

Cheers to a New Year and New Adventures

Ellicottville Gets Ready to Say Goodbye to 2023; Where Will You Be Celebrating?



I: LOOKING

Christmas 2023 is in the books and another new year is almost upon us. I think we all deserve a pat on the back for making it through yet another year. We've had good times; we've had tough times. Let us reflect, then move forward with celebration. There's no party in the 14731 quite like a New Year's Eve party.

"Ellicottville is a perfect place to spend any holiday, especially the week leading up to the New Year," said Brian McFadden of the Ellicottville Chamber. "From the fireworks at Holiday Valley to the excitement of over a dozen musical acts downtown, there is something for everyone."

One of the best ways to welcome the next turn of the wheel is at Holiday Valley's NYE Celebration on Dec. 31st. The Main Lodge will be buzzing with anticipation of the champagne toast at midnight. A live DJ will be rocking the tunes, and the grand finale fireworks show will begin launch at 11:45pm. Find more information on page 04.

Of course, what is New Year's without those resolutions? We all make them, but sometimes it can be a tricky thing to keep them. We made it easy and laid out a few local health and fitness opportunities to help kick-start your 2024 journey. You can find these on page 20.

MAYOR ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AWARD FOR SKATEPARK

The first order of business brought to the attention of the Ellicottville Village Board by Mayor John Burrell during their December meeting was some good news.

It was announced that the village was approved for the Built-to-Play Skatepark Environmental Impact Award Grant which helps fund processes and design features that lessen the environmental impact of the recently constructed skatepark (located inside Ellicottville's Village Park). The \$50,000 will be applied to complete the already scheduled progress in motion.

The Ellicottville Medical Equipment Center was also a topic for discussion. It was proposed that they be given permission to use the open office space in the DPW building.

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Warrior Fitness Set to Open 2nd Location in Little Valley

New year, new you. That's an old adage that becomes very prominent as we head into 2024. Maybe you want to make some changes to your life - set new fitness goals, lose weight, take up a healthier lifestyle. Whatever your reason, figuring out how to start those plans and sticking to them is something we all struggle with. But help is here locally in the form of Warrior Fitness & Wellness, and soon, there will be even more opportunity to "become a warrior" when their new location opens in Little Valley. ellicottvilleNOW spoke with owner Bradley Poole about what prompted the expansion ... page 19

Meet Ellicottville's New Town Historian

Ellen Frank Fills Role Left by Mary Elizabeth Dunbar

By Carol Fisher-Linn



BACK ON OUR

It's a word you see often in ellicottvilleNOW: COMMUNITY. And it's no wonder why. Our area has mastered the art of coming to-

gether - whether it be helping families in need and fundraising for local organizations, supporting school projects and cheering on our athletes, embracing the #shopsmallsbusiness movement by lifting each other up, or sharing in the many feel-good events and activities that take place in our corner of WNY that we just can't seem to get enough of. No matter what the occasion, our busi-

nesses, our residents, our volunteers... we bring people together. Just spend some time in Ellicottville and our neighboring towns and you'll easily discover many examples of "community". Let's look back at 2023 and hit on just a few of them ... pages 12-13









When Mary Elizabeth Dunbar left Ellicottville to live with her family, the Ellicottville Town Historian post became vacant. Admittedly, Mary Elizabeth left behind big shoes, so it takes someone with energy and experience, with creds and with the ability to continue stimulating the community interest in our town and village's history. Thankfully, Ellen Frank was in the wings, serving over the years in multiple capacities with the Ellicottville Historical Society.

On October 1st, Ms. Frank was appointed Town Historian by the Town Supervisor. Ms. Frank was born and raised in Ellicottville, graduating from ECS. Loving traveling and history, she visited all the museums/homes of the presidents hailing from Ohio.

... page 07

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER AT HOLIDAY VALLEY

Whether it's the fun family "New Year's Eve Celebration" event that ends with colorful fireworks filling the sky, the "College Daze" special skiing/snowboarding package deal for college students, or the "Your Turn Women's Clinic" to improve your skiing skills, there's something for everyone at Holiday Valley as we head into 2024. After all, January is officially known as "Learn a Snowsport Month". Perhaps it is on your New Year's Resolution list to learn to ski or snowboard. Well, now's the perfect time! Director of Marketing for Holiday Valley, Dash Hegeman, says there are so many reasons one would want to visit the resort ... page 03

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Come celebrate the end of 2023 and the beginning of a New Year with a free, fun-filled, family-friendly party! An impressive fireworks display will begin at 11:45PM, culminating with a complimentary champagne toast at midnight to welcome 2024!

THINGS TO CHECK OUT

HOLIDAY VALLEY SNOWSPORTS

Never stop learning! Whether it's your first time out on snow or you're comfortable on any terrain you find yourself on, there's always more you can learn when it comes to skiing & snowboarding. Call 716-699-3506 to book your lesson.

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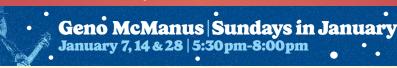






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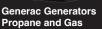
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Publisher's **PICK**

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER

Holiday Valley Hosts a Number of Events for Everyone Through January



By WENDY SCHREINER

Whether it's the fun family "New Year's Eve Celebration" event that ends with colorful fireworks filling the sky, the "College Daze" special skiing/snowboarding package deal for college students, or the "Your Turn Women's Clinic" to improve your skiing skills, there's something for everyone at Holiday Valley as we head into 2024. After all, January is officially known as "Learn a Snowsport Month". Perhaps it is on your New Year's Resolution list to learn to ski or snowboard! Well, now's the perfect time!

