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Springbrook Distillery makes its move

By **Cathy DeDe**
Chronicle Managing Editor

The gin is flowing at Springbrook Hollow Farm Distillery. So is the bourbon, moonshine, vodka and rye.

Things have gone so well since their opening in 2015 that Springbrook is embarking on a \$1.4 million, 8,000-square-foot production facility and year-round tasting-events room that will more than double their current space. Most im-

Lays foundation on high-traffic Route 149; double production; year-round event space, taproom



Foundation is poured — Key players on the site Monday. **Front: Master Distiller Christian Ryan.** Standing, from left: Partners **Ken Rohne, David Bannon, Tony DeSantis,** Partner/General Manager **Matt Colucci.** Missing: Partner **Mike Forcier.**

Chronicle photo/Cathy DeDe

portant, said Matt Colucci, it will give Springbrook a high-profile location on the north side of highly trafficked Route 149, less than a mile east of the Route 9L intersection, in Fort Ann near the Queensbury line.

Mr. Colucci, one of Springbrook's five partners, serves as its spokesman. He joined the

business a year after the original partners — David Bannon, Mike Forcier, Tony DeSantis and Ken Rohne — built the distillery in a converted horse barn on the Bannon family's property.

The new property abuts it. It's even still on Clements Road, which loops around to 149 be-

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Chronicle photo/Mark Frost

Mark: On Black Opry in GF ▶ 12

6 schools unite: Girls get a varsity hockey team

Corinth, Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, Saratoga Springs, South Glens Falls, and Queensbury School Districts will form the **Adirondack United Varsity Girls Ice Hockey** team. They'll play teams in Sections 7, 10 & 3, and a few Vermont programs.

Tryouts will begin on Nov. 14 at the Glens Falls Recreation Center Ice Rink on Fire Road for students in grades 9-12.

"We know it's going to be a huge success. We're already hearing the buzz," South Glens Falls Athletic Director Matthew Griep was quoted in a press release. "I've been fielding calls about schools wanting to join the merger, so we know it is generating interest."

Coach Jeff Willis said, "We're pulling from a talented group of girls that have won state titles at the club level. **We're going to compete immediately.**"

"Our goal is to generate so

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Big reaction to Mark's 'Scoop': 'Be wary of new LGA'

'We miss the old LGA'

From Facebook:

Great article. Well covered. We miss the old LGA and Walt Lender. — **Cindy Roach Carr**

Walt, start new group

From Facebook:

Sad news indeed! The old LGA did a great job. Walt - start a new organization - there's plenty to do! — **Dick Carlsen**

Fund's long-range plan; surprised it was allowed

From Facebook:

The Fund has been planning

this (merger) for many, many years. I admit that I am very surprised that it was allowed to happen. Sad to lose the first lake association in the country.

— **Julie Martin**

More powerful LGA can protect the lake better

Mark, In your recent editorial regarding the merged LGA, you fault it for being so big, powerful, and wealthy. However, for the protection of our beautiful lake, it's to our region's benefit to have a powerful organization which can speak with one voice

in Albany.

The merged LGA is a combination of thousands of "lake protectors" plus a growing number of wealthy donors. I'm glad it is.

If it seems a little too corporate but can accelerate the testing and upgrading of all Lake George septic systems plus enable grants for small homeowners who can't afford to upgrade, that's a small price to pay.

— **Peter Brothers**

More letters; LGA's board chair too ▶ 15

School Views is back ▶ 3 Adk Thunder too ▶ 9

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