering! Our summer camp runs multiple one-week sessions from June through August. Check out our website for more information www.4hcampoverlook.org.

TruNorthern Federal Credit Union to open a second branch in Brushton

We are delighted to announce that your hometown credit union is coming to the Brushton Community in the Summer of 2023! TruNorthern Federal Credit Union has leased space from Martins Country Store and will be opening a branch inside their Brushton location at 1274 Washington Street. The decision to open a location in Brushton derives from TruNorthern's motto of "People Helping People".

The Brushton-Moira Community is what we call in the finance industry a "Bank Desert", meaning there's no physical financial institution within a 15-mile radius, and that poses a big problem for such communities. "That's where we come in," says CEO and Brushton-Moira native Darin Childs. "In the beginning, credit unions were created to serve the underserved, so in a way we're going back to the roots of the credit union movement. In fact, our founding Manager, Anne Anderson was a Brushton-Moira school teacher. It only makes sense that we expand into the Brushton community which has

been underserved for many years." Childs continues by saying, "This is a much larger investment than just putting up a branch, we'll look for additional opportunities to invest in the area by providing financial literacy workshops, sponsorships, donations, and scholarships."

TruNorthern's Board President and Brushton-Moira native, Curt Lyon states, "TruNorthern Federal Credit Union is excited for the opportunity to provide a variety of financial services for the residents of Brushton-Moira and the surrounding communities. It's a unique and exciting collaboration with a local business to be able to open a branch in the village of Brushton. This is a win-win for the community, the credit union, and people in that region."

"After contacting various financial institutions over the years, TruNorthern has had a growing interest in the Brushton community," states Josiah Martin, proprietor of Martins on Main. "The idea of combining two essential businesses under one roof is like a match made in Heaven!"

The new Brushton location will be a full service branch providing an array of deposit and lending services, 24hr ATM access, Night Drop, and Notary Public just to name a few. Stay tuned and follow us on Facebook for future updates.

TruNorthern Federal Credit

Union was founded in 1972 in Malone, NY and serves more than 5,200 members with assets over \$83 million. Membership is available for those who live, work, worship, or attend school in Franklin, Essex, Clinton, or St. Lawrence counties.

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Niles Financial Group riding high off big 2022

2022 was another very successful year for "Niles Financial Group". Our primary company "Niles Asset Management, Inc.", was very busy. Despite a volatile financial market this division grew in new assets. Several of our new clients emphasized to us that they feel more comfortable with the fact that we are a local independent and family-owned business, that provides personalized service, especially during these challenging times. Also, the consulting side was busy assisting our financial institution clients in a challenging economic and interest rate environment. Meanwhile the real exciting news was the launching of our new company "Niles Insurance Agency". We can now offer north country residents with property and casualty insurance, both personal lines and commercial lines. Our strength is in the fact that we have a broad background in financial services, plus being lifetime residents of the north country, we understand the needs of our clients. Furthermore, establishing this new business helps complement our financial group.

Meanwhile we look forward to 2023, with the goal of growing all phases of our group. With offices in Canton, Brushton, and Plattsburgh we can service the entire north country, and continue to remain positive as we anticipate another successful year.

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OUTLOOK 2023

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Malone Chamber has big plans for 2023



Mike Maclin works a stand for Thousand Island Winery, a winery out of Alexandria Bay. Maclin returned to his hometown of Malone and participated as a vendor in the 2021 Summer Fest. Vin Gallo/Malone Telegram

The Chamber begins 2023 with lots of plans and energy to work for the Malone community. With a full Board and lots of ideas, the Chamber constantly updates its events. 2023 officers of the Chamber are: President: Mary Scharf; Vice-President: Barry Armstrong; Secretary: Sheila Hargrave; and Treasurer: Mark Wells. Board members are Dr. Jenny Gessler, Amanda Day, Bruce Monette III, Kerry McCallister, Adam Oropallo, and Gary Brown. Many hours of voluntary service are given by these super members and additional volunteers are welcome. The business membership is over 200 and the Chamber appreciates all the support its membership gives.

networking among the business community. Business After Hours takes place every other month to recognize our member businesses and to showcase local venues. It provides a sponsor business an opportunity to talk about what their services are and to network with perspective customers. It gives a chance to hear what the Chamber projects are and to offer help and suggestions. The Chamber holds monthly Trivia Nights, changing locations each time between our restaurant members. This is a fun evening for groups of friends. It brings many folks out to enjoy friendly competition while testing academic and common-sense skills.

festivals in Malone that include live music, food, vendors, kid activities and fun. Summer Fest will be held on June 17th on Arsenal Green and the Malone Fly-In at the Town of Malone Dufort Airport on August 26-27. Festivals offer the opportunity to introduce your business or show your wares in a carnival like atmosphere. The Malone Fly-In attracts over 1500 and will feature music, food, vendors and airport tours and plane and helicopter rides, weather permitting. Events are free to the public on Saturday, but on Sunday, August 27, there is a charge for the Gibson Brothers.

On Friday evenings in July band concerts will be featured on the Malone Lion's Club Memorial

Malone Revitalization Foundation preparing for busy 2023

The Malone Revitalization Foundation (MRF) is busy planning activities that help revitalize Malone. The Foundation is working on the Malone Historic District, grant opportunities, the Hendrickson Hatch Fly Fishing Tournament, Holiday Helpers, and beautifying Malone. It has been partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, Malone Complete Streets, Foothills ART Society, the Town and Village of Malone, the Franklin County Adirondack Frontier, and local businesses to encourage growth.

A big event this year is a concert featuring the Gibson Brothers to be held in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. It will be held at the Chamber's Fly-In on Sunday, August 27th. Orville Gibson, the founder of Gibson Guitars, hails from the North Country and is buried in Morning Side Cemetery in Malone. The band supports MRF's goal, to highlight Malone's history.

