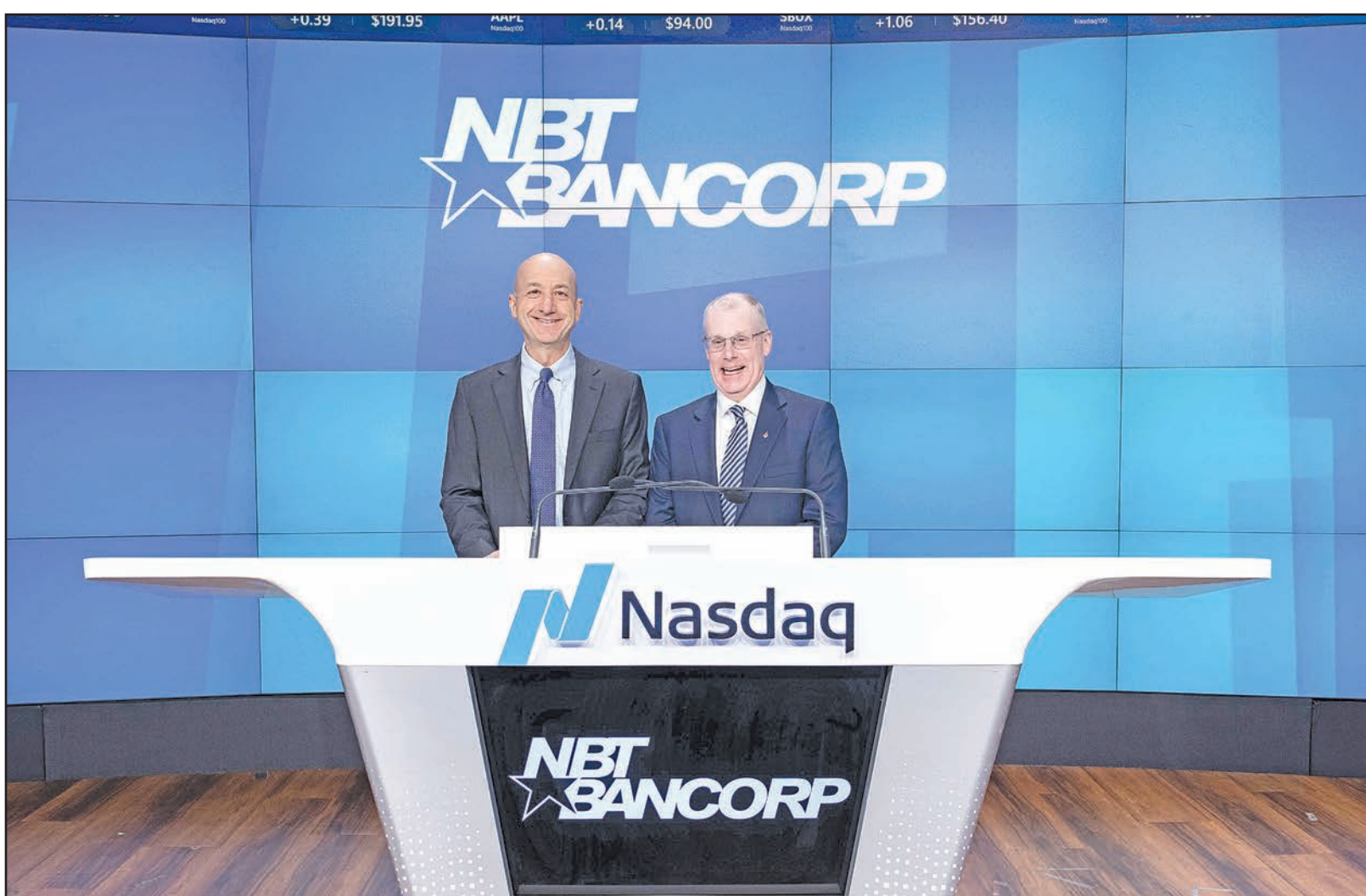


2025 PROGRESS CHENANGO

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Publication of The Evening Sun

