

BNNY Business

A Watertown Daily Times/
Malone Telegram production

Daily updates: NNY360.com Nov. 2026

■ Potsdam Chamber
names 2026 award
winners.

PAGE 5

■ SeaComm donates
\$10k to Children's Miracle
Network at Samaritan.

PAGE 8

■ Ribbon cut on Nature's
Storehouse expansion in
Canton.

PAGE 9

■ Jreck Subs makes
national franchise list.

PAGE 10

■ Sharon Bourquin
named Clayton's Citizen of
the Year.

PAGE 14

Maxine Quigg Women in Business Fund supports nine professionals



Maxine Quigg Women in Business Fund 2026 grant recipients, from left: Suzanne C. Renzi-Falge, Destiny Walker Myrick, Lacey Everard, Jennifer Girard, Christine Darrow, Arika Colello McCargar, Sarah Shoemaker, Leela Wasilenko, Tammy Price, and Kimberley Horrill, founder, Maxine Quigg Women in Business Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. A reception was recently held at The Strand in downtown Watertown to honor the newest grant recipients. Kara Dry Photography

WATERTOWN — A pair of entrepreneurs, a public television host, two nonprofit executives, and three health prac-

tioners are among the fifth group of women to receive grant support from the Maxine M. Quigg Women in Business Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Nine women were recently awarded funding totaling nearly \$8,000 to support a wide range of entrepreneurial and professional development pursuits during a reception at The Strand in downtown Wa-

tertown. They are:

Christine Darrow, Antwerp, is the host and executive producer of the WPBS-TV show "Christine the History Queen." She was awarded funding for public speaking and branding coaching.

Lacey Everard, Lyons Falls, is a licensed massage therapist and the owner of Under Pressure Massage Therapy. She was awarded funding to com-

plete Myoskeletal Alignment Techniques (MAT) training.

Jennifer Girard, Canton, is a part-time student and life coach. Grant funding will help her earn an associate degree in massage therapy. She hopes to open her own massage therapy business.

Arika Colello McCargar, Watertown, is an owner and

See QUIGG T3



SMALL BUSINESS

WWW.WATERTOWNSAVINGSBANK.COM

(315) 788-7100

WSB is a 6x winner of the SBA’s
“Lender of the Year” Award.



Come in and see what we can do to help your business today!

Your Bank For Good.



FDIC FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government

© 2024 Watertown Savings Bank. 111 Clinton Street, Watertown, NY 13601

New York tax receipts exceed midyear projections by \$7.3 billion

Staff Report

New York collected \$68.5 billion in taxes through September, exceeding state budget projections by \$7.3 billion, Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli reported.

Collections through the first half of the state's 2027 fiscal year were \$8.6 billion higher than during the same period a year earlier, according to DiNapoli's monthly cash report.

"Higher state tax collections, particularly personal

income and business tax receipts, are partially a result of financial market growth," DiNapoli said.

He noted that Wall Street profits increased significantly during the first half of the calendar year but cautioned that stronger markets have not eased financial pressures for everyone.

"However, consumer costs keep rising and many families are still struggling," he said.

Personal income tax re-

ceipts totaled \$36.4 billion, about \$2.5 billion above Division of the Budget projections and \$2.9 billion higher than a year earlier.

Business tax collections, including the pass-through entity tax, reached \$17.6 billion. That was \$4.1 billion above projections and \$4.6 billion higher than the same period last fiscal year.

Consumption and use taxes totaled \$12.7 billion, up \$855.4 million, or 7.2%, from a

year earlier and \$421.8 million above projections. Sales tax receipts, the largest component, rose \$840.8 million, or 7.8%.

State spending across all funds totaled \$130.1 billion through September, an increase of \$10.2 billion, or 8.5%, from a year earlier, primarily because of higher Medicaid costs. Spending was \$927.4 million below projections.

State operating funds spending totaled \$73.2 billion, up \$7.4 billion, or 11.2%, from

a year earlier but \$2.3 billion below projections.

The state's general fund ended September with a \$63.9 billion balance, \$9.7 billion above projections. DiNapoli attributed the higher balance primarily to stronger tax collections and lower-than-anticipated spending.

The monthly cash report is available through the comptroller's office.

Quigg

From T1

president of Colello Air Technologies. She was awarded funding to attend an industry conference and complete a professional development exam.

Destiny Walker Myrick, Watertown, is the founder and owner of WildRoots Wellness & Revival where she is a and certified practitioner of sound and vibrational therapies. Grant funding will support her certification in somatic healing.

Tammy Price, Carthage, is a holistic health practitioner and owner of Triskele of Healing, Guidance & Light, Watertown. Funding will help her complete digital marketing courses at Jefferson Community College.

Suzanne C. Renzi-Falge, Watertown, is the executive director of the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library. Grant support will help her attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, La., next year.

Sarah Shoemaker, Mannsville, is the senior director of buildings and grounds for the Watertown Family YMCA. Grant support will help her complete Facility Management Professional (FMP) certification through the International Facility Management Association.

Leela Wasilenko, Lorraine, is a barista at North Country Grounds, Watertown. She

was awarded funding to help her attend the yearlong Jefferson Leadership Institute, a professional development program of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce.

Kimberley Horrill, Maxine's sister-in-law, established the fund at the Community Foundation in July 2021 with a goal to increase local mentorship, volunteerism, civic and community engagement, and investment. Its mission is to perpetuate the life and legacy of Maxine Quigg by supporting and empowering women entrepreneurs in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties to succeed in their pursuits and realize their full potential.

"I am so impressed by our applicants each year and this year was no exception. To witness the sincerity and earnestness that the awardees have toward their current and future endeavors is remarkable," Ms. Horrill said. "I see a bit of Maxine in all of you. Congratulations."

Maxine was a successful real estate broker and a community and business leader in Jefferson County who passed away unexpectedly in April 2021. At the time of her passing she was serving on the Community Foundation's Board of Directors.

