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It takes a village

SGF DPW Superintendent
T.J. Chagnon bids
'bittersweet' farewell
to public service

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SOUTH GLENS FALLS – For over 15 years, T.J. Chagnon has been working to maintain, and at times literally build up the village; the last eight of which as the superintendent of the Department of Public Works. As he bids farewell to the bureaucratic red tape, interrupted vacations, and sleepless nights waiting for that first snowflake to fall, Chagnon reflects on a career full of pride and fulfillment.

"We are the heart and the soul of the village," he said of the DPW. "We are the

heartbeat."

Chagnon grew up in Hudson Falls before moving to South Glens Falls briefly after graduating high school in 1991.

"My parents built a house over here in South Glens Falls, so I moved over here, I lived with them for a brief time, then I moved out on my own," he said.

He moved to Glens Falls where he met his wife, Sue, and started his family but soon moved back across the river in order to enroll their first child into the South Glens Falls School District.

"Pretty much because we wanted to be able to have my mother get Paige on and off the school bus," he said with a laugh.

In 2001, T.J. and Sue bought a house in the village where they've lived ever since.

At the time, Chagnon was driving commercial trucks which kept him away from

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From, left Kiley Hyde (son's girlfriend); Michael Chagnon (son); Sue Chagnon (wife); T.J. Chagnon; Paige Buser (daughter); Rick Buser (son in law); and Kayden Buser (grandson).

FLOMATIC PLANS \$4 MILLION EXPANSION ON PRUYN'S ISLAND



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Flomatic manufacturing facility at 15 Pruyn's Island.

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GLENS FALLS – Flomatic Corporation has plans for a nearly \$4 million, 50,400-square-foot expansion of its manufacturing facility on Pruyn's Island, where the company produces process piping valves for heavy industrial uses. The substantial expansion of the already 62,000-square-foot facility will be for new warehousing and manufacturing capabilities.

The proposed expansion will include expanded warehousing of both raw materials and finished additional office spaces, a cafeteria, meeting/training spaces, and a gymnasium for employees. Also, there are currently four truck load-

ing docks on the rear of the Pruyn's Island facility and there will be three new truck docks added in the building expansion, the company stated.

There will be an anticipated increase of between 20 to 25 employees associated with the creation of an additional 38 parking spaces. The Flomatic facility currently employs 75 people ranging from manufacturing to administrative duties.

The existing footprint has offices on both the main floor and upper floor of the original building that was constructed in the late 1970s.

Back in 2018-19, Flomatic completed a similar \$3.3 million expansion to its Pruyn's Island manufacturing facility, with a nearly 20,000-square-foot addition that

encompassed all aspects of valve manufacturing, research, development and testing. New York State Economic Development provided \$660,000 in grant funding for the 2018 expansion.

At the time, then-CEO Bo Andersson told The Post-Star that "there is still room for growth at the site."

"We have about 12 acres, so we can expand the facility almost double again if we have to," Andersson said in 2019.

Now that further expansion is coming to fruition.

"The facility expansion will be in keeping with the aesthetic of

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A fresh start: SGF resident takes on SUNY Reconnect program

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SOUTH GLENS FALLS – Sometimes life throws you an unexpected tragedy so big it has a way of upending your entire life trajectory. For South Glens Falls resident Elizabeth "Beth" Belair, it was the death of her grandmother.

After graduating high school in 2005, Belair started attending SUNY Adirondack while also coaching soccer, softball, and basketball full time for local youth. But the sudden loss of that beloved family member left her reeling.

"That was the first family death I've ever experienced, and just turning 18, a freshman in college, [I] didn't know how to navigate those emotions and feelings... on top of coaching, working, and going to school."

Belair said she eventually turned to substance abuse to ease the pain, and everything else essentially fell by the wayside. "That was my pathway for the longest time to deal with my pain and deal with losses."

Belair said she struggled with addiction for several years, then her uncle, New York State Trooper Timothy Pratt, died while on duty in October 2016. He was assisting the driver of a stopped tractor trailer in the Wilton area when, while walking back to his patrol car, another vehicle struck him. He was flown to Albany Medica Center where he died from his injuries. And Belair retreated further into her addiction.

"I just got in a dark hole for four and a half years and I almost actually died due to a drug overdose on February 7 of 2020. February 8 is my sobriety date. I was done using. I had an awakening element of, like, 'What the heck are you doing? You know this is not you,' and my life has changed ever since. I found our Lord, our heavy power, spirit and he has guided me along the way."

She said she decided to stop taking substances, and stop working a warehouse job that she had been at for about 18 years.

"I said, I don't know what this is, what you're trying to call me to do." But soon her new path came into focus. She first began her career shift training to be a recovery coach through Hope & Healing Recovery Center.

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