

The Evening Sun, presents Progress Edition 2019. A look at the community's recent past and future.

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In Your Own Words



Matthew Caldwell
City of Norwich
Common Council
President;
Ward 1 Alderman

For the past three years I have been honored to serve on the City of Norwich Common Council. In this time, I have had the pleasure of working with leaders in government and business, volunteers of several organizations, residents, and many other individuals and groups.

To say that I've learned a lot is, by far, an understatement. I have learned that there are not easy solutions to difficult problems, and sometimes there are not easy solutions to easy problems. The good news is that many people continue to work very hard to advance the issues they care about and improve our community.

I try to gravitate toward people with more knowledge and experience than me in hopes that I will learn a new skill or technique, discover information, or stumble upon new resources. Despite these efforts, sometimes the answers to problems still don't present themselves and it can be frustrating. Very frustrating!

In 2018 I was presented with two new opportunities that really stand out for me, and they made me realize that even though I may still feel very young and full of energy, I am no longer the new kid on the block. The first came in June when I was given a chance to present a scholarship award at the Dollars for Scholars awards night. Having never been before and realizing I most likely did not know any of the students, I said yes. I try to leave my comfort zone every now and then.

When the night approached, it really set in that I had no idea how this worked or what I should be doing. My instructions were very clear – just show

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Golden Artist Colors: A teacher and patron of the arts

By TYLER MURPHY
The Evening Sun



On February 18 Golden Artist will host Artist Ann Walsh at the Sam & Adele Golden Gallery. Walsh uses very bright and vivid colors in her art. (Photo by Tyler Murphy)

NEW BERLIN – Golden Artist Colors in New Berlin was founded by a retired paint maker with a love of the arts four decades ago.

Creating paints by hand in New York City since the Great Depression, Sam Golden decided to leave retirement in 1980 and gathered together his wife, Adele, his son Mark, and his daughter, Barbara, to found Golden Artist Colors.

In 2018 the company produced 1.2 million gallons of paint and employs 224 full-time workers. Its brand has become recognized throughout the art world for its versatile and high quality products.

The company shipped 1.8 million tubes of paint and gave away 754 gallons of paint to local artists and charities. More than 1,000 people, on a

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United Way, the nonprofit staffed by two that supports the needs of thousands

By ZACHARY MESECK
The Evening Sun

NORWICH – In 2018 Chenango United Way worked hard to support over 28 nonprofits in Chenango County, to feed those in need, and to meet 97 percent of their fundraiser goal against the odds.

Chenango United Way is a locally owned and operated nonprofit that is focused on improving the lives of individuals throughout Chenango County.

Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer Elizabeth Monaco and Business Manager Victoria Mitchell led the operation in 2018 with the support of hundreds of volunteers from around Chenango County.

According to Monaco, this year Chenango United Way had a goal of raising \$419,000 in donations for the organizations it supports, but faced major financial setbacks

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County United Way Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer Elizabeth Monaco and Business Manager Victoria Mitchell work with hundreds of volunteers and donors every year to help support those in need around Chenango County. (Zachary Meseck photo)

74.9% of Chenango County residents own their own homes.

Golden Artist Colors —



Golden Artist has a paint bar for visitors and employees to use. This statue stands above it and may have inspired some to try and paint it. (Photo by Tyler Murphy)

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total of 112 tours, visited Golden in 2018.

The Golden family's founding passion for the arts are still a critical part of the company today. While the company has created a number of innovative art products over the years, it has also become a patron of artists, educators and students.

"In short, we believe that art can change the world. And it's so valuable from so many fronts to have art in the world, and most importantly to have art in education," said Golden's President Barbara Schindler. "And yep, we make paint, but in the end it's so important for people and society to have art in their lives."

Schindler said all forms of art were important for many reasons, including social and economic ones, but also for self-discovery, self-expression and critical thinking. She decried how some institutions seem to view the arts as expendable programs when faced with financial challenges.

"The arts keep getting funding slashed. It's important to remind people of how empowering they are and how it helped each of us through our education process. You fall back on it and that ability to problem solve and be a broader thinker, it's because we had exposure to the arts and we had some involvement," she said. "And that's not just painting or physical art, it's dance,

it's theater, it's music."

Having experience the arts as youths, many people continue to create art later in life or find themselves returning to it at some point.

"And you see so often how many people, once they hit a point when either their kids are gone, or they're retired, and where do they go? They go back to something related to the arts. Schindler said she heard people say a number of times, "oh you know, I picked up a paintbrush."