"It is always a pleasure and an honor to reward seasoned and aspiring businesswomen in the North Country. Every year, I walk away inspired by each recipient's dedication and passion for what they do — it is people like these who



Maxine M. Quigg Contributed.

make Northern New York a better place to live," Maxine's daughter, **Kennedy Quigg** said. "Congratulations to our 2026 award recipients; you embody the qualities my Mom sought to embellish, and we are excited to see you carry our mission forward in your life and business endeavors."

Through access to grants for education, training, and entrepreneurship, the fund supports the advancement, development, and betterment of women who are beginning or growing a business in Northern New York. In doing

so, women may be better positioned and equipped to realize their full potential for themselves, their families, and their community.

Since it began awarding grant funding in 2022, twenty-five tri-county women have received support totaling nearly \$25,000 from the fund.

Five women serve on the Maxine Quigg Women in Business Fund Committee, including: Maxine's sister-in-law, Kimberley Horrill; Maxine's daughter, Kennedy Quigg; and Maxine's close friends, Joanne Lavarney, Lara Abreu, and KI

LaClair. Committee members review funding applications and make recommendations for grant awards to the Community Foundation.

Applications for 2027 funding through the Maxine Quigg Women in Business Fund of the Community Foundation will open in the spring with awards made in the summer. Contact Emily Pfeil, Community Foundation philanthropy associate, emily@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110, to obtain an application for this opportunity and learn more.

Jefferson Community College Featured Honors Program Student

Jefferson Community College

WATERTOWN — Baian A. Abdyrasulova, of Kyzyl-Tuu, Kyrgyzstan, is the featured Jefferson Community College (JCC) Honors Program student for the month of October 2026. Abdyrasulova is a Computer Science major who plans to transfer to Le Moyne College to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and pursue a career in software engineering. For her Honors Program project, she will enhance programming labs focused on problem-solving, algorithms, object-oriented programming, and software design.

Abdyrasulova says, “I chose JCC’s Honors Program because I enjoy learning beyond the classroom and exploring challenges that encourage me to think and work independently. I want to take greater responsibility for my education, explore new ideas, and make meaningful use of the opportunities available at JCC.”

The Jefferson Community College Honors Program offers students with exceptional academic skills the opportunity to receive enriched instruction within their current program of study. For the Honors Program, students select three courses within their curriculum and enhance them as Honors Options. The option is based on a project agreed to by the student and a faculty member willing to work closely with the student to provide a unique and rewarding experience. Students also take the Honors



Baian A. Abdyrasulova of Kyzyl-Tuu, Kyrgyzstan, is the featured Jefferson Community College (JCC) Honors Program student for the month of October 2026.

Seminar; a unique interdisciplinary course open only to program participants. The seminar examines a single theme each semester and features guest speakers from a variety of disciplines and often includes some sort of field experience.

Successful program participants earn a prestigious Honors Graduate designation on their academic transcript for each Honors Option course. Students demonstrating excellent academic achievement in high school or who have completed 12 credit hours of college coursework are invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program.

For more information, visit www.sunyjefferson.edu or contact Honors Program coordinator, Dr. Joshua Canale, at jjcanale@sunyjefferson.edu.

IDA passes authorizing resolution for wind project

By Alexander Violo

aviolo@mtelegram.com

CHATEAUGAY — Franklin County’s Industrial Development Agency approved a project authorizing resolution Wednesday for a \$352.2 million overhaul of a wind farm in the town of Chateaugay.

Valcour Chateaugay NewCo LLC, a subsidiary of AES, plans to replace 71 existing wind turbines with up to 27 taller, more efficient turbines. The project would increase generating capacity from 106.5 megawatts to as much as 116.5 megawatts, according to the IDA’s website.

At the Oct. 14 meeting in Malone, IDA CEO Jeremy Evans said the proposed terms include a 20-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement, with payments beginning in 2029.

The first annual payment would be \$466,000, divided among Franklin County, the Chateaugay Central School District and the town of Chateaugay. Payments would in-

crease 2% annually, with each jurisdiction’s share based on its proportion of the combined tax rate.

“The generating capacity doesn’t change much, there are fewer towers but they are taller and the turbines generate more electricity,” Evans said.

The project also seeks an estimated \$12.6 million sales tax exemption for construction and a mortgage tax exemption of about \$1.2 million. Total estimated assistance outlined in the resolution is \$52.6 million, Evans said.

Board member Nate Monette asked what makes the project eligible for a sales tax exemption.

“Any project that qualifies for benefits for us can get a sales tax exemption, nothing is special about this project,” Evans said.

Board Chair Melissa Mills asked how many turbines would be removed. Evans said

the project would reduce the total from 71 to no more than 27.

“It’s kind of nice that there’s fewer of them,” Mills said.

At a September public hearing in Chateaugay, Evans said the project is expected to create 288 temporary direct construction jobs and support another 109 jobs during construction. No new direct permanent jobs are proposed because the project would replace an existing facility.

Evans said the next step is to finalize the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement with the company and attorneys.

The IDA negotiates the payments and terms with the company, collects the annual payments and distributes them to the taxing jurisdictions.

“In a way that tries to balance the needs of the company and the best interests of the community,” Evans said.

Comfort & Style

La-Z-Boy

12 MONTH NO INTEREST FINANCING

FREE DELIVERY AND SET UP

424 East Main Street, Malone NY • 518-483-0114

TUES., - FRI., 10AM - 5PM SAT., 10AM - 3PM | SHOPFLEMINGS.COM | PARKING IN REAR • SIDE ENTRANCE

Potsdam Chamber announces 2026 award recipients

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will honor The Third Wheel Pottery Studio, NoCo Superior Exterior and Stone and Steel Gym at its Annual Dinner & Awards on Thursday, Nov. 12, at The Stables at Windy Point.

The annual awards recognize businesses and organizations whose accomplishments, generosity and service make a positive difference in Potsdam.

“These small businesses make a big impact on Potsdam,” said Melanie Flack, executive director of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce. “Their creativity, generosity and commitment remind us how powerful small businesses can be in shaping a community. We invite everyone to join us on November 12 to celebrate all they contribute.”

Business of the Year — The Third Wheel Pottery Studio

Since opening in 2019, owner Robin Wolpin has grown The Third Wheel Pottery Studio into a welcoming space where people of all ages and skill levels can learn, create and connect. The studio offers classes, workshops, open studio opportunities, private events, paint-your-own pottery and resources for local artists, including equipment and kiln-firing services.