One ongoing event that brings many visitors to Malone is the 17th Annual Hendrickson Hatch Fly Fishing Tournament, June 3-4. Fishermen come to enjoy the bounty of the Salmon River's trophy trout. Along with the Adirondack Frontier, Trout Unlimited, and the Malone Fish and Game Club, MRF invests annually in stocking fish.

The fishermen stay at local hotels and campgrounds, eat in our restaurants and spend money in our stores. They return to fish year after year, not just for the tournament, but all through the summer.

Not only is the Foundation committed to River activities, but to the growth and improvement of Malone. Currently the MRF's work has obtained a listing in The Historic Register of Historical Places for The Malone Historic Commercial District. MRF is currently waiting to have approved the listing of the Malone Residential District. When all is all said and done, about 400 buildings will be listed.

This year MRF was one of many sponsors of Holiday Helpers, chaired by Board Member, Candace Gadway. Holiday Helpers has always been an important program in Malone that brings joy to many local kids who would otherwise have no gifts at Christmas.

Targeting Main Street for beautification is a goal because it increases tourism, pride in community, and higher property values. MRF continues to plant flowers next to the Victorian benches that are displayed along Main Street. With the help of many businesses, they're kept watered. Between the Chamber of Commerce, the Garden

Gibson Brothers



Presented by Malone Revitalization Foundation

Performing August 27th
at the Malone Chamber of Commerce

FLY-IN!
Malone - Dufort Airport

Tickets, \$10

On sale April 1st at
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Neighborhood Revitalization • Historic Preservation
Hendrickson Hatch fly-Fishing Tournament
New members & interested people always welcome!

2023 Calendar

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MALONE REGION

Trivia Nights – every month. Starts at 6pm
March 16th at Mo's Pub & Grill, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, September 21st, October 19th. Locations TBA

Business After Hours – dates and locations to be announced

Regional Garage Sales – May 27-29

Porch Festival – June 1-10

Summerfest – June 17th
entertainment by Shawn Legacy & Barrel Proof Band

Free Concerts in the Park – Friday evenings at Arsenal Green
July 7th Kiel Love • July 14th Last Call
July 21st LP Acoustic • July 28th Josee Allard & Friends

Fly-In Festival – August 26 & 27th
Entertainment on the 26th TBD
Entertainment on the 27th Josee Allard & Gibson Brothers

Halloween Decorating Contest – October 2-27

Small Business Saturday – November 24th
Santa in the Park – December 2

Star of the North Decorating Contest – December 1-24

Elfie – December 1-24

The public is welcome to attend all of our events. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining or volunteering with the Chamber, please get in touch with us at: phone 518-483-3760 email: director@malonechamberofcommerce.com website: www.malonechamberofcommerce.com

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LIFEWAY CHURCH

2426 Rt. 11, N. Bangor
11:00am Sun. Service

See CHAMBER F2

See MRF F2

Lifeway Church supporting the local community

Lifeway Community Church of North Bangor has been a mainstay in providing various kinds of assistance and help to surrounding local communities in the North Country since its founding twelve years ago. Lifeway is small church with great heart for their North Country neighbors. Pastor Joe Selenski: "Our goal is to be a good neighbor to as many we can in as many helpful ways as possible."

For Lifeway that goal is reached primarily in the open gathering for worship and praise of Jesus, and most importantly, Biblical teaching presented for practical everyday use, life enhancement and eternal relationship with God. Scriptural messages are purposed to increase or remind believers of God's Will for their lives. Lifeway Church believes that within God's Will and Plan is the potential for hope, peace of mind and heart, even in the midst of this world's troubles and

trials.

One aspect of Lifeway's mission is to love others as Jesus loved them, and some of this is manifested with the provision of a comfortable and welcoming local church building as well as through helping outreach into nearby North Country Communities.

Lifeway Church volunteers and generous donations from the members support volunteer based helping hand programs as well as professional services such as Faith based Mental Health Counseling. (Julia Schroen, LMHC)

Lifeway's community help ministries include an on-site regularly scheduled community food pantry and the provision of single emergency meal prep packages available 24/7. Over twenty tons of healthy foods are distributed yearly. Lifeway participates in a bag lunch program at the Centenary Methodist Church serving single lunchtime meals to North Country

neighbors in need four days a week. Whenever resources and on site space permits Lifeway has helped neighbors with emergency overnight shelter, and transitional/emergency housing. Occasionally the church has helped neighbors with heating and utilities assistance, and other emergency needs.

These helping hand ministries and others add to the main mission of Lifeway Church to worship God, to draw others toward Him by teaching of his sacrificial love and by providing a place for people to grow, have new hope for the future and a growing peace of heart and mind.

Lifeway's Sunday Services are easy to understand, with a simple format that everyone can follow and feel comfortable even upon their first Sunday visit. Hour long worship services are in a casual small church setting, with songs, Bible Messages, and prayer, all presented with a mix of time tested traditional

and newer contemporary methods and styles. Lifeway Sunday Services start at 11:00am and end about an hour later.

The Coffee Fellowship café is open before and after services. Sunday gatherings are open to anyone seeking Jesus centered spiritual growth, through the support of an encouraging local church small church community. Newcomers may participate as they feel comfortable or simply enjoy the company of others gathered together in Jesus name. Services and events at Lifeway are most often casual but meaningful.

The church is located at 2426 Rt. 11, in North Bangor. Questions regarding Lifeway Church, beliefs, worship methods or provisions for Covid Protection and awareness can likely be answered by visiting Lifeway's Web Site at lifewaychurch.homestead.com.

Pastor Joe Selenski can be reached by text at (518) 319-0078.

Chamber

From F1

Bandstand, known as the Gazebo. Bring your chair, a picnic supper and enjoy the concerts. Vendors are encouraged to come at no charge. Local businesses provide the funds for these concerts and the Chamber encourages residents to "shop local" in appreciation of our business community's support.

