

Adirondack Journal

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Ancient IG weapons on display in New York Museum

By THOM RANDALL
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Perched in a horse-drawn wagon during the recent Christmas in Warrensburgh fest, Santa elicits a smile from a boy after inquiring about his holiday wishes. The annual festival held recently was warmly received by both local residents and visitors due to its traditional small-town aspects. While secular events in the region are winding down this week, church services and spiritually oriented activities are increasing. Photo by Thom Randall

THIS WEEK
LAKE GEORGE

Big Apple Circus
not returning
IN NORTH WARREN

▶ PAGE 2

'Magic Salt' working well in village

By THOM RANDALL
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LAKE GEORGE — Use of rock salt coated with a gooey natural distillery residue for spreading on local roadways is believed to be curbing environmental degradation while reducing corrosion to vehicles and village infrastructure.

Lake George Village Public Works Superintendent Dave Harrington said at a village board meeting Dec. 16 that the use of a product called Magic Salt on the village streets was working well — keeping roadways safe while reducing road salt usage.

Magic Salt is composed of rock salt coated with a sweet gooey swirl left over from distilling alcoholic beverages. The concoction sticks to the road better than untreated rock salt and keeps roadways less slippery at lower temperatures, according to reports.

Highway officials have said that it takes up to 50 percent less Magic Salt on roadways to prevent freeze-up than regular rock salt, which decreases chloride pollution of waterways and groundwater.

Harrington said the substance has cut

Superintendent
chosen at NWCS

▶ PAGES 5-7

Burgers off to
strong start

▶ PAGE 11

Pilot: Market county airport as home base

By THOM RANDALL
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QUEENSBURY — The county airport advisory committee, formed following recent controversy over the venue's operating deficit and pending runway expansion, exhibited harmony in its first meeting Dec. 16.

In a spirit of collaboration, members of the committee — which represents a cross-section of stakeholders in the airport — discussed a variety of ideas to promote the airport and boost its use and revenue.

Queensbury resident Harrison Freer, chosen by the Glens Falls Pilots' Association to represent their interests on the committee, suggested that the airport be marketed to pilots who have fractional ownership in aircraft — like time-shares in resort property —

which he said was a growing trend.

"We should make this airport an attractive home for such group owners of aircraft," he said. "It represents a lot of win-win opportunities."

Warren County Economic Development czar Ed Bartholomew, another member of the committee,

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Magic Salt

from page 1

the village's salt usage substantially and has been effective in keeping roads clear — and its price has decreased recently by about \$9 per ton.

"We've had great luck with it," Harrington said.

Some municipalities in New York State have reported that converting to Magic Salt has cut their salt usage by about half, which not only cuts pollution, but reduces the corrosion on road infrastructure and vehicles caused by either salt or calcium chloride, another substance used to melt ice on roadways.

Bolton is planning to start using the material soon on their roads as a project initiated by the Lake George Watershed Coalition. The coalition obtained a grant earlier this year to construct a building for \$92,000 to hold Magic Salt and keep it dry.

Bolton Town Supervisor Ron Conover said Dec. 17 that the building is virtually complete, and use of Magic Salt would begin soon.

"Initial reports are that it's an excellent product," he said. "We'll be monitoring how much we use and how effective it is — we're encouraged at this stage."

Conover continued that salt from roadway runoff was degrading water quality in Lake George, and he was hopeful that Magic Salt would provide a remedy.

"The number one problem pollutant in the lake is road salt," he said. "We need to reduce chloride while maintaining public safety."

Coalition officials have asked the Darrin Freshwater Institute to monitor the use of Magic Salt and to assess its impact on area water quality.

The Coalition has reported long-term water quality data for Lake George shows a steady and alarming increase in the lakewater's salt content. According to Freshwater Institute data, chlorides in Lake George have nearly doubled in the 30 years, which Coalition officials say threatens Lake George's aquatic life and jeopardizes the lake's use as a drinking water source in future years if roadway salt runoff is not curbed substantially.

The Watershed Coalition has reported that if the use of Magic Salt proves beneficial in Bolton and Lake George Village, the organization may lobby to have the substance used in other communities surrounding the lake.

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