The studio expanded into Market Square Mall in 2024 and continues to develop its offerings through new classes, events, tools and glazes. Partnerships with community organizations and local colleges include providing students from three colleges with marketing and business internship experience.

Wolpin’s community involvement extends beyond regular programming. She offers Senior Discount Mondays, welcomes local art groups to meet in her space and partners with small businesses to host events. She also gathers volunteers to create approximately 100 hand-made bowls for the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser at the 1844 House.

Nominators praised Wolpin for building an inclusive, supportive community where newcomers feel comfortable and customers return for both creativity and companionship.



The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will honor The Third Wheel Pottery Studio, NoCo Superior Exterior and Stone and Steel Gym at its Annual Dinner & Awards on Thursday, November 12, at The Stables at Windy Point. Provided photo

Their nominations describe a business where artistic expression leads to friendships, generosity and a stronger sense of belonging in Potsdam.

The studio is located at 22 Depot Street, Suite 15, Potsdam. Learn more at thirdwheelpotterystudio.com.

Pride in Potsdam — NoCo Superior Exterior

Led by Jordan Robert, NoCo Superior Exterior helps improve the appearance of local homes, businesses and community spaces through pressure washing, painting and holiday lighting services. Its work helps Potsdam look cared for and inviting, while seasonal lighting brings a festive atmosphere to the community.

Nominators praised the company’s professionalism, integrity and willingness to go above and beyond for customers. They also highlighted its investment in local people, including Robert’s sponsorship of a young local entrepreneur this year and support for veterans and older residents.

As the company grows, it creates employment opportunities where workers can learn new skills and take on greater responsibilities. Through pride in its work and a willingness to share its time, talents and resources, NoCo demonstrates how a small business can make a meaningful difference in the community it calls home.

For information, visit nocosuperiorexterior.co or email nocosuperiorexterior@gmail.com.

Learn more at nocosuperiorexterior.co or email nocosuperiorexterior@gmail.com.

Commitment to the Community — Stone and Steel Gym

Stone and Steel Gym is being recognized for owner Tim Vollmer’s generosity and dedication to making Potsdam a better place to live. His contributions support public recreation, learning and opportunities for community connection.

According to the nomination, Vollmer donated more than \$10,000 worth of fitness equipment for installation in Ives Park, where residents can use it free of charge. He also sponsors local athletes, sponsored a local roller derby team and donated a new 3D printer to the Potsdam Public Library.

Vollmer has also connected with SUNY students studying fitness to discuss local needs and challenges. By sharing his resources, knowledge and time, he demonstrates a commitment to helping people throughout Potsdam.

Stone and Steel Gym is located at 6 Main Street, Potsdam. Learn more at stoneandsteelgym.com or email info@stoneandsteelgym.com.

Celebrate This Year’s Honorees

The Potsdam Chamber’s Annual Dinner & Awards will take place at The Stables at Windy Point, 215 Outer Sissonville Road, Potsdam. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner and awards at 6:30 p.m.



The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will honor The Third Wheel Pottery Studio, NoCo Superior Exterior and Stone and Steel Gym at its Annual Dinner & Awards on Thursday, November 12, at The Stables at Windy Point. Provided photo



The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will honor The Third Wheel Pottery Studio, NoCo Superior Exterior and Stone and Steel Gym at its Annual Dinner & Awards on Thursday, Nov. 12, at The Stables at Windy Point. Provided photo

Dinner will be catered by Gideon’s Galley & Catering, LLC, with dessert by Norwood News Café and coffee by St. Lawrence Valley Roasters.

Keynote speaker Marc Compeau of Jake’s on the Water, a professor of practice at Clarkson University, will present “It’s Your Turn.” The evening will also feature live music by The Birds Branch (Oscar & Sal Sarmiento) and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$40 per person, with corporate tables available

for six or eight guests. Community members and businesses are invited to attend and celebrate the honorees.

Advance registration is required by Oct. 30 at www.potsdamchamber.com.

Businesses interested in donating an item or gift certificate to the silent auction may contact director@potsdamchamber.com or (315) 274-9000. Donors will be recognized at the event.

For more information, go to www.potsdamchamber.com.

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

is featured each Wednesday, Saturday as well as in NNY Business. This is found at your local Chamber of Commerce and in the third Thursday of each month's Watertown Daily Times.

Serving You Since 1974

Barry L. Haynes Co.

Antiques

Dealers • Actioneers • Appraisers



We Buy, Sell & Appraise
Antiques, Collections & Estates

P.O. Box 900, Mexico, N.Y. 13114

315-963-0922 • 315-963-3749

BARTLETT
AND SONS

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AC

315-232-3280

★ 24 EMERGENCY SERVICE ★

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AIR

58 N. Main Street, Adams • 315-232-3280

SHERMAN ELECTRIC

Residential & Commercial
Electrical Supplies

Distribution Equipment, Conduit,
Lighting Fixtures, Wiring Devices, etc.

GREAT PRICES!

417 S. Clinton St.
Carthage, NY

315-493-3050

Over 100 years of knowledge and experience!

TIC TOC CLOCK REPAIR

★ Alex MacKinnon ★



All Kinds of Spring
and Weight
Driven Clocks

Pickups and
Delivery Available

Phone:
315-778-1287

ZEHR

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

Let our family help your family with your heating & air conditioning needs

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

All employees are
Zehr Family Members!

24-Hour Emergency Service

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED
CALL 315-788-5828

JOYNER'S, INC.

AUTHORIZED KIOTI DEALER

KIOTI

2506 US RT. 11
MANNSVILLE, NY

315-465-6661



AUTOMATIC STANDBY GENERATORS

GENERAC

24/7
AUTOMATIC
POWER PROTECTION

Back-Up Power
For Your Home Or
Business

KIERNAN
CONTRACTORS, INC.
ELECTRICAL AND UTILITY CONTRACTORS

315
348-4049

To Advertise: Contact Angel at 315-661-2457 or 315-782-0400 email: aspencer@wdt.net

Carthage chamber names business award winners, plans Oct. 28 dinner

CARTHAGE — The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce will honor Marsha Gibbons and five businesses and community organizations at its 2026 business awards dinner Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Gibbons, broker and owner of TLC Real Estate, will receive the Business Person of the Year award.

