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Franklin County CCE awarded \$100K for Farm-to-School programs

STATE AGRICULTURE DEPT. PROVIDING MORE THAN \$1.5M ACROSS STATE

By **RICHARD ROSENTERER**

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MALONE — Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County is getting \$100,000 that is earmarked to help local school districts implement and improve their Farm-to-School programs – the monies are part of \$1.5 million in funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The state funding is geared to increase the use of healthy, locally-sourced foods in schools and designed to strengthen connections between school districts and local farms to grow agricultural economy, according to the state agency.

Local official praised the incoming funding for a project that is meant to strengthen the current Farm-to-School supply chain and encourage all districts to work towards the 30 percent New York State Initiative.

“The Farm to School Program in Franklin County is a model for how a community can work together to strengthen relationships and collaborations to benefit local producers, schools and nutrition for our children,” said Scott Gordon, executive director of CCE Franklin County told the Telegram after learning of the funding. “This win-win program is strengthening and supporting our local agriculture economy and at the same time decreasing our reliance on food products outsourced and shipped from far distances and even other countries.”

“I am thrilled to see this critical investment in our schools and local agricultural community,” Katie Remmers, Farm to School coordinator at CCE Franklin County said. “This funding will allow us to deepen the connections between our students and the farms that nourish them, bringing more fresh, locally grown foods to our



Katie Remmers, Farm to School program coordinator, serving beet brownies to students at St. Regis Mohawk School during a Harvest of the Month taste test, offering a creative way to introduce local, seasonal produce into school meals while promoting local agriculture. Provided photo

school cafeterias. “By supporting local farmers and providing healthier meal options for students, we are not only building stronger, more resilient food systems but also fostering a greater appreciation for New York’s rich agricultural heritage,” Remmers added. “We are excited to build upon the success of the Farm to School program in Franklin County and extend the impact to a total of four school districts, ensuring that more students and local farmers benefit from this growing initiative. Farm to School makes a significant difference in the lives of youth and producers in New York State, and we are proud to be part of this impactful initiative.”

Farm-to-School initiatives have been implemented throughout New York and all over the country – in day care centers, in public and private schools, and in colleges and universities, according to the local CCE, and they often also include other components such

as classroom lessons on food and nutrition; visits to farms and farmers’ markets; creation of school gardens, and the support of school-based community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

Other Cornell Cooperative Extensions in the North Country will also receive funding from the state. CCE of St. Lawrence County will receive \$98,058 to help expand the program’s frozen product line by increasing freezer storage capacity and including locally sourced beef and pork in area schools.

CCE of Essex County will get \$80,890 to help provide agricultural education to students and helping with procurement of local farm products and farmer outreach.

According to the state Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), “local” refers to any product grown or produced in the New York State, and there are three C’s of Farm-to-School: Cafeteria, serving local produce in school

meals; Classroom, teaching students about the importance of agriculture; and Community, involving the collective wisdom of the community, helping the farmers and families that live in the community gain a stronger connection to the schools through field trips, lectures, and other events.

Research shows Farm-to-School provides a multitude of benefits, according to the county’s CCE website: It prepares children to learn; improves health and well-being; and strengthens the local economy by supporting local farmers and distributors.

According to the NYSDAM, funding provided through the Farm-to-School program helps schools connect with local farmers, increase the use of locally grown food on school menus, and improve student health, while providing increased economic benefits to New York’s farmers.

“In New York State, we’re lucky to have some of the high-



Nicole Foster, school food service manager at Salmon River Central School District, serving New York State apples with caramel as part of a Farm to School taste test during the FFA Fall Festival on October 12.

Provided photo

est quality agricultural producers in the world right at our fingertips. New York’s Farm-to-School Program incorporates fresh, locally grown foods into school menus while increasing students’ understanding of where – and who – their meals come from,” NYSDAM Commissioner Richard A. Ball said in a news release. “Today’s awarded projects are great examples of how we are helping to connect the dots between our growers and the communities they serve, strengthen our local food system, and provide a boost to our farmers statewide.”

Senator Michelle Hinchey, who represents the state’s 41st District and is the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, praised the state’s initiative.

“Every New York student deserves to eat healthy, locally grown food as part of the meals they receive at school. By expanding farm-to-school partnerships, we’re creating a clear win-win that supports our kids

CCE

From T2

and delivers economic development opportunities for New York farmers," she said in the release. "As a major advocate for expanding New York's Farm-to-School program, I'm thrilled to see many grant awards go toward helping schools create new programs and bring more New York farm products into cafeterias."



The School Food Service Manager at Salmon River Central School District proudly highlights local partnerships by showcasing two exceptional Franklin County producers: New York State maple syrup from Winters Harvest Shack and breakfast sausage from Pat and April's Pork. These locally sourced ingredients are part of the district's commitment to supporting regional agriculture and providing students with fresh, high-quality meals. Provided photo

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Pet fund aims to help low-income households with veterinary care

Franklin County among target areas

By **RICHARD ROSENTRER**

rrosenreter@mtelgram.com

A new non-profit organization was recently created that aims to help low-income families in Franklin, Essex, and Clinton Counties cover veterinary care costs for their pets, with a goal of allowing families to keep their pets during difficult times — and it's in the opening stages of making that plan a reality.

The Northern Adirondack Pet Fund Inc. (NAPF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, founded by Matthew Griffin who serves at its executive director, was incorporated in July, and although based in Clinton County, it's geared to help families throughout Franklin County, and is working on getting the word out to those eligible households along to those wishing to support its mission.

According to Griffin, the concept was sparked after he saw social media posts depicting people struggling with pet care costs — but the means to generate funds to help didn't provide safeguards for those wishing to donate.

"Crowdfunding was often suggested, but many were hesitant to donate to strangers without guarantees. I wanted to create an organization that could verify both the financial need of families and their pets' care needs through veterinarians, then distribute funds directly to the provider," Griffin told the Telegram. "This approach builds trust and ensures that donations are used as intended."

Griffin described his passion for animals as a driving force and reason for starting NAPF.

"What breaks my heart is knowing families who are

just as bonded to their pets may face unexpected veterinary costs they can't afford," he said. "That's why I'm passionate about NAPF's work. We aim to help families avoid heartbreaking decisions by ensuring pets receive the care they need without financial strain."

"I've always loved animals, but growing up in apartments, we only had small pets like fish and hamsters. As an adult, I had cats but wasn't a 'dog person' due to a bad experience as a child," Griffin said, adding that about 12 years ago, he decided to foster an elderly dog, Briggs, from the North Country SPCA. "I thought, if it didn't work out, at least I'd be giving him a good home for the time he had left. However, we developed a bond. I can't imagine my life without pets."

