

Chenango Valley Home working toward licensure change

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NORWICH — Chenango Valley Home and Apartments (CVH), located at 24 Canasawacta Street in Norwich, launched their “Empowering Seniors: Expanding Care Access” capital campaign in May to assist them in changing their licensure from a New York State Adult Home to an Assisted Living Residence (ALR).

CVH Board President Byron Harrington said as an adult home, the facility can provide meals, assist residents with getting dressed or bathing, and things of that nature. However, adult homes are not allowed to provide any type of nursing care, such as applying band-aids or ointments, wound care, or taking a resident’s temperature.

He said upgrading their license to an ALR would allow them to provide more types of care to their residents, and it would also prevent discharges of residents who develop the need for additional care over time.

“Assisted living will get us more care. [We can] take care of people longer,” he said. “We figure about 50 percent of our discharges could have stayed here had we been assisted living. We’ve had to turn away 20 people [because] we weren’t the level that they needed.”

To date, CVH has spent over \$200,000 on feasibility studies, consulting, and preliminary architectural opinions over a three-year period. These explo-



CVH Board Secretary Mary Davis, CVH Board Member Mary El Emerson, CVH Board President Byron Harrington, CVH Executive Director Jennifer Randall, and CVH Board Member and Capital Campaign Chairperson John Antonowicz. Not pictured: Vice President Peter DeRensis; Treasurer Rosemaria Cole; Board Members Allison Gunther, Lisa Natoli, Esq., and Cathy Perry; and CVH capital campaign committee members Robert Nassar, Virginia Lee, and Kathy Glavin. (Photo by Sarah Genter)



NYS Senator Peter Oberacker speaking with CVH Executive Director Jennifer Randall. Oberacker visited the facility on July 22 to learn about their goal of upgrading their licensure to an Assisted Living Residence, and the potential for state grants and supports. (Photo by Sarah Genter)



A seating area and waterfall at Chenango Valley Home and Apartments. The facility includes 30 private rooms, 12 independent apartments, outdoor seating areas, a library, a beauty salon, a sun deck, a large dining room, and more. (Photo by Sarah Genter)

rations into the scope of the project determined approximately \$3 million worth of renovations needed to get the existing building up to New York State ALR codes, including new fire doors throughout the facility, the installation of American Disability Act-compliant bathrooms not required under the current license, upstairs laundry to prevent the spread of disease, and more.

Perhaps the largest part of the project is the need to replace the 1950s-era elevator with a larger one that can accommodate stretchers, which Harrington said will probably cost close to \$1 million.

CVH launched their capital campaign on May 31 to ask the community for assistance in reaching this goal. Since then, Harrington said the community has stepped up, with individuals contributing just under \$1 million in donations and pledges.

“I’ve been impressed, because a lot of the people that have contributed we didn’t even contact. I mean, we sent out letters and brochures to a lot of people, but we’ve had a lot of people that have just heard about it and contributed,” said Harrington. “We are approaching the local foundations, but a lot of it is just coming out of people’s pockets.”

Those who would like to donate can do so online at ChenangoValleyHome.org/donate, or by calling CVH at 607-334-6598.

Chenango Valley Home also recently received a visit from

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NYS Senator Peter Oberacker, to discuss their goals and the potential for state grants and supports.

"I'm here to just listen, to kind of absorb the good work that you folks are doing here, and then somewhere down the road see if there's some things that we can do to not only make it as good as it is, but maybe even just a little bit better would be nice," said Oberacker.

"This segment that you're into is so important. It truly is. Because of this being a rural district and a rural community, more and more we're just seeing everything just going by the wayside. It's been reduced," he continued. "You guys are really

an important part of that overall service."

Upgrading their licensure to an Assisted Living Residence would be a boon for the community. Currently, individuals who need an ALR would have to move to a facility outside of the area, as the closest ALR facility is nearly an hour away.

CVH Board Secretary Mary Davis said an ALR right at home would make a world of difference to local seniors and their families.

"With the climate around here in wintertime, that would be quite a trip for some people. And to be able to take them home and have lunch with them, that's important," she said. "Exposure to grandchildren too, when you get into

that. It would be much easier if they could just get in the car and drive from Oxford here and visit."

Chenango Valley Home and Apartments has been serving the Chenango County community since 1896. The current facility includes 30 private rooms; 12 independent apartments; housekeeping, maintenance, and laundry services; a library; a beauty salon; 24-hour supervision; an emergency call system; sitting areas; a sun deck; no-step entrances, elevators, and handrails throughout the building; a large dining room; three restaurant-quality meals per day, plus snacks and beverages available 24 hours a day; and more.

Additionally, residents get to enjoy a wellness pro-

gram promoting healthy choices, daily exercise classes, live entertainment events, games, various clubs and classes, arts and crafts, gardening, religious and social groups, and much more.

"We've been here 128 years and we want to go at least another 128 years," said Harrington. "That's what we're looking at: the future and what's needed in the community, and assisted living is definitely needed here."

For more information on Chenango Valley Home and Apartments and their available openings, visit ChenangoValleyHome.org, the Chenango Valley Home & Apartments Facebook page, or call CVH Executive Director Jennifer Randall at 607-334-6598.