Other recipients are:
NBC Watertown, New Member Spotlight Award.

VEM Food Pantry, Non-profit of the Year.

Back to School Bash, Community Impact Award.

I.M.E.C., Small Business

Award.

C.E.M. Machine, Large Business Award.

The event will be held at Carthage Elks Lodge 1762, with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.

Dinner choices are turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, a vegetable and cranberry sauce, or baked haddock with rice, a vegetable and cranberry sauce.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations are due Oct. 20 and can be made by calling 315-493-3590 or emailing carthagenychamber@gmail.com.

Eight public, private projects in Heuvelton considered for NY Forward funding



Photo from village of Heuvelton website.

By Andy Gardner
agardner@wdt.net

HEUVELTON — Eight public and private projects are being seriously considered to receive shares of the village of Heuvelton's \$4.5 million NY Forward grant from 2022.

The state grant program awards 100% grants for public projects and a 75% reimbursement for private projects.

Heuvelton Mayor Barbara Lashua said she is grateful for all of the project sponsors that have come forward.

Right now, the proposal requests total \$6,335,000. That's because the state requires overages "because sometimes projects fall by the wayside," the mayor said. Some of those are in the process of being pared down. For example, the village of Heuvelton has

a \$4.3 million request for street-scape improvements. It initially included paving, which has since been cut. The project will not take up the entire grant, unless all other projects fail to reach the funding stage, which is not expected.

"We did have quite a few different either businesses for not-for-profit organizations that put

See FORWARD T13

Excellus earns four-star rating for commercial health plans

NNY Health

UTICA — Excellus BlueCross BlueShield has earned a four-star rating from the National Committee for Quality Assurance for its commercial health plans, the insurer announced Oct. 5.

The rating covers its HMO, POS, PPO and EPO plans. The national ratings evaluate clinical quality, member experience and health outcomes.

Excellus reported five-star ratings for several measures of pediatric care, including well-child visits during the first 15 months of life, well-care visits for children ages 15 to 30 months and well-care visits for children and adolescents.

The insurer also received a

five-star rating for postpartum

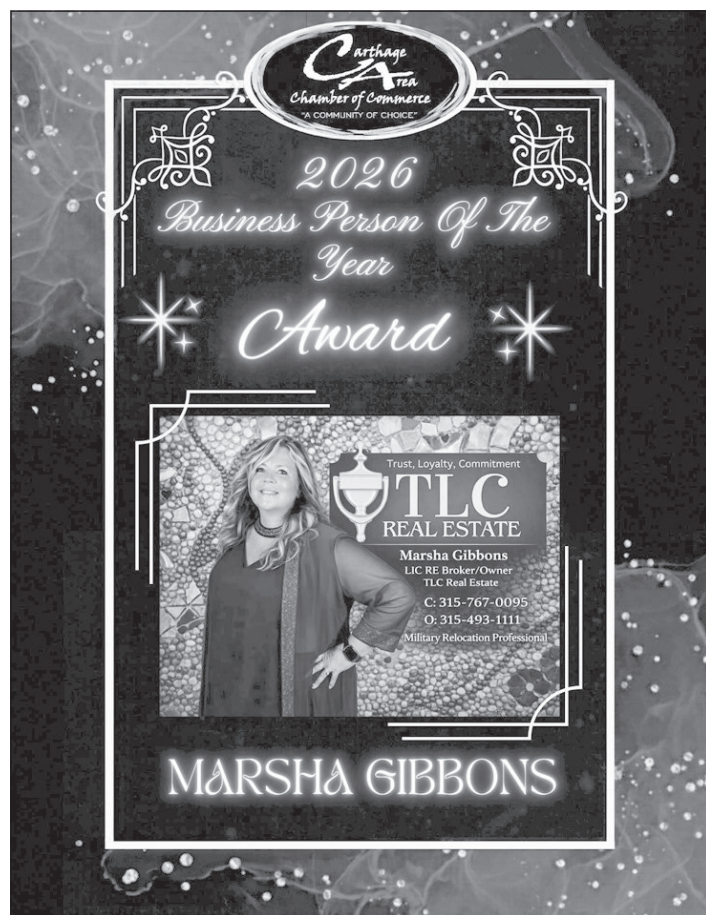
tions.

"This recognition reflects the impact of that collaboration and our unwavering focus on early intervention and helping our communities become a little healthier every day," Vitagliano said.

Excellus also cited positive results for childhood and adolescent immunizations, prenatal care and behavioral health follow-up, although the release did not provide specific ratings for those measures.

The nonprofit insurer serves about 1.5 million members in upstate New York.

More information about the ratings is available at ncqa.org.



SeaComm donates \$10,000 to Children's Miracle Network at Samaritan



From left: Elizabeth Fipps, Vice President of Foundation and Community Services at Samaritan, and Angie VanWormer, Children's Miracle Network Director, accept a check from SeaComm Federal Credit Union President & CEO Scott A. Wilson.

WATERTOWN — SeaComm Federal Credit Union has donated \$10,000 to Children's Miracle Network of Northern New York at Samaritan Medical Center to support pediatric care and families facing medical crises.

The contribution will help fund pediatric services at Samaritan and provide financial assistance to local families whose children are experiencing medical emergencies, according to the hospital.

Samaritan has been a Children's Miracle Network member hospital since 1990. Donations support care, programs, equipment and other resources for children in Jefferson, Lewis and St.

Lawrence counties.

"Support from community partners like SeaComm Federal Credit Union makes a meaningful difference in the lives of local children and their families," said Angie VanWormer, Children's Miracle Network director at Samaritan. "We are incredibly grateful for their continued commitment to making miracles happen for kids in our community."

For information about Children's Miracle Network or how donations support local children, call 315-785-4053 or email cmninfo@shsny.com.

SeaComm named SBA Small Community Lender of the Year

SeaComm has received the Small Community Lender of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the credit union announced.