NBT Bank: The forefront of finance in Chenango County for nearly 170 years



Scott Kingsley (right), President and CEO of NBT Bancorp, and Joe Stagliano (left), President of NBT Bank, celebrate ringing the Nasdaq opening bell in January 2024. NBT announced completion of its leadership transition in May 2024. (Photo from NBT Bank)

SHAWN MAGRATH
EVENING SUN

NORWICH – NBT Bank has been at the forefront of finance in Chenango County for nearly 170 years. Originating as a community bank to serve the needs of growing industry in the Norwich area in 1856, NBT today offers an array of financial services in communities all over the northeast. The institution touts national recognition as one of the most prominent financial institutions in the region, operating with an asset size of roughly \$14 billion and more than 2,100 employees in 155 locations across seven states.

In spite of NBT's expansion, now stretching from western New York to the eastern seaboard, its mission remains focused on its communities and the peo-

ple in them. Services offered have vastly diversified over the years, but NBT remains focused on the needs of small town America, a testament executives say can be credited to its people.

Having closed 2024 with milestone accomplishments, including a successful leadership transition and a bank merger that broadens NBT's footprint in western New York, NBT is looking ahead with optimism and a strategic growth mindset, said newly appointed NBT CEO Scott Kingsley.

"People have lots of choices, not only for their banking products, but all their financial service needs," said Kingsley. "Our job is to be in front of them and responsive to their needs on a day to day, week to week, month to month basis, and position ourselves to be able to

Continued on page 55 ►

The Golden Foundation: A creative haven for artists in Chenango County

TYLER MURPHY
EVENING SUN

NEW BERLIN – The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts was founded in 1997 to honor the legacies of Sam and Adele Golden and to give back to the artists who helped shape the Golden Artist Colors company in its early years.

What began as a grant-ing organization has since evolved into a renowned artist residency program, providing artists with an immersive space to explore materials, push creative boundaries, and engage with a supportive local community.

"Wouldn't it be great if we could have little cabins on the property, and artists could come here, be with us, use the labs, and share meals?" Sam Golden used to say, recalled his granddaughter Foundation Executive Director Emma Golden.

That long-held dream became a reality in 2012, when the Golden Residency Program was launched in a renovated 100-year-old barn

across from Golden Artist Colors in New Berlin. The investment was made by Mark and Barbara Golden.

"My dad called me in 2012 as the program was about to begin, but they didn't have anyone to run it," said Emma Golden, who was working in NYC at another arts related nonprofit with a master's degree in nonprofit management at the time.

Now, 14 years later she and her family, through the Golden Residency Program, have welcomed over 250 artists from around the world to Chenango County, offering them a one-of-a-kind experience designed to foster creativity and collaboration.

A Vision Realized

The Golden Residency Program runs for four-week sessions throughout the year, bringing in three artists at a time to New Berlin for a total of 18 artists annually. The program is material-focused, specifically tailored for painters who want to experiment with and explore

Continued on page 52 ►



Above: Artists in the Materials Room engage in hands-on exploration with Lori Wilson, discovering new ways to experiment with different media. (Submitted photo)



Left: Artists collaborate with Golden Artist Colors material specialists, discussing applications and techniques. (Submitted photo)

The Golden Foundation: A creative haven for artists in Chenango County -



The studio of artist Antonius-Tin Bui immersed in a creative process at the Golden Residency, using materials provided through the program. (Submitted photo)



Twice per season the public is welcome to see works in progress at the Golden Foundation's open studios, where visitors can also meet artists and experience creativity firsthand. (Submitted photo)

Continued from page 51 ▶

new materials with a paint maker right across the street.

"This is a residency specifically designed for artists who want to explore, experiment, and play with materials they may have never gotten a chance to use before," Golden said. "Here at the residency, they have full access to every material made at Golden Artist Colors, including acrylics, oils, watercol-

ors, and PanPastel. It's an unlimited supply for every artist that comes through the program."

The direct connection to Golden Artist Colors is what sets this program apart from others worldwide.

"Artists are over at Golden Artist Colors at least six to eight times while they're here," Golden said. "They meet with the material and application specialists and get hands-on experience with

the products, learning new ways to incorporate materials into their work."

Each session culminates in an open studio event, where the artists showcase their work in progress to the local community.