NAPF details

According to Griffin, NAPF was incorporated in July and received its 501(c)(3) status in August, and the organizations public programs will roll out in phases starting in January 2025. He said that although

NAPF hasn't started accepting applications yet, the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"People have reached out, asking for help, which confirms that there's significant demand for this kind of support, possibly more than I anticipated," he said, adding that although they don't have a physical office yet, NAPF does have board members who represent Franklin, Essex, and Clinton counties through their homes or workplaces, ensuring local representation.

Griffin said details of NAPF planned programs plans will

be released in December.

"Our funding primarily comes from donations and fundraising events. As a new nonprofit, we face challenges in securing grants compared to more established organizations, but we're actively pursuing opportunities," he said. "Community donations are vital, and the support we receive directly impacts how many families we can help."

Griffin said over the past few months, he has learned plenty about the needs of low-income families, and there are more families in need than he



The Northern Adirondack Pet Fund Inc. founder and executive director Matthew Griffin. Provided photo

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Pet

From T4

expected.

"Initially, I wasn't sure how much need there would be. I saw requests for help with vet bills on social media but wondered if I was noticing them more because I was looking for it - a 'frequency illusion,'" he said. "When I started analyzing census data, I realized how significant the need is."

The numbers Griffin said he came up with are that about 22.6 percent of households in this service area qualify for assistance based on income and pet ownership, with Franklin County showing even higher need at more than 25 percent.

Expanding initiative

After he discovered such an extensive tri-county need, Griffin said he decided to expand his initiative.

"At first, my focus was on helping my local community. However, after researching, I realized the need extended beyond one area. Clinton County's poverty rate is about 1.14 times the national average, but Franklin County's is around 1.61 times the national average. Ignoring Franklin County would have been an oversight," he said. "We expanded NAPF's service area to help as many families as possible, including those in rural areas, like the northern end of Franklin County, where access to affordable veterinary care is even more challenging."

Griffin explained just why his organization's effort is so important.

"Many low-income families face financial stress, and unexpected pet care costs can quickly become overwhelming. Pets provide emotional support and companionship, especially during tough times. Our mission is to ensure pets receive the care they need, contributing to the well-being of families and communities," he said. "Helping families keep their pets also reduces strain on local shelters. When financial constraints force people to surrender their pets, it causes

heartbreak and increases the number of animals in already overcrowded shelters."

Criteria for help

Griffin said define "low-income" as having a household income no more than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, the current FPL for a family of three is \$25,820, so a family would qualify if their income is no more than \$51,640.

Among the other criteria to receive assistance from NAPF, applicants must: Be legal residents of Franklin, Essex, or Clinton county; and have been the legal guardian of their pet for at least six months.

Griffin said applicants should request funds for an upcoming procedure, reimbursements are not granted for past treatments.

"The requested procedures must be medically necessary. We don't cover routine care like vaccinations, flea and tick prevention, spaying or neutering, grooming, or emergency procedures requiring immediate intervention," he added.

Growing with a goal

According to Griffin, NAPF started with three members, himself, a small business owner, Andrew Andermatt, an English professor at Paul Smith's College, and Keith Carrow, a forester with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

He said that core trio recognized the need for diverse perspectives and have since expanded its board to include Tina Corcione, a licensed veterinarian, and Annie Rochon, a language professor at Paul Smith's College, and Jessica Kelly, a final-year veterinary student, who he said has been invaluable as a volunteer project coordinator that organizes fundraising events.

"We're still in the early stages, but we do have plans for expansion, which will depend on community support," Griffin said, adding that he hopes his organization can grow to help animals owned by those in need. "Although we haven't yet been able to

assist families directly, the anticipation of doing so is rewarding. We've worked hard to ensure we'll be ready when the time comes, and knowing we'll be able to ease both financial and emotional burdens for families is deeply fulfilling. We're excited for the opportunity to make a difference.

"Things are moving in a positive direction. Starting a nonprofit is challenging, but the community support has been incredible. From building our board to organizing fundraising events, so many people have stepped up to help," he said. "To everyone who has contributed—through donations, vol-

unteering, or spreading the word—we're truly grateful. Your belief in our mission has helped us lay a strong foundation, and we couldn't have reached this point without you. We're excited for what's ahead."

Those who are interested in supporting the pet fund's mission, are encouraged to visit the NAPF website at www.NorthernAdirondackPetFund.org. People may also sign up to receive its newsletter on the site as well.

"There, you can donate or learn about volunteer opportunities. With the New Year approaching, we're planning to expand our presence in Franklin County and would

love help from anyone passionate about animals," Griffin said.

Although the NAPF isn't at the stage of accepting applications yet, those interested in receiving help can follow the organization on its Facebook page for updates.

"You'll be notified when the application process opens," Griffin said. "Our goal is simple: To help pets stay with their families. Community involvement is key, whether through volunteering, donating, or spreading the word. Every bit of support brings us closer to making a real impact."

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Music festival raises \$35K

Fieldstone Festival helped raise funds to aid community

ALEXANDER VIOLO

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MALONE — This summer's Fieldstone Music Festival, the third annual, helped to raise funds for community members in need.

The 2024 Fieldstone Music Festival, held in July, raised over \$35,000 to assist local families, according to the foundation's director.

"Our net proceeds were \$35,000 compared to last year when our proceeds were \$20,000, we did much better this year," Amanda Tagliarino, senior director of the Fieldstone Foundation, said, "That reflects that each year we are doing better which is great."

Tagliarino said she believes multiple factors contributed to the growth of the festival since its

start a few years ago.

"I think word is beginning to spread about the event, it takes a little bit to build awareness of what we are doing and why we are doing it," she said, "Certainly, bringing in great talent to our local communities so that we can come together for a day of fun and for a good cause is awesome, and we hope it continues to grow year after year."

This year's festival was headlined by The Dave Matthews Tribute Band, according to a news release from the Fieldstone Foundation, which states local artists, food vendors, and artisans added to the event's atmosphere.

The Fieldstone Music Festival helps to support the Fieldstone Fund, which provides finan-

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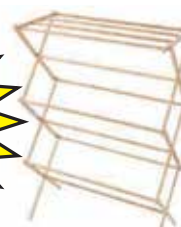


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Franklin County ski area to be auctioned Nov. 7

Big Tupper Ski Area, three other parcels on the block

By **CHRIS GAIGE**

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

The Franklin County Legislature voted last week to set Nov. 7 as the foreclosure auction date for the Big Tupper Ski Area and three nearby parcels located in southern Franklin County.

The move comes after years of advocacy and legal jockeying by those seeking to restore the ski center and creditors who sought to prevent foreclosure on the

grounds that it would unjustly deprive them of large sums of money they were owed from a failed development project.