The Chamber will also sponsor town-wide garage sales to show support for local businesses and homeowners. In November, the Chamber promotes Small Business Saturday that highlights Malone's mom-and-pop stores. Shopping small encourages people to shop at the many small businesses in Malone and area that are the foundation of our community.

The Chamber is the Information Center for the community. Brochures, maps, contact information are available on the porch 24 / 7. The Chamber provides all kinds of information and help. It provides referrals to our member businesses. Weekly e-blasts that contain event updates and educational opportunities are sent to members. The Chamber is planning workshops in the spring as well.

Another exciting Fall event is the Annual Dinner. The unique dinner is open to the public and is followed by the Annual Meeting. Malone awards of the year are announced, and it is exciting for the businesses and organizations that win. Maybe this year it could be you? Winners last year were: New Business of the Year, Mountain Miss Cider Works; Business of the Year, Adirondack 1892; Legacy Businesses of the Year, Sid G. Spear Insurance and Seacomm Federal Credit Union; Organization of the Year, Foothills Art Society; Citizens of the Year, Jessica and Narayan Bosco; and Chamber Board Member of the Year, Sheila Hargrave.

There is a lot to do in Malone so fill your calendars with these events. Check the Malone Calendar the website, www.malonechamberofcommerce.com, or the Chamber's Facebook page, to stay informed about community events. To add your events to the calendar, email: director@malonechamberofcommerce.com or call: 518 483-3760.



The 2022 Hendrickson Hatch tournament winners display their plaques. Robert Stout of Chateaugay took first place, with the largest fish at 21", Glen Zarboni of Malone took second place, and Tim Barrett of Binghamton, NY took third place. This year's catch and release fly fishing tournament will take place on June 3 and 4.

MRF

From F1

Club, Citizen Advocates and Foothills ARTSociety,, Main St. looks beautiful. Memorial Benches are purchased by families and display a memory plate. MRF welcomes ordering more!

Malone Revitalization's vision is to target greater recognition of Malone's assets, ways to enhance those assets, and organize efforts to accomplish its goals. MRF is looking for stories about historic buildings in Malone for its current project, the creation of walking tours.

If you have not checked

the Malone Revitalization Foundation Facebook page (Malone Revitalization Foundation, Inc) recently or its website (www.revitalize-malone.com) , you will see hundreds of amazing pictures of Malone's past and present. If you are interested in working to improve our community, join the Malone

Revitalization Foundation by calling Mary at 518 521-3226 or email: revitalizemalone@gmail.com Membership is \$25.00, benches are \$600.00, flower urns are \$200.00, and donations for our projects, especially the Historic District, are always welcome. You can use your card to donate at www.revitalizemalone.com



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe welcomes Sovereign Cannabis Company

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance shared support and wishes for much success to all the team members of the Sovereign Cannabis Company, which conducted a soft opening in October of 2022 as the newest tribally licensed cannabis retailer. The store is located in the Akwesasne Trading Post at 8 State Route 37; Pictured is Store Manager Jacob Swamp, Matthew Ireland, Rori Francis-Herne, Cheyenne Thompson, Craig Lawrence, Anthony Moccaldi, Cailey King, Laurie Thompson, Tyler Thomas, Lou Tischler, Landon Laffin, Brandon Smoke, Brendan Lazore-McDonald, Julie Pavlick, and Bill Black. We offer our warmest congratulations to Sovereign on their opening and say "niawen:kówa/thank you very much" for helping support our community's programs and services as a tribally licensed dispensary.

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Harison Place project aims to help Malone community



Officials gathered for the official groundbreaking on the Harison Place Project in Malone in July. Pictured, from left, are Felix Tam, Citizen Advocates Foundation board chair; Deanna Smith, Citizen Advocates board chair; Sam Celia, Celia Construction; Dave Harris, NBT Bank; Tony Thesing, National Equity Fund; Darren Scott, Upstate East Director of Development, Homes and Community Renewal; Andrea Stewart, Malone town supervisor; Assemblymember Billy Jones (D-Chateaugay); James Button, Citizen Advocates, Inc. president and chief executive officer; state Senator Daniel G. Stec (R-Queensbury); Malone Mayor Andrea Dumas; Franklin County Legislator Donald Dabiew (D-Bombay); Dana Greenberg, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Isabel Bazaldua, Office of Mental Health; Stephen Hunt, Empire State Development; Bruce Levine, 3d Development; Paul Goodrow, Harison Place board chair; Lindsay Hendricks, 3d Development; Nick Eells, Citizen Advocates board member. Trevor Buchanan/Malone Telegram

By TREVOR BUCHANAN

MALONE – Work continues on a \$22 million initiative, known as the Harison Place project, that will add 40 apartments and five commercial spaces in downtown Malone. Citizen Advocates, Inc. (CAI) aims to provide 20 households who have experienced homelessness with on-site supportive services fostering independent living.

According to a press release from the office of Governor Kathy Hochul when ground was broken for the project, the apartments at Harison Place will be affordable to households earning 60% or less of the area median income. Twenty of the apartments will include individualized services funded through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative and administered by the New York State Office of Mental Health. Services will include mental health services, career and training support, tenant education, financial planning and literacy, life skills, healthcare coordination, addiction prevention, treatment, recovery services, and more.

Street level commercial space is meant for community service organizations and other businesses which complement existing businesses and community needs, the release stated.

The site of the former Gorman Building, and other properties on the block, became a focus for revitalization after fire gutted the historic structure in 2017, resulting in housing insecurity for many of its residents. CAI completed the purchase of the block of buildings, two of which were heavily damaged in a fire in 2020, and the permit to begin demolition at the site was issued in 2021. A final \$4.7 million in funding came from New York State Homes and Community Renewal in early 2022.

