

PROGRESS CHENANGO



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The Raymond Corporation has record breaking production in 2025

KELLI MILLER
EVENING SUN

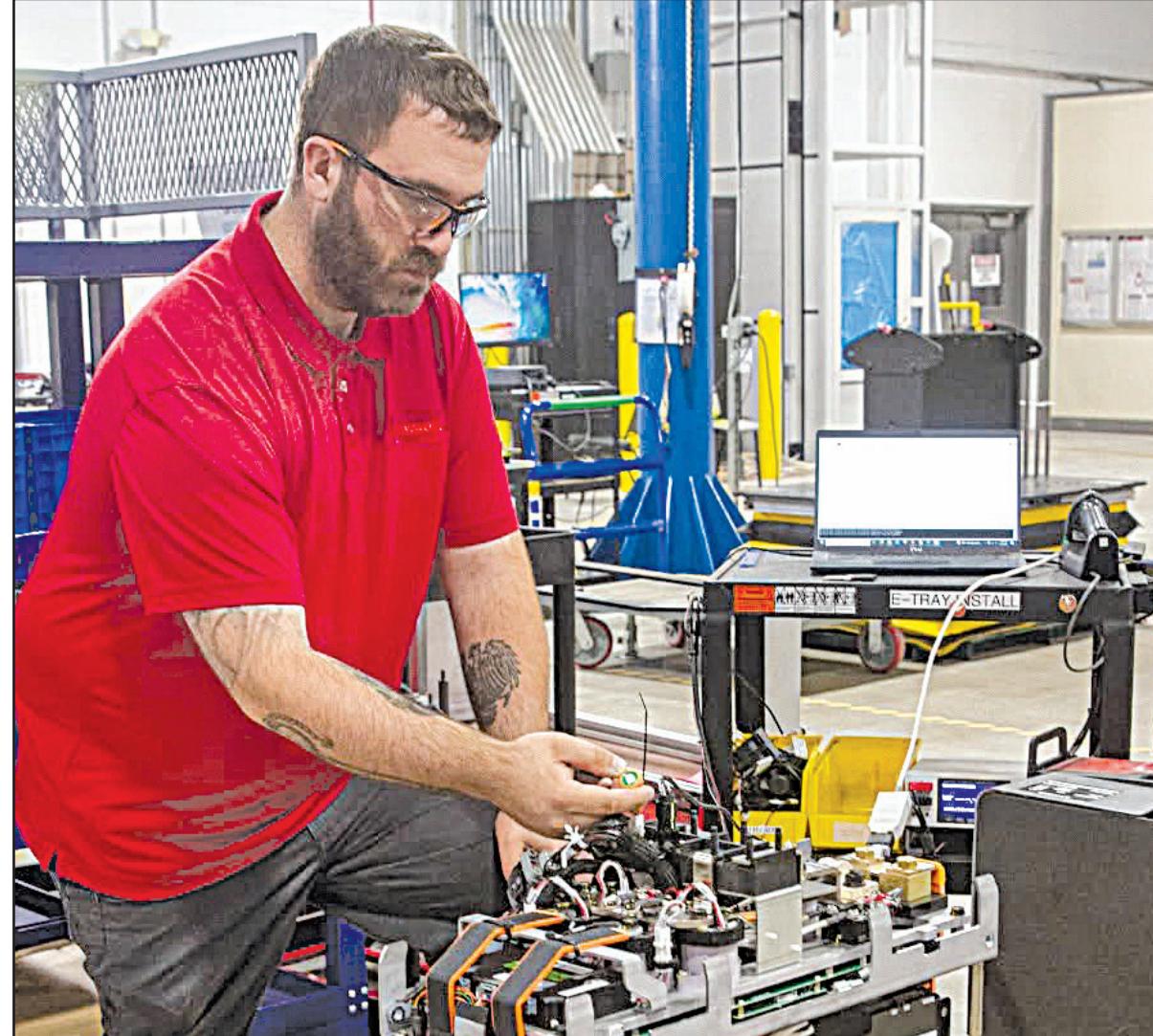
GREENE — The Raymond Corporation is a leading global provider of best-in-class material handling products and intelligent intralogistics solutions with their headquarters in Greene, New York.

