

JANUARY 17-23, 2025 | NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

Change, expansion come to Community Health Center of the North Country

2024 was a year of significant change and planning at Community Health Center of the North Country (CHCNC).

Everyone is welcome, and most insurances are accepted at the Full Service Family practices in Canton, Gouverneur, Malone, and Ogdensburg.

Services include but are not limited to: primary and pediatric care, dental, behavioral health, physical therapy, care management, outreach and enrollment, WIC, and many programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Optometry services are also available at the Arsenal Street center in Watertown.

After a 10-year run at the helm, CEO Anne Richey retired in February. This ushered in a new era under CEO Dave Bender who joined the team after many years with St. Lawrence Health System. Other changes have come in other roles: Jennie Flanagan joined as Chief Operating Officer, and Alexander Bryden signed on as the new Chief Financial Officer.

With new people comes new goals, visions, and plans to make those visions reality.

There is a renewed commitment to the mission of providing comprehensive, equitable and accessible high quality healthcare and human services to people of all income levels and those with individualized needs.

In 2025 this will be most noticeably evident with the addition of new providers and expansion of facilities to meet the needs of these new members of the CHCNC team.

Starting this month you will see the first in a number of doctors joining, CHCNC as the team embarks on an extensive expansion of Pediatric Services.

This begins with the return to the North Country of Pediatrician Scott Spicer, MD; he



joins the pediatric team of Donald Schuessler, MD and Kylie Lansing,PA at the CHCNC location in Gouverneur.

This will be followed by two pediatricians

joining the Ogdensburg health center this summer. Future primary care arrivals in 2025 include Family Practice Physicians at both the Canton and Ogdensburg locations with the potential for an another doctor in Malone.

Finally, after an extensive time searching, CHCNC welcomed Sara Elliott, LCSW and Bob Stickels, LCSW-R to the Behavioral health unit at the Canton health center. With the growth in providers comes expansion in facilities. To accommodate the new pediatricians, remodeling will take place at both the Gouverneur and Ogdensburg health centers which will result in nine new pediatric suites being added — six in Ogdensburg and two in Gouverneur.

Change can be unnerving, but at the same time exciting. The past 12 months have brought both to CHCNC. The one thing that

has not changed is the 50-year commitment to serving the North Country communities the team cares for.

CHCNC, one of Northern New York's premiere independent providers of healthcare services for people of all income levels, is part of a national network of community health centers serving over 30 million patients including 300,000 veterans, one in six Medicaid beneficiaries, nearly 1.2 million homeless, and over 7.5 million children.

Join the 2.4 million New Yorkers and over 100,000 people across the North Country entrusting Community Health Centers with their care. Experience, quality, and affordability; that, is the Community Health center of the North Country experience.

Info: www.cpnorthcountry.org

Orchestra of Northern New York celebrates next chapter

POTSDAM – The North Country's only year-round symphony orchestra marks its 37th season of bringing high quality orchestral music to the region.

The Orchestra of Northern New York celebrates the 2024-2025 season with a new Music Director, increased attendance at seven performances in Massena, Potsdam and Watertown, the return of its Young Artist Competition and Challenge for Young Artists, and a successful summer chamber music series in the Adirondacks.

Colonel Michael J. Colburn (USMC, Ret.) is ONNY's current Music Director, selected from a field of 84 applicants last May.

In 1987, he won a position with "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. In 2004, he was appointed the 27th director of the Marine Band and promoted to Colonel. As such, he served as the music advisor to the White House, regularly conducting the Marine Band and Chamber Orchestra at the Executive Mansion and at the presidential inaugurations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Band in 2014, he was appointed director of bands at Butler University, a position he held until 2022.

He and his wife, Nancy, then re-located to their home state of Vermont, from which he works as a freelance guest conductor and clinician, leading professional and student ensembles in festivals, residencies, and other settings around the country. He is also the Music Director of the Me2 Orchestra in Burlington, VT. He will be the guest conductor of the Crane Orchestra for the spring 2025 semester. On Jan. 25, he will oversee the return of the James and Katherine Andrews Young Artist Competition in which high school students compete for a

\$500 first prize and the opportunity to solo with ONNY at its April concert. Colburn will also supervise the Challenge for Young Artists on April 12, when area students perform their NYSSMA work and receive feedback from ONNY's professional musicians prior to that competition.

ONNY's Adirondack outreach program, Music Amid the Pines, a summer chamber music series, held four concerts this past year and will again in 2025. Programs occur in Wanakena, Childwold, and Lake Clear in July and August.

igust. Info: onny.or, 315-212-3440.



THERE'S A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY WAITING









On campus and around the globe, there are endless opportunities for North Country students like you to discover at St. Lawrence.

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- Center for the Environment
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St. Lawrence County IDA promoting local industry in the North Country

The mission of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency is to promote, encourage, attract, and develop job opportunities and economically sound commerce and industry in St. Lawrence County.

Outreach efforts involve direct calls, site visits, advertisements, tradeshow participation, job fair coordination and participation, and a variety of business-to-business sponsored activities and other co-sponsored events with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.

In 2024, activities designed to support both business and workforce development included a Business Resource Mixer highlighting the local resource providers in the county, and Business Connection Events which spotlight specific resources such as the SUNY Canton Canino School of Engineering and the three BOCES Tech Centers.

The IDA also worked with BOCES to schedule 360 local high school students to visit 13 manufacturers in St. Lawrence County as part of Manufacturing Day, introducing the students to careers with local employers.

The "Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership" networking and business development program, a collaboration with the University of Buffalo and SUNY Canton, and hosted by the IDA and the New York Power Authority, saw seven small business leaders from throughout the county complete the 20-week session in June 2024.

In 2022, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators allocated \$3.387 million in American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds to be administered by the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to assist businesses, organizations, and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through several program categories.

Training programs for CDL-A licensure, Heavy Equipment Operator, the Family Child Care Training Program were undertaken with participation from a variety of partners, including SUNY Canton, BOCES, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the St. Lawrence County Child Care Council, and the St. Lawrence County One Stop Career Center.

At the end of 2024, the IDA completed the process of awarding ARPA funds throughout St. Lawrence County.

In 2025, the IDA will complete the expenditure of awarded funds, which in addition to the training programs, include small business and non-profit assistance programs, tourism promotion and development support, and facility and infrastructure development funding.

Project activity for the IDA, and its affiliated development entities, including the IDA Local Development Corporation and the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency, continued in 2024 with projects at GoCo Massena, LLC, Cives Steel in Gouverneur,

Art store and custom framing at new location

MASSENA — St. Lawrence Art Gallery and Supply has moved to 274 East Orvis St. in Massena.

The Gallery offers space to artists and crafters to sell their work as well as selling art supplies and creative gifts.

The Gallery offers custom frames and mats along with frame repair and restoration.

The Gallery and Supply carries many sizes of prestretched canvas, and will make custom sizes.

They also carry many different types of paint, brushes, papers and crafting supplies.

They also have a lot of project kits for all ages along with diamond art and paint by number.

The Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The owner, Bob Girard, invites everyone to stop in and see what we offer and view the artwork of our local artists.

You can call us at 315 705-4012. Find us on Facebook or email us at stlawart@gmail.com

L&T Crafts n Things in Massena, Bent Beam Brewing (dba St. Lawrence Suds) in Canton, Miskarie, USA LLC (dba Summit Shred Lab) in Potsdam, Lakeside Haven Cottages in Black Lake, and Thompson's Diesel Works in Waddington.

Air Products, Inc. completed clearing work at the project site for its green hydrogen facility on the Pontoon Bridge Road in Massena.

Construction work is anticipated to continue through 2025. The project represents an investment of over \$400 million, a major milestone in further establishing St. Lawrence County and New York State as leaders in the clean energy sector. The company proposes to create 90 full-time jobs within its first three years of operation.

The IDA is partnering with the Development Authority of the North Country for the demolition and redevelopment of the former Massena School of Business site in downtown Massena.

Requests for proposals were issued, and

contractors were selected for the architecture and design services and demolition

Grant funding is provided as part of the successful Downtown Revitalization Initiative award in Massena to transfer the property into a community space, while maintaining the historic Main Street façade of the building.

Other DRI and Restore NY Projects the IDA is assisting include Massena Arts and Theatre, Bent Beam Brewing in Canton, and the former Hackett's facility in Ogdensburg.

The IDA approved a lease with the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Adult Education & Workforce Development Program for space in the IDA's Ernest J. LaBaff Industrial

This will create a more significant connection with BOCES adult. services programs as collaborative efforts for economic and workforce development issues continue.

The space will be used for offices, class-rooms, and training programs.

The St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency approved \$100,000 in awards for the 2024 River Valley Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program.