"It's not like walking into a traditional gallery where everything is finished," Golden explained. "Visitors get to see the brushes, the paints, and the creative process at work."

Golden hoped the program had a positive impact with the artists who attended and said some shared appreciative feedback. "Many artists have told us that this program changed the trajectory of their careers," she said. "It's not just about using materials- it's about having the freedom to experiment, to create without constraints, and to leave with new ideas and inspiration."

A Year of Achievement

The past year was a positive one for the Golden Foundation, bringing major developments in funding and community engagement. "We received our largest community grant ever from the R.C. Smith Foundation, as well as first-time donations from Stewart's Shops and NBT Bank," Golden said. "These contributions allow us to continue offering this resi-

dency program at no cost to the artists."

One of the year's biggest highlights was the Golden Foundation Art Auction, the first one held in seven years. "With the funds raised, we were able to provide travel stipends for every artist attending the residency," Golden said. "Without this kind of financial assistance, many artists wouldn't be able to attend simply due to costs."

Continued on page 51 ▶



Know where to go!

A reference guide on where to go for care

Your child falls and sprains an ankle while playing at the park...

You catch a bug, and now you're running a high fever, coughing and more...

It can be tough to distinguish where to go for medical care when your symptoms feel unbearable, and your primary care provider is unavailable. Here are some key differences to help you decide.



VIRTUAL WALK-IN VISITS

- Animal or insect bites
- Coughs
- Cuts
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Eye injuries
- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea or upset stomach
- Rashes
- Sinus pain
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract/ bladder infections
- Vomiting



PRIMARY CARE or WALK-IN

- Animal or insect bites
- Broken bone
- Burns
- Concussion
- Coughs
- Cuts
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Eye injuries
- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea or upset stomach
- Rashes
- Sinus pain
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract/bladder infections
- Vomiting



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

- Asthma attack
- Broken bone (if skin is punctured)
- Burns (if severe)
- Concussion (if loss of consciousness)
- Cuts (if uncontrolled bleeding)
- Fever (for patients under 3 months old or with fever over 105°F)
- Headache (if severe)
- Seizure
- Shortness of breath (if severe)
- Vomiting blood



STAY PREPARED! Learn more on how to prepare for your Emergency Department or Walk-In visit at nyuhs.org.

What to expect in the Emergency Department

Emergency Departments are designed to assist patients experiencing life-threatening medical situations. When you come to the Emergency Department at any UHS hospital, a triage nurse will assess your condition. Although they are open 24-7, wait times vary because healthcare staff need to treat the most seriously ill and injured patients first.

What to expect at a Walk-In Center

UHS Walk-In Centers are created to provide patients with immediate care for situations that cannot wait for a scheduled doctor's appointment. This typically includes many medical problems, such as coughs, fevers, flu or ear infection.

The Golden Foundation: A creative haven for artists in Chenango County -

Continued from page 52 ▶

In addition to the residency program, the foundation remains committed to increasing awareness within the local community. “It’s amazing how many people in our very own community don’t know that we’re here and what we’re doing,” Golden admitted. “Moving forward, we need to share our story more and highlight what the Golden family has built over 40 years here in Chenango County.”

Connecting Artists and Community

One of the Golden Foundation’s goals for 2025 is to expand engagement with the local community and to bridge the gap between the residency and the public.

“This residency is truly unique for artists working in paint. It has attracted world-class artists to our small community,” Golden said. “It would be incredibly exciting if we could find new ways to invite our entire community—especially those who are new to the fine arts—to experience the amazing talent that comes through our doors.”

The foundation also plans to expand programming to better accommodate artists who may not be able to commit to a four-week residency.



The Golden Foundation’s Art Auction and benefit helps support artists and art opportunities. (Submitted photo)

“We constantly ask, how can we provide more opportunities for artists who can’t leave home for a month?” Golden said. “Mothers, caregivers, and artists with other responsibilities deserve access to creative space too. That’s something we’re actively working on.”

The Golden Foundation is committed to making the residency experience accessible to the public through open

studio events, where visitors can meet the artists, explore their creative processes, and see works in progress. The open studios will take place on March 20, May 22, June 26, August 7, September 18, and November 13. Each event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Golden Foundation Residency Barn and will be free and open to the community.

