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# THE POST STAR

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## Queensbury to explore 'ice eaters' regulation for Glen Lake



The impact of "ice eaters" on Lake George docks during the winter.

PROVIDED PHOTO, WARREN COUNTY

### Overuse leads to safety concerns, environmental issues

**LUKE MOSSEAU**  
lmosseau@poststar.com

QUEENSBURY - Town officials and several Glen Lake residents are currently exploring the regulation or a possible ban of "ice eaters" on the lake; residents argue that ice eaters can lead to public safety concerns, property damage, and environmental issues.

Ice eaters are used to prevent dock freezing, but can disrupt surrounding ice by causing unintended open water areas, posing risks to ice fishers, ice skaters, or other recreational activities during the winter. "An ice eater, you put it in the water, it's an agitator, it's like a propeller, and you drop it in the water, and it pushes warm water up, so the water around your dock doesn't freeze, and the purpose of it is to protect your dock," explained Ward 1 Councilman Anthony Metivier.

For the Town of Queensbury, ice eaters can create liability issues since the town

regularly maintains public access points around Glen Lake for residents to go out and use the ice. Therefore, the town could face potential litigation if a person were to be harmed if they fell through thin or unstable ice caused by a nearby ice eater.

"The problem is that we plow public areas [and docks]. We're welcoming people to use it. At what point, if somebody's going to fall through and drown, are we not going to get sued because we're liable because we've opened up that spot to say to people, 'Hey, go out and use our ice,'" Metivier said. "It's really more of a safety issue than anything else. If we want people to be out recreating, and then you have these ice eaters that are eating away the ice - it's a recipe for disaster."

Ward 4 Councilman Tim McNulty agreed that it would be in the best interest of the town to put "protections in place" to help regulate ice eater damage.

Please see **ICE EATERS**, Page A3

## Merlino reflects on 20 years of service

**ALEX PORTAL**  
aportal@poststar.com

LAKE LUZERNE - After 20 years, Gene Merlino reflects on being the longest serving town supervisor in Lake Luzerne's history.

"It's been a blessing for me, and I mean this wholeheartedly, I love doing what I'm doing," Merlino said at the beginning of the Dec. 29 town board meeting: his last after deciding not to seek reelection in 2025. "I'll sleep good tonight; I've got a good team coming in."

Following the meeting, Merlino sat down with The Post-Star for a stroll down memory lane and a tour of the Lake Luzerne Municipal Complex, which he listed as one of his greatest accomplishments.

"This is my dream; this is my love," he said.

The story behind the municipal building, which houses the Lake Luzerne Town Hall, courthouse, and senior center, is one Merlino takes great pride in.

Please see **MERLINO**, Page A3

## Hartford fire extinguished amid ice storm

**POST-STAR STAFF REPORT**

HARTFORD - Monday's ice and freezing rain may have made things more difficult, but it did not stop local fire departments from being able to extinguish a morning fire in Hartford.

Fire departments were dispatched to Main Street in Hartford for a report of an electrical hazard around 9:45 a.m. Monday. The Hartford Volunteer Fire Company reported that there had been multiple calls to 911 about several downed power lines that were on fire, with a possible transformer explosion. In the minutes that followed, calls were received for a reported residential structural fire in the same area of the 90s block of Main Street.

Hartford Volunteer Fire Company reported that the deputy chief, Granville fire chief, Engine 2 and Tanker 3 arrived as the first due responders and apparatus. They located a two-story wood-framed structure with visible smoke and fire.

Please see **FIRE**, Page A3

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