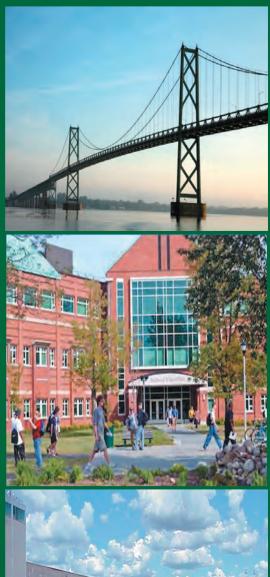
The program has provided over \$4.4 million in funding over the past 14 years for a variety of projects throughout St. Lawrence County.

Tropical Storm Debby resulted in extensive flood damage around the county, affecting operations for a handful of businesses. The IDA quickly outreached local businesses and municipalities to assess the damage to determine assistance needed.

The Small Business Administration set up an operations center in the IDA offices for two weeks at the end of the year to answer questions and help residents and businesses complete funding applications.

For more information contact the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency at 315-379-9806 or visit www.slcida.com.

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The St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency

offers a variety of programs and services to help businesses grow and succeed.

We can assist with:

- Low Interest Loans
- Workforce Development
- Tax Abatement Programs
- Site Selection Assistance
- Networking and Business Contacts
- Industrial Building Construction

Whether you are an entrepreneur or an established business, The **St. Lawrence County IDA** is your **central point of contact!**



For more information, please call (315) 379-9806 or visit

www. SLCIDA. com

St. Lawrence County
Industrial Development Agency



SeaComm to launch new online and mobile platform in the new year

MASSENA — Since 1963, SeaComm has maintained unwavering dedication to the financial health and well-being of its membership. As such, 2024 was another year of success for the credit union. In 2024, SeaComm continued to focus on enhancing its current offerings to improve the member experience.

Through its "Enhanced Loyalty Rewards" program, SeaComm provided members a boost on certificates of deposit, IRA certificates, and reductions on loan rates.

The credit union also announced the upcoming launch of its new online and mobile platform, Access Digital, which will roll out early in the New Year. This upgrade will include new features for the credit union's members, including person-to-person payments, and the ability to open new share accounts from the mobile app or website.

SeaComm continued to provide access to other services as well, including the Loan

travel savings, and identity theft protection.

SeaComm's year-long celebration of the organization's 60th anniversary was completed June 6 with a special celebration for the credit union's last remaining charter member, Earl Jackson, in recognition of his years of service and dedication.

The credit union's "Pay-it-Forward" program continued to spread joy in the communities it serves by delivering random acts of kindness that impacted over 4,000 people.

Throughout 2024, SeaComm provided hundreds of free meals to individuals at restaurants, encouraged financial literacy through engaging trivia nights, sponsored evenings of free tickets and popcorn at movie theatres, donated school supplies to local districts with students in need, covered the cost of admittance to a holiday brass orchestra, and more.

To further support its local communities, SeaComm has encouraged staff members to participate in the organization's "Do Some

their choice during work hours.

Through this program in 2024, SeaComm staff volunteered at various charities including St. Peter's of Massena, 4-H, St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, Salvation Army, The Morning Side Cemetery in Malone, Emmanuel Congregation Summer Vacation Bible School, Ready-4-School Event in Massena, Light Up a Life and Helping Hands of Potsdam.

In addition, SeaComm contributed more than \$323,450 in donations and sponsorships to organizations including Massena Memorial Hospital, Canton College Foundation, North Country Children's Museum, Canton-Potsdam Hospital, and many more.

Demonstrating a commitment to fostering creativity and innovation, SeaComm awarded four young entrepreneurs \$500 to aid the growth of their new businesses through the organization's Summer Grant Program. SeaComm also awarded the Shirley J. Eagles scholarship of \$1,000 to ten college-bound

gious Diamond Awards from the CUNA Marketing and Business Development Council.

The credit union won the first in overall 'Social Media" for credit unions with assets of \$500 million to \$1 billion, and second as Category's Best "Diamond in the Rough," for the organization's "Plunky's aMAZEing Race" sweepstakes. SeaComm was also awarded the 2024 Silver MAC Award from the Marketing Association of Credit Unions in recognition of its Social Media.

In 2024, SeaComm was certified by Great Place to Work® as elected by its employees for the fourth consecutive year. This distinguished award is based entirely on what current employees say about their experience working at SeaComm. In 2024, 90% of SeaComm employees said it's a great place to work, compared to 57% of employees at a typical US-based company.

Bauer Financial, an independent financial rating company, awarded SeaComm their Superior Five-Stars. The star ratings classify each credit union based upon a complex formula which factors in relevant data including capital, historical trends, loan delinquencies, differences in the book and market values of the investment portfolio, profitability, repossessed assets, reserves, charge-offs, regulatory compliance, and asset quality. It has deemed SeaComm as safe, financially sound, and that the organization is operating well above regulatory capital requirements.

With strong financial performance and a solid plan for the future, SeaComm is well positioned for another successful year ahead.

SeaComm is a member-owned financial cooperative, headquartered in Massena with over 55,370 members and assets exceeding \$776 million. The credit union has nine branches in Massena, Potsdam, Malone, Canton, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh, South Burlington, Essex, and Watertown.

SLCCF leads fight against cancer

CANTON -- The St. Lawrence County Cancer Fund (SLCCF) has existed in our community since 1979. We are an all-volunteer group that prides itself on the fact that all funds raised remain here in St. Lawrence County to help our friends and neighbors. Our mission is and always will be to be dedicated to the local fight against cancer.

Our focus is to raise awareness and funds for hospitals, cancer treatment centers and organizations in the county which works to provide education, early detection screening, treatment and financial support for individuals battling cancer throughout the county.

Through an application process, local groups are encouraged to apply for grants distributed by the Fund. This past year we gave out almost \$60,000 to our local communities.

Long-time recipients of funding include the Cancer Treatment Center at Canton-Potsdam Hospital, Richard E. Winter Cancer Treatment Center at Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, Ryan's Wish and Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley. New recipients this year were the Community Health Center of the North Country, Jerry's Run for Cancer and The Compassionate Care Foundation.

As an illness, cancer does not discriminate against who it touches even in the times of a pandemic. Support for the programming and services provided by these organizations during this time are more important now, than ever before. Each year, community members who have been impacted by cancer gather at the annual Edward I. Moses Walk/Run for Life, the Fund's primary fundraiser.

It is a mix of cancer survivors and their supporters, families remembering those who fought a courageous battle and hopeful community members who join together to ensure support for important local programs that support our friends and neighbors.

All funds raised by the St. Lawrence County Cancer Fund remain in St.Lawrence County to help St.lawrence County residents.

This year the event will be held on April 27 in both Canton and Potsdam. To get a registration form, donate or to learn more about our group and any future activities visit www. walkrunforlife.com.

Those who want to join our committee are always welcome. Visit the website and fill out a contact form or email president@ slccf.org.



Rochester Regional brings new providers to North Country

Rochester Regional Health's (RRH) St. Lawrence Region is comprised of three hospitals, Canton-Potsdam (CPH) - a Certified Primary Stroke and Level III Trauma Center, Gouverneur (GH), and Massena (MH).

It offers more than 40 outpatient specialty and primary care practices within Brasher, Canton, Colton, DeKalb, Edwards, Gouverneur, Louisville, Massena, Norfolk, and Pots-

The St. Lawrence Region employs 2,131 team members, including 215 full-time medical providers.

Throughout 2024, 20 new providers were recruited among the specialty fields of cardiology, emergency medicine, endocrinology, hematology/oncology, hospitalist medicine, neurology, pain management, pediatrics, primary care, otolaryngology, surgical services, women's health, and urgent care.

The Region achieved the distinguished Pathway to Excellence® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the only system of hospitals in New York State to achieve this success.

RRH's Isabella Graham Hart School of Practical Nursing (IGH) in Potsdam celebrated three graduates from the program in 2024; another 16 students are currently enrolled and on track to graduate in 2025.

RRH's St. Lawrence Region began offering Virtual Urgent Care for non-emergency injuries and common illnesses. Available seven days/week, providers meet with patients remotely, call in prescriptions, and/or order labs or swabs for further diagnosis.

Additionally, Virtual Intensive Care is now available locally where bed-side clinicians and specialists collaborate remotely with experts from across the RRH network of care. Experts access real-time monitoring and offer guidance on evidence-based medicine to support optimal patient outcomes.

In collaboration with the local orthopedics team, specialists from Rochester and the Finger Lakes began offering monthly spine clinics in Canton.

Consultations focus exclusively on the comprehensive evaluation, management, and treatment of spine-related conditions.

Canton-Potsdam Hospital

Canton-Potsdam Hospital, through the support of many generous donors, grant funding, and RRH, opened its Regional Care Pavilion, doubling the size of the campus.

The facility houses a new gift shop, an expanded emergency room, 60 single-occupancy large private in-patient rooms with family accommodations, family consultation rooms, and bedside vital signs monitoring, among other enhancements. Exclusive within New York State, Potsdam is among only three locations offering this state-of-the-art bed technology across the nation.

The new Emergency Department offers 11 additional treatment rooms, triage rooms with sub waiting area, four flex exam rooms, and four resuscitation/trauma rooms.