"And it may be because they saw a YouTube video or something. But I think that the physical arts are easier to pick back up," said Schindler. "To play with some paint, and to be able to do that, it's important.

Having that experience is really important to us."

For the fourth year Golden Artist has launched a program the helps art teachers create art for their own sake.

"Three years ago we thought art teachers were artists first" said Schindler. "And we really wanted to honor art teachers as the true artists they are, and to give them time to remember to practice their art."

For the last two years Golden Artist has supported two classes of the Master Teacher Program, with usually 12 to 18 teachers participating. In February Golden held a gallery featuring artwork from 17 of those art mentors who participated. To create the class Golden partnered with DCMO, Madison-Oneida and Herkimer County BOCES to sponsor the class and find eligible participants. The 8-week program include several classes with professional instruction.

"Our Master Teacher program has been a great success, so we're thrilled to celebrate with an art opening for these incredible local art teachers. None of this would have been possible without the guidance and support of our local BOCES organizations, so we're incredibly grateful for all they've done for this Program as well," said CEO and Founder Mark Golden, at the gallery's

opening.

Besides the experience of creating and professionally showing their work the teachers also gain educational credits.

"And the reason we go through BOCES, is we wanted to make sure teachers get their continuing education credits, and we said 'well, if we're going to do this, how do we do that?' So working, partnering with BOCES, they made sure that it would fulfill that need and that they could get their credits. And with three different BOCES," explained Golden Communications Coordinator Jodi O'Dell.

From Schindler's office

at Golden Artist Colors company headquarters is a view of the residency art program sponsored by the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, a non-profit organization separate from the for-profit company.

The foundation describes the residency as, "in the beautiful rolling hills of central New York and just several hundred yards from the Golden Artist Colors manufacturing facility, a 19th century barn has been transformed into a 21st century artist residency, with large studio spaces and pri-

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Golden Artist Colors shipped 1.8 million tubes of paint in 2018. (Photo by Tyler Murphy)



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Golden Artist Colors —

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vate residency apartments. Artists-in-residence will participate in a completely unique opportunity to explore the widest, most innovative range of materials and technology available today for professional artists working with paint.”

The foundation supports much of the artist’s work as they live and create art using Golden’s many products.

Noting the company was a separate entity Schindler said “We do collaborate, it’s great to have a residency down the road that has a manufacturer – I mean, if you’re an artist it is really great.”

Once a year in April there is a “Made In Paint” exhibition featuring the several artists who have attended the residency.

Recently one artist visiting the residency felt so grateful to Golden’s manufacturing team he would come over and visit with workers each day and took a sample of whatever paint they were making that day. He would then use those materials to create a scene featuring workers on the factory floor.

“He said ‘Oh could I have just a little sampling of every color you make that day? So they gave him a sam-

pling. He’d come over at five o’clock, I’d see him walking up, and he’d sit down and he’d paint a different scene of this facility in those colors of the day. I think he got it done for like eight or nine days.”

The artist also volunteered to host painting classes for Golden employees.

“And he had two classes, because we have two shifts,” said Schindler. “We get so much from them, we give so much to them, so it’s a wonderful relationship. And for the individual artist, you couldn’t ask for a better experience.”

On February 18 Golden will host Artist Ann Walsh at the Sam and Adele Golden Gallery.

“We allow the foundation to use the gallery for their “Made In Paint” show, and that’s usually April to August, and every other time it’s our exhibit. So right now we have the Anne Walsh exhibit going on,” said O’Dell.

The event is an interview by Emeritus Professor of International Media Studies Robert Seward. He will explore Walsh’s career and artwork featured in her ongoing gallery exhibition. Walsh uses very bright and vivid colors in her art.

Seward studied ceramics at the Philadelphia College of Art and at Parsons School of Design and lives in Cooperstown. Seward has been conducting engaging and informative interviews with artists for the last three years.

An illustrated catalog titled, “Ann Walsh’s Mechanics of Color” will be

available at the interview for attendees. You can also view her art in the gallery. Visiting hours for gallery are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Another piece that we do around arts education is we partner with Scholastic. Scholastic has a huge program that they do nationwide, and students submit their work and they choose 1,000 students nationwide who get either a gold key or a silver key, acknowledged for their physical painting work. They also do stuff for theater, music, dance, poetry, the written arts, but for painting there’s 1,000,” said Schindler

O’Dell further explained, “We’ve had four years of residencies, going on our fifth, and we did two projects before that, so we’ve partnered with them for seven years at least.”

Golden partners with Scholastic to recognize the success of these students and because of their teachers.