Built on principles of innovation and continuous improvement for over 100 years, Raymond's integrated automation, telematics, virtual reality and advanced energy solutions provide ways to optimize operations and bring warehouse and distribution operations to a new level of performance.

In April 2025, two North American leaders in material handling products and solutions, Toyota Material Handling and The Raymond Corporation, integrated into one company under the name Toyota Material Handling North America.

Brian Howard, Vice President of Marketing, The Raymond Corporation, a brand of Toyota Material Handling North America, said the two companies integrated to best support their customers and aim to deliver quality products and work for improvement every day, in every realm of their business.

"Raymond delivers solu-



A Raymond Corporation associate explores the new lithium-ion battery. The Raymond Corporation officially announced its new lithium-ion battery line in October of 2025. The batteries are engineered to integrate seamlessly into their family of forklifts, delivering greater efficiency, superior capacity retention, faster charging, longer run-times and lower total cost in a low-maintenance power solution. (Submitted photo)

tions to material handling and logistics markets in North America and globally," said Howard.

Howard said since the patenting of the first hand-pallet truck to the invention of

the reach truck to their pio-

neering work in narrow aisle operations and beyond, they have led the way in providing customers with the tools and expertise to improve their business.

"Raymond electric forklift trucks are engineered to

achieve increased productivity and efficiency and are designed to provide ecological and economic benefits," he added.

He said Raymond Corporation combines operational excellence, award-winning

innovation and world-class global customer support, and said they work together to run better, manage smarter and satisfy their customers.

Quality of Life

Howard said Raymond Corporation offers support to the next generation of innovators through co-op and educational programs.

He noted The Raymond Corporation created a University Research Program to encourage and support professors and student researchers to apply their engineering and technical skills to foster innovative research that propels the material handling industry forward.

Now in its eighth cycle, the sponsored research program is accepting applications for grant funding that can reach up to \$500,000. Selected proposals may receive total financial support of up to \$250,000 for one year of research.

"We also offer tours to high school students and educators for our annual Manufacturing Day event," he said.

"Students experience modern manufacturing firsthand through interactive booths, facility tours, and conversations with Raymond professionals," said Howard.

Howard explained the

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Raymond Corporation named 2026 Manufacturer of the Year

SOPHIA ROOT
EVENING SUN

GREENE — In October Chenango County recognized the history and significance of the Raymond Corporation, headquartered in Greene.

Raymond is a brand of Toyota Material Handling and was honored with the 2025 Manufacturer of the Year Award by Commerce Chenango. The award and event spotlighted the current impact and long business history of an impressive local company.

Raymond currently provides opportunities for about 2,000 employees in Chenango County, operating from their campus in downtown Greene.

Raymond manufactures electric forklift trucks and provides enhanced technological solutions for warehouse and distribution opera-

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Village of Sherburne makes gains with municipal fiber optic program

JESSICA BENSON
EVENING SUN

SHERBURNE — The Village of Sherburne has been providing municipal electricity to their residents since 1905, and after more than 120 years in the business, the village plans to continue offering a marketable service to the community.

"The electric department was one of the things I focused on when I became a trustee," Village of Sherburne Mayor William Acee said. Acee, whose father also served on the village board, explained that his father used to say "take care of the electric department and the rest will take care of itself." The



In addition to municipal electricity, over the last year, the Village of Sherburne has been working on an expansion to their fiber optic network. The expansion project will bring broadband fiber optic internet to the Town of Columbus as well as many parts of the Town of Sherburne where broadband is not currently available. (Submitted photos)



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The Raymond Corporation has record breaking production in 2025 -



The Raymond Corporation was one of the sponsors at the New Energy New York Battery Week. The full-day program helped connect manufacturers to the fastest growing battery and energy storage ecosystem. (Submitted photo)



Last year, during The Raymond Corporation Tradition of Thanks, associates were given turkeys from team leaders to express their appreciation for all they bring in advancing Raymond's legacy of excellence. (Submitted photo)



Recently, The Raymond Corporation hosted a hiring event to support their growing energy manufacturing operation in Kirkwood, New York. (Submitted photo)

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opportunities give students a real-world experience, hands-on training, and the chance to contribute to meaningful innovations that shape the future workforce of material handling.