Additionally, CPH began offering lung nodule biopsies using the Ion Robotic Bronchoscopy System. Robotic support allows for access to smaller nodules resulting in earlier cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Through collaboration with cardiothoracic surgeons from Rochester General Hospital, CPH's surgical team began performing thoracic surgeries using its da Vinci Xi robot.

A full range of robotic-assisted thoracic services are now offered in Potsdam.

Gouverneur Hospital

Gouverneur Hospital opened a speech language pathology room to enhance outcomes for patients requiring speech therapy.

Through a state Rural Access Grant, the hospital acquired a new state-of-the-art Fuji FDR Go Portable x-ray unit, which offers improved image quality while reducing radiation exposure.

GH also received a Pediatric Crash Cart and eight Care-e-Vac Portable Aspirator machines through the generosity of its Auxiliary.

Massena Hospital

Massena Hospital received Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status with swing bed services, further ensuring its long-term sustainability, and opened its \$1.2M Wound Care

center offering hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Behavioral Health services expanded into a newly refreshed, modern suite with much needed additional square footage to accommodate increased patient volumes.

Additionally, the Hospital initiated an Emergency Department refresh project to upgrade its nurses' station, registration, and private counseling areas.

With generous donations from community and team members, local businesses, the MH Foundation and Auxiliary, the project is on target for a spring 2025 completion.

Additionally, all three hospitals have put forth a concerted effort to implement hourly and/or leader rounding, which has led to increased patient experience scores.

SEE ROCHESTER ON 6.



47th Annual Edward I Moses Walk/Run for Life NEW COMMITTEE starting at 9 am in Canton & Potsdam **MEMBERS** ARE All \$\$ raised stays right here WELCOME! St. Lawrence in St. Lawrence County

County

Cancer

Fund

to benefit our friends and neighbors. We are and always will be dedicated to the

LOCAL FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

The organization is made up of a group of volunteers and prides itself on that fact!

To register, donate or info visit: WalkRunforLife.com

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- Ophthalmology and Optometry
- Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- Otolaryngology (ENT)
- Pain Management
- Physiatry
- Podiatry
- Pulmonology
- Rheumatology
- Urology
- Women's Health and OB/GYN
- Wound Care

Diagnostic Services

- Cardiology and Sleep Studies
- Imaging and Radiology
- · Laboratory and Pathology

Integrated, Advanced Care

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- Spine Consultations
- Thoracic Surgery
- · Urgent Care with Tyto Technology
- Virtual Intensive Care
- Virtual Maternal Fetal Medicine

ROCHESTER REGIONAL HEALTH

WESTERN NY | FINGER LAKES | ST. LAWRENCE



St. Lawrence Health | Submitte

More than 200 individuals attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and guided tours of Rochester Regional Health's new Regional Care Pavilion at Canton-Potsdam Hospital.

ROCHESTER . . .

[Continued from page 5.]

Patient feedback continues to be a critical component of improvement initiatives.

St. Lawrence Health FoundationThe St. Lawrence Health Foundation

realized over 2,600 contributions totaling more than \$1.1 million toward its \$15 million Great Care, Right Here campaign. Success was due, in large part, to the generosity and commitment of private foundations, businesses, and individual donors. Additionally, its Grand Masquerade Gala alone raised over \$200,000.

Significant additional grant funding was awarded throughout 2024 to support the healthcare priorities of Women's Health, Emergency Medical Services and Access to Care, Clinical and Rural Health Research, and our Hospitalist Quality of Care Service Model.

"I am immensely proud of the tremendous progress our amazing teams have made over the last year; expanding upon the care we deliver locally and accessing quality care for our patients and the communities we serve," noted President Donna McGregor.

"Although we've accomplished so much, we're really just getting started. Our work is never done, and never done alone. There are many more exciting initiatives on the horizon for our Region. From standing up specialty practices to welcoming additional advanced care providers from the Rochester and Finger Lakes regions, we're here for whatever our community needs most."

To learn more about the St. Lawrence Region, visit www.rochesterregional.org.

Deep Root Center celebrates 11th birthday

Deep Root Center (DRC) just celebrated its 11th birthday at the beginning of January.

Our drop-in learning resource center in Canton offers an educational alternative for youth ages 5-19 and currently serves 28 student members.

DRC's foundational belief is that all young people deserve a safe, non-coercive educational environment where they feel like they are part of a community with people who care about them as individuals.

DRC supports each student member in following their interests and aspirations at their own pace. It is a place where young people are free to explore all the possibilities and rekindle their love of learning and belief in themselves.

Deep Root Center also provides a Consultation Service for families who wish to homeschool at home.

The demand for this service has grown this year — so much so that they have developed DRC Pop-ups, an extension of the consultation services available to any homeschool family.

The Pop-ups are pay-as-you-go and meet Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at rotating venues in the Massena area. A caring mentor facilitates opportunities for social engagement, games, arts and crafts, and project collaboration.

As our reputation for providing a supportive, educational alternative to anyone who needs us grows, the DRC staff and board are pleased to help any child who requests our services.

Families interested in learning more are encouraged to visit www.deeprootcenter.org or contact Maria at maria@deeprootcenter.org.

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Embracing a sustainable approach to tourism

As the designated tourism promotion agency for the county, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce comprises both a membership services team and a dedicated tourism promotion team.

In 2024, the Chamber's tourism efforts were led by Tiffani Amo, Director of Tourism, and Kathryn Puleo, Tourism & Events Manager.

Throughout the year, tourism promotion efforts were guided by a commitment to authenticity and sustainability with a mission to support initiatives that would contribute to making St. Lawrence County a place where people want to live which in turn makes it a place where people want to visit.

Leveraging grant funding to support our programming

In 2024, the tourism team kicked off two major grant-funded projects secured through a state Economic Development Agency (EDA) sub-award grant, including a sport tourism initiative and a Canadian Marketing initiative.

Ongoing projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act in partnership with the Industrial Development Agency moved forward, including the use of an online booking platform and the production and distribution of rack cards and brochures throughout New York and Canada. Funds leveraged through these grant applications totals more than \$400,000 over the duration of the projects.

Canadian marketing initiative

The EDA-funded Canadian marketing initiative focuses on attracting Canadian visitors to the area year-round through print and digital marketing efforts including the creation of 'Weekend Getaway' itineraries designed to make it easy for visitors to plan a trip and explore all the many and widespread hidden gems throughout the county.

Sport tourism initiative

The EDA-funded sport tourism initiative is aimed at fostering economic growth and community development through strategic planning that will maximize sport-related opportunities that utilize the area's natural beauty, recreational assets, and vibrant community spirit to attract visitors and stimulate the local economy.

Visit www.visitstlc.com/sport-tourism/ to learn more.

Tourism event support & promotional highlights

More than 50 industry partners came together from all corners of the county for the Chamber's 2024 annual tourism dinner.

The event, themed "S.E.E. the Big Picture," showcased the pivotal role of tourism in the county with consideration to Sustainability, Education, and Engagement.

Keynote speaker and sport tourism industry expert Grant MacDonald of Cimarron Global Solutions shared initial discoveries, opportunities, and strategies from the Chamber's ongoing sport tourism project.

Two tourism excellence awards were also presented, including the 2024 "Best to the Guest' Tourism Excellence Award to Otto's Abode, of Wanakena, for outstanding customer service, and the "2024 Best Destination Marketing Initiative Award "to SLC Arts for executing an exceptional marketing campaign for the annual North Country Arts Festival.

Regional, statewide. and international connectivity

2024 was a year of investing in local partnerships and growing a wider, stronger tourism network domestically and internationally.

Through a combined effort of tourism and chamber staff, team members attended the New York State Tourism Industry Association conferences in partnership with I Love New York and other key tourism partners throughout New York State, as well as the Akwesasne Tourism Summit and the 1000 Islands Binational Tourism Summit to bolster connections with our tourism counterparts across the border and throughout the seaway region.

To support promotional for history and cul-



St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce | Subm

Tiffani Amo, Director of Tourism, left, and Kathryn Puleo, Tourism & Events Manager, for the St. Lawrence County Chamber or Commerce.

ture groups in preparation of America's 250th Commemoration, STLC was also represented at the state's 250th Commemoration Summit.

2024 Bassmaster Elite Series

The Bassmaster Elite Series made another stop in Waddington, hosting more than 3,400 attendees and receiving a "Peak Performance' award from Bassmaster.

Promotional efforts included a digital marketing campaign throughout New York State and Canada along with radio interviews, TV coverage, and more.

2024 total eclipse Promotions

Tourism promotions for the total eclipse included brochures and a custom landing page on the VisitSTLC.com website showcasing information on where and how to view the eclipse, along with sales and distribution of viewing glasses, and collaboration with town and city officials, universities, businesses, and volunteer organizations to organize and promote safe viewing opportunities.