“These events are not just

for artists—they’re for everyone,” said Golden, “We want to invite the whole community to come, experience the creativity, and see what these talented artists have been working on.”

In addition to open studios, the Made in Paint exhibition will open on April 12, 2025, at the Golden Foundation Gallery. This annual group exhibition will showcase work from all eighteen artists

who participated in the 2024 residency. Like the open studio, admission will be free and open to the public.

One impactful moment of 2024 was seeing how much the residency means to the artists who attend. “When we call to tell them they’ve been selected from over 470 applicants worldwide, they literally scream with excitement—some even cry,” Golden said. “It’s contagious! We are so

lucky to have artists coming here, bringing color, joy, and new perspectives to Chenango County.”

The Golden Foundation Residency Program is more than just an opportunity for artists to create- it is a continuation of a family legacy dedicated to art.

“My dad is the visionary behind Golden Artist Colors and the foundation,” Golden said. “He has built something truly extraordinary, and my mom has been there every step of the way. She learned everything—from hiring and managing, to speaking with artists and vendors, to running the books—all by simply doing it.”

The foundation remains a family-run operation dedicated to honoring Sam and Adele Golden’s original vision. “Everyone on the board knew my grandparents, understood their dream, and wants to see it continue to grow,” Golden said. “I think they would be really proud—and probably a little shocked—at how much this has become.”

She hopes to see attendance grow. “It’s an invitation to our community,” Golden said. “To come, to see, to be inspired. Art is for everyone, and we want to share it with as many people as possible.”

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Chenango Story



LEATHERSTOCKING VETERINARY GROUP



Charley and Dori Koop of Koop Wildlife Rehabilitation. The couple was chosen by the New Berlin Veterinary Clinic to receive their Angel Fund this year. (Submitted photo)

Leatherstocking Veterinary Group gives back to the community

SARAH GENTER
EVENING SUN

CHENANGO COUNTY — The Leatherstocking Veterinary Group, a network of four veterinary clinics serving Central New York, dedicate funds to aiding local domestic and wild animals through its Angel Fund initiative.

The group used the funds to give back to four animal-related nonprofits and charities this year and is made up of four clinics in the Chenango County area: the New Berlin Veterinary Clinic in New Berlin, the Heritage Veterinary Clinic in Cooperstown, the Marcy Veterinary Clinic in Marcy, and the Leatherstocking Equine Center in New Berlin.

Each clinic chose a local, animal-related nonprofit or charity to donate to, using their Angel Fund, which consists of 25 percent of the net profit from online pharmacy sales.

The Heritage Clinic chose Rover's Do Over, a Frankfort, NY-based nonprofit and no-kill organization that finds foster and forever homes for dogs. The Leatherstocking Equine Center chose to support a therapeutic horseback riding facility in Guilford that provides riding lessons to individuals with special needs.

The Marcy Veterinary Clinic chose the Humane Society of Rome, which the clinic works closely with.

"That was a really heartfelt donation," said Leatherstocking Veterinary Group Marketing Coordinator Jessica Gualtieri. "There's a great relationship there. It was a big shocker to her, so

there were a lot of happy tears. It was a large surprise."

Lastly, the New Berlin Veterinary Clinic selected Dori and Charley Koop of Koop Wildlife Rehabilitation to donate their Angel Fund to.

The Koops have been caring for and rehabilitating local wildlife for the past 20 years, and in that time they have cared for fawns, rabbits, squirrels, songbirds, owls, crows, eagles, hawks, kestrels, bobcats, and more.

"Dori herself actually does a little bit of work with us in our equine center in the large animal clinic. We have partnered with them as well where, if we get in certain animals that need a little extra rehab, we call them, and they will take them to do some work and rehab," said Gualtieri. "They do this on their own with a lot of volunteering. They don't get any state funding, but they will bend over backwards for any animal."

She said the Koops have developed a close connection with the staff at the New Berlin Clinic, and they couldn't think of anyone more deserving for this donation.

"The clinic, they wrote to me that they just offer so much care, they volunteer with the DEC," Gualtieri explained. "It was an easy choice for the donation because of two people who help animals in the area as much as our clinic does, and they just want to show appreciation for their time and dedication."