SeaComm said it supports small businesses through lending that helps them expand operations and contribute to economic growth in the north country.



SBA Syracuse Deputy District Director Grace Conners, SeaComm Executive Vice President Sherry Thompson, SeaComm Member Business Lending Officer Christina Smutz, SBA Syracuse District Director Dan Rickman

Turn Your Child's Savings into

BIG ADVENTURES

with a Moola Moola Kids Account at SeaComm!

- Welcome Backpack and Gifts at Account Opening
- FREE Newsletter Mailed to Your Child Four Times a Year
- Participate in Spin-the-Wave, SeaComm's Academic Recognition Program that Rewards Good Grades with Fun Prizes and Money

seacomm.org
(800) 764-0566

Nature's Café cuts ribbon, celebrates downtown Canton expansion

CANTON — Dozens of local dignitaries, friends, and neighbors gathered Oct. 6 to mark a major milestone on Main Street as Nature's Storehouse celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Nature's Café.

The event, hosted by the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, highlighted a transformative expansion that doubled the footprint of the downtown staple by knocking down the wall separating 19 and 21 Main St. The project introduced a commercial kitchen and sit-down café, expanded grab-and-go options, and added four renovated upstairs apartments.

Co-owner Clark Maine, who operates the business alongside his wife, Yen, outlined the vision behind the multi-year effort.

"We wanted a place downtown where people can slow down, eat local food, and run into their neighbors over the best coffee in town," Maine said.

Maine acknowledged the broad coalition that brought the expansion to life, thanking financial partners including AmeriCU Credit Union lender Brandon LaShomb, who noted working through late nights on complex financing details, and advisors Jennifer McCluskey and Michelle Collins of the North Country Small Business Development Center.

He also expressed gratitude to regional collaborators, including St. Lawrence Valley Roasters for setting up coffee operations and training staff, local vendors such as White's Flowers and Coakley Home & Hardware, village Code Enforcement Officer Tim Nolan, and the UNFI Store Design team. Maine offered special thanks to upstairs tenants, particularly massage therapists Val and Gabrielle, for keeping



A large contingent of official friends and neighbor gather behind a ribbon and Clark and Yen Maine, center, cut the ribbon on Nature's Café, an addition to the storied Nature's Storehouse in downtown Canton. Provided photo

clients relaxed through construction dust and noise.

For retired entrepreneur Sandy Maine, Clark's mother, the gathering was both an economic celebration and a proud family moment. She noted that small businesses serve as the cornerstone of both a thriving local economy and a healthy democracy, praising support from New York State's NY Forward grant program.

"As a retired small business owner myself, I know that starting and growing a business takes more than a good idea," Sandy Maine said. "It takes hard work, de-

termination, a willingness to take risks, and a community that believes in you."

Representatives from Empire State Development, including Regional Director Steve Hunt, attended to congratulate the family on the investment.

Chamber Community and Membership Relations Manager Tom Graser emphasized the broader significance of the expansion for the village downtown core.

"Local businesses like Nature's Storehouse are the heart and soul of our regional economy and healthy communities," Graser said.



Clark and Yen Maine expressed thanks to the many people and organizations that helped make Nature's Café a reality. Provided photo

Jreck Subs named to national food and beverage franchise list

Jreck Subs has been named to Franchise Business Review's 2026 Top Food & Beverage Franchises list, the company announced.

The annual list recognizes franchise brands based on feedback from franchise owners about training, marketing support, company culture and other aspects of operating their businesses.

According to the release, Franchise Business Review surveyed more than 26,000 franchise owners across 330 brands for its 2026 rankings.

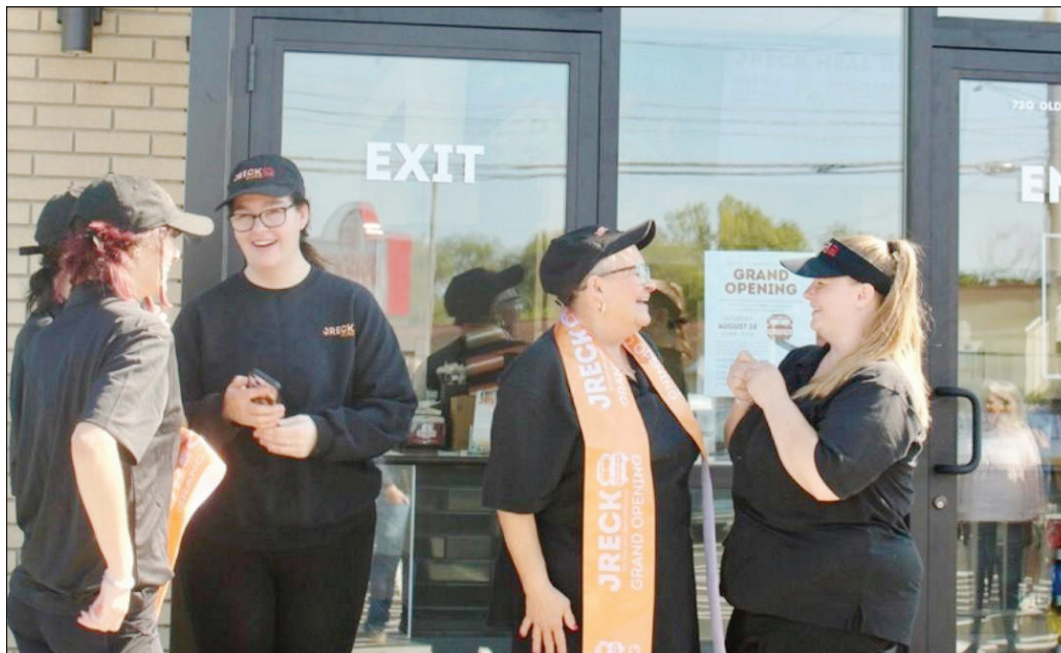
Founded in 1967 by five schoolteachers in Carthage, Jreck Subs began operating from a converted school bus. The sandwich chain now serves communities throughout upstate New

York.