Out-of-county tourism trade shows

The Chamber provided support for partners at trade shows throughout New York State and surrounding states, including organizations like the Black Lake Chamber of Commerce. the Town of Massena, the St. Lawrence Valley Paddlers, the St. Lawrence Mountain Biking Association, and Potsdam Pride.

The Chamber/Tourism team attended the Ottawa Travel & Vacation show with partners from the Seaway Visitor at Eisenhower Lock, the Frederic Remington Art Museum, and Fort de la Presentation.

Resident-first tourism in 2025

In 2025, sustainable tourism initiatives will delve even deeper into a sentiment of 'Resident-First Tourism' which will prioritize the needs and preferences of local communities when it comes to supporting existing tourism assets as well as when and how to pursue new tourism opportunities.









2025 Event Schedule

June 14 & 15 June Exhibition Show

July 26 & 27 Civil War Reenactment Weekend - Fort Tribute

Aug. 30 & 31

Fall Exhibition Show

Sept. 2025

SLC CoC Open Air Market Food, Crafts & Wine

October 4

Kids Pumpkin Patch Party

October 4

US Military Timeline -Fort Tribute



For more information about events or the Museum, please visit our Facebook page or website, slpowermuseum!

Email us slpeminfo@gmail.com





Celebrating a year of transformation and connection at St. Lawrence

2024 marked an exciting year of growth and achievement at St. Lawrence University, highlighted by the completion of major renovations to athletic and residential facilities, rising national rankings, and expanded career networking opportunities.

These milestones further enhance student experiences, foster community connections, and drive Laurentian impact on campus and beyond.

Growing the new Center for the Environment

Diane Husic, PhD, is the inaugural leader for the Center for the Environment (CFE).

Husic took the helm as the Richard '64 and Gail Stradling Executive Director of the Center for the Environment in July, bringing a distinguished record of environmental advocacy, research, and leadership to the role.

Her vision for the CFE emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, integrating environmental issues across academic disciplines while linking students' diverse passions – from art and writing to social justice and mental health — with sustainability challenges.

The CFE unifies the University's existing programs and ties them to new initiatives. including funding for environmental research and innovation on campus, green internships, and environmental scholarships.

CFE programming is for all students, regardless of their major, and will help them develop the environmental leadership, critical thinking, and communication skills they'll need to make an impact in a rapidly changing

Karpus Athletic Center strengthens the student-athlete experience

Afte a year of significant renovations at St. Lawrence, the University proudly unveiled the completed George W. Karpus '68 Athletic Center at Appleton Arena with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in October.

Named to honor the generosity of its lead donor, the Appleton renovations and expan-



Thanks to a \$30 million facilities enhancement initiative, St. Lawrence has transformed several of its first-year residence halls with modern amenities and furnishings.

sion are already elevating the St. Lawrence student-athlete experience, with a special emphasis on Division III athletics.

The new center includes an expansion of the Michael "Buddy" Cornacchia '74 Strength and Conditioning Center for all student-athletes, as well as new locker rooms and team facilities for the field hockey and softball teams, and the men's and women's lacrosse and rowing teams.

An athletic training and treatment center for Division III student-athletes, a dedicated strategy room for coaches, a player's lounge, and a video/media room are also part of the project.

As part of the renovations, the University also revamped the existing strength and conditioning space in the Stafford Fitness Center, allowing open access to a larger fitness area for all students, faculty, and staff.

First-year residences get a major facelift

The University completed major improvements to multiple living-learning spaces across campus just in time for the arrival of the Class of 2028. There are now newly renovated lounges, student rooms, and bathrooms in Rebert north, east, and south, as well as two updated main lounges in Lee.

These areas have been fully upgraded with new fixtures and finishes, including dimmable LED lighting.

Lounges in several other first-year and upper-class residences alike have been enhanced with new flooring, freshly painted walls, new finishes, upgraded furnishings, climate control updates, electric fireplaces, smart TVs, kitchenettes, and more.

These refurbished spaces feel like home and are the perfect settings for getting to know classmates during movie nights, group study sessions, club meetings, and more.

All these improvements were made possible by an ongoing \$30 million facilities enhancement initiative taking place across campus.

St. Lawrence ranked among the nation's best colleges

It was another successful year in the rankings for St. Lawrence, with recognition in best colleges reports from both U.S. News and World Report, The Princeton Review, and

Notably, the University ascended in several rankings for The Princeton Review, coming in at No. 2 on "Top 20 Best Private School Alumni Networks," No. 5 on "Top 20 Best Private Schools for Internships," and No. 9 on "Best Schools for Making an Impact."

Elsewhere, the Wall Street Journal ranked the University 57 for student experience out of 500 total colleges and universities nationwide.

National recognition for study abroad success

St. Lawrence University has risen to 16th in the nation for semester-length study abroad participation in the 2024 Open Doors Report. climbing two spots from last year.

This achievement reflects the University's robust support for providing a global education to its students, including over \$500,000 awarded annually in financial aid.

The University also touts a standout success rate for Gilman Scholarships, with 6 of 13 applicants awarded in the recent cycle-more than double the national average.

Kickstarting careers with connections around the country

In 2024, St. Lawrence added a career networking trip to Buffalo and Rochester to its SLU Connect portfolio, which already includes extended excursions to places like Washington, D.C., Boston, and Burlington, Vermont.

Students on the SLU Connect Buffalo/Rochester trip got a first-hand look into careers in advocacy, education, finance, professional sports, and so much more.

SLU Connect 2025 kicked off in early January with nearly a week of networking and career exploration in both San Francisco and New York City, including visits to Amazon Web Services, eBay, Marvel Entertainment, the NFL League Headquarters, and Bloomberg.

New perks for early decision applicants

Finances are often a predominant factor in choosing whether to apply Early Decision. As of 2024, every applicant admitted under an Early Decision Agreement will receive a St. Lawrence Choice Award worth \$20,000 per year for four years.

Those who deposit will be among the first to begin course registration for the fall and will have priority housing in the University's newly renovated first-year residence halls.

A legacy of empowering **North Country students**

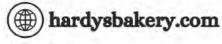
At St. Lawrence, a world of opportunities awaits North Country students-from our six newest majors to our Center for the Environment to career networking trips in cities like Boston and Washington, D.C.

We award over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to North Country students each year through the Augsburg/North Country Scholarship, which is exclusive to students from our region. Learn more about starting your journey at St. Lawrence. Visit: stlawu.edu/admissions.





HARDY'S



315-514-1399

116 N Main Street, Massena



Hardy's Bakery & Café expands with catering division after holiday success

MASSENA – Hardy's Bakery & Café, a beloved local favorite at 116 North Main St., is ringing in the new year with exciting news for the community.

After a highly successful holiday season offering pre-made Christmas and New Year's meals, the bakery is officially expanding its services to include catering for special events, corporate meetings, weddings, and more.

Over the holiday season, Hardy's Bakery introduced pre-made holiday meal packages designed to bring ease and convenience to family gatherings.

Customers simply reheat the meals before serving, making holiday hosting stress-free. The response from our community was

overwhelmingly positive. "We're so grateful for the support we

received during the holiday season," said Josie Hardy, owner of Hardy's Bakery & Café. "Our goal was to provide families with deli-

cious, homemade meals that made their holidays easier and more enjoyable. The feedback has been amazing, and we're excited to build on that success by offering catering services year-round."

Some of the most popular holiday items included festive charcuterie boards, buffalo chicken pinwheels, cherry bourbon glazed ham, potatoes au gratin, bacon and cheddar quiche, and house-made cinnamon rolls.

The demand for these dishes made it clear that Hardy's Bakery is more than just a spot for morning coffee and pastries - it's becoming a go-to destination for memorable, home-

With the launch of the new catering division, Hardy's Bakery & Café aims to bring that same homemade quality to events of all kinds. Whether it's an intimate gathering, a corporate meeting, or a grand wedding reception, Hardy's is ready to customize menus to



meet clients' needs.

'We understand that every event is different," Josie shared. "We're here to work with any budget and make sure that every guest leaves happy and full."

As Hardy's Bakery & Café enters this new chapter, the team is excited to continue serving the community with the same warmth and dedication that customers have come to

For more information about catering services, visit hardysbakery.com or call us at 315-514-1399 to discuss how we can make your next event unforgettable.

"AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, IT'S DEEPLY FULFILLING TO SEE THE ARTS FLOURISH THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY," -EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERICA KELSO COMMUNITY 315.265.6860 SLCARTSCOUNCIL.ORG **6 RAYMOND ST, POTSDAM**

Think Spring...CONCERTS!

At right, Colonel Michael J Colburn (USMC, Ret.) conducts the Orchestra of Northern New York summer pops concert in Watertown's Thompson Park in July 2024 for literally thousands of attendees.

Colburn, from North Hero, VT, will conduct ONNY's spring concert, Delights and Dances, April 26 at 7:30 pm in SUNY Potsdam's Hosmer Hall and April 27 at 3 pm in Watertown's Trinity Episcopal Church.