"The Raymond Corporation continues to strengthen the community and we are very fortunate to have a large organization that's quite active with overall area connections," he said.

Major Developments

Howard said it's a 2025 to remember and added, "I'm so proud of the organization."

"

"It's been an outstanding year with record production, the strongest ever, over the one hundred years," said Howard. "So that's absolutely outstanding from a manufacturing and shipping perspective."

"We're also focusing on the New York State energy development and the manufacturing of the next generation of the lithium-ion batteries," he added.

In addition, Howard said they have won nine industry awards for innovation and manufacturing including an award from

Commerce Chenango for 2025 Manufacturer of the Year.

He said with more than a century in Chenango County, this honor underscores their commitment to innovation, careers, and regional growth.

The nine industry awards are as follows:

Material Handling Product News Products of the Year Readers' Choice, Supply Chain Software. The honor recognized the solution for pushing performance and security forward for the use of advanced sensing technol-

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The Raymond Corporation has record breaking production in 2025 -

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ogy to help forklift operators navigate confidently on the warehouse floor.

Material Handling Product News Products of the Year Readers Choice, Safety and Ergonomics. This award recognized the Raymond heavy-duty stackers for pushing performance and security forward by delivering greater load-handling capabilities.

Commerce Chenango 2025 Manufacturer of the Year. This award recognized Raymond for its long-standing history of innovation and contributions to the region's excellence in manufacturing; impacting the region and globally.

Supply Tech Breakthrough Awards Material Handling Innovation of the Year. Recognizing iW.Object-Sense, this award highlights Raymond's commitment to advancing operator assist in Technology.

Inbound Logistics Green Supply Chain Partner. The magazine named Raymond a 75 Green Supply Chain Partner. A key milestone in Raymond's journey was the opening of its Energy Solutions Manufacturing Center of Excellence in Broome County.

Distinguished Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce. This award recognized Jennifer Craig, Raymond's Instructional Designer for Education and Development, for her volun-

tee efforts and commitment to educating the next generation of professionals in the community.

Supply Chain and Demand Executives Pros to Know award. Raymond's Damon Hosmer was selected as a 2025 Pro to Know for advancing energy sustainability initiatives in material handling. His expertise supports Raymond's leadership in advancing energy solutions to optimize fleet efficiency and reduce operational costs.

Food Logistics Rock Stars of the Supply Chain, Leaders in Excellence. This award recognized Raymond's Matt Curtis as a Rock Star of the Supply Chain in the Leaders in Excellence category with his leadership in developing and promoting operator assist and automation technology, including iW.Object-Sense.

Food Logistics Rock Stars of the Supply Chain, Top Warehousing Leader. This award recognized Todd Via, Raymond's Director of Customer Experience, as a Rock Star of the Supply Chain for advancing customer experience strategy, championing continuous improvement, and strengthening long-term customer partnerships.

One-Year Reflection
Howard remains positive when reflecting back on the year and said The Raymond Corporation will continue to elevate what is possible.

"The team rose to the chal-

lenges and made it happen," said Howard. We will continue to grow where possible."

Plans for 2026

Howard noted Raymond will continue to grow and generate more manufacturing outlets and invest in the manufacturing aspects, expecting growth over time.

"We will continue to make investments in the Greene Campus such as machining, manufacturing, painting, and assembly across the board to generate more unit out-puts," said Howard.

"Our company provides 15 hours for community service and we will continue to engage in volunteer services," Howard said. "We're really looking forward to it."

"I'm so confident in the team we have that I see no challenges or concerns as we move forward into 2026," he added. "The team delivers year, after year, after year."

Milestones and Growth

Howard said over one hundred years they've continued to grow in the area.