"We are working to maintain significant historical value in the building," CAI president and CEO James Button said, "In fact we are embedding some of the Gorman stone into the façade of the building, we are working with state historic preservation organizations around putting together a montage



The Harison Place project in Malone continues to move ahead with noticeable changes to the site apparent on a near-daily basis. Trevor Buchanan/Malone Telegram

of what the former building looked like, and we have gone as far as to recognize that prior to that building being called the Gorman Building it was the Paddock."

The building is designed to comply with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's New Construction Housing Program, as well as nationally-recognized industry standards for energy efficiency and green building practices, including all-electric Energy Star appliances.

"We started this project in 2017 and here we are today and it is near reality," Button said, "Given that the village has afforded us so much support, we want to return the

favor, like the village of Malone, Citizen Advocates shares in the vision for a better Malone, we share in a vision around a revitalized downtown corridor, we strongly encourage the village to pursue any state and federal monies that will make that vision become a reality."

According to the release from Gov. Hochul, New York State Homes and Community Renewal funding for Harison Place includes \$7.8 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity, \$2.9 million from the Supportive Housing Opportunity Program, and \$900,000 from the Rural and Urban Community Investment Fund.

Empire State Development awarded \$445,000 from the Consolidated Funding Program, and NYSEDA will provide \$40,000 in support. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance will also provide \$4.8 million from the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program. Citizen Advocates provided \$4 million to fund the project and the Federal Home Loan Bank provided \$600,000.

"We are going to work with designers, part of the reason why this has taken the time it has taken is because, we went into painstaking detail around the aesthetic," Button said, "We wanted this building to not only solve a problem by

taking blighted buildings out of our downtown and replacing them with viable commercial space, but that they were aesthetically pleasing and period specific, something that would look, to the community, as though it had been there for years and would fit, we will continue in that same vein with the interior design as well.

"For some, this is blight removal. For others it's economic development," said Button. "For Citizen Advocates and this community, Harison Place is a monument. It's a monument to those who have dreams, those who persist, and those who make dreams a reality. We're excited."

Almanzo Wilder Homestead ready for busy 2023 tour season

The 2023 tour season will begin at the Almanzo Wilder Homestead in Burke on May 27th and run through September. Every year, this local historical site welcomes visitors who are interested in the story of Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder, as well as regional and agricultural history. Tour guides bring to life the joys and hardships of rural life in the mid 19th century, as told to Wilder by her husband, Almanzo. The restored house is the original place where Almanzo grew up and the site of the book, Farmer Boy. The barns are reconstructed based on drawings Almanzo made for Laura and were built on the same place as the originals. Visitors can tour these buildings, along with a replica one-room schoolhouse, walk the trails to Trout River, where Almanzo fished and helped wash the sheep, and browse the museum in the Visitor Center- filled with historical artifacts and photos.

In anticipation of a busy season, especially with spring school tours, the Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association is hoping to find new volunteers to join their team. While summer staff man the site throughout the tour season, volunteers traditionally fill in during busy times,

at special events, or in the early and late season when regular staff may be less available. Volunteers are especially helpful in June for school tours and in September when many of the staff returned to school. Opportunities for volunteering include tour guiding, gift shop, buildings and grounds tasks, committee work, and gardening. Committees welcoming new members include special events, marketing, buildings and grounds, artifacts, and education. Those who may be interested can call 518-483-1207 during open hours or email farm@almanzowilderfarm.com.

Three special events will be held at the Wilder Homestead this year. On July 15th, the Scottish Fling & Celebration of Youth will combine two popular events with bagpipers, dancers, and Scottish food offerings planned. The traditional two day Harvest Fest and Civil War Living History event will be held on September 23rd and 24th with the Adirondack Regiment of Civil War Re-enactors. The doors of the Wilder house will re-open on December 2nd for the annual Christmas with Almanzo event. More details and information about open days and hours can be found on Facebook and at almanzowilderfarm.com.



Volunteer, Anne Selkirk, talks to visitors in the Wilder barn at the 2022 Celebration of Youth & Morgan Horse event. This year's youth event will be combined with a Scottish Fling on July 15. (Rick Auger photo)

Get your car ready for spring with Big Apple

The signs of spring are everywhere. The flowers are starting to bloom, the grass is greener and the temperature is rising with the warm glow of the sun.

Unfortunately, another rite of spring is also upon us - the attack of corrosion on our vehicles.

According to experts, with warmer temperatures comes the dreaded eyesore of vehicle corrosion.

"It's a popular misconception that winter is the harshest season for vehicles due to snow and salted road conditions," explained Freeman Young, president of Krown Rust Control System. "While salt will accelerate the corrosion process, it's actually the humidity and moisture that will cause rust to appear on a vehicle. Increasingly

warm temperatures have a major impact on corrosion as well, that's why spring and summer are in fact the harshest seasons."

According to the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), the best way to keep rust from eating away at your car is to protect it annually with an application of an oil-based rust inhibitor.

George Iny, Director of the Automobile Protection Association, agrees and added that rust inhibitors such as Krown's rust control system offer "an excellent preventive measure to reduce maintenance costs over the years helping your car look better longer."

The optimal months for the application are March through June. Here are some tips to consider as you guard

against the onslaught of rust this spring.

- If you have never protected your vehicle, it's not too late to start, whether rust is present already or not.

- After washing your vehicle, keep the doors open to let any excess water drain out;

- Unlike the outer body of your vehicle, which is protected with paint and waxes, you want to ensure that the underside of your vehicle is protected as well - spraying rust inhibitors in all crevices and folds is critical as these are the areas that are most at risk for corrosion;

- Touch up any scratches, dings or rock chips that have damaged the paint on your vehicle as these areas are also prone to corrosion.

- Look for an environmentally safe rust

inhibitor, preferably one that has a hydrocarbon (oil) base.

- Protecting your car annually with a rust inhibitor helps extend the life of your vehicle and represents significant savings on future maintenance and repair costs.