The auction is scheduled to occur at 10 a.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse kitchen conference room, located at 355 West Main St., Malone, according to Franklin County Treasurer Fran Perry.

The Big Tupper ski area has long been defunct.

Hailed as one of the largest development plans in the Adirondacks, private investors had sought to develop the Adirondack Club and Resort. While the Adirondack Park Agency granted building permits, the underfinanced project — caused in part by

protracted court battles with environmental groups seeking to prevent development — never took off.

Owners stopped paying taxes on the property in 2013. Over a decade later, the county was finally able to foreclose on the property.

In August, Franklin County Court Judge Craig Carriero ruled the public auction could proceed.

Four parcels for auction

The auction will cover four

See SKI T9



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Ski

From T7

parcels, totaling \$649,395.90 in minimum bids, according to figures Perry provided Monday. Each will be auctioned individually, although the order is yet to be determined by the auction company, she said. Perry said that there is nothing prohibiting separate individuals or groups from purchasing one or any combination of the parcels.

The largest parcel is the Big Tupper ski area, with a minimum bid of \$468,873.71. The others include a marina located at 1715 state Route 30, a waterfront vacant lot on Big Tupper Lake, off of state Route 30 and Cranberry Pond, off of Little Simond road, according to the Franklin County real property database.

Perry said those are being auctioned for minimum bids of \$148,987.30, \$15,912.96 and \$15,621.93 respectively. She said those figures were calculated based on "delinquent taxes, penalty interest and statutory fees" that are owed to Franklin County.

She said that she had spoken with her legal counsel, who told her that she was in the clear to proceed to auction. Absolute Auctions and Realty, the company handling the sale process for the county, advised her that Nov. 7 would be an acceptable auction date. Perry then proposed that date to the county legislators, who voted to approve it.

Absolute Auctions and Realty also advised Perry that bidders interested in the ski area need to put down a deposit of \$100,000 to demonstrate that they have the resources to cover the price tag if their bid is successful. Perry said the money would go into a guaranteed deposit fund, but noted that Franklin County does not oversee that process.

"The county doesn't handle any of that; it all goes through the auction company," she said.

While the final bid will be



Big Tupper Ski Area is seen from Raquette Pond in Tupper Lake in 2018. Aaron Marbone/Adirondack Daily Enterprise

significantly higher than the deposit, Perry said the auction company, who she said has handled similar processes "all around the state," felt this was an appropriate figure to ensure potential bidders on the ski area are serious. She also said that Franklin County had regularly worked with the auction company for past foreclosure sales.

Perry confirmed that unsuccessful bidders will receive their full deposit back. She said the deposit would have to be made as part of the registration with the auction company, although she did not know when their registration deadline is.

At press time, Absolute Auctions and Realty had not posted an auction listing for Big Tupper on their website, aarauctions.com. Perry said the company was still gathering photos as part of their descriptions of the four parcels.

Town shut out

For a time, the town of Tupper Lake, which had worked with Franklin County on the matter, had planned to acquire the ski center. The town planned to renovate and re-open it as such. That

changed with a 2023 ruling from the United States Supreme Court.

The case, *Tyler v. Hennepin County*, prohibited governments from foreclosing on properties and pocketing the surplus proceeds beyond what was owed in back taxes and related penalties. The court, in a unanimous decision, said this was a violation of the U.S. Constitution's 5th Amendment. The relevant section of the amendment's text reads: "... nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

This pertains to the town of Tupper Lake, which does not have the funds to cover what will likely be a final bid producing a surplus significantly higher than the back taxes and penalties. The town had planned to cover the taxes and penalties only, in exchange for the property, which they would have had first rights to do.

With the Supreme Court's ruling, the town no longer had first rights to the mountain at the likely discounted price. In his August ruling, Franklin County Court Judge Carriero confirmed that the Big Tupper auction had to proceed in accordance with

the Supreme Court's Tyler decision.

While the news was disappointing to town officials, Tupper Lake town Supervisor Rickey Dattola said that the town is hopeful that whoever places the winning bid for Big Tupper will rehabilitate the ski center, as the town intended to.

He said he had been approached by two potential developers who expressed interest in re-opening the ski area and were curious about avenues of support available to them.

"Both of them are very much of the mindset that 'We want to open this as a ski center.' It may take a little time, but they were both very adamant about opening it as a ski center," Dattola said.

He added that the potential buyers saw the mountain as a four-season resort, mentioning hiking and mountain biking options for the ski area's off-seasons, a common theme among Adirondack ski resorts, as a means of generating additional revenue and remaining viable.

Dattola said that when the town was considering taking over the property, they estimated the cost of re-opening Big Tupper as a ski area to be

around \$15 million.

"That was from the Adirondack Club and Resort's figures. ... Those were from about five years ago, so there would likely be some increase to that," he said.

Despite the large investment, Dattola had confidence that an investor with enough capital would be able to cover the costs, including potential further litigation by environmental groups.

"Some people talk about millions like you and I talk about thousands," he said.

Dattola was clear in the mountain's importance to Tupper Lake.

"The ski center is the town's kingpin," he said. "That's the thing that's going to say 'I can open a business in Tupper Lake and I can survive for 12 months out of the year. That's so so important.'"

Given its importance, Dattola said he and many others in the area were glued to the outcome but were glad to see the saga appear to be nearing a conclusion.

"We got a month to wait. ... We're anxious, but it's close," Dattola said. "We're going to have a decision, and that's the important thing."

New providers join Hudson Headwaters in Malone

Center expands hours, accepting new patients

Telegram staff report

MALONE — Three new providers joined Hudson Headwaters family health center in the village earlier this month.

As of September, family nurse practitioners Susan Fos-

ter, Wilhelmina Sheridan and April Worlock are practicing in Malone and are accepting new patients, according to a press release from Hudson Headwaters Health Network.

See HUDSON T15

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Town votes to override tax cap

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

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MALONE — Meeting last week town council voted to pass a local law to override the tax cap for next year's budget.

According to Town Supervisor Andrea M. Stewart, the town board held a public hearing on overriding the tax cap in September.

"We had a public hearing, last meeting, for the proposed local law to override the tax cap and is that something we would like to entertain this evening, adopting that, or do we want to hold off?" Stewart said.

No public comments were offered during last month's public hearing.

"There's a formula that the state makes you go through and before the budget work even started the calculation from the state was that we needed to cut our budget by \$112,000 and change, at the start, in order to meet the cap," Stewart said, in September.

At last week's meeting, Councilman Paul Walbridge proposed adopting the local law, adding he thinks the town will be unable to stay under the cap during this year's budgeting process.