"The company started with the pallet and looks forward to the evolution from the mechanical evolution and layering in smart technology in our trucks," he said. "We're going to continue down that path."

In September 2025, Raymond expanded Basic Lineup with Lithium-Ion Stacker Solution to support skids, containers and crates.

According to the Raymond

website, The Raymond Corporation introduced a highly productive and economical Raymond Basics offering: the Raymond RBS26-F Stacker.

This lithium-ion-powered fork-over stacker serves as an ideal solution in compatibility with skids, crates, containers and platforms without bottom boards.

The Stacker maximizes reliability, productivity and affordability.

Howard said the Stacker helps operators move and stack products efficiently while reducing on-the-job fatigue.

"At Raymond, we're always looking for options that support the variety of needs that our customers have to efficiently and securely enhance their operation," he added.

2025 Heartfelt Giving

"Every year Raymond has its annual turkey distribution, where it's an opportunity to thank each and every associate for their contributions," said Howard. "The executive team and leaders personally thank and shake hands and present each employee with a turkey."

"We also donate additional turkeys to local food banks in the community," he added. "It's such a touching day, not only for our associates but for the community as well."

The turkey is a nice representation of how thankful we are for our employees," Howard said.

"We continue to collect

feedback from our employees and they have indicated the turkey donation is one of the highest valued," he added.

Chenango County Advantages and Limits

"We're so honored to have such a dedicated work force," Howard said. "From a future perspective, we look forward to growing over time. Regionally we have over 2,800 associates."

"Our apprenticeship program has been running over 30 years and we will continue to hold open interviews from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Fridays, at our Greene location," he said.

Howard said Raymond offers employment opportunities in a vast range of skill levels.

"Raymond's research enables studies that continue to move material handling industry forward," he said. "This means continued growth in the area."

Workforce and Talent

Howard said they have been very fortunate over time in earning the many awards they have received.

"We have hired a large number of people over the many years and have been very successful with the skill level ranges of individuals across the board," he said. "It's such a touching day, not only for our associates but for the community as well."

The turkey is a nice representation of how thankful we are for our employees," Howard said.

Howard noted welding is

one of the hardest positions to fill but they continue to work with local organizations to support that need.

Bringing Forward Thinking to Chenango County

In a recent Forbes Business Development Council article, Raymond highlights how localized support, lean management practices, and data-driven insights help companies align global consistency with site-level flexibility.

In October 2025, Raymond took part in New Energy New York Battery Week. It was a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and the energy technologies shaping the future.

Howard said they showcased their latest lithium-ion advancements, hosted facility tours and joined industry leaders to discuss the power of partnership in advancing battery innovation.

Howard noted The Raymond Corporation is the largest fabricator in New York State.

Partners and Programs

"We have over 150 partners in the area and this allows our organization to find talent and create the work force of the future," said Howard.

Raymond continues to lead through events during Battery Week, Manufacturing Day, Raymond University Research Week, Boces, community service and much more.

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Raymond Corporation named 2026 Manufacturer of the Year -

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tions. One in three forklifts sold in North America is either a Toyota or Raymond product.

In October Raymond held an event on campus for high school juniors and seniors for a day of education, advice and career insights. Ryan DeLaney, VP of Operations at Raymond presented an educational piece, there were associate presentations from Lee Moxley, Ashley Lyons, interactive booths, tours, and more.

Later that day, Raymond executives and community members gathered at the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich to celebrate Raymond being selected as the 2025 Commerce Chenango Manufacturer of the Year.

The company received this award, as well as a citation from New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, in acknowledgment of their ongoing impact on the economic prosperity of Chenango County.

At the event, Commerce Chenango President and CEO Sal Testani said, "A company like Raymond doesn't just make forklifts, they make opportunities for our entire community. To have an internationally traded company based here in Chenango County is an amazing opportunity



Maribeth Absi, Senior Director of Human Resources at Raymond, Ryan DeLaney, VP Operations at Raymond are presented the 2025 Manufacturer of the Year award by Commerce Chenango President and CEO Sal Testani with award. (Submitted photo)

for people to never have to leave our community and still work on tremendous products like Raymond forklifts."