- It's important to note that a rust inhibitor also helps prevent the oxidation of wires and electric shorts that are caused by corrosion helping to keep your vehicle safe.

According to Young, more and more Canadians are seeing the safety, cost-savings and aesthetic benefits of rust protection as last year alone Krown treated over 250,000 vehicles across Canada. More information and facts on rust control is available at www.krown.com.

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Community Health Center of the North Country receives Facility Transformation Award

Earlier this month Governor Kathy Hochul announced more than \$658 million in state funding to support 127 projects that will protect and transform New York State's health care delivery system. Community Health Center of the North Country was one of the awardees receiving just over \$900,000 to help with renovations at both their Canton and Malone health centers, but with the majority of work focused on a complete remodel of the front end and reception area at their Creighton Road location in Malone.

Ray Babowicz, Director of Communications and Marketing said, "Care does not just happen in the exam room. The patient experience begins the moment you walk through the front door. This grant will allow us to improve on that experience, not only making it more comfortable, but ultimately more efficient."

This in turn allows us to see more patients and provide more access to residents in Malone and surrounding communities."

The Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program is aimed at supporting efforts to reduce healthcare costs and improve the health outcomes of New Yorkers by

expanding access to inpatient, primary, preventative, and other ambulatory care services as part of regionally integrated healthcare delivery systems. These awards are focused on projects that will help ensure the financial sustainability of safety net providers.

Anne Richey, CEO at Community Health Center of the North Country said, "Our entire team is once again thrilled to receive support from New York State. We have been a part of the Malone community for almost 50 years, and this type of investment allows us to further solidify our commitment to building a healthier community for all."

Community Health Center of the North Country is an independent provider of healthcare services for people of all income levels across the North Country, and is part of a national network of Community Health Centers serving over 30 million patients including 300,000 veterans, 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries, nearly 1.2 million homeless, and over 7.5 million children. They have locations in Canton, Gouverneur, Malone, and Ogdensburg. An Optometry center is also located on Arsenal Street in Watertown.



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We accept boys and girls from 18 months to adult. We offer groups, solos, duets and trios. Students perform in competitions and our home recitals.

Tiffany's Dance Studio is one of the fastest growing dance studios in Franklin County and is now accepting applications for our 2023 fall season.

Sign up now for our 2023 spring Boot Camp six week program beginning in May. Call Tiffany at

518-651-0031 to register or with any questions.

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Owl's Head Church working toward new community center

For generations St. Josephs' Catholic Church in Owls Head was the heart of the community. Today community members are working together to make the dream of a Community Center a reality. Owls Head Mountain View Community Connection, Inc., a 501(c)(3) is working with St. Andre Bessette Parish to finalize the purchase offer agreement for the historic structure. The Center's volunteer team continues planning programs for families, friends, and visitors in this convenient, safe, close-to-home location. Events will include the already-popular Family Bingo Nights, arts-focused get togethers for kids and adults, opportunities for life-long learning and programs that encourage healthy living. This summer Owls Head Mountain View Community Connection will be hosting Good Ole Fourth of July at the Center. The fun, food, and festivities will celebrate and showcase community lifestyles and traditions with special emphasis on Independence Day.



Franklin County moves to educate workers on health, safety

By **TREVOR BUCHANAN**
tbuchanan@mttelegram.com

MALONE – The Franklin County Board of Legislators passed a number of resolutions during its regular meeting on Feb. 2 at the courthouse, including a measure to educate county workers on health and safety in the workplace.

The resolution, offered by the finance committee, made several appointments to the Worker's Compensation Labor Management Safety Committee.

"The purpose of the committee is to educate public employees of the plan participants in proper health and safety procedures in the workplaces of the participants, and to design such additional programs as may be appropriate to the development of a safe working environment in participant facilities and job sites,"

the resolution reads.

Employers Scott Cook, superintendent of buildings and grounds and Malone town supervisor Andrea Stewart, along with employees Robbie Demarse, interim director of community preparedness/fire coordinator and Scott Hudson, lieutenant at the Franklin County jail were named to the committee, while Greg Janisewski, D-Chateaugay, will serve as the legislative representative.

A second resolution from the finance committee requested Senator Dan Stec, R-Queensbury, and Assemblyman Billy Jones, D-Chateaugay Lake, sponsor legislation to impose an additional three years of increase in the county's local sales and compensating use tax at 4%.

"The Franklin County legislature finds that in order to continue to adequately fund the necessary programs

and operations of the county government, it is necessary at this time to seek reauthorization for an additional three years to maintain the county's local sales and compensation use tax at 4%," the resolution stated.

Lawmakers stressed that the resolution is not a new or added tax, but rather a continuation of a previously approved action by state lawmakers.

"I just want to stress this is not a new tax," Janisewski said. "This has been going on."

"Every three years we have to request a continuance," county manager Donna Kissane said.

A resolution from the administrative committee amended a previous adoption from Jan. 19 that updated the county salary schedule after it was found that a more current attorney salary scale was in need of amendment. The resolution updated the

schedule for the years 2022 through 2026 to include salary steps and relevant experience.

The board approved two resolutions offered by the human resources committee. The first provided authorization to the commissioner of social services to create and fill two social welfare examiner positions. The positions will "process medical assistance benefits, including nursing home coverage and community coverage for those individuals who are disabled and/or over the age of 65," the resolution stated. The grade 7 positions have a base salary of \$38,406.

The second human resources resolution authorized the director of public health services to accept \$13,708 from the New York State department of public health for their work "to support ongoing disease prevention efforts and promotion of

COVID-19 vaccinations."

The public safety committee offered a resolution to approve delegates and alternates to the Franklin County fire advisory board for the year 2023, and the economic development committee's resolution to pay the destination development plan award to the town of Chateaugay to support various upgrades to the town theater, located in the town hall.