"I think the writing is on the wall, I feel," Walbridge said, "I don't mind waiting if everybody else wants to but I feel, why put this off?"

Stewart said the town needs to vote on the local law prior to finalizing the proposed budget.

"We've had time to chew on it but we can only do what we can," Walbridge said.

Town Council met with



Town council voted to pass a local law to override the tax cap for next year's budget at a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 9. To stay under the cap the town would have had to cut approximately \$112,000 from the current budget.

Denise Hudson, the town's budget officer on Friday, Oct 4 to hear a presentation on the municipality's tentative budget, holding subsequent meetings with June A. Fisher, a town court justice, and Mike Andrews, the highway department's superintendent.

The town's tentative expenditure budget totals \$4,783,288, according to town budget documents, an increase of \$349,526 from last year's budget.

Factoring in estimated revenues of \$495,648 and an unexpended balance of \$736,000, the amount to be raised by taxes for the town's tentative budget is

\$3,551,640, according to town budget documents.

The town's allowable levy is \$3,367,467, a \$112,953 decrease from 2024 and the tentative levy is currently \$184,173 above the 2025 tax cap, according to budget documents.

At the budget meeting, Stewart said if the town met the tax cap next year's budget would be \$112,000 under the current year's spending plan.

"In order to meet the tax cap we have to reduce last year's levy by \$112,000," Hudson said.

Stewart said this is a new situation for the town's budgeting process and

said last year was the first year the town's budget exceeded the tax cap.

Last year's tax levy was \$3,480,420, a figure that was \$205,279 over the state mandated tax cap, according to town documents last year, which state overall appropriations were increased by 7.50% with the tax levy increased by 10.44% from last year.

Last year's increase in the tax levy was attributed to the formation of a new ambulance district in Malone.

According to this year's budget documents, the town's tentative tax rate is \$9.82 a 12-cent increase

from the current year while the village's tentative tax rate is \$5.38, a 14-cent increase from the current year.

Hudson said a public hearing on the tentative budget will be scheduled in November.

In September, Stewart said increased costs and contractual obligations are factors contributing to the difficulty in meeting this year's tax cap.

"Just the cost of doing any kind of a business has gone through the roof," Stewart said, "To take our existing budget and cut it by 112 grand, I daresay is impossible."

Festival

From T6

cial assistance for food security, housing, healthcare, and other needs in the North Country, according to the release, and the Fieldstone Fund is a lifeline for North Country families and individuals facing financial challenges.

"We are incredibly proud of how the Fieldstone Music Festival has grown into an event that brings our community closer together," Tagliarino said in the release, "The success of the festival is a witness to what we can achieve when we work together, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed, our sponsors, local businesses, attendees and of course the volunteers who made it all possible."

Support from the festival's major sponsors and local businesses helped to make this year's festival possible, according to the organization, and special recognition goes to the Kinney Drugs Foundation and the partnership of Community Bank and One Group whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring the festival's success.

Also contributing to the success of this year's festival were the 50-plus volunteers, whose hard work and dedication helped to create an enjoyable experience for attendees, the release said, and plans are underway for next year's event, which will mark the fourth annual Fieldstone Music Festival.

"We will be kicking off our fourth annual Fieldstone Festival and we are very excited," Tagliarino said, "Every year we look at what went well and think

about new ideas. Right now we are in the very early planning stages but we are currently looking at local, regional and national talent as we plan next years festival. We are looking at kind of tweaking some things to make it even better every single year to have broader appeal to our community and our surrounding areas as well."

The Fieldstone Foundation is committed to fostering a stronger, more resilient and connected community, according to Fieldstone, and the foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the North Country by providing support for essential community services.

"What we seek to do with the Fieldstone Fund is bridge that gap of folks who are experiencing urgent financial hardships that don't have access to any funding to help support them in their time of need," Tagliarino said, "We serve as almost a safety net. These are folks who maybe fall just shy of HEAP benefits or who perhaps can't afford medication. It is more expensive than ever before and to have to choose between medication and food is a tough position to be in. The Fieldstone Fund seeks to keep all funds local and support families and individuals in need in the North Country."

The foundation works to ensure that all residents have access to the resources they need to thrive through initiatives such as the Backpack Program, Summer Feeding Program, and the Fieldstone Fund, according to the release.

According to fieldstonefoundation.net, the foundation is an affiliate of Citizen Advocates, Inc., and is committed to addressing the social determinants

Who's Who In Business

of health in the North Country.

The name fieldstone is a symbol of strength and recognizes the important role fieldstones

played in building the foundations of the North County's first buildings, according to the group's website, which states

the foundation's mission of building good, together supports and enriches programs delivered by Citizen Advocates.



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The Fieldstone Festival in Malone hosted a crowd of music lovers, in July, with the event raising over \$35,000 to support local families facing financial hardship. Provided photo



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County gets update on Flanagan removal

Legislators given 'optimistic timeline' for project

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO

aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — Franklin County Legislators at a Thursday meeting were updated on plans for the removal of the former Flanagan Hotel.

Meeting with Brian M. Krueger, an architect and partner with Aubertine and Currier, a firm out of Watertown, county lawmakers heard a tentative timeline for the project, including plans to start demoing the building next year.

According to Krueger, an "optimistic timeline" could have the project receiving state approval in March 2025.

"That kind of sets us up nicely because we were planning on bids going out around that same time," he said, "I think that kind of paves the way for a successful transition into the construction process and ultimately we have the entire summer where we can get this building taken care of and out of the way."

Krueger said part of the project will involve getting approval from the state Department of Transportation, citing the proximity of the building to Route 11 and comparing the project to the removal of the Gorman Building, across Main Street, adding this process will take time.

"A lot of this is going to be steered through DOT," he said, adding DOT will provide guidance on the project's impact on foot and vehicular traffic.

Krueger said pedestrians will be impacted by the project with crosswalks nearby the Flanagan closed.

"The closest crosswalk for Route 11 here is actually past the bridge closer to Harison Place," with said, "In order to safely direct traffic maybe it involves including a secondary temporary crosswalk. We will see what DOT requires of



Brian M. Krueger, an architect and partner with Aubertine and Currier, talks Thursday about plans for removing the former Flanagan Hotel in 2025 and working with the state's Department of Transportation as the demolition project moves forward.

us at that point."

Krueger said barricades around the structure will also have to be moved around once the building starts to be torn down.

"Pedestrian traffic is one thing, it's a little more manageable, the biggest hurdle is going to be vehicular traffic," he said, "Again DOT is going to drive what we can do in that area."

County Manager Donna J. Kissane asked if the plan was still to have the building demoed and materials carried to the landfill by the end of 2025.