The company was founded in Greene, after George Raymond Sr. purchased a foundry (Lyon Iron Works) in 1922.

Throughout the century in Chenango County, Raymond gained many patents for innovative solutions, from the Double-

Faced Wooden Pallet and the Hydraulic Hand Lift Truck to the first Narrow Aisle Truck.

The Raymond Corporation celebrated its 11th annual Manufacturing Day by welcoming young students and talented professionals to experience valuable career education.

The annual event has been celebrated by The Manufacturing Institute in partnership with the

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) since 2012, with the official date landing on the first Friday of every October.

DeLaney, VP of Operations at Raymond said, "Talented and creative minds are always needed in the supply chain workforce, which is why we host this yearly event. We want to support an environment for students to gain knowledge and envision a future

career in manufacturing."

For over a century, Raymond has worked tirelessly to create a future-forward organization focused on innovation and constant improvement.

"Investing in students and education is a crucial part of not only their future, but ours, too," DeLaney said. "By inspiring and handing them an inside look into growing areas such as manufacturing, AI

advancements and sustainability, we're supporting the next talent that's going to take our industry to the next level. In addition to our non-stop improvement, we are proud to be fueling the student's journey, as well."

For more information about Manufacturing Day and Raymond's training and solutions, visit www.raymondcorp.com.

The Raymond Corporation, a member of the Toyota Industries family of companies, is a leading global provider of best-in-class material handling products and intelligent intralogistics solutions.

Built on principles of innovation and continuous improvement for over 100 years, Raymond's integrated automation, telematics, virtual reality and advanced energy solutions provide ways to optimize operations and bring warehouse and distribution operations performance.

Raymond electric forklift trucks are engineered to achieve increased productivity and efficiency. They are designed to provide ecological and economic benefits.

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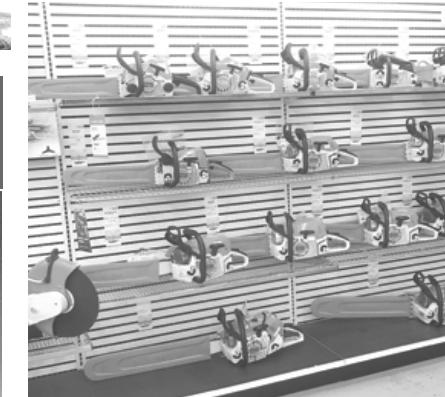
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Community welcomed redesigned South Broad Street Park in 2025

NORWICH - After a year of planning and fundraising and a summer and fall of construction work, the South Broad Street Park opened to the public in November.

While the park is privately owned by the Norwich Cemetery Association it has been generously made available to the public for almost a century by an agreement with the City of Norwich.

The renovated park includes a new, larger pavilion and two wide walking paths that have extensions providing sitting areas with creek views.

Access to the park has been improved with a relocated and expanded parking lot and security features include a 360° view camera tied to the police department and a blue light station. Additional features include new benches, landscaping improvements and decorative fencing. Also included is a kinetic sculpture designed by California artist Jeffrey Laudenslager who crafted it for its central location in the park.

Of special significance is that this project was entirely underwritten by generous donations from the Fred and Ramona Mirabito Foundation, the Higley Foundation, Greater Norwich Foundation, R. C. Smith Foundation, Follett Foundation and Norwich Building Tomorrow Foundation. There were no taxpayer dollars used.



After major renovations the South Broad Street Park reopened to the public in November after a year of planning and construction work, thanks to the Norwich Cemetery Association and other community groups. They worked together on the project at no cost to the taxpayer and created a welcoming vision for travelers entering the City of Norwich. (Submitted photo)

The project sponsors would like to express their deepest appreciation to these local foundations for their vision, generosity and commitment to our community.

A project of this magnitude takes a team to implement and special thanks need to be

extended to those involved without whom it would not have been successful.

The Norwich Cemetery Association should be credited for embracing this community improvement opportunity and for making the land available to the public.