“We said, ‘how can we thank those teachers?’ So we’ve done a variety of things over the years, but this will be our fifth year where they can apply to get a two week residency,” Schindler said.

So why does Golden do all this?

“Because we do want to turn our vision into a reality, and we know that all these things that we do are going to come back tenfold to the business. It takes time, but it’ll come back. The relationships are solid and the art is beautiful.”

SUCCESS STORY

Northeast Classic Car Museum

In May 1997, the Northeast Classic Car Museum (NECCM) located at 24 Rexford Street in the City of Norwich opened its doors to the public with one building and just over 50 classic cars on display. Thanks to the efforts of local a businessman, George E. Staley and his family, the Museum has grown into a major first rate tourist destination and begins to celebrate its 22nd anniversary with over 170 classic cars, motorcycles & trucks on display in five (5) connected buildings.

In 2018, the Museum saw another record setting year for visitors, events and tour groups. The NECCM continues to attract more visitors each year and in 2018 it set another record with 17,412 visitors, which is an increase from 2017 that saw 16,695 visitors. The NECCM continues to see an increase of visitors from outside of Chenango County and the United States. In 2018, almost 95% of the Museum’s visitors were from outside of Chenango County. To breakdown this number further, 46% of the Museum’s visitors were from outside Chenango County but within New York State, another 40% of the visitors lived outside of New York State but within the United States. Approximately, 10% of the Museum’s visitors were from outside of the United States from Countries such as Canada, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, China, Japan, Ireland, Australia and Israel.

In 2018 the NECCM hosted a record 91 Events and hosted over 35 Tour Groups including the 2018 Great Race on June 24, 2018. The number of Events and Tour Groups visiting the Museum has more than doubled in 5 years and quadrupled over the past 9 years. To put these numbers in perspective the Museum in 2009 hosted a total of 30 Events/Tour Groups.

The Northeast Classic Car Museum has been busy continually investing in major capital projects over the years to upgrade the appearance of the Museum and the aesthetics of the Museum’s surrounding property, thanks to generous community support.

The number one factor to the Museum’s success is the level of dedication displayed by the volunteers, staff and the Museum’s Board of Trustees. In 2018 there were over 75 volunteers who generously donated 8,893 hours of their time and energy to make the Northeast Classic Car Museum a great place to visit. Without the volunteers, the Northeast Classic Car Museum would not succeed.

What are we doing to promote the Northeast Classic Car Museum? Well, the Museum is focusing its marketing efforts in multiple ways - word of mouth from guests, brochures, TV, print, billboards, social media, and special events. The Museum has expanded its brochure distribution into the Northern New Jersey and Pennsylvania markets as well as in the Catskill and Hudson Valley Regions. The Museum is using television to promote the Museum as well as social media to promote its special events. Also, the Northeast Classic Car Museum is working to promote Bus Tours to the Museum. However, the best form of promoting the Museum is the 1-10-100 rule or Word of Mouth. As a result of the great experience our guests receive from the volunteers when they visit the museum. They in return tell 10 of their friends and they each tell 10 of their friends. This helps promote the museum and there are no marketing costs.

If you would like more information about volunteering at the Museum, call (607) 334-2886.



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In Your Own Words

Matthew Caldwell

City of Norwich Common Council President;
Ward 1 Alderman

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up and someone will tell me what to do (and if all else fails, do what I usually do – improvise!) Fortunately, when I parked in the parking lot outside of the school, I ran into two friends who, whether they knew it or not, helped calm my nerves. Walking in the door of the school, I began to feel like I had bitten off more than I could chew. I did not know who I was presenting the award to, why they won, or what I would say about them.

My first interaction with the student began with another presenter talking to them as I approached to introduce myself. I knew the other presenter, and I knew he was the big guns. “How will I follow him?”, I thought to myself. When it was my turn to talk to the student and learn about them, it dawned on me that not one, but several other presenters would be presenting awards to this student long before it was my turn. That led to my final question for the student before the show went on: “What can I say about you that nobody else will say?”

As the night’s program progressed, I thought more and more about what I could say about this uber-accomplished student. What had he not accomplished already in his short 18 years on earth? Seemingly nothing. The very few minutes I had to speak with him before the

awards ceremony made me realize the glaring difference between him weeks before his high school graduation and me when I was at that same place in my life, and the last words I spoke on that stage before announcing his name: “He is everything I was not as a high school student...”

The second opportunity came over the summer when another high school student asked me to join her in meeting with some residents of Ward 1 in the City of Norwich to discuss an idea she was working on. To be clear, this was far more than an idea, and more like an elaborate plan to transform a city park after raising all the funds, obtaining the engineering designs, gaining legislative approval, and researching how other communities have been successful – all while attending school, competing in sports, and visiting and applying to colleges.