Krueger said that "definitely" was the plan and there is preliminary interest from demo contractors.

"There is interest there from some larger outfits, it's a big building, it's going to take a pretty substantial effort to get this thing knocked down safely, that's the key component here," he said.

Kissane said the County of Franklin Solid Waste Management Authority is aware

of the project and expecting the demoed materials to be transported there.

According to Krueger, he envisions demo moving ahead quickly once a contractor gets into the building, anticipating it will take about a month.

"A contractor is going to get in and they want to get it done as quickly as possible," Krueger said, "It reduces their overhead and their risk."

Krueger said summer is the ideal time to take the building down.

"Summer is probably the best case scenario because certainly with demo work you are going to use water to reduce dust so before you get into ice and creating that much ice along that intersection, again with safety in mind that's probably not the best," Krueger said.

Andrea M. Dumas, R – Malone, who is also the village's mayor, said it is nice to see the project move forward.

"We have talked about this

building for 26, 27 years and it's just great that it's aligning with what is happening with our county as a whole," she said, "We are making so many strides to make change and bring tourism and opportunities to our county. Something that has been kind of a black eye for the community is finally going away."

Kissane said she wanted the county board to meet with Krueger after fielding calls from residents interested in the project's progress.

"We were fielding a lot of calls and people were stopping in the office asking if this is really happening and what the timeline is on this and I said let's get Brian on the phone to see if he can come because they are the best ones to answer this," Kissane said, "Everybody was asking about the timeline and they wanted it done yesterday. Originally we talked about paying for this over three years and we have gone down to two years now."

Kissane said the design

phase and survey phase of the project is this year, with demo costs paid for in 2025.

"We reduced our timeline from three to two years from start to finish," she said, "When the county agreed to sponsor this project I was really thinking that we would probably need three years to pay for it. With this year being the design and getting applications to DOT and later next year the demolition. I thought that perhaps we would then pay for the tipping fees down at the landfill in 2026. I was looking at it more as a budgetary three-year project but we have been able to budget the cost for next year."

In May, county legislators voted in favor of entering into an inter-municipal agreement with the village of Malone for a shared services plan to demolish the Flanagan.

"The village is the county seat and we are very proud of what is happening throughout the whole entire county and this has been something that people have talked about for a long time," Dumas said, "We have heard for years the money is coming and now the money is here and we are moving forward."

The county's vote followed a vote by Malone's village trustees in April to move forward with engineering services for the derelict building's demolition, when trustees voted on a resolution to award the bid to Aubertine and Currier at a cost of \$94,875.

The village officially took over ownership of the Flanagan in November 2023.

Dumas said the village will pay the building's back taxes out of the sale of the property and whatever the village makes on the sale will also go to the county.

Dumas said the plan is sell the property once the Flanagan is demolished.

Hudson

From T10

Hudson Headwaters Family Health, a primary care health center on Third Street adjacent to the Alice Hyde campus, has also expanded its hours to Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with two onsite providers available each day, according to the health network.

"Susan, Wilhelmina and April each bring a deep commitment to Hudson Headwaters, united by a shared passion for expanding health care access to every member of the community," Melissa Gooley, the regional practice leader at Hudson Headwaters said in the release, "These providers will be convenient assets to patients in Malone, conducting checkups, managing chronic conditions, providing family planning services and other preventative care to individuals and families across all ages."

Each new provider has connections and experiences serving rural communities, according to the health network.

The press release states Foster's experience includes working with patients struggling with substance abuse and also serving as a pediatrics and ER nurse prior to becoming a nurse practitioner.

In addition to being passionate about health care, Sheridan is an active member of the Saranac Lake Voluntary Health Association and Rotary of Saranac Lake, as well as a ski instructor at Titus Mountain in Malone, according to the health network.

Worlock, who is originally from Malone, is raising her family in the region and looks forward to expanding preventative care options within her hometown.

"I was excited to see Hudson Headwaters come into the small town that I grew up in," Worlock said, in the press release, "I am proud to be part of a nonprofit health network that provides care to all regardless of ability to pay."

Hudson Headwaters Family Health at Malone opened in December 2023 as a tempo-

rary center to address primary care needs in Malone and surrounding communities.

According to Dr. Tucker Slingerland, CEO of the Hudson Headwaters Health Network, who spoke at the Malone Golf Club, last week during a town hall event, Hudson Headwaters first became interested in opening a clinic in the village after taking into account how many patients from Malone were utilizing their services elsewhere.

"We realized we had about 500 to 600 patients from Malone using our services in Saranac Lake, Champlain, and Plattsburgh," he said, "People were driving an hour, sometimes, one-way just to get some of the access they needed."

The health network is currently working to expand primary care access as it constructs a larger 13,000 square foot facility on the Alice Hyde campus.

Demolition of medical office buildings, formerly located at 183 Park and 24 Fourth streets, started early in June.

Hudson Headwaters plans to open the new facility, which will be named Malone Family Health, by late 2025 or early 2026 depending on weather and construction timelines, according to the press release.

During last week's forum at the golf club, Slingerland said Hudson Headwaters offers basic procedures related to family medicine including Pap smears and behavioral health.

"One thing we do a lot of is behavioral health. We typically embed a behavioral health specialist in the health center," he said, "That's been a really nice addition. I think for patients it feels better to be in a waiting room with all comers and that's been a really nice service that we provide."

Slingerland said ideally there would be a counselor and a nurse practitioner to provide behavioral health services in Malone.

Care management is another service that is offered, according to Slingerland.

More information on primary care with Hudson Headwaters Family Health at Malone is available over the phone at 518-824-2562 and online at HHHN.org.

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Dealership celebrates 20 years

Classic car dealer holds open house for anniversary

By **ALEXANDER VIOLO**

aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A local business, a classic car dealership, celebrated 20 years at its current location on Route 11, Monday, inviting the public in to mark the milestone with an open house.

AnB Classics, located near the corner of Junction Road and Route 11, hosted a food truck, Cousins Maine Lobster, and had classic vehicles on display as part of Monday's event.

According to Daniel Honahan II, owner of AnB Classics, his business was previously located west of the village, before relocating to its current location to the east of the village of Malone.

"I had a building here in town across from the old McDonald's and I had my 20 cars stored in there but it was cold, I was selling cars in February and it was cold," Honahan said, "It got big enough after leaving the building across town that I needed a showroom and it kept expanding after that."



Daniel Honahan II stands in front of some of the classic cars on display in his showroom off of Route 11 in Malone. Alexander Violo/
Malone Telegram

Honahan said his business sells classic motor-vehicles to buyers across the U.S. and Canada, with customers also placing orders from further afield.