LaBella Engineering was instrumental in providing guidance and design services and organizers are particularly grateful for the many extra hours of volunteer time Mike Flanagan devoted to construction management.

Burrell's Excavating was

the lead contractor and a great partner in executing the work and as foreman Adam Monroe took both a professional and personal interest in ensuring that everyone did their job well.

Organizers would also like to extend their appreciation

to the City of Norwich for their cooperation and for their ongoing maintenance of the park. They are also grateful to the neighboring property owners for their understanding and support during construction.

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Village of Sherburne makes gains with municipal fiber optic program -



The Village of Sherburne provides fire department and ambulance service, a village swimming pool with free swimming lessons, a vibrant little league, and youth football. (Submitted photo)

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village has definitely taken care of the electric department over the last 121 years. Currently, Acee explained the village has roughly 2,600 electric customers on their grid.

"We have a good team," Acee explained. "They take pride in their work. They are doing their job and taking care of their friends and neighbors at the same time." The municipal electric service has a good safety rating with a low frequency and duration of electrical outages.

The Village is always looking for ways to improve their system. "We were the first municipality in New York State to have two way meters," Acee said. The upgraded meters allowed for usage readings to be performed remotely. "We've had

those for about 12 years now," Acee said. "One thing that makes us different is that we are willing to try new things. We've tried some things that didn't work, but technology is the one way to end up with a more resilient and efficient grid," Acee said.

The mayor said that the village is working with the NYISO (Independent System Operator) to identify ways to make the electrical system more efficient.

"We were also the first municipality to have an open access ethernet system in New York State," Acee explained. Sherburne's Fiber Optic network began about 15 years ago. Initially the project put all village systems on the fiber optic loop. Around 2020, the village received grant funding through ConnectALL to bring the fiber optic network

to residential customers in the Village of Sherburne as part of a pilot project. With over 800 customers currently on Sherburne's Fiber Optic network, Acee estimated that providing fiber optic connection to Sherburne residents has saved community members approximately \$100 per month.

Originally, Sherburne fiber optic lines were run on the existing utility poles for Sherburne Electric. However, as the project grew and expanded, the village decided to extend their fiber optic network to other areas where broadband internet was not available. By contracting with NYSEG and other utility providers, Sherburne can hang their fiber optic cables on those utility poles, allowing for a larger fiber optic network.

Over the last year, the

Village of Sherburne has been working on an expansion to their fiber optic network. The expansion project will bring broadband fiber optic internet to the Town of Columbus as well as many parts of the Town of Sherburne where broadband is not currently available.

"The potential exists for further expansion in the future," Acee said. In 2026, the village plans to finish running the fiber optic lines to the portions of the town without fiber optic internet. This excludes certain areas that are already being serviced by other high-speed internet providers. "This is a great way for a rural community to take advantage of big city tech and apply it at a low cost for its participants," Acee added.

While the fiber optic project has been a primary focus

for the Village of Sherburne in 2025, the village has completed many other projects. Every year, the village works on updating area sidewalks and streets. They clear branches and brush. "We provide a lot in those areas to make us healthy as a community."

Sherburne also looked at ways to improve energy efficiency in 2025. "As part of our initiative to increase the number of energy efficient and quality houses, we bought two buildings that were beyond repair and demolished both of them in 2025." The village hopes to continue to support local retail stores in 2026 and improve housing in the area.

While some businesses have moved out of the community, others have moved in or are looking to expand in Sherburne in the coming year.

Acee said that Eaton Pet and Pasture, which is currently located in Earlville, recently purchased business space in Sherburne in order to expand their operations. In addition, a cannabis processing facility will soon be moving into the old bus garage in Sherburne. Both businesses plan to provide opportunities for other businesses to lease commercial space. "Sherburne has always been a come-back community," Acee said. "If we lose a business, we gain a business. We're happy to see businesses filling vacant spaces within the village."

According to the mayor, all of the municipal offerings that Sherburne provides make it a great place to live. Acee said the improvements the village is providing draw businesses and residents to our area.