"JRECK Subs has always been about more than making great subs. It's about the people behind the counter, the franchisees who invest in their communities and the customers who have supported us for generations," said Bob Piddock, president of Fresh Start Franchising.

"We're proud of the people who make this brand what it is, and we remain committed to giving our franchisees the support and resources they need to continue growing," he said.

The company said it continues to focus on franchise support, local marketing and expansion.



Founded in 1967 in Carthage, New York, JRECK Subs is a regional sandwich franchise known for its fresh-made subs, soft rolls and strong community connections. Built on the belief that customers should be treated like family, JRECK Subs continues to serve communities throughout Upstate New York while expanding its franchise presence. The brand's tagline, "On a roll since '67," reflects its longstanding history and commitment to the communities it serves.

Get back into your routine. And back to your financial plan.

With Fall in full swing, and as you settle back into everyday life, now is a good time to review your financial goals and make sure your plan is still on course.

Talk with us today.



151 Mullin Street, Watertown
NY 13601 | 315.222.7148
MORGIAWM.COM



HIGHTOWER ADVISORS, LLC IS AN SEC REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER. REGISTRATION AS AN INVESTMENT ADVISOR DOES NOT IMPLY A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SKILL OR TRAINING. SECURITIES ARE OFFERED THROUGH HIGHTOWER SECURITIES, LLC, MEMBER FINRA/SIPC.

Cape Vincent bakery gets micro-grant funding to help boost production



David Snow, secretary of Cape Vincent Local Development Corporation, presents a representative micro-grant check to Christine Leech, owner of Baked on the Lake Bakery.

Times staff report

CAPE VINCENT — The Cape Vincent Local Development Corp. has awarded a \$4,125 Micro-Grant to Christine Leech, owner of Baked on the Lake Bakery, 592 E. Broadway, to support the purchase of a double convection oven, freezer, and other essential equipment for the growing Cape Vincent business.

The equipment will increase the bakery's production capacity and efficiency, allowing Baked on the Lake Bakery to expand its offerings and better meet customer demand. The investment will

help strengthen the business while contributing to Cape Vincent's growing local food and small-business economy.

"Small projects can spark big change," said Dave Snow, secretary of the CVLDC. "This grant is about giving our neighbors the resources they need to bring creative, impactful ideas to life. We're excited to support Christine and Baked on the Lake Bakery as they continue to grow and contribute to our community."

The award is part of the CVLDC's \$20,000 micro-grant fund, which provides grants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofits,

small businesses, community groups, and individuals for projects that strengthen local economic development and improve quality of life in Cape Vincent.

The CVLDC views investments in local businesses such as Baked on the Lake Bakery as an important part of building a vibrant, sustainable community. By helping small businesses purchase equipment, expand their operations, and respond to demand, the Micro-Grant Fund helps turn local ideas into tangible economic opportunities.

Marshalls opens in Malone



A Marshalls employee greets customers with a smile and a free shopping bag Thursday during the store's grand opening in Malone. Richard Rosentreter photo

By Richard Rosentreter

rosentreter@mtelgram.com

MALONE – The retail chain store Marshalls, which has more than 1,200 locations currently operating in 48 states and Puerto Rico, officially opened for business Thursday at Malone Plaza, which currently is also home to Runnings and several other businesses.

On Thursday morning, the store plaza was busy with activity and the parking lot was once again full of vehicles – both for shoppers at the now open Marshalls and the recently opened Shoe Dept. Encore.

Inside the new Marshalls, those entering the store were greeted with a smile and issued a free "Get the good stuff" shopping bags. The isles were also full of people looking for good deals on everything from clothing, household items and toys to snacks and food and snacks.

It was also a good morning for sales as the cashier lines were long most of the time that the Telegram was inside the store. One sales associate said that there was a line of people waiting to get in at 8 a.m. and the stream of customers was steady throughout the morning hours.

The store held a ribbon-cutting ceremony when the doors first opened.

Marshalls officials provided more information about the store in a press release issued a

day before the opening.

"At Marshalls, we hustle every day to bring 'the good stuff' to stores for consumers. With the opening of this store, we are excited to provide Malone shoppers with high-quality, brand name merchandise at an amazing value," Nancy Carpenter, president of Marshalls, said in a statement.

In celebration of its new Malone location, Marshalls will contribute to the local community by donating \$10,000 to Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties, the release states.

In addition to providing a new shopping option for local residents, the new store plans to add approximately 60 full and part-time jobs to the area, according to the retail store.

Marshalls also has national and local partnerships with charitable organizations around the country including Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), Alzheimer's Association and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the release states.

The new store has approximately 24,000 square feet of space and will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day, the release said, and shoppers will be able to choose from a broad selection of brand name and designer fashion at "affordable prices," the release states.

ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS



**POTSDAM CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**
Supporting Business Building Community

Thursday, Nov. 12 5:30PM Cocktails • 6:30PM Dinner & Awards • The Stables at Windy Point • \$40 per person, corporate tables available for 6 or 8 guests

RSVP by October 30 to director@potsdamchamber.com | Celebrating excellence in our business community.

From coffee to cheesesteaks: Watertown couple opens Bradley Street shop



Dan Warren and Stephanie Ramey recently opened Slappin' Cheesesteaks & More on Bradley Street in Watertown. Craig Fox/ Watertown Daily Times

By Craig Fox
cfox@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — Dan Warren found what he considers the perfect spot to open Slappin' Cheesesteaks & More.

Decades ago, Louie's Sub Shop opened in the small building on Bradley Street, where it served popular sandwiches for years.

Now, it's home to the cheesesteak shop.

"It has everything you need for a sandwich shop," Warren said.

The Slappin' Cheesesteaks name has no particular significance. Warren, who has a background in marketing, chose it because it was fun and catchy.

"It just sounded good," he

said.

His wife, Stephanie Ramey, is the owner of the eatery, which offers takeout and in-house delivery. The couple decided to go into business together after Ramey, who had worked in retail management for a series of national chain stores in Watertown, came home one day and said she "had enough."

They decided they wanted to own their own business, so they opened a coffee shop in Salmon Run Mall in April 2024. It was the same week Ramey gave birth to their daughter, Sophie, who is now 2.