More information about the North Country's only YEAR-ROUND PROFESSIONAL symphony orchestra onny.org or 315-212-3440.





Northern New York **Community Foundation**

Forever St. Lawrence County

We commend these St. Lawrence County organizations for their vision to help ensure enduring support for their work and mission. Each has taken the step to create a permanent Community Foundation fund. We are grateful for their partnership and all that it represents.

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Helping people make their travel dreams come true

Jerri-Lynn Chronis of Ogdensburg is a travel consultant with Travelista Travels.

She has been Travel Consultant for 19 years and was an avid traveler long before she was lucky enough to have a career helping others make their travel dreams come true.

Jerri-Lynn travels with her family and friends extensively throughout the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. Internationally she has visited Portugal, Spain, London and her family's native land, Greece.

She specializes in all-inclusive vacations

for AMR resorts, which is part of the world of Hyatt. She also specializes in cruises and tours and is certified by Cunard and Viking. If Disney is your destination, she can help –

she is a graduate of Disney's College of Knowledge and has visited Disney many times. (I mean who doesn't love Mickey!?)

and is Sandals-Certified and a Master agent

Her favorite destination you may ask? All of them! She is very detail-oriented and puts her heart into each of her clients' vacations as if it

She can also be available with you during and after your trip to help as she has an extensive network of hotel cruise and airline representatives she has built relationships with over the years. After you contact her to book your next adventure, all you will have to do is pack your bags and enjoy!

For information about booking your vacation, contact Jerri-Lynn at 315-237-1893 or jerri-lynn@travelistatravels.com

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Child Fatality Review Team Coordinator 418 Washington St., Watertown calim@vacjc.com

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2020: 4 Unsafe **Sleep Deaths**

2022: 4 Unsafe **Sleep Deaths**

2024: 4 Unsafe **Sleep Deaths** **Unsafe Sleep Stats** from Jefferson, Lewis & St. Law. **Counties**

2021: 6 Unsafe **Sleep Deaths**

2023: 1 Unsafe **Sleep Deaths**

Inspiring the North Country through art

The Creative Spirit Community Arts Center of SLC Arts is proud to celebrate a year of significant growth and community impact.

With the opening of our newly renovated space at 6 Raymond St., Potsdam, we've created a vibrant hub for artistic expression, serving as the heart of creativity in the North Country.

In 2024, we connected thousands of people across our region with inclusive, welcoming programming, and we are excited to expand on that success in the coming year.

Our Creative Spirit space has become home to dynamic exhibitions showcasing local talent and weekly programming designed to inspire people of all ages.

By offering affordable and even free events, we ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy the arts. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce the return

of beloved initiatives like the North Country Arts Festival and Studio Tours, as well as the debut of a newly designed Plein Air Festival.

These events, along with continued partnerships across our community, exemplify our mission to enrich the vibrancy of the North Country by cultivating art appreciation and inspiring creative expression for everyone.

"As we look to the future, it's deeply fulfilling to see the arts flourish throughout our county," says Executive Director Erica Kelso. "We are all participants in art—it sustains and shapes our lives. Helping bring that to my neighbors is a privilege and a joy."

We invite you to check us out, experience the arts, and join in celebrating the power of creativity and community as we move forward together. For more information about the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, visit www. slcartscouncil.org





Jerri-Lynn Chronis 315-237-1983 • Jerri-Lynn@TravelistaTravel.com

Please visit my Linkedin for more information



JANUARY 24-30, 2025 | NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK



Bringing living history alive Fort La Présentation Association in Northern New York has busy year in 2024

The Fort La Présentation Association is proud and excited to announce the highlights of our accomplishments in the year

The Association hosted a Solar Eclipse Event on Rensselaer Point on April 8. The Fort property was in the prime viewing observation band.

We had approximately 200 visitors during the daylong event. Several of our visitors were from Canada. One family, from Ontario, told us that the Solar Eclipse event was their first visit to the United States.

On June 1, 2024, a recreation of the landing of Abbé Picquet at the present-day Rensselaer Point was presented. By the decree of Mayor Michael Tooley, every May 30 is proclaimed as "Founder's Day" in the City of Ogdensburg.

In attendance were Mayor Michael Tooley, a representative from the office of State Sen. Mark Walczyk , State Assemblyman Scott Gray, St. Lawrence County Legislator James Reagen, and Ogdensburg City Historian Julie Madlin. Julie also gave a speech describing the landing and importance of Abbé Picquet to the founding of Ogdensburg. Further development of the Point Lookout Trail was accomplished throughout the summer of 2024.

Many hours of volunteer time and volunteer efforts have made this advancement possible. This accomplishment is yet another example of the dedication our volunteers demonstrate to making dreams a reality.

As a result of changes made at Lookout Point, the Masonic Memorial needed to be moved. It is our honor to announce the Memorial is now resting in a raised flower bed on the Picquet Walking Trail, thanks to donations from the St. Lawrence Masonic Charities. The new flower bed makes an impressive addition to the walking trail.

Thanks go out for the generosity of Pat and Julie Madlin, and their donation of a Box Blade attachment for the Association's tractor. This attachment allows for maintenance of the walking trails and removes unwanted grass.

New signage was erected at the entrance of the Rensselaer Point located at 22 Albany Ave.

Based on the results of our sign-in sheets, many of the Association's visitors are driveby visits. With new signage, we will be easier to find and explore.

Our thanks to David Austin and his design firm for the plans and Northeastern Sign Corporation of Colton for their fabrication and installation of our new signage.

The year ended with the Fort La Présentation Association acquiring the funds necessary for completion of the "Lookout Point" Island

This was accomplished in thanks to the Association's equity, the Grassroots Foundation, the Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen Legacy Fund, Daughters of the American Colonists, and a generous donation.

The Association is diligent in partnering with local companies and local groups to make the history of our property, and of Ogdensburg in general, alive and relevant to today.

The St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum preserves and teaches the history of how people of the North Country lived and how early technologies shaped their lives.

The museum grounds are at 1755 NYS Hwy. 345 in Madrid.

Here, history comes alive through demonstrations, interpretive displays, living history, and exhibitions.

We welcome visitors during the second and fourth Saturdays, May through October.

During our regular open days take a walk through our historic buildings, such as 1850's Schoolhouse, Blacksmith Shop, Maple Sugar House, 1926 Gas Station, Shoe Repair Shop, Heritage Fibers, Saw, and Shingle Mills, Wood Shop, General Store, Print Shop, Nevin Church, Carriage Barn, Equine Building, Tractor Barn, 1850's Log Cabin, WWII Era Farmstead, Collections Building, and Fort Tribute. Private tours are available upon request.

Or join us for one of our special events!

During the June Old Time Spring Exhibition" and September's "Old Time Harvest Exhibitions" watch the Museum come to life with antique tractor displays, wagon rides, skillet tossing, tractor pulls, horse pulls, races, parades, antique cars, and more!

In July, the "Fort Tribute Civil War Reenactment Weekend" offers people the opportunity to learn about life during the Civil War era, visit campsites, medic tents, and barracks. Experience stories and music with reenactors while witnessing battles and hearing cannons roar!

The October "Kids Pumpkin Patch Party"

brings the children to the Museum to paint pumpkins, ride wagons, play games, and go on an adventure through our kiddy corn maze.

October Fort Tribute Military Timeline: Come and learn a detailed history of the Civil

We also host the St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce Open Air Craft, Food, and Wine Festival in September.

The Museum relies on the support of our community to continue our mission of celebrating rural living. There are many ways you can help keep the museum thriving in the future:

Become a member! Your dues support activities, programs, and projects and you receive an exclusive newsletter.

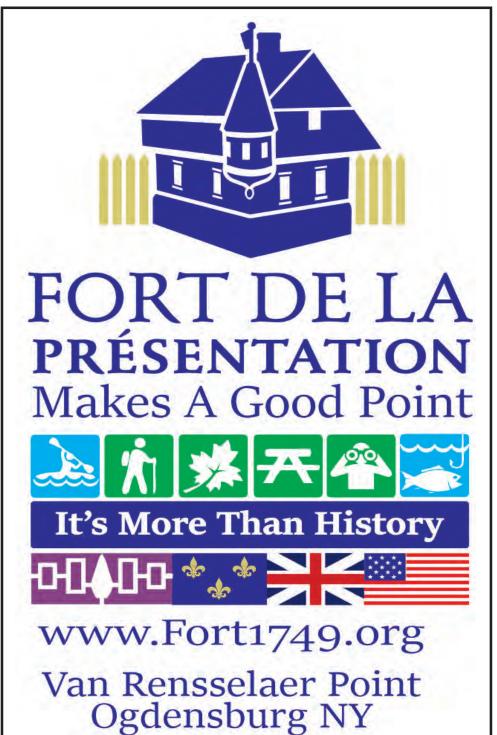
Come join our team of volunteers! We rely exclusively on member volunteers to organize and staff projects and programs. Be a part of the team that makes that happen.