A second public safety committee resolution authorized the sheriff to "piggyback" onto Onondaga County's bid to purchase two vehicles for the department. The resolution also stated that the sheriff will need approval to purchase a third vehicle by the end of 2023, and all of the funds for the vehicles will come from American Rescue Plan Act funding.



Pictured, from left, are John Miletich (Malone Central School), Rachel Vincent (Watertown High School), Betsy Madan (Franklin Academy, Malone), Dan Keltin, president of Paul Smith's College, Jill

Malone school administrators attend PSC open house

PAUL SMITHS – On Feb. 17, Paul Smith's College hosted a Community Leaders Open House with teachers, counselors, and school administrators from Malone Central School, Watertown High School, Franklin Academy in Malone, Northwood School, and the North Country School. The event explored opportunities for

regional K-12 schools to collaborate with the Paul Smith's College faculty, staff, and educational resources.

"Our doors are open to stronger collaboration with our partners in education and these showcases allow us to demonstrate all the great things awaiting prospective students, from natural resources, forestry, culinary,

and more," Paul Smith's Interim President Dan Keltin said in a press release.

In addition to touring the campus via horse carriage (PSC has their own draft horse program), the regional K-12 group also participated in a roundtable discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing high

school students in the region.

The Community Leaders Open House concluded with two signature Paul Smith's College experiences; a speed-chopping demonstration by the Woodsmen's Team and a fireside Adirondack harvest lunch prepared by Paul Smith's Chef Kevin McCarthy and his team of culinary students.

Swimming pool project nets \$10K

Community Bank donation latest in park's \$300K goal

By **TREVOR BUCHANAN**
tbuchanan@malonetelegram.com

MALONE — A donation of \$10,000 from Community Bank to support efforts to build a pool at the Malone Recreation Park put the goal closer to within reach, and organizers say they are confident the pool will be ready for swimmers this summer.

Jennifer Hathaway, director of the Malone Recreation Park, said the donation makes meeting the \$300,000 fundraising goal imminent. She said it is hard to believe how far the effort has come since the inception of the idea, which originally envisioned a full-size splash pad. That proved too costly, leading to a decision last year to pursue a pool and mini splash pad for the park.

"The community has been absolutely awesome," Hathaway said. "I am super-psyched, but we still have a pump house that needs to be built and safety supplies. And we still need a contingency for the construction, because we never know what's going to happen with costs."

"We still are hoping to raise an additional \$30,000 or \$40,000 just to make sure that we have absolutely everything covered and we are good to go. So that's where we're at."

As of mid-November, \$175,000 of the goal had been raised. Since then, "countless" donations, many over \$1,000, have rolled in, Hathaway said, adding that any donation of \$1,000 or more will be memorialized at the park.

"The community really pulled together to make this possible," she said. "Every \$5 along the way has been a huge help and has moved us toward



Representatives from the Malone Recreation Park Commission recently accepted a \$10,000 donation from Community Bank. Meeting the \$300,000 goal for a pool and splash pad is imminent with the donation, officials said. From left, rec park officials Kevin St. Hilaire and Jennifer Hathaway accept the \$10,000 check from Community Bank's Darcy King, branch manager in Malone; Sherri Fleury, branch manager in St. Regis Falls; and Sherry Boyea, branch manager in Chateaugay.

Provided photo

our goal. Dr. Cahill has really put so much time, effort, and money into making this happen. Without his efforts behind this is definitely wouldn't have been possible."

According to rec park officials, the new community swimming pool at the Malone Rec Park will be an Olympic size pool with three lanes. The area around the 25-meter pool will also include a splash pad with an enclosure.

The current goal would see the pool open by next August, contingent upon the completion of a new driveway and building at the site. Swimming has been a chief draw for the

park in the seven decades since its opening.

Hathaway, who has been active as a coach and advocate for fitness in the Malone community, said the pool is part of a larger effort to bring people together in a way that is active and healthy.

"My perspective is, I've coached my whole life in different sports, and I really think kids need to be outside," Hathaway said. "That's one of my primary goals with the park is to get kids back outside. Get our community together and find a place for them to gather and get to know each other."

The Malone Rec Park

provides year-round fun for the region. Current park amenities include multiple athletic courts and fields, a waterfront walkway, snowshoeing trails, as well as kayaking on Rotary Lake. The rec park is open sunrise to sunset for general use and the tennis, pickleball and basketball courts are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, follow the Malone Rec Park on Facebook, MaloneRecPark, or visit malonerecpar.com.

Decades of knowledge and experience at Mullarney's

Mullarney's Garden Center in North Bangor has been in business for over 34 years, offering the expertise that comes with longevity. Mike Allen has been working with owners, Colin and Kathy Miller, for 31 years, Joel Allen for 27 years, and Tom Mitchell for over 22. Customers know they can trust their knowledge and experience when shopping for the right piece of equipment or stove or need reliable service.

Mullarney's Stove Center sells and services Harman pellet stoves and fireplace inserts that ignite automatically and have a thermostat with high efficiency ratings and very low emission output, saving money at a time when fuel prices continue to rise. Harman products currently qualify for a tax credit of 30% of the purchase price of a stove or insert. Hearthstone wood stoves and Vermont Castings wood stoves are also in stock at Mullarney's and most models qualify for the 30% federal tax credit. Colin surprised Harman pellet stove owners when they found they averaged only \$1050 for pellets in 12 months, the equivalent of just 200 gallons of fuel oil!

The newest Cub Cadet "Pro Z" mowers feature zero-turn technology, with a steering wheel and mower decks up to 72 inches or

lap bars for true zero turning. Colin's only complaint with Cub Cadet is that they have way too many models to keep in stock, over 60 models at last count, but he agrees with Cub Cadet that with mower decks from 30 to 72 inches, he has exactly the right machine for any home. With from 12 to 60 months no-interest financing if credit qualified, Mullarney's can make any mower fit your budget. You can check out these Cub Cadet mowers and the financing at Mullarney's or give them a call. Colin recommends booking your spring Cub Cadet purchase now to guarantee spring delivery.