I thought I was busy, but comparatively I might better be classified a slacker. Again, a new experience – but one that was much more familiar to me as I had knocked on a lot of doors in the past three years. This time, I was simply introducing someone else and then stepping out of the way. I remember thinking how intimidating it first was to knock on doors of people’s homes I don’t know, introduce myself, and try to convince them to believe in me and my ideas. When I was

17 years old, I wasn’t nearly prepared to do anything like that.

My experience that day made me realize that the student believed so strongly in her idea that she was willing to do whatever it took to educate others, answer their questions, consider their feedback and suggestions, and improve her plan. Over the past several months this student has asked me to assist in small ways here and there, and I have been more than happy to do anything I can.

The truth is, she will find a way to accomplish her goals on her own whether I or anyone else helps her or not. The progress she has made is astonishing to say the least, and she continues to convince more and more people that her idea will have a positive impact on both residents and visitors of our community for a very long time. Up to this point, she has raised thousands of dollars, educated the community using both traditional print media and social media, met with business and community leaders several times, and to top it off I heard a rumor that she’s been accepted to every college to which she’s applied. To me, that’s simply unbelievable.

In both cases, I could have passed up opportunities to meet young people who go above and beyond. I could have stayed in my comfort zone and not taken the risk of uncomfortable situations. The

easy way out was an option. Had I made that choice in either or both situations, I would not have been reminded that greatness happens in all phases of our lives.

Not only are Wesley Mills and Hannah Baker stand-outs among their peers, they are stand-outs in the community. They are stand-outs among leaders. They are the “Who’s Who” of a generation. Both individuals put their best foot forward to improve their communities – whether it is their home town, their school, or other organizations and teams they are involved with.

Our youth are already leaders, and they are determined to set high goals and find ways to achieve them. They will train the next generation of great leaders who will insist on doing even more great things for their communities. Despite my struggles working through legislative issues from time to time, I regularly think about how these young adults persevere because they believe in themselves, they believe in their goals, and they believe in their communities.

I am thankful for having the opportunity to meet and work with these two individuals. Take a chance and leave your comfort zone. You will meet great, young leaders who will show you the way. I am a better person for these two experiences. My hat is off to you, Wesley Mills and Hannah Baker!

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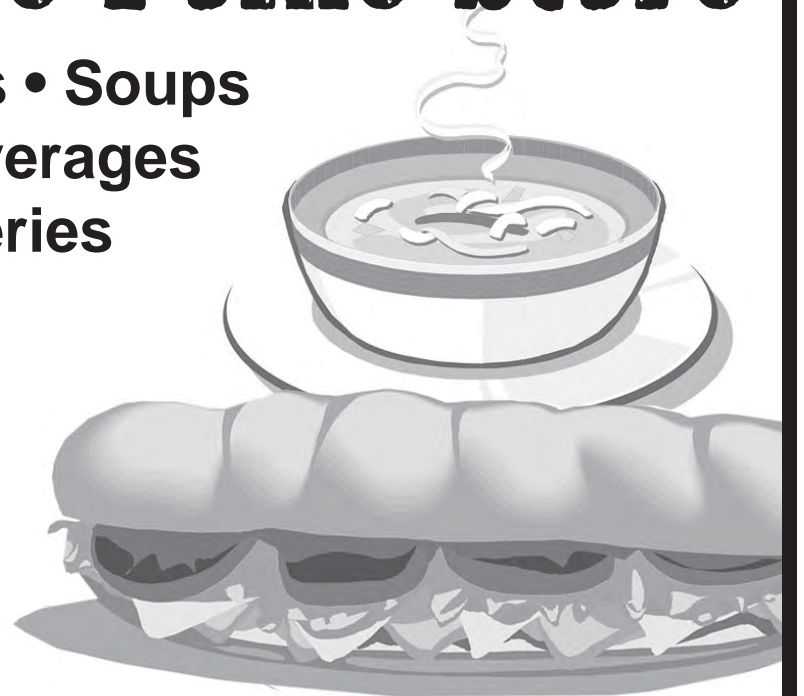
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United Way —

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throughout the campaign.

“For what seemed like an eternity, we were stuck at 44 percent of our goal,” she said. “It’s gotten increasingly harder to raise money, with this year being by far the hardest we’ve faced so far.”

Monaco said with the assistance of businesses like NBT, they managed to raise \$405,651 or approximately 97 percent of their goal by the time the fundraiser ended.