Donate your "rural treasure' to the Museum. We collect items, decorations, auction items, and collection pieces from around the North

Contribute a gift. You can give a gift in memory of a loved one, donate to the Museum Fund, invest in our Endowment, or fund one of our many projects with your donations.

Be an ambassador! Tell your friends, family, and community about the Museum and our

For more information, visit slpowermuseum.com. We hope to have you as a visitor in 2025!



WELCOME TO THE ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM







2025 Event Schedule

June 14 & 15 June Exhibition Show

July 26 & 27 Civil War Reenactment Weekend - Fort Tribute

Aug. 30 & 31

Fall Exhibition Show

Sept. 2025

SLC CoC Open Air Market Food, Crafts & Wine

October 4

Kids Pumpkin Patch Party



US Military Timeline -Fort Tribute



For more information about events or the Museum, please visit our Facebook page or website, slpowermuseum!

Email us slpeminfo@gmail.com



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WPBS-TV reaches over 650,000 households across the North Country

WPBS-tv is public media for the North Country — the primary public educational television station and PBS affiliate, reaching over 650,000 households across the region.

We provide world-class preschool programming; documentaries on history, science, and public affairs; unbiased national and international news; performing arts and music concerts; dramatic adaptations of literary classics; and documentaries and discussion programs on local issues.

Our service area spans all or part of seven counties in New York State and six in Ontario, along with Canada's National Capital Region – a huge expanse of over 15,000 square miles.

Partnering with non-profit and cultural organizations and educational institutions in 2024, WPBS participated in and/or organized over 50 community events and screenings the most ever in our 66 year history

Other achievements include the launch of the updated GPS for Success website, a career planning tool for middle and high school students featuring a video game, extensive resources and interviews with over 140 North Country residents practicing different occupations.

Our weekly current affairs program, "WPBS Weekly: Inside the Stories" aired its 100th episode featuring dozens of local stories about topics as diverse as Horse Therapy, local ghost stories, the 85th anniversary of the TI Bridge, and local folk artisans.

We launched two new local information/ interview series produced in our studios: "Look for the Helpers: Portraits in Community Service" and "Artistic Horizons."

We completed season 44 of the high school student quizbowl "Whiz Quiz" with host Mel Busler and our first High School Choir Christmas concert since 2019.

"Let Your Heart Be Light: Christmas in the Adirondacks," a concert of holiday season favorites, was filmed at the Strand Theater in Old Forge and has been seen nationally on Partnering with non-profit and cultural organizations and educational institutions in 2024, WPBS participated in and/or organized over 50 community events and screenings, the most ever in our 66-year history.

over 40 PBS stations.

Finally, we released new seasons of our travel/outdoor adventure series Epic Trails and Facing Waves as well as classic car series Radical Restoration and Vintage Vessels: Wooden Boats of the Water.

WPBS, founded in 1958, is live-streamed on our website (wpbstv.org) and mobile app, as well as on online providers YouTube TV, Hulu, Direct TV Stream and Local Now.

The content on WPBS and also on our "subchannels" (PBS Kids, Create and World) is designed to support learning and personal growth.

To better serve students in our region we're creating a growing number of curriculum resources.

As a public service we make our services and products freely available to all, and we're looking forward to doing even more for our North Country neighbors in 2025.

WPBS-tv offices are at 1056 Arsenal St., Watertown.

Phone number is 315-782-3142. Mark Prasuhn is president and general manager.



'Yoga in the Schools' Program in **Canton, Potsdam schools**

The Canton Yoga Loft is pleased to announce the continuation of the innovative

"Yoga in the Schools" program in collaboration with both the Canton and Potsdam school districts.

This is the second year for this groundbreaking program due to the generous support of the following sponsors: Canton Community Fund, Canton Rotary Club, Community Bank, the Northern New York Community Foundation, the Van Ness Family Fund and the Stewart's Foundation

"Yoga in the Schools" provides a series of group yoga classes in collaboration with

school physical education teachers at Banford Elementary and McKenney Middle School in Canton, and, Lawrence Avenue Elementary, A. A. Kingston Middle School and Potsdam High School in Potsdam.

Grades 3 through 8 are included in the Canton program. In Potsdam, yoga classes currently begin with 4th graders and are offered for all grades in middle school and high school.

Classes are taught by experienced and professional Yoga Loft instructors Sarah Scafidi-McGuire and Lori Dye.

Student surveys of all students participating last year showed a great level of enthusiasm for the classes, with the many benefits of yoga including strength, stretching, balance, mind-

Norwood Village Green Series' 52nd season

The Norwood Village Green Concert Series, founded in 1974, will present its 52nd annual season in 2025. Its mission as "a non-for-profit founded to impact our home communities via inspiring and spirit uplifting public outdoor performances" continues.

Here are highlights for the upcoming season.

123 Andrés

123 Andrés are a husband-and-wife duo that creates children's music in both English and Spanish.

They have been winners of the Best Latin Children's Album category at the Latin Grammy Awards for Arriba Abajo.

In 2024, they won the Grammy Award for Best Children's Music Album for their album We Grow Together Children's Songs. They are the 32nd Grammy Award recipients to. perform on the Norwood Green.

Sue Foley

Sue Foley may well be the series' 33rd Grammy Awarded recipient as she has been nominated in 2025 in the Traditional Blues category for her One Guitar Woman" record-

Her pink Fender guitar hangs in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland next to the guitars of the greats.

She has received Juno, Blues Foundation, and Maple Blues Awards (including its Lifetime Achievement Award).

Shavon Lloyd

Shavon received his Bachelor's degree from the Crane School of Music and was granted a full scholarship to Julliard where he received a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance.

He is a triple threat — a performer, a conductor, and a composer.

He has won awards in all three areas and has performed at Carnegie Hall, at Saratoga PAC, with the St. Louis Opera Company, and at the Opera House in Geneva, Switzerland.

He performed in a Memorial concert dedicated to his mentor Dr. Lonel Woods for the Norwood Village Green Concert Series in 2019.

He was nominated for SUNY Potsdam's Rising Star Award for 2025. That award is pending and is complementary to his performance in Norwood.

Kody Norris

The Kody Norris Show is a talented group, made up of frontman Kody Norris, Josiah Tyree, Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris, and Charley Lowman.

SEE CONCERTS ON B4.

fulness and centering recognized and appreciated by students of all ages.

The Canton Yoga Loft and the Canton and Potsdam school districts are greatly appreciative of the support of our generous sponsors.

The longterm goal is to make the program sustainable. Program Coordinator Jane Lammers has high praise for the physical education staff in both school districts.

"Without the enthusiastic support and assistance of the dedicated PE staff, this program would not be possible! Their role in incorporating group yoga into the school curriculum has been absolutely essential," she said.

The Canton Yoga Loft is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the mission of cultivating health, personal growth and community through Yoga and Wellness Practice.

The studio is located at 21 Miner St. in Canton. Class schedules and other information can be found on www.yoga-loft.org.

Thanks to our Generous Sponsors 2024-2025 YOGA IN THE SCHOOLS program for the Canton Central & Potsdam Central School Districts The Canton Yoga Loft & students participating are so grateful for your support!

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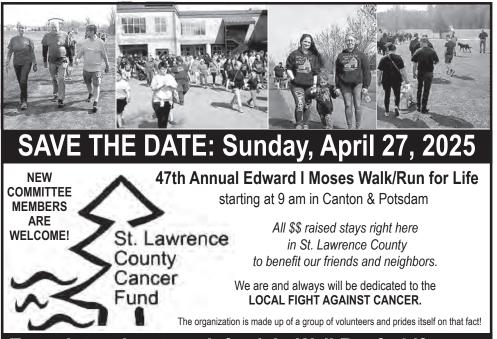
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CONCERTS . . .

They, find themselves with a growing legion of fans craving the comfort that comes from their retro look, but equally craving dynamic instrumentation and thought-provoking lyrics — all of which can be heard throughout their epic new album Rhinestone Revival.

"There is a whole chapter of country music that's just kind of faded away," Norris once said. "I believe The Kody Norris Show has been instrumental in bringing back some of that nostalgia and some of that classic look that country music and bluegrass used to have."

Brindlestiff Family Cirkus

Founded by Keith Nelson and Stephanie Monseu in 1995, Brindlestiff Family Cirkus prides itself on being an integral part of America's outstanding folk traditions of circus, sideshow, and vaudeville and with a juggling workshop at 6 pm., a show for the whole family.

Las Guaracheras

Las Guaracheras is an all-women salsa sextet born in the city of Cali, Colombia in 2017.

The ensemble's cultural and artistic objective is to uplift a female voice within Afro-Latin music and build a more inclusive, diverse and respectful cultural space for all.

Las Guaracheras present an explosive show that provokes dancing, and singing as well as reflection.

The All Star Big Band

The All Star Big Band under the direction of Wally Siebel will feature guest artist Jim Hynes. Hynes has performed on countless Broadway shows throughout his career. Among them are Cats, Jerome Robbins Broadway, Chess, Beautiful (the Carole King Musical), On Your Feet, Color Purple, etc.