Honda generators, Echo handheld power equipment, Hearthstone woodstoves and fireplaces and Toyostove and Monitor vented heaters round out the offerings at Mullarney's, and as always, they service and have parts available for all the equipment they sell. When you stop at Mullarney's, be sure to ask about the "Deva" wood cookstove from Hearthstone stoves. Colin says it is one beautiful stove and now on sale!

You can also test drive all the new Cub Cadet Zero Turn mowers and Cub Cadet tractors at Mullarney's on Route 11 in North Bangor. More information is always at mullarneys.com.

Honoring longtime librarian

Wead Library gets donation in memory of David Minnich

By **RICHARD ROSENTRER**
rrosentreter@malonetelegram.com

The Kiwanis Club of Malone on Tuesday presented the Wead Library on Elm Street with a donation that will go toward purchasing a CD player and CDs to play classical music in the children's room. The donation was made in memory of David Minnich, who served as the local librarian for more than five decades.

On hand at the check presentation were Mr. Minnich's son and daughter, Charles and Lisa, along with several members of the Kiwanis Club. Charles was very emotional when he spoke about getting the donation in his father's memory.

"It really means a lot to see that people remember my father, and care about everything he did," Charles told the Telegram as he got choked with emotions and could not continue.

Prior to the check passing by Malone's Kiwanis President Michael O'Hare, fellow Kiwanian Bob Brower explained how the donation came to be.

"David Minnich was a 53-year member of the local Kiwanis Club. He was here before us and here after us. He passed away recently and we just wanted to try to do something to honor his years he worked here at the library and it's something we could do for the library for kids," Brower said. "We checked in with Mary McDonald and she came



Principal Library Clerk Mary McDonald on Tuesday receives a check for \$250 from the Malone Kiwanis Club President Michael O'Hare, at center. Also pictured, standing, from left, Charles Minnich, Kiwanis board member Penny Leonard, Kiwanis members Myke Leonard, Brian Stewart and Bob Brower. Seated, from left, Lisa Minnich and Kiwanis member and secretary Cathy Lane-Johnson. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

up with the idea of a CD player and classical music and kids' music so they can play it in the children's room."

Principal Library Clerk Mary McDonald said that the donation and how it was being used would meet David Minnich's approval.

"I think Mr. Minnich would be proud. He was a big lover of classical music. When (Kiwanis Club) asked what we could do with the check, that was the first thing that we thought of," Mrs. McDonald said. "It's a good way to honor him and bring him into the children's room."

She added that classical music is something that has value to children and the library will make the addition as

soon as they can purchase the player and music.

"We know that that music is really good for a young growing mind and we're hoping that it will add to our learning atmosphere here," Mrs. McDonald said. "We have a list of CDs to order and we'll find a suitable CD player and we'll implement it as soon as we get all the materials."

Mr. Minnich started his position as Malone's librarian in 1957 and retired in 2012. He passed away in January and the community has been mourning his loss since, but his memory and tributes by others continues.

"That was the gist of it, we're honoring David," Brower said.

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SeaComm financially empowering NNY for 60 years

MASSENA – As SeaComm enters its 60th year of service, the focus remains the financial empowerment of its members. In this respect, 2022 was a pivotal year for continued success. “The heart of why we exist comes from us serving and improving the overall financial lives of our membership,” says Scott A. Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are committed to being there, when our members need us most.”

In 2022, SeaComm concentrated on enhancing its current offerings to improve the overall member experience. As an example, SeaComm introduced several new developments improving its mobile app. This included the ability to add travel notices, reset a password, view pending transactions, apply for a loan, and search transaction history. The SeaComm mobile app also allows members to transfer funds, control their debit cards, deposit checks, and much more. “Our focus continues to be on enhancing our product and service offerings to meet the needs of our membership,” said Wilson. SeaComm continued to provide its members with access to additional services, including the Loan Engine pre-approval program, Free Online Bill Pay, and the Homebuyer Dream Program®, which granted eligible first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing cost assistance.

In the spring, SeaComm began construction on its newest branch location in Watertown. Following the completion of the new building in November, the credit union relocated from its original branch on Coffeen Street to its new branch at 20565 State Route 3, across from the Towne Center. The new building was constructed by project design firm P.W. Campbell, with support from local contractors. The new full-service financial center offers member solutions for all types of financial needs, including personal accounts, auto and recreational vehicle loans, mortgages, business solutions, investment advisor services, and more. “This new location offers our members in that market additional services, such as a drive-thru and ATM, which was not available at our previous location,” said Wilson.

Throughout the year, the SeaComm Pay-It-Forward Program continued to deliver random acts of kindness throughout communities in Northern New York and Vermont, impacting over 4,350 individuals. The credit union provided prepaid gas gift cards to members, purchased school supplies for local students in need, paid for orders at local coffee shops, and delivered breakfast to area first responders, just to name a few. In August, SeaComm partnered with the owners of Dairy Queen in Massena and announced it would pay for orders from 4pm to 7pm on a specified date.

The event was announced in advance, and 529 people received free lunch and dinner paid for by the credit union. SeaComm staff also washed windshields and provided each individual with popcorn, reusable grocery bags, phone fans, and other giveaway items. For its community engagement efforts, SeaComm was awarded the 2022 Bronze MAC Award from the Marketing Association of Credit Unions, and the Honorable Mention Dora Maxwell Award for Social Responsibility.

In an effort to further support the community, SeaComm staff members have been encouraged to participate in the “Do Some Good” Program, which allows them to volunteer for a charity or cause of their choice during work hours. Staff members took advantage of the opportunity, volunteering at various local charities, including the Hospice of the North Country, St. Peter’s Parish Bazaar, Cornell Cooperative Extension of

St. Lawrence County, Police Activities League of Massena, TriTown Community Basket Program, St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum, and the Interscholastic Equestrian Association. In combination with this initiative, more than \$377,000 in donations and sponsorships were given, which includes donations to the foundations of Claxton Hepburn Medical Center, Samaritan Medical Center, St. Lawrence Health System, Malone Recreation Foundation and the 2022-23 Winter Fuel Grant program.