They soon determined they could not survive by selling coffee alone and began offering cheesesteak wraps. The



Dan Warren and Stephanie Ramey recently opened Slappin' Cheesesteaks & More on Bradley Street in Watertown. Craig Fox/ Watertown Daily Times

wraps became popular with people working in the mall, they said.

"They just liked them, so I kept going with cheesesteak sandwiches," Warren said.

In addition to cheesesteaks, the menu includes burgers, wings, fries, onion rings, mozzarella sticks and chicken tenders. Warren does most of the cooking himself, working the grill and preparing the food.

Earlier this year, the couple decided it was time to move out of the mall and "be on their own." Operating from their

own location would also give the business more visibility, Warren said.

He has nothing but good things to say about their experience at the mall, particularly the camaraderie they shared with other business owners there.

Warren also remains a strong proponent of Salmon Run Mall, where he said 48 mostly locally owned retailers operate despite a public perception that the mall is "a desolate place."

"Wouldn't you want them to be locally owned businesses and not national retailers that don't have a tie to the community?" he said.

It was at the mall that Warren learned the various aspects of running a restaurant, he said, including pricing, profitability and perfecting the product.

He is satisfied with where the business has landed. Before moving into the Bradley Street location, the couple completed extensive interior renovations and purchased

a new grill and other equipment.

With his marketing background, Warren knows how to get the word out and promote his business, he said.

Since Louie's Sub Shop closed, a series of businesses have come and gone from the building. Most recently, it has housed Latino, Filipino and Caribbean restaurants, as well as a car detailing business several years ago.

Four employees work at Slappin' Cheesesteaks & More. The restaurant is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed Sundays.

Warren, 37, left the military at Fort Drum in 2013 after deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He decided to remain in the north country. Warren and Ramey also have an 11-year-old son.

"I want to run a good business and take care of my family," Warren said.



Dan Warren and Stephanie Ramey recently opened Slappin' Cheesesteaks & More on Bradley Street in Watertown. Craig Fox/ Watertown Daily Times

St. Lawrence County Chamber launches membership drive

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce has launched its annual “Fall for the Chamber” membership campaign, offering area businesses and organizations early access to 2027 membership benefits.

Under the promotion, businesses that apply for 2027 membership between October and December will receive immediate active status, granting them the remaining months of 2026 at no additional charge.

The chamber represents more than 400 businesses and organizations across St. Lawrence County and focuses on business support, economic development, workforce growth, and regional tourism promotion.

“When you join the Chamber, you are not only investing in your business – you are helping us raise the tide for businesses and communities throughout St. Lawrence County,” said Ben Dixon, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Chamber



The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at 101 Main St. in Canton. Contributed.

of Commerce. “Your membership helps advance economic development, strengthen workforce opportunities, support entrepreneurship, promote tourism, and advocate for a healthy business climate.”

Chamber membership gives local enterprises greater visibility, networking opportunities, professional development support, exclusive advertising discounts, and tailored programs for artisan vendors and tourism operators.

The chamber continues to expand its offerings, and emerging initiatives for 2027 include a regional community gift card, a “Welcome Home” guide for new residents, and new county promotional merchandise.

Businesses interested in joining can learn more about membership and apply online at visitsltc.com/membership-and-dues/ or contact Tom Graser at 315-386-4000 ext. 5 or Tom@slcchamber.org.

Forward

From T7

in some really nice applications, so a lot of time and effort has gone into this,” Lashua said. “I’m so pleased about that. As we more closely evaluate the applications and work out any bits of information that are still missing, I’m excited about it all. I think people have put ... projects out there that are going to be transformative for the village.”

The projects were announced at an Oct. 6 open meeting of the Local Planning Commission. The LPC will hold two more meetings at the end of October. More details are at the end of this story.

Lashua described the following projects as “strong contenders” for final approval and funding.

The village is proposing a streetscape project, similar to what the village of Potsdam recently did with their Downtown Revitalization Initiative award. Heuvelton’s would “would entail plantings and lighting and upgrades of seating and crosswalks, all those things that make a downtown more walkable and user friendly,” the mayor said. They initially asked for \$4.3 million, but that will be pared down.

A second village project would install new signage and wayfinding to help visitors find their way to key public facilities, such as the library and boat launch.

“We’re also looking at some signage that would identify the ages of some of the buildings on Main Street. I’d like to see a placard, because every one of those buildings is ancient,” Lashua said. She wants signage that “at least tells what year the building was built, but I’d also like something that told what purpose it served in past lives.” The village is also proposing the establishment of a small projects fund, “money given to the village to administer that grant funding for any project that is later introduced that is under \$75,000,” the mayor said.

The initial request for the streetscape and small projects fund was \$625,000.

Doug’s Tavern made an initial \$517,000 request to improve their outdoor space with facade enhancements, “creating a four-season outdoor event space,” the mayor said.

The Heuvelton Historical Association made an initial request of \$495,000 to restore 25 Water St. They plan to create a new apartment on the ground floor and do some outside restoration.

The Heuvelton Fire Department wants to make their station more energy efficient, replace the roof, doors and window, expand a truck bay and “both interior and exterior aesthetics,” Lashua said. Their initial proposal requested \$522,000.

River’s Edge Apartments, which has five units, initially sought \$75,000 for facade work.

The Heuvelton Amvets made an initial proposal asking for \$270,000 to refurbish their post’s roof.

A final project request is for 94 State St., which houses Dr. Timothy Kelly’s chiropractic office, would improve the first-floor commercial space with new flooring, energy efficiency and “a big facade restoration,” Lashua said. They first requested \$105,000.

The mayor said all of the request amounts are still tentative.

The village will host a public session on Tuesday, Oct. 27 for residents to give input on potential downtown improvement projects through the NY Forward program.

It will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at Pickens Hall, 83 N. State St. Residents, business owners and other community members can review proposed projects and provide input to help the Local Planning Committee identify projects to recommend to New York state for funding consideration. Family-friendly activities, including a children’s table, will be available.

The event is the second public open house held as part of the village’s NY Forward planning process. The committee has been evaluating project proposals based on a series of criteria, with public feedback helping shape the recommendations.