The New Berlin Veterinary Clinic is also finishing up their brand new 8,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art

facility right next door to their current clinic. Gualtieri said work began on the new location in 2023, and they hope for the project to be completed in March. The old clinic will also be remodeled and used as their business offices.

"We're going to have everything that we could possibly need in there," said Gualtieri. "We'll have dental care and x-rays, we can do all of our surgeries in there with emergency care. Just a lot more space for all of our small animals down to doing all of our in-house x-rays, whether it's, again, dental versus any just typical daily, routine things."

"It's just giving us a larger space to work, which offers obviously a better clientele interaction, and there's going to be more room for waiting rooms for animals to come in and out for our care," she continued. "Our new clinics are kind of designed where there's dogs on one side and cats on the other, so it's a less stressful experience for the owners and the animals themselves when they come in for our clinics to kind of keep them separated."

"We're just giving the building itself a nice facelift to make the experience better for everybody, down to our workers who are there that put in all of their time and dedication, and now they have state-of-the-art equipment to give the best care possible to everybody's pets that come in."

For more information on the Leatherstocking Veterinary Group, visit LeatherstockingVeterinaryGroup.com.

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NBT Bank: The forefront of finance in Chenango County for nearly 170 years

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answer all of their questions, not just potentially things around their bank accounts, but things around wealth management, insurance, and benefits needs for people. We like that broad diversification of services that the bank has grown into."

Kingsley took the helm of NBT Bank in May, 2024, succeeding former CEO John Watt as NBT's fifteenth president and CEO. Kingsley first joined NBT in 2021 as Executive Vice President and CFO, bringing with him more than 35 years of banking experience, including a 16-year stint at Community Bank. Kingsley left his role as Community Bank COO in 2020, citing personal health reasons at the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kingsley was brought on board at NBT in 2021 as the institution's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He also serves on the Crouse Health Foundation Board of Trustees and the Audit and Finance Committee for the Catholic Diocese of Syracuse.

Kingsley said joining NBT was a "great opportunity to get re-engaged."

"I feel very privileged to be asked to be in this leadership role. I look forward to continuing on with NBT's legacy and high performance in the communities we're in," he added.

Kingsley's move into the CEO chair was accompanied by a second change in high-level leadership at NBT - the role of Bank President, which has been assumed by longtime NBT employee (and Norwich resident) Joseph Stagliano.

Stagliano has been with NBT since 1999. He was promoted to Chief Information Officer and joined the bank's executive management team in 2006. He took over NBT's retail banking in 2016 and, two years later, was named President of Retail Community Banking.

Stagliano said launching



Showing commitment to the community, NBT Bank employees volunteer to support Helping Hands of Norwich. NBT prides itself on community participation and encourages employees to stay engaged. (Photo submitted by NBT Bank)

into his new position of leadership at NBT was a "dream come true."

"I work for a great company and great people. During the transition, it couldn't have gone any better. Not a lot changed but the people in charge," he said. "Our focus remained the same: taking really good care of our employees and taking really good care of our customers. That didn't change during the transition and it's a big focus of ours."

Stagliano exemplifies NBT's commitment to community engagement, serving as Chair of the UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and as a member of the Board of Directors of United Health Services and the Norwich Building Tomorrow Foundation.

With new leadership in place, NBT Bank was able to finalize a merger with Evans Bank in 2024, a deal that had been months in the making. The acquisition of Evans Bancorp denotes a \$236 mil-

lion investment that extends NBT Bank's growing presence in western New York.

NBT executives say adding the greater Buffalo and Rochester communities to NBT's catalog is a natural fit.

The Evans Bank deal comes at the heels of another merger that occurred between NBT and Salisbury Bancorp. That deal was finalized in 2023. The acquisition of Salisbury Bank expanded NBT's presence in northwestern Connecticut, the Hudson Valley, and Berkshires in Massachusetts.

"In both instances, these are two opportunities to fill out some geography where we were either not represented at all, or massively underrepresented," said Kingsley. "For us, that geographic expansion creates incremental opportunities. As much as you're sitting in Portland Maine or if you're sitting in Buffalo, you might think those are radically different places; but they have way more similarities than you

think."