He has performed, toured, and recorded with some of the top artists in the industry including Paul Simon, Sting, James Taylor, Beyonce, Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, Cyndi Lauper, Elton John, Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, and many others.

More Info About Series

For more information about the Norwood Village Green Concert Series, visit www.nvgcs. org.

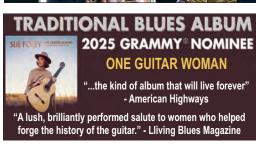


es by 2004 Grammy Award Winners 123
Andrés and 2025 Grammy Nominee Sue Foley,
The Brindlestiff Family Cirkus, Jim Hynes, The Kody Norris Show, Las Guaracheras, and Shavon Lloyd

It will also include Laura B, Kate Prascher, The All Star Big Band, Northern Symphonic Winds, Double Axel, Sister Cinnamon, Bluebird, two "We Cherish the Ladies" concerts, Northbound, Norwoodstock, Uprooted, Whiskey Room, The Old-Time Fiddlers Show, and conclude with Norwood's own Brass Firemen. Along the way it will provide workshops for NNCS and CYM and a juggling workshop for the general public.















The Norwood Village Green Concert Series and its audience enjoy major support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the NYS Legislature and the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, IberMusicas, the Sweetgrass Foundation, the Town of Potsdam, Village of Norwood, and many local depore and businesses.









Write a check payable to the Norwood Village Green Concert Series and mail it to

TO DONATE TO THE SERIES:

3 Bicknell Street, Norwood, NY 13668.The Norwood Village Green Concert Series is a 501c3 not for profit and all donations are tax deductible.



Forever St. Lawrence County

We commend these St. Lawrence County organizations for their vision to help ensure enduring support for their work and mission. Each has taken the step to create a permanent Community Foundation fund. We are grateful for their partnership and all that it represents.

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Working together with donors and nonprofit organizations to strengthen our region since 1929.

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Your Community. Your Foundation. Your Legacy.

County Chamber builds on a year of growth and achievements

Building upon a year of growth and impactful achievements in 2024, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce is diving into an exciting year in 2025 as we pursue increased value to Chamber memberships, increased engagement and support of the county's businesses, promotion of our communities, a huge lineup of impactful events, expanding tourism development initiatives, the next phases of Chamber Integration, and collaboration with local organizations.

2024 was a year of tremendous evolution for the Chamber as we built a new staff, grew our Board of Directors, delved into new tourism initiatives, and established new membership benefits.

We also effected the four-party legal business merger of the Massena, Ogdensburg, Canton, and St. Lawrence County Chambers a process that has required patient and deliberate effort to implement logistically.

Through all those changes, we achieved much to benefit the County and its communities. Some of those achievements were included in the highlight reel from our 2024 Annual Dinner, sharing how we:

- Increased our marketing reach and effectiveness, with distribution of more than 10,000 Visitor & Relocation Guides and a record-setting 300,000+ views and interactions on our website.
- Hosted an impactful Not-For-Profit Conference that shared insights on people-based solutions for non-profits' boards of directors, volunteers, and donors.
- Graduated 14 new leaders from the St. Lawrence Leadership Institute.
- Fostered business ownership transition as the County's liaison to the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition.
- · Continued partnership in individual communities and across the county and region - from the Ogdensburg Growth Fund to the Massena Rotary and the Canton Economic Development Steering Committee. From the SLC Workforce Development Board to Small Business Working Group and the North Country Alliance (through which we provide advocacy on key business and economic development issues into Albany).
- Set record participation at our tradeshows and community events like the Dairy Festival. The Holiday Market, for instance, had more than 4,000 shoppers and 100 vendors.
- Increased our digital communications with business and tourism electronic bulletins and countless posts to tens of thousands of followers on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Through our bulletins we provided information on events, business development and training opportunities, and member news.
- Provided networking opportunities at Business After Hours gatherings in Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, Massena, Canton, Potsdam, and Akwesasne.

These are just some highlights of the countless achievements of the past year.

Our 2024 programming laid a foundation for the year ahead and we have far loftier goals

- The benefits of Chamber membership have been upgraded across all categories and we will work with our members so they are aware of, and taking advantage of, those robust benefits which can be reviewed at visitstlc.com/membership-and-dues
- We seek to increase engagement with our member businesses and organizations, connecting them to development opportunities pertinent to their needs, promoting them through digital and other marketing channels, and providing exceptional networking and business-to-business connections.
- · A host of events are already booked for the year ahead, from the North Country Kids Expo to six Business After Hours, the Craft, Food & Wine Shows, Non-Profit Conference, the Annual Dinner, Dairy Festival Days, and many more. We hope to host many ribbon cuttings across the county.
- We will continue to work with countless partner organizations in business development, workforce development, government relations, advocacy, and tourism.
- And we shall strive to achieve our vision of an Integrated Chamber of Commerce, connecting that work to our members, the businesses, and the communities we

We are pursuing the financial capacity to provide dedicated and increased staffing and operations in our Massena, Ogdensburg, and Canton offices. (The current sale listing and open Chamber positions at www.STLCJobs. com are steps toward that capacity.)

We seek to grow Ambassador groups, host events, and promote community-driven events and initiatives.

As we build upon a year of evolution in 2024, the Chamber of Commerce casts its vision forward with enthusiasm to a year of growth, beneficial impact, and catalytic programming in 2025.

We look forward to collaboration with the businesses, organizations, and residents of the community - and hope you will join us, through Chamber membership, as partners in this critical work for St. Lawrence County.

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Membership Benefits





Exposure & Visibility

- · Member profile Micro-website
- · Social media
- · Share with our

STLC



Networking &

- Networking
- events
 Personalized
- Advocacy &
- Representation

 STLC Quality of



Professional

- Webinars Business
- Resources Workforce
- Development
- Personalized Support



Discounts &

- Vendor fee
- discounts 30% off bulk
- Member to discounts
- Affordable



Recognition

- Memberships shows commitment to
- the community Eligibility for
- Annual Awards Ribbon Cutting





What Does Your Membership Do?

Supports the Chamber's Work in Workforce, Business, & Community Development.

Tourism Promotion

Advocacy, Strengthening & Maintaining the Economic Health of Our County.



www.SLCchamber.org





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- Center for the Environment
- Career networking trips to major cities across the U.S.







Child Advocacy Center educates on sleep safety

As a caregiver, you know that keeping your baby safe is most important, including when they sleep. All babies need a safe place to sleep.

The Child Advocacy Center of Northern New York, a program operated by the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, strives to ensure your baby is "Safe to Sleep" when putting them to bed.

This also decreases the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

There have been an increasing number of fatalities involving sleeping arrangements of infants — both sleeping alone in unsafe sleeping arrangements and sleeping with oth-

"Safe to Sleep" tips to prevent infant deaths recommended by the Child Advocay Center include:

- Placing your baby on their back to sleep, even for naps. "Back to Sleep" is the safest position to place your baby to reduce the risk of SIDS.
 - · Dress your baby lightly and keep

the room at a temperature that is comfortable for an adult to be lightly dressed.

- Dress your baby in clothing such as a one-piece sleeper or sleep sac. Do not use a blanket.
- Ensure you lay your baby to sleep in a child-safe crib that has a firm mattress covered by a fitted sheet. Crib slats should be 2 3/8 inches or less apart.
- · Sofas, chairs, futons and waterbeds are not safe places for your baby

It is commonplace for friends and family to give you fluffy blankets and stuffed animals as gifts for your new little one. However, these items are not safe to have in your baby's sleeping environment.

Pillows, comforters, and crib bumpers are also unsafe for babies.

It is also important to keep your home smoke free.

Bed sharing during sleep is not

the risk of the infant becoming caught in the bedding or smothered when others in bed shift while sleep-

Bed sharing is especially dangerous if the caregiver has used alcohol or drugs of any kind since that may cause a deeper sleep that decreases the caregiver's awareness of the infant and sleeping arrangement.

You can find this information and more on the state Office of Children and Family Services website at ocfs. ny.gov/programs/cps/safe-sleep.php

If you would like personalized information on how to keep your baby safe or are in need of a safe place for your baby to sleep, please contact the Child Fatality Review Team Coordinator of our Tri-County region at

The Child Fatality Review Team is a program of the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, 418 Washington St., Watertown. The

recommended since it may increase phone number is 315-788-8520. **Northern Insuring simplifes complicated process**

POTSDAM - The professionals at Northern Insuring Agency, 69 Market St., simplify the complicated for insurance.

Every member of the Northern team is highly trained, and continuing education is a priority. They are the largest locally owned, independent insurance agency covering the Northern New York region.

With the organization since 2012, Associate Vice President Tanya LaShombe is your expert for business insurance, employee benefits, and life insurance.

She holds dual licenses in New York for Property & Casualty and Life & Health, is a Certified Insurance Counselor, and a Registered Employee Benefits Consultant. Tanya is also

in the process of earning her Certified Risk Manager designation.