“NBT did some massive campaigning. By the end of the event they had raised \$125,000 in employee contributions, and they also donated a \$30,000 corporate gift,” she said. “In the end our community rallied and they came to support us — everyone came through.”

According to Mitchell, the reason this year’s campaign was so difficult was that donations from companies that generally donate a lot, weren’t able to do so this year.

“The reason this campaign was so hard there were certain companies that typically support for a very high level that for many reasons weren’t able to do so this year,” she said. “There are people who care, and they do want to make a difference, but it’s just unfortunate that can’t happen across the board.”

Mitchell said many individuals think because Chenango United Way is a nationally affiliated organization, that the majority of funds raised might leave Chenango County, but that couldn’t be further from the truth.

“The decisions and the money, all of the things that generally matter to a donor, stay here locally,” she said. “There is a benefit to being affiliated with a national organization, but at the same point, the national group doesn’t determine what we do here.”

Monaco said 99 percent of what Chenango United Way raises stays in Chenango County, and the other one percent goes to United Way so they have the ability to use the nation-

al logo and approach companies about payroll deductions.

She said that the 99 percent of donations fund non-profit programs like Grow, Cook, Serve through Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Child Advocacy Center through the Crime Victims Assistance Program, Prescription Assistance through Chenango Health Network, The Impact Project, Roots and Wings through Catholic Charities, and many more.

She added that their board of directors is headed by many local individuals including representatives of Wilson Funeral Home, NBT Bank, Morrisville State College, Unadilla Valley School, Raymond Corporation, Norwich City Schools, Kerry, and several other local organizations.

Mitchell said by supporting Chenango United Way, individuals should know that they’re keeping their donations local, which she said is vital to growing Chenango County and its communities.

She said through Chenango United Way’s prescription drug partnership with familywise, over 743 individuals from Chenango County have saved a total of over \$77,000, with an average savings of approximately 38 percent on prescriptions.

Monaco said Chenango United Way is involved with several other programs as well, one being the ALICE project.

“ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed for households that earn more than the federal poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county,” she said. “Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.”

Monaco said approximately half of Chenango County residents meet the ALICE criteria.

“With rising costs, many still find themselves struggling, and need additional help to survive,” she said, “There are more different

family and living combinations than ever before, including more adults living alone, with roommates, or with their parents.”

Families with children are changing, there are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing.

Yet all types of households continue to struggle. ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

“Employment and wages vary by location, and firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs,” said Monaco. “Households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen.”

Chenango United Way is currently working on several initiatives for 2019, including a partnership with the military to provide free medical, dental, and vision care for Chenango County at no cost to the individuals receiving it as part of the greater Chenango Cares innovative readiness training (IRT) event.

“Around 180 military personnel are going to come here and provide no cost medical, dental, and vision care for no cost to the community,” she said. “We recruit and train over 400 volunteers to make that event happen.”

Monaco said this will be a major event for her community, as Chenango County has many people that are uninsured or underinsured who need those services.

“We are the lead agency for the Chenango Dental Task Force, and the last time the military was here in 2016, we had more people then we could serve so we had to turn people away,” she said. “So we felt like we needed to do something post event to help with the dental health of the county.”

As the lead agency for the Chenango Dental Task



Chenango County United Way raised \$405,651 for non-profits located in their county with the help of local individuals and businesses. (Zachary Meseck photo)

Force, Chenango United Way created two initiatives to help improve dental and mental hygiene in Chenango County.

The first project focuses on dental hygiene by coming into local elementary school classrooms, demonstrating and having students clean their teeth, and sending them home with dental supplies.

“Two to three times a year we send a packet home with dental supplies to approximately 4,000 students in our county,” said Monaco.

The second project is centered around foster

care children who would normally lack items when going into their foster homes.

“We call it the It’s My Bag Foster Care Project,” she said. “When kids are removed from their homes generally they were taking garbage bags, putting their belongings in it, and then leaving which was really traumatic for them.”

The backpacks provided by Chenango United Way are backpacks that are filled with personal care items like toothpaste, a toothbrush, shampoo, and conditioner. There are also items in it like a coloring

book, writing and coloring utensils, a stuffed animal, and a blanket.

In 2018 Chenango United Way financially supported local nonprofits in several different categories including \$87,003.61 in education, \$110,759.37 in health, \$95,428.08 in financial stability, and \$18,279 in other impact efforts.

“The way Americans live is changing,” said Monaco. “Even with rising minimum wage many families need assistance, and Chenango United Way’s goal is to help as many as it can.”

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