Combining with Evans Bank gives NBT the highest deposit market share in Upstate New York for any bank with assets under \$100 billion and results in a network of over 170 locations from Buffalo to Portland,

ME. NBT aims to close on the Evans Bank merger by the end of June.

NBT's growth, belied by its emphasis on customer service, landed the institution a place on Forbes 2024 "World's Best Banks" list last spring. It marks the fifth time NBT has been named on the Forbes list in the last six years.

Forbes list is based on customer satisfaction. Forbes surveyed more than 49,000 customers around the world for their opinions on their current and former banking relationships. Banks were rated on overall recommendation and satisfaction, as well as five subdimensions: trust, terms and conditions, digital services, customer services and financial advice.

"There's a lot of good continuity before the transition and after the transition, and it's our people that are making it happen," said Stagliano, crediting NBT employees with the institution's notable success over the years. "Of the 2,100 employees, we are very fortunate that we have very strong teams of people doing a really great job taking care of each other and taking care of our customers. That's what it comes down to. I think that's why we see the great results that we see."

Looking ahead, Kingsley

said NBT's priorities will continue to be on employee satisfaction and customer service while executives continue to explore areas of strategic growth heading into a new year.

"For us, it's being better versus being bigger. If being bigger allows us to be better, then we're all for that," he said, citing NBT's community-minded banking philosophy. "We need to continue to meet people's needs relative to where they live and where they work."

"It's about smart growth," Stagliano added. "It's growing where it makes sense, not just for the sake of growing. Having a homebase in Chenango County, being in Norwich, and also being able to spread our wings into the other six states we're in, it takes a special company to be able to do that. We have great people who can manage through that and great technology to be able to do that."

More information on NBT Bank, including updates on news and information, can be found on the institution's website, www.nbtbank.com.

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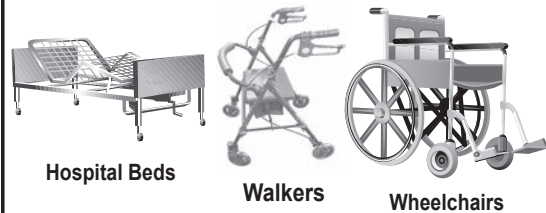
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Chenango Story

S&S TV & APPLIANCES



With showrooms in Norwich and Hamilton, S&S serves the greater Madison and Chenango County communities with a wide selection of home appliances. (Photo by Tyler Murphy)

S&S TV and Appliances named Dealer of the Year by industry

NORWICH - S&S TV and Appliances is a long-standing family-owned business that has served Madison and Chenango Counties since 1971.

The well-known local business was honored for its commitment to excellent service in the retail industry in 2024.

Over the years, the company has built a reputation for offering high-quality appliances and exceptional customer service. With showrooms in Norwich and Hamilton, they provide a range of products from well-known brands such as Amana, Danby, Electrolux, Maytag, Monogram, Speed Queen, GE and Whirlpool.

The company also carries TVs and accessories, and its specially trained, in-house technicians are prepared to service all that S&S sells.

The company offers

full-service appliance sales, in-house repairs, and parts ordering, ensuring customers receive complete support from purchase to maintenance. Additionally, S&S works closely with landlords and property owners, providing coin-operated washers and dryers for rental properties, handling installation, servicing, and profit-sharing.

In recent years, S&S has undergone significant transitions, including the addition of a new generation of family leadership.

The BrandSource Dealer of the Year awards are presented annually to a member who has shown continued support of BrandSource and its direct suppliers. The Dealer of the Year must support the group by attending regional meetings as well as national events such as the Convention and Summit.

The 14 winners, which were selected by each region's membership, demonstrate a continued commitment to excellence in the retail industry and to their fellow BrandSource dealers.

BrandSource is the leading merchandising organization for independent appliance, home furnishings and consumer tech dealers. Its parent company, AVB, is a \$19.5 billion member-driven co-op that provides merchandising, financing and digital marketing services to nearly 5,000 independent dealers in the U.S. and Canada. BrandSource's sister divisions and affiliates include ProSource (consumer tech and custom integration); Mega Group (Canada); and HFA Buying Source, serving home furnishings dealers nationwide.