"I've been doing this for 30 years but 20 years here. We have sold over 1,200 classic cars," Honahan said, "I've

sold them to people in Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Australia, and Dubai," adding a Mustang was recently sold to a client in Hungary.

According to Honahan, before opening the business he raced motorcycles, later finding an outlet for his interest in

horsepower and speed with a classic car collection which includes muscle cars, hot-rods and convertibles.

After stepping away from motorcycle racing, Honahan said he bought his first classic car, a Porsche.

"I bought my first classic car which was a 74 Porsche 914 and then I just went from there and I have been buying and selling my whole life," Honahan said, "Whether it was golf balls back to golfers when I was 11-years old to buy my first 10-speed or what have you."

Honahan said the business buys, sells, consigns, transports, and appraises classic vehicles

"In 94 is when I first had a big collection but in 96 I got online, eBay had 108,000 items back then, and I sold probably 10 or 12 cars on eBay before they had an eBay Motors," Honahan said, "I did that and kept building and building, and have been doing it for a long time."

Honahan said he doesn't have a favorite car in the col-

lection, adding the business is named after his sons, Alex, Nick and Ben.

"The business is named after my three sons, and I get asked many times what my favorite car is and I can't tell you who my favorite son is and I also can't tell you which one is my favorite car," Honahan said.

During AnB's open house, Monday, Cousins Maine Lobster kept busy serving up lobster rolls.

"The food truck contacted me back in May looking for a place to set up and asked if I would be interested," Honahan said, "I said possibly and they told me if they were looking for a place they would contact me and back in August they reached out and said the could do October 7."

Honahan said he thought about it and realized the proposed date would line up with the business' anniversary.

"I was thinking it would be on a Monday and then I got to thinking that wait this is our 20th year, so we did it," Honahan said.

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Wilder Farm hosts living history

Civil War reenactors highlight local event

By **ALEXANDER VIOLO**

aviolo@mtelegram.com

BURKE — A living history event and harvest festival at the Almanzo Wilder Farm over the weekend provided a glimpse into the past with reenactors on hand with exhibits from the mid-19th century.

The Adirondack Regiment was on hand to teach and interact with visitors at the Wilder Homestead as part of the living history event.

According to Pete Gilbert, commanding officer of the 118th New York, a living history organization, this year the group wanted to focus on the North Country, the region where troops who formed the unit during the Civil War were from.

"This year we decided that we really needed to focus on the Adirondacks, more of the area where the men came from," Gilbert, of Tupper Lake, said, "We are trying to recruit for our unit and where you are going to get recruits is from the communities where the unit was from and where the men that filled it were from because of ances

See **WILDER T19**



From left, Michael Romanowski, of Queensbury, and his grandson, Parker Duerr-Clark, of Corinth, at the Almanzo Wilder Farm Saturday.

Alexander Violo/
Malone Telegram

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Wilder

From T18

tors."

Gilbert said in the past the unit has traveled both around and outside of northern New York.

"We had a lot of people ask us if we were going to do events in the area and I brought it up to the unit and thought we need to focus, focus on our own area this time around," he said, "This year we have been able to grow and we are all living historians and part of our mission is education. That is why we do what we do. The education of children, adults, the general public that is why we do what we do."

According to Gilbert, he first started taking part in living history events 35 years ago, after attending a reenactment at Gettysburg.

"The people, the kids, the want for knowledge and love of history is what I do," he said, "I love it, have a passion about history."

Gilbert said he first started reenacting with a North Carolina unit and wanted to do so with a Union unit too, adding he has ancestors who fought in New York regiments during the civil war, including the 60th and 106th regiments.

"Of course where I live is the Adirondacks and I wanted to bring about the 118th," he said, "There was a lot of public input that people would see a lot of other units but not a unit that represents the 118th New York. I thought this is where I live, it's kind of a no brainer, let's form it, and we did."

Gilbert said reenactors came together to form the Adirondack unit formed in 2008.

During the Civil War, the 118th New York Infantry was organized in Plattsburgh and mustered in August 1862, leaving New York for Washington, D. C., in September 1862, according to the National Park Service, with the regiment serving for the final three years of the war, fighting in the trenches around Richmond in March 1865 and taking part in the fall of Petersburg and Richmond in early April 1865. The regiment was also on hand for the end of the war at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Saturday morning in Burke, a pair of 12-pound howitzers, one a replica of piece from the 1840s, used in both the Civil War and the earlier Mexican-American War, were fired off as part of an artillery demonstration.

Michael Romanowski of Queensbury, a reenactor with the New York State 3rd Light Artillery, Company H, explained how the howitzers were used in battle.

"They were used in the field against troops," Romanowski said, "They are light enough to be pushed around with an infantry battalion."

One of the replicas used Saturday is made of brass and the other of steel, according to Romanowski.

"They could be made either way," he said.

Romanowski said the howitzer were transported into battle by horses, with a limber holding the ammunition.

Due to the number of horses required to move artillery, Romanowski said the number one thing railroads transported during the civil war was horse feed.

Romanowski said his group mostly travels around northern New York for events but also attends larger Civil War reenactments, traveling to Gettysburg last year, with some of the battery planning to travel to Cedar Creek, in Virginia, for a reenactment in October.

Romanowski said he first got involved in living history events in 2013, first with a group out of Rochester before finding a unit closer to home.

"I have been doing this since the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg, 11 to 12 years now," Romanowski said, "I've always loved history, always loved the civil war. My father was in an artillery unit during World War II so I gravitated towards artillery for that reason."

According to Romanowski, he was at the weekend's living history event in Burke with his grandson.

"My grandson is with me today and he has been reenacting since last year," he said, "He has probably been to Gettysburg more than I have and he loves his history."

Al Couch, general manger of the H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit, was on hand at the Wilder Homestead with a replica of a

Civil War submarine.

Couch said he travels around the country with the exhibit.

"It was built and tested in Mobile, Alabama in 60-feet of water, Charleston, South Carolina's harbor is only 40-feet deep and the river is 30-feet deep," he said.

According to Couch, the H.L. Hunley was deployed in an attempt to break the Union blockade of Charleston in Feb-

ruary 1864, sinking the USS Housatonic before the submarine itself was lost.

Couch said the crew of the submarine, eight men, were killed in the attack and five sailors on the USS Housatonic were killed, with the rest of the crew of the sloop-of-war rescued by other Union vessels taking part in the blockade of the southern harbor.

"The minute it exploded, the

Housatonic, the other Union ships that were there were rescuing people," he said, "Out of 160 enlisted crew and officers only five perished on that ship."

Couch said the original submarine was raised from the ocean and is now on display at a museum in North Charleston in South Carolina.