In 2022, SeaComm was Certified™ by Great Place to Work® as elected by its employees. The prestigious award is based entirely on what current employees say about their working experience. Great Place to Work® is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation. “It is gratifying to be named as a Great Place to Work on a national level,” said Wilson. “We have a talented, smart, hard-working staff, which takes great pride in their work

of serving our members.”

Weiss, an independent rating agency, has provided SeaComm the “A” rating in terms of excellent financial strength. This means that SeaComm offers excellent financial security, has maintained a conservative stance in business operations and underwriting practices as evidenced by the strong equity base, high asset quality, steady earnings, and high liquidity. The A rating places this institution on Weiss Recommended List of institutions, an elite group of only 660 credit unions representing the top 13.0% of the industry. BauerFinancial, Inc., another independent rating company, has awarded SeaComm the Superior Five-Stars. The star ratings classify each credit union based on a complex formula, which factors in relevant data including, but not limited to: capital, historical trends, loan delinquencies, regulatory compliance and asset quality. It has deemed SeaComm as safe, financially sound and that it is operating well above regulatory capital requirements. DepositAccounts has also provided SeaComm with an A-rating, designating it as one of

the top 200 healthiest credit unions in the US, one of the highest health grades given out.

With strong financial performance and a solid plan for the future, SeaComm is well positioned for a successful year ahead. “We are grateful to our members who continue to put their trust in us, and we

will continue to work diligently in order to be able to serve well into the future,” said Wilson.

The credit union’s assets exceed \$77.5 million, with branches in Massena, Potsdam, Malone, Canton, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh, South Burlington, Essex, and Watertown. In serving its more than

52,600 members, SeaComm looks forward to a successful 2023. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in St. Lawrence, Franklin, Essex, Clinton, Lewis, and Jefferson counties, New York, and Grand Isle, Chittenden and Franklin counties, Vermont.

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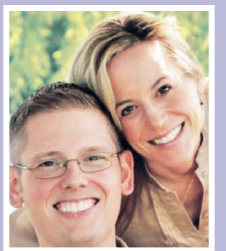
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The Malone creative economy gets a boost from Foothills Arts Society

Look around Malone and you can start to see new things springing up like snowdrops after a long winter. From the beautiful geese mural Michael Hart commissioned to the new gallery space on Pearl Street for the Foothills Arts Society, evidence of Malone's creative economy is on the rise. Nationally, the creative economy replaced the industrial economy as the largest category of employment back in the early 1990s, so Malone is keeping up with national trends.

Foothills Arts Society has started the acquisition process for the spaces that most recently housed Village Furniture & Design on Pearl Street, with a long term goal of creating the Malone Arts and Cultural Center, or MACC for short. In the future, the group hopes the building will provide space for all sorts of creative activities; artist studio space, a space for performing arts and movies, activities for senior citizens and young people (and everyone in between), and the kind of fun and creative events that Foothills does well.

To help manage the work that comes with so many successful events, Foothills is advertising for an Executive Director. The new position will be responsible for overall direction, fundraising, and volunteer coordination. "We hope someone with a background in the arts and in non-profit management will get excited about the possibilities here," said Jenny Gessler, President. "This position has the potential to have a transformative impact on the whole community."

Right now, you can visit the new North Star Gallery on Pearl Street to see the Valentine's Day themed Passion for Red show, which has everything from a beautiful painting by Tamra Murphy of a femme fatale dressed in red from head to toe, to an old red bucket artist Michael Hart coaxed into a work of art called Re-Generation.

The year's offerings include a concert series that will include Dan Duggan & Peggy Lynn (May 20), Martha Gallagher (June 9), Sue



Horowitz (June 24), Phoenix Mendoza (TBA), Jimmy Wade (September 16), Josee Allard (October 21), Pam Perrin & Jack Bellows (November), and that doesn't include the lineup they have for Childstock, a music festival planned for July 8th with Fusion, Jeffrey Dupra, Eddy Lawrence, Slip Junction, and Playback.

The art on display at the gallery will change every month, with themes like Spring it On for March, Symbols of Peace in September, Indigenous-Mini Perspectives in October and Deck the Walls in December.

Other events planned for the year are Fore the Arts, a golf tournament and silent auction coming up June 26th, Whimsical Women and Mischievous Men, a day where everybody gets creative on July 15th, the Malone History Murder Mystery, where the public solves a mystery based on historical events on August 19th, and Art at the Orchard, an arts and crafts fair with music, games, and fun for the whole family on September 9th.

Foothills to be Featured on PBS

Spotlight producer Paul Larson recently interviewed Vice President Tamar BenArdout and Secretary and Marketing Chair Lorraine Cartier of Foothills Art Society at the Mountain Lake PBS studios in Plattsburgh.



Videographer Rasheed Trombley and Larson also visited the Malone Arts and Cultural Center to capture footage of the gallery, offices and the large space in back.

The finished piece is likely to last at least ten minutes on

the public affairs program Mountain Lake Journal. It will likely air sometime in late winter or early spring. The segment will be available for viewing online after the initial broadcast at mountainlake.org.

Towle Chiropractic in Malone and Canton, Dr. Jamie Towle and Dr. Lisa Francey Towle

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To obtain more information on the certification process, kindly call Foster Care Home Finder, Melissa Dufrane-Hellijas, at 518-312-3907, or visit our website. Ongoing monthly virtual info sessions are being conducted to answer questions for those interested in learning about becoming a Foster Parent. You can register for info sessions on our website at Berkshirefarm.org/foster.

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