S&S TV and Appliances

also received the New York State Senate Empire Award that was presented by Frederick J. Akshar II. This award is in recognition of outstanding contributions and dedication to the growth, prosperity and betterment of their community in New York State.

One of the main reasons that S&S had so much inventory last year was due to their New Buying Group that S&S became a part of called the N.E.A.G. This buying group has allowed them to keep their inventory full and order any appliances much faster. They also would like to welcome Kurt and Alyssa Brauer to the team! Make sure you stop in and see them for all your TV and Appliance needs.

S&S would also like to thank the community for making 2024 such a great success!



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Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County:

A Hospice Champion & Her Legacy

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County became a licensed and certified Medicare regulated hospice care provider in 1991, caring for community members at the end of life, wherever they call home in Chenango County. Hospice care focuses on promoting quality of life over quantity, and it has a truly interdisciplinary approach to help support each patient and their family. Chenango County residents with a terminal illness and a prognosis of 6 months or less, have received care over the last thirty-four years from Hospice Chenango's team of compassionate nurses, social workers, medical doctors, chaplains, and volunteers. One of these volunteers is Linda Karl. Linda's story with Hospice of Chenango County began before the agency even existed.

In the early 1980s, Linda Karl, a Chenango County resident, was working as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) at a local hospital's oncology unit where she was responsible for the discharge of patients from the unit. Linda explained that on many occasions, aggressive treatments were no longer effective for treating patients' illnesses and they could no longer remain at the hospital. These patients were faced with going home to die with no specialized end of life care or help for their loved ones to care for them during their final days. Linda realized there was a great need to fill this void of specialized end of life care for Chenango County residents. Karl and other healthcare workers and community members came together to volunteer their time, talent and efforts in a grassroots movement to create Hospice of Chenango County in 1984. Some years later, Linda Karl and other Chenango County hospice advocates oversaw the purchase of the first brick and mortar Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County office, which was located on Hayes Street in Norwich, NY.

After Linda retired from being a practicing NP and Registered Nurse (RN) in the early 2000s, she has remained active at Hospice Chenango, volunteering to support the Grief Services Program, helping patients and families, presenting on Hospice at community engagements, and even encouraging her husband, a U.S. Army Veteran, to volunteer with the organization's We Honor Veteran's Program.



In 2024, Linda Karl's passion for and dedication to the hospice movement came full circle from her early days as a healthcare provider advocating for specialized end of life care in the county she calls home. Linda, who has kept her NYS RN license current, just in case, eagerly volunteered and agreed to jump back into the field as an RN. She visited patients per diem, while one of the organization's nursing staff members was out on leave. During this time, Karl's incredible nursing skills and her compassion for Patients and their caregivers, provided relief for not only those in her care, but also for her Hospice Chenango team members.

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County's philosophy, mission, and vision have always been very near and dear to Linda Karl's heart. She helped to create the agency, oversaw the organization as a board member, volunteered to help those grieving for and caring for loved ones, and finally, back to her roots, Linda has returned to provide hands-on care for patients desperately needing specialized end of life care at home, helping provide them with support, relief, and quality of life at the end of life. Last October, she received the Hospice Chenango Hospice Hero Award, and

in November 2024, Karl was honored by being selected to receive the Volunteer Service Award from the Hospice & Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS).

The incredible generosity, tenacity, and dedication demonstrated by Linda Karl and so many community members from the agency's inception to present, continues to empower Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County to touch more lives and provide relief and comfort to community members when it is needed the most. In addition to the hospice and palliative care services the organization provides in the community, its free Grief Services Support includes individual or family grief counseling, a grief support group, and counseling for children at their school setting. The agency began a free Caregiver Support Group in December of 2024 that is ongoing, and open to the public.



The entire team at Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County, including Executive Director, Kendall Drexler, the Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers, is grateful to our community for the opportunity to care for Chenango County Families for over 30 years.

For more information on Hospice Chenango's services, events, and how to donate or become involved like Volunteer Linda Karl, please call 607-334-3556, visit hospicechenango.org, or check us out on Facebook and Instagram, @HospiceChenango.



*"Comforting Patients, Empowering Families,
Supporting Our Community"*

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