"The Hunley was missing for 136 years until it was raised in 2000," Couch said.






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New security team at Alice Hyde

By **ALEXANDER VIOLO**
avio10@mtelegram.com

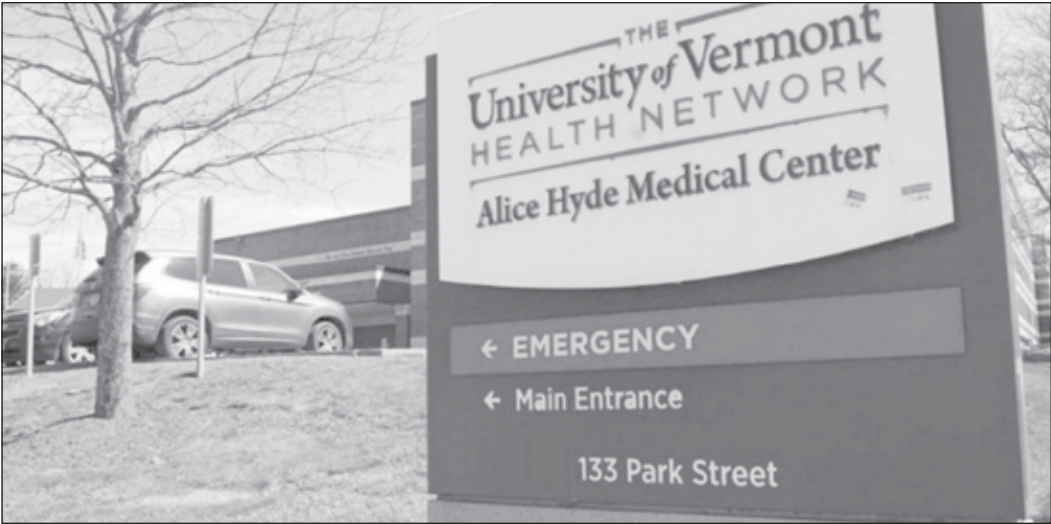
MALONE — Patient, visitor and staff safety is the focus of a new security team at Alice Hyde Medical Center.

The new group will provide 24/7 security coverage in the Malone hospital, throughout Alice Hyde's Campus and at the nearby Alice Center.

Alice Hyde Medical Center is getting the new resource to help identify and deescalate emotional situations while also improving the patient and visitor experience across both of Alice Hyde's campuses in Malone, according to a press release from the University of Vermont Health Network.

The hospital introduced the Safety and Security team, Monday, which will be staffed 24-hours-a-day and provide a wide variety of services to patients and visitors at the hospital, throughout Alice Hyde's campus and clinics on Park Street in the village, and to residents and visitors at The Alice Center's campus on Sixth Street in Malone.

"Our number-one goal is always to keep our patients and our people safe while they are with us. Whether they are in the hospital, on our campus, at one of our clinics or offices, or at The Alice Center," Jerry Dumas, director of Safety and Security at Al-



Alice Hyde Medical Center introduced a Safety and Security team, Monday, which will provide a wide variety of services to patients and visitors at the hospital, throughout Alice Hyde's campus and clinics at 133 Park Street in the village, and at The Alice Center's campus at 45 Sixth Street in Malone.

ice Hyde, said in the release, "We have been very fortunate that the number of violent incidents impacting us have been minimal. Nevertheless, we have seen an increase over time. This group of specially-trained individuals will support both our patients and our people as we continue to respond to nationwide trends impacting health care organizations and caregivers at the bedside."

The six officer team brings a variety of professional backgrounds to Alice Hyde, according

to the health network, and the team will respond to a wide array of situations from parking and traffic issues on campus to way-finding assistance and violent, intense or unpredictable situations in Alice Hyde facilities.

Phillip A. Rau, a spokesperson for the UVM Health Network, said Monday was the security team's first day out on the campuses in Malone.

The security officers are trained in de-escalation techniques as well as spotting agitated individuals and the precursors

to aggressive or violent behavior, according to the release.

"Our team's first priority is being there to help, whether it's a parking issue, a lost patient or visitor, or someone who is frustrated or upset," Dumas said in the release, "Being at the hospital is stressful, and we want members of our community to see our security officers as resources who are there to assist in any way we can."

The security officers are not armed and do not have the authority to detain individuals,

make arrests or file charges, according to the health network, and Alice Hyde will continue to work with local law enforcement to address any incidents that require those types of responses.

The launch of the Safety and Security Team on Monday marked the first time that the hospital has employed security officers, and comes amid a nationwide rise in violence against health care workers, according to the release.

Last year, UVM Health Network launched an effort to "End the Silence on Healthcare Violence" highlighting employees as they shared their stories and working with law enforcement agencies as well as state and federal lawmakers to address violence against health care workers, according to the release.

Rau said other facilities in the UVM health network are adopting different strategies to help address this issue.

"There's different things that different partner organizations are doing. It's not just Malone, this is just what is being done right now in Malone," he said, "Similar things are happening across the health system and everyone is doing kind of the thing that best responds to the specific incidents that are occurring in their community."

Malone store sells \$33K winning lottery ticket

Telegram staff report

The New York Lottery recently announced that one top-prize winning ticket was sold for the Oct. 8 TAKE 5 evening drawing at a location in Malone,

The winning ticket worth \$33,535 was sold at the Stewart's Shop at 554 E. Main St., according to lottery officials.

TAKE 5 numbers are drawn from a field of one through 39 and is televised twice daily at 2:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A lottery draw game prize of any amount may be claimed up to one year from the date of the drawing.

The New York Lottery continues to be North America's largest and most profitable lottery, according to lottery officials, contributing \$3.8 billion in fiscal year 2023-24 to benefit public schools in New York State.



The Stewart's Shop in Malone where the winning lottery ticket worth more than \$33,000 was sold.

Richard Rosentreter/
Malone Telegram

Local library now offering digital magazines

Wead Library part of system that announced funding that made this possible

By **RICHARD ROSENTRETER**
rrosentreter@mtelegram.com

MALONE — The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System recently announced that it has received funding from the Adirondack Foundation to purchase a subscription to digital magazines.

This new service provides library patrons with access to more than 5,000 magazine titles, available instantly with no holds and no waiting.

Local libraries, including the Wead Library in Malone, are part of the CEF system and will have the collection available, and its staff members say the move will benefit the community, and all its patrons.

"The great thing about digital magazines is that there are more options than could ever be offered in person. Community members waiting for the same new release will be able to check out the issue immediately with no wait time, Chelsie Russo, a librarian at the Wead Library told the Tele-

gram on Wednesday. "I also think the many different languages offered will be great for our patrons who are looking to practice their second language. We hope that this trial period will demonstrate the need for this service to continue."