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Building a *Legacy*



When longtime friends Chris Griffith and Henry Wheelwright first met as college roommates, they never imagined that decades later they would be leading one of the Northeast's most respected private wealth firms. Today, the co-founders of Stablepoint Partners head a team of advisors who deliver sophisticated financial planning and investment management with a distinctly personal touch.

Griffith and Wheelwright began their careers at major financial institutions, including UBS and Morgan Stanley, where they spent two decades honing their expertise. After two decades in the traditional wirehouse world, they made a bold decision: to go independent and build a firm that could offer true fiduciary guidance, free from the constraints of big-firm agendas.

"When we launched Stablepoint Partners in 2023, we wanted to be more than portfolio managers," says Griffith. "Our goal was to act as personal CFOs for our clients and their families."

With roots in Norwich, NY the practice is headquartered on the South Shore of Boston- where both founders live, work, and are raising their families—Stablepoint Partners blends big-firm resources with the accessibility and warmth of a boutique practice. "When we started out in Hingham, we saw a gap in the market," says Wheelwright. "People wanted high-level financial advice without having to drive into Boston. We bring that to our client's all over the country, and we've never looked back."

The firm's four Certified Financial Planners—Griffith, Wheelwright, Claire Smith, and Kenan Startzell—bring a mix of seasoned insight, fresh perspective, and collaborative energy. Together, they empower clients with the confidence to make sound financial decisions. Their services span comprehensive wealth planning, investment management, estate and tax strategy, business transition consulting, and philanthropic guidance. Clients also benefit from the firm's proprietary Stablepoint Platform app and trusted custodial partnerships with Goldman Sachs and Charles Schwab.

Today, Stablepoint Partners manages more than \$900 million in client assets, serving successful families, entrepreneurs, and executives across the South Shore and beyond.

What sets the firm apart, however, goes beyond numbers.

"At its core, wealth management is about relationships," says Wheelwright. "We've worked with some families for more than 20 years—through milestones, transitions, and even across generations. That trust means everything." Griffith agrees. "It's incredibly rewarding to see the long-term impact of what we do," he says. "We're not just managing money; we're helping families build legacies."

After more than 25 years of friendship, Griffith and Wheelwright have navigated the highs and lows of business and life together—building their careers, raising families, and now leading an award-winning firm grounded in trust and purpose.

"We get to do meaningful work with people we genuinely care about," says Wheelwright. "That makes it all worthwhile."

More information: stablepointprivatewealth.com

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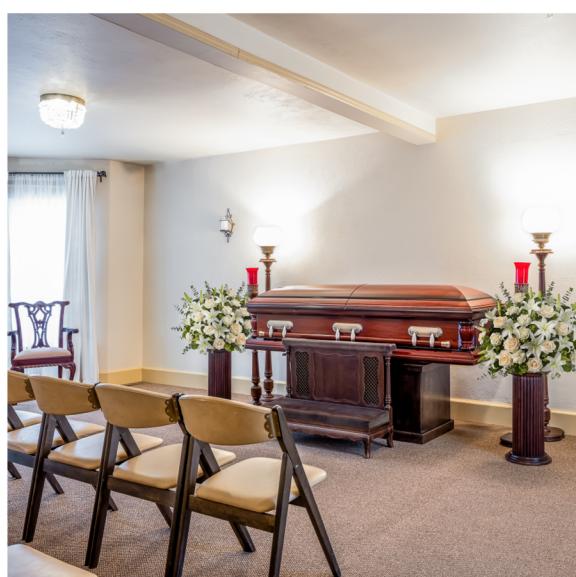


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Extremely compassionate people, who pay attention to every detail. I have dealt with this home through 2 owners as a professional and family in need of their services. I highly recommend them if you care for your loved one put them in their care.

-M.D.

....The care, understanding, and compassion John showed the family during a very hard time is unmatched. After losing my grandmother, he walked me through each step of the process and listened. When we were thrown a curveball, John worked with me to make sure he knew the family and I were supported. Wilson Funeral home and John are such a big part of the Norwich community and they're lucky to have them.

-C.T.

FUNERAL, CREMATION & PRE-PLANNING SPECIALISTS



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