Northern Insuring was pleased to welcome Caryn Harrington to the team in 2024. With 20 years of customer service experience, Caryn is eager to contribute and grow within the organization. She is licensed in Property and Casualty and looks forward to expanding her knowledge of the industry. Caryn joins Tanya in the Business Insurance Division.

Ashley Kalman-Smith, a local resident, is a friendly and committed personal insurance sales executive who prioritizes both securing the proper coverage and cost savings for her clients.

She understands the importance of balancing affordability with adequate

protection, and her expertise ensures that your needs are met with care.

Ashley stays current with industry trends and regulations, and holds a Property and Casualty license.

Amanda Terrance's role at Northern Insuring Agency is multi-faceted as she manages incoming calls for our Potsdam office, serves as a Notary Public, and is a support specialist in our business insurance division.

Amanda also helps the company stay compliant with industry regulations by assisting with our licensing and education budgets.

Northern Insuring Agency is celebrating 95 years in 2025 of dedicated service to the North Country. They look forward to serving the community for many years to come!

The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence expanding services for children and improving facilities

The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence (www.thearcjslc.org) continues to solidify their standing as the leading provider of service options for people with disabilities in the North Country.

During the next year, the agency will expand services for children and advocate for funding to enhance programs for people supported and employees.

Between the counties, there are 52 residential homes, a pre-school, a large variety of community employment options, two integrated businesses, five site-based day programs, federal contracts at the border stations and Fort Drum, two UPS stores, as well as educational programs for children, teens, and adults.

Clinical services such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy, are available. The agency also has Board Certified Behavior Analysts on staff to guide service plans that are created to suit each person's needs.

The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence employs over 1,100 staff members and has an annual budget of \$85 million. The agency is overpeen by Lynn Pietroski, Chief Executive Officer. Jackie Sauter serves as the Board of Directors' President.

In 2024, The Arc Jefferson – St. Lawrence successfully restructured to maximize service options for the people supported and to improve

resources for employees. The agency implemented a new payroll system and provided trainings to ensure the workforce is highly skilled. The agency upgraded many facilities as part of a five-year renovation plan to modernize all locations.

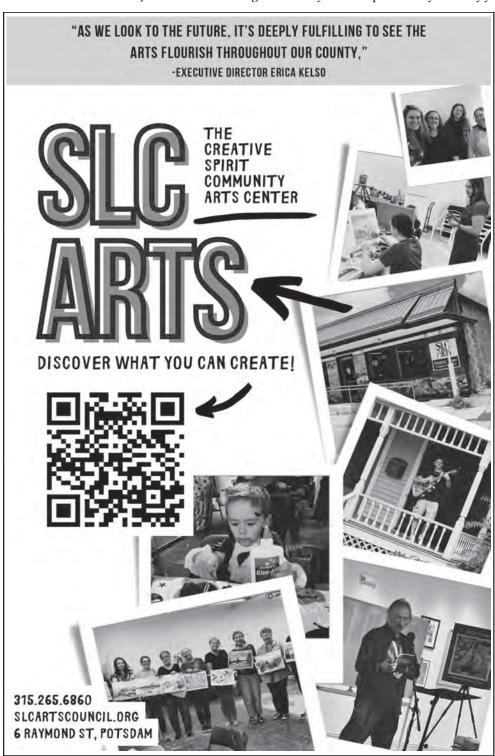
In 2025, The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence will continue to move forward with the expansion of children's services in St. Lawrence County in partnership with Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (OBPA).

Through this agreement with OPBA, the agency has the opportunity to serve 120 children and their families at a new state-of-the-art child care facility. Groundbreaking is planned for this spring.

Budget advocacy continues and legislative officials will be asked to support a 7.8% Medicaid rate increase to stabilize non-profit provider

Additional budget requests include the creation of a Wage Commission to examine the responsibilities of human service workers and establish fair, sustainable compensation standards and to establish a new capital program to make operations more energy-efficient, in alignment with the state's climate goals.

To learn more, visit www.thearcjslc.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.





St. Lawrence County donors partner with NNY Community Foundation to strengthen quality of life

The Northern New York Community Foundation partners with many generous families, individuals, businesses, and organizations across St. Lawrence County to support broad charitable interests.

Since 1929, the Community Foundation has worked to make the region a better place to live, work and play.

Its commitment to donors helps them achieve charitable objectives now and for generations to come by preserving and honoring legacies of community philanthropy.

The Foundation is also a resource for local charitable organizations, students, donors, professional advisors, and nonprofits.

The Rock Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation continues to make a meaningful and enduring impact on the places and people of St. Lawrence County, recently awarding \$148,460 to support projects at 11 organizations in the county.

Also in St. Lawrence County, the Foundation's Dr. D. Susan Badenhausen Legacy Fund made its fourth series of grant awards, providing nearly \$52,287 to 11 nonprofits dedicated to strengthening critical and essential needs for county residents and enhancing arts and culture.

In Potsdam, a legacy fund honoring John and Dorotha VanNess awarded \$16,000 to support initiatives at four nonprofit organizations whose work improves the quality of life for Potsdam residents.

Eleven organizations serving St. Lawrence County residents shared \$18,250 in Community Foundation Micro Grant funding last year, including: Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation, Cranberry Lake North Shore Hub, Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley, Indian Creek Nature Center, Massena Fire Department, Massena Meals On Wheels, New Horizons Bands of Northern New York, Northern Area Health Education Center, Police Activities League of Massena, Potsdam Snack Pack Program, and the St. Lawrence County People Project.

Through its LEAD Impact Grant Program, the Foundation's LEAD Council awarded \$7,000 in finding to three St. Lawrence County organizations — Salvation Army of Massena, GardenShare, and the Norfolk-Raymondville Food Pantry to help with projects and programs that aid residents.

The Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council awarded a \$1,000 mission-based grant to St. Lawrence Land Trust.

Three St. Lawrence County organizations also shared \$10,500 in competitive Youth Philanthropy Council grant funding, including the Wilderness HealthCare Foundation, the Potsdam Snack Pack Program, and the St. Lawrence County People Project.

Two St. Lawrence County students representing two different middle schools were among 10 winners of the seventh Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge.

Each student presented a \$1,000 grant to support a St. Lawrence County nonprofit.

The Foundation welcomed Air Products as a new corporate partner last year.

The global energy company established the Air Products Greater Massena Community Fund, from which it awarded nearly \$48,000 in grant support to local nonprofits.

Air Products also awarded \$25,000 in scholarships through the Air Products Greater Massena Scholarship Fund it established.

Community Foundation support to St. Lawrence County food pantries, soup kitchens, and backpack programs topped \$30,000 last year to 26 organizations who help neighbors in need.

In December, the Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club and the Police Activities League of Massena were each awarded \$2,500 in grant funding to support their work and mission to serve the county's youth.

Other major Foundation grants to support St. Lawrence County included \$35,000 to help the Ogdensburg Public Library strengthen accessibility; \$16,000 to support the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative; and \$10,000 to the Salvation Army of Massena to help complete a new commercial kitchen.

Through partnerships with all 17 St. Lawrence County school districts, the Community Foundation awarded scholarships totaling nearly \$180,000 to 88 graduating high school students.

Among those awarded were 10 students who each received a \$3,000 Evergreen STEM Scholarship to pursue studies in a STEM-related field.

The Foundation administers educational foundations for Potsdam Central, St. Lawrence Central, Massena Central and Hermon-DeKalb Central School Districts and an alumni scholarship for Ogdensburg Free Academy.

Anyone may establish a charitable fund at the Community Foundation to support a cause, community, or organization about which they are passionate, both now and in the future, with added stewardship.

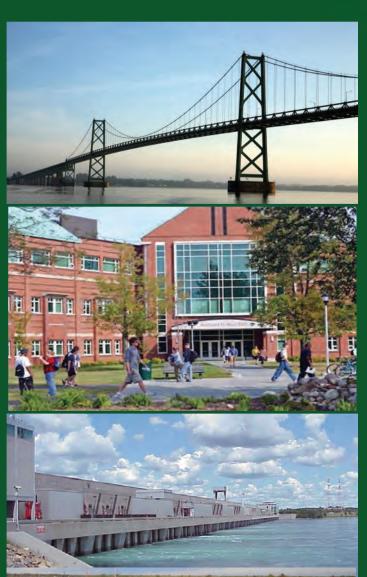
Charitable funds may be created in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Donors may also choose to give to the Friends of the Foundation Community Betterment Fund, which supports core programs and initiatives across the region.

The Community Foundation is in the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, 131 Washington St., Watertown, with a Canton extension office in partnership with Grasse River Heritage.

Contact the Northern New York Community Foundation by phone at 315-782-7110, or by email at info@nnycf.org.

Visit the Community Foundation's website at nnycf.org to learn more the organization and the work they do.

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For more information, please call (315) 379-9806 or visit

www.SLCIDA.com