According to Russo, community members looking to browse these digital magazines can visit WeadLibrary.com and search under "Books & Media" or they can stop into the local library for assistance with signing up for Libby on their personal device.

The magazine collection covers a wide range of topics, ensuring there is something for everyone. Whether readers are interested in fashion, crafts, technology, cooking, or current events, they'll find magazines to suit their interests, according to the CEF, and popular and special interest titles include Us Weekly, National Geographic, Good Housekeeping, Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, PC World, Bon Appetit, Minecraft World, and

Women's Fitness, to name a few. Magazines are also of

See **DIGITAL T22**



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The Wead Library in Malone. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

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Digital

From T21

ferred in various languages including Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, German, and French.

"This allows the library to redirect some of its magazine budget and physical space to other resources while being able to provide even better options for our readers," Mary McDonald, principal library clerk at the Wead Library, explained. "Many patrons are already

using the Libby app to access digital eBooks and audiobooks so the new collection of magazines will be right at their fingertips."

The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System serves 33 libraries and reading centers in Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties through economical resource sharing, continuing education, advocacy, access to comprehensive services, and by serving as a resource for member libraries and their directors, according to the organization. For more information, visit cefls.org.

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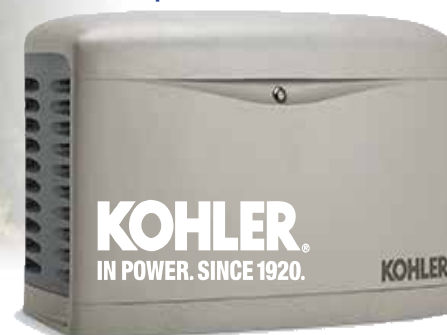
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Town council hears from highway super on plans for road salt

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

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MALONE — The town board heard from the highway superintendent on the department's plans for the upcoming winter at a meeting last week.

Mike Andrews, Malone's highway superintendent, talked about using an increased percentage of salt on some town roadways during the upcoming winter.

"The way we budgeted it is just to increase the salt and try that experience," Andrews said, "In the spring it is a lot easier to not have to sweep, all the money we spend on manpower."

Andrews said his plan is to focus on town roads that see a higher volume of traffic than other routes.

"It'll be what I consider the higher traffic areas for the salt due to the fact we aren't set up to pre-treat, we are not set up with a brine or a liquid," he said, "We would have to go to the areas with the most traffic."

According to Andrews, these routes include Bare Hill and Brand roads, Lower Park Street, Meehan, River and Junction roads.

"Just where we seem to get the most traffic and that is where we are going to try it," he said.

Reached for comment Wednesday, Andrews said the town has used some salt in the past but this year they are going to experiment to see the results of using more pure salt.

"It's kind of a vicious cycle," he said, "By trying to use more salt that would mean we would be using less sand and by using less sand that means there is less buildup of the shoulders. The sand makes its way to the shoulder of the road and it raises the shoulder over the years. When the shoulders get high all your water lays in the road and that's what ruins your blacktop."

Andrews said using more salt is a preventative maintenance idea.

"Then you don't spend as many hours in the spring



Highway Superintendent Mike Andrews met with town council last week, to discuss plans for winter road maintenance. Richard

Rosentreter photo

having to sweep the roads and sweeping all that dirt on to yards, and causing all that dust on rural roads where there are more houses," Andrews said.

Andrews said the weather has to be right to use road salt and without pre-treatment capabilities the town wouldn't be able to use it in sub-zero weather.

"Obviously, it is all going to depend on mother nature. If it stays zero or 10 below all winter long there isn't going to be a whole lot of salt used," he said, "The town is not set up with a brine system to pre-treat roads with liquid brine. It's going to be on more of the heavy traffic areas if the weather is cooperative, it doesn't have to be 40 degrees. We are going to try it."

Andrews said if the approach works this year the town will continue with using more pure salt, explaining the rationale behind using salt in high traffic areas.

"You need the heat from the vehicles, heat off the tires to activate the salt," Andrews said, "If it works it will make for an easier spring cleanup."

Town Supervisor Andrea M. Stewart thanked Andrews for his willingness to try a new ap-

proach.

"If it works we will really, in the long run, save a good amount of money, in every aspect," Andrews said, "When we get to sweeping we spend seven weeks with seven guys sweeping roads."

Councilman Jody Johnston said there could be cost savings in not having to apply road salt as much as sand during snowfall.

"For the three drivers it will free them up to be back at the garage even sooner because once the salt is down the salt has to activate," Andrews said, "When we started doing it a little bit last year, we tried it on Webster Street and Low Road and they were back an hour-and-a-half earlier, they were at the garage two hours longer and after lunch they went back and scraped the roads."

Andrews said the highway crew is currently working on a new salt shed, near the highway garage, and has black-topped the shed's interior.

"That was all money that was put aside years ago for a salt shed," he said, "It allows us to have a building with the capacity to store the salt and the salt sand mix inside."

The town board talked about the idea of adding a salt

shed in February.

Andrews said the plan is to complete the salt shed before winter.

"I already did my salt sand mix but my pure salt we will go get that as soon as the crew finishes the salt shed," he said, "We are doing that ourselves."

Andrews said the highway crew has been hauling its own salt after the town purchased a flow boy last year.

"That saves us \$11.65 a ton, that is with the purchasing of the flow boy with the CHIPS money it's really starting to help us out," he said.

Without the flow boy the town would need to pay trucking, per ton, to have the salt delivered, according to Andrews.

Baseball

At last week's meeting, town council voted to give the town supervisor permission to sign grant documentation, in the amount of \$125,000, for the State and Municipal Facilities Program Improvements at the American Legion's baseball field off of Route 11.

Stewart thanked the town's budget officer, Denice Hudson, for working through the particulars of the grant.

"Thanks to Denice for pull-

ing all the pieces together to get us to this point," Stewart said.

Johnston also thanked Hudson for her work.

"This is one of the things we all have kind of taken under our wing and tried to make better," he said.

Website

Stewart said she received information from Deputy Town Clerk Lily McCaffrey on research for website design companies.

Stewart said McCaffrey recommended proceeding with Revize and she agreed with the recommendation.

"I just want to thank her (McCaffrey) reading the report here she did a nice job on it," Councilman Terrence C. Maguire said.

Andrews asked if the new website would be interactive.

"Each department head will have access to their own personal page on it," Town Clerk Abby Monica said.

Hudson said the plan was to use American Rescue Plan Act funds to cover costs associated with the project.

Stewart said town board would consider a resolution on using the funds in October.

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