The committee is also expected to hold its final meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at Pickens Hall. The meeting will focus on developing a final list of projects to recommend for state funding. The meeting is open to the public, with an opportunity for public comment at the beginning.

For more information, visit HeuveltonNYForward.com.

DR. DRUSHTI MEHTA

Gouverneur Primary Care

Accepting New Patients

315.287.4440

77 West Barney Street



Community Health Center
OF THE NORTH COUNTRY



Sharon Bourquin named Clayton's 2026 Citizen of the Year



Lonsway descendant Sharon Bourquin with Civil War reenactor Sam Lundy of the Walter H. French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 2024. Photo courtesy of Lori Hill

Staff Report

CLAYTON — Sharon D. Bourquin has been named Clayton's 2026 Citizen of the Year in recognition of two decades of volunteer service preserving and sharing local history, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce announced.

Bourquin will be honored Thursday, Nov. 12, at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, 200 Riverside Drive. The dinner also will include Best of the Best awards and the Community Spirit Award honoring conductor Rick Badour and the Clayton Community Band.

Bourquin began volunteering at the Thousand Islands Museum in 2006, drawn by an interest in genealogy. Her initial commitment of one day a week in the research library grew to five days a week and sometimes seven during

major events.

She has served as an unpaid museum director and assisted with exhibits, membership, volunteer recruitment, fundraising and community programs.

Bourquin continues to volunteer three days a week, coordinating the museum's Sunset History Boat Tours fundraiser and writing its weekly news column for the Thousand Island Sun.

Her work has supported the Festival of Trees, annual Decoy Show, Holiday Craft Fair, community dinners, Veterans Day displays and History at Noon programs.

She also preserves newspaper clippings and family records, maintains research materials and helps visitors explore their genealogy.

In a joint nomination, museum volunteers described

Bourquin as its "heart and soul," praising her knowledge and willingness to help researchers, visitors and new volunteers.

Her community service also has included volunteering at her granddaughters' preschool, assisting with Antique Boat Museum educational projects at Guardino Elementary School and raising money for youth travel sports teams.

Born and raised in Clayton, Bourquin graduated as salu-

tarian from Clayton Central School in 1964. She began working at First National Exchange Bank, later the National Bank of Northern New York, during her senior year.

After seven years at the bank, she joined Wingerath Bros., where she worked for 34 years. She served as the company's secretary and treasurer and later handled accounting for its lumber business.

Bourquin and her husband, Bob, have been mar-

ried for 61 years. They have a son, William, two granddaughters and a great-grandson.

"I love that I am helping to preserve the history of our amazing Village and Town," Bourquin said.

Dinner reservations are due by 4 p.m. Oct. 30. Reservations can be made at 1000islands-clayton.com/citizen-of-the-year or by contacting the chamber at 315-686-3771 or tricia@1000islands-clayton.com.

CLAYTON CELEBRATES
SHARON BOURQUIN
CLAYTON'S 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

PLEASE JOIN THE CLAYTON CHAMBER
NOVEMBER 12, 2026 • 5PM
1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, Clayton NY



THE 1000 ISLANDS
Cruet
 CLAYTON, NY

GOURMET
 OLIVE OILS & VINEGARS

**Come visit our tasting room
 for a unique & fun experience.**

~ Follow us on Facebook ~

www.thecruet.com
thecruet@gmail.com • 315-767-1064

Enid Moore - Owner 226 James St., Clayton, NY

St. Lawrence County chamber names business award winners; Dinner scheduled for Oct. 28



The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce's business awards will be presented Oct. 28. Contributed photo.

COZY UP, SAVE MORE!

3.30%

*APY

9-MONTH CD SPECIAL

3.56%

*APY

13-MONTH CD SPECIAL

stlawrfcu.com



315.393.3530

St. Lawrence

Federal Credit Union

*APY - Annual Percentage Yield. 3.56% APY is valid on the special 13-Month Share Certificate for deposits and 3.30% APY is valid on the special 9-Month Share Certificate to St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union. Minimum balance is \$1,000. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on your account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. This is a limited time offer and may be canceled at any time. Other items and conditions may apply. Federally insured by the NCUA.

CANTON — LeBerge & Curtis, SeaComm and Upstate Candles will receive business recognition awards at the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner Wednesday, Oct. 28, at SUNY Potsdam.

The event will be held in the Barrington Student Union's multipurpose room, beginning with a cocktail and networking hour at 5:30 p.m.

LeBerge & Curtis was named Business of the Year. The fourth-generation, family-owned Canton dealership has served the region since 1954 and has been a chamber member since 1973, making it the organization's longest-standing active member.

SeaComm will receive the Customer Service Excellence Award. Founded in 1963 by 10 Massena foundry workers, the credit union has grown to nine branches serving more than 55,000 members in northern New York and Vermont.

Upstate Candles was selected as Local Producer of the Year. The business, at 230 Caroline St. in Ogdensburg, makes scented candles, wax melts, soaps, scrubs and skin care products.

The program also will in-

clude a "State of the Chamber" update on regional business and tourism initiatives.

"This event brings together business leaders, community advocates, and entrepreneurs from across St. Lawrence County to celebrate our collective work to enhance economic and community vitality," chamber Executive Director Ben Dixon said.

Dinner, the chamber presentation and awards are scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A live auction led by Dawn Merz of Stephen's Media is scheduled for 8 to 9 p.m. The evening also will include a silent auction and 50/50 raffles.

Businesses wishing to donate auction items should contact Laura Pearson at Laura@slcchamber.org by Friday, Oct. 16.

Sponsors include AmeriCU Credit Union, St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union, Northern Credit Union and Bill Rapp Chevrolet of Ogdensburg.

Advance registration is required. Tickets and table reservations are available at tinyurl.com/STLcdinner or by calling 315-386-4000.





We are relocating our Watertown Branch

Exciting News for Watertown Residents! A Brand New Carthage Savings Location is Coming Soon! (Early 2027) We are thgrilled to expand our services and bring convenient, community-focused banking even closer to you. Soon, you will be able to access all of your financial nees at our brand-new, modern branch.



New Location

400 Washington Street, Watertown, NY