Director of Marketing for Holiday Valley, Dash Hegeman, says there are so many reasons one would want to visit the resort. "People have been making memories here for generations," he told ellicottvilleNOW. "Families grow up here. This is a year-round resort, but the roots of Holiday Valley are firmly planted in winter. Whether you want to ski or snowboard, ride through the woods on the Sky Flyer Mountain Coaster, go snow tubing, or just sit in the lodge and enjoy some food and drinks, there is so much for people to do here. And when you combine that with everything that the village of Ellicottville has to offer, it makes for a fantastic place to vacation."

He went on to explain, "If you live in this region, you can either resent the cold and do your best to hibernate all winter long, or you can embrace it and enjoy being outside in nature while having a lot of fun. Holiday Valley is an amazing place to embrace winter!"

Start the New Year off with fun family-oriented activities at Holiday Valley at their New Year's Eve Celebration event that ends with a bang as colorful bursts of fireworks cover the sky. "Between the fireworks and the excitement of saying goodbye to 2023 and ringing in 2024 with festive people having a great time, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate the New Year at Holiday Valley," Hegeman said. "The Main Lodge is a fantastic venue to hang out at with your family and friends while enjoying a great fireworks show!" (Find more details on page 04.)

COLLEGE DAZE

College Daze features a special lodge and lift package designed with college students in mind, providing skiing and lots of fun! Cost is \$242.48 per person for quad occupancy at The Inn at Holiday Valley for three days and two nights with accompanying lift tickets. Already a college season passholder? You can deduct \$100 from your package price. New to skiing or snowboarding? Get a FREE 1.5-hour lesson, rental equipment and a beginners area lift ticket.

The Cabana Bar (adjacent to the Holiday Valley Lodge) will have a Pre-Game Party from 9:00-11:00pm. Two drink tickets, food and drink specials and giveaways are all part of the fun. On Monday, enjoy a yummy continental breakfast in the lobby of The Inn. Ski/ride at your leisure from 9:00am-9:00pm. A hot dog cookout will take place from noon-2:00pm on the Yodeler Deck. A fun time for all will be had as music, snacks, pizza, free drinks and cocktail tasting by Fireball will be offered from 6:00-8:00pm on at the Apres/Drinking Games Cabana Deck. All will cheer when the College Football National Championship Game watch party begins at 8:00pm. Take advantage of Holiday Valley's shuttle service from 10:00pm-2:00am to and from The Inn to Madigan's for post-game festivities.

2024 EVENTS

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

"Doesn't this place feel great!"



SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL JULY 5-7

JAZZ & BLUES WEEKEND JULY 26-28

TASTE OF ELLICOTTVILLE AUGUST 10-11

ROCK N' ROLL WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 13-15

LACROSSE WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 20-22



CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK JANUARY 1-7

> WINTER BLUES WEEKEND JANUARY 19-21

WINTER MUSIC JAM FEBRUARY 23-25

MARDI GRAS & WINTER CARNIVAL MARCH 9-10

HAPPY HALF MARATHON & 5K MAY 11





FALL FESTIVAL OCTOBER 12-13

HALLOWEEN HALF MARATHON &5K OCTOBER 19

BEER & WINE

On Tuesday, once again enjoy a delicious continental breakfast in the lobby of The Inn, followed by skiing/riding all day!

"College Daze has some good history here at the resort and we're looking forward to welcoming this year's group of college students for a great time on and off the slopes!" said Hegeman. For additional details about this year's College Daze, including a complete schedule, head to holidayvalley.com.

YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC

Holiday Valley will host the 10th Annual Your Turn Women's Clinic led by Lisa Ballard on Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25. Ballard, a ski racer and widely acclaimed coach, will be joined by many fine women instructors from Holiday Valley as new skiing skills are acquired by women while they make new friends, improve their skiing confidence and may even win a door prize!

"Learn to Love Winter" continued page 15

FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 9

CHRISTMAS IN ELLICOTTVILLE NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1

CHRISTMAS STROLL DECEMBER 14



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ellicottvilleny.com

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LOCAL

CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR

Ellicottville is Ready to Say Goodbye to 2023 with the Biggest Parties of the Year!



By Jessica Schultz

Christmas 2023 is in the books and another new year is almost upon us. I think we all deserve a pat on the back for making it through yet another long (and for some very exhausting) year. We've had good times; we've had tough times. Let us reflect, then move forward with celebration. There's no party in the 14731 quite like a New Year's Eve party. Here are a few options to get you up and moving to the beat of a new drum. Welcome 2024!

"Ellicottville is always a perfect place to spend any holiday, especially the week leading up to the New Year," said Brian McFadden, Executive Director of the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce. "From the fireworks at Holiday Valley to the excitement of over a dozen musical acts in the four-block village, there is something for everyone. And don't forget our amazing restaurants for New Year's Eve with that special someone." (Dining, lodging and event info can be found at www.ellicottvilleny.com.)

Let's kick the weekend off with a little pre-gaming. Glow party, anyone? Ellicottville Tap & Bottle Taqueria is bringing in DJ Ashley Walker this Saturday, December 30th. Starting at 9:00pm, enjoy specialty Christmas cocktails, live music, dancing and more.

Of course, one of the best ways to welcome the next turn of the wheel is at Holiday Valley's NYE Celebration on Dec. 31st. The Main Lodge will be buzzing with anticipation of the champagne toast at midnight. The Ullr Bar will air the NYC Ball Drop on all TVs, the T-Bar will be open, food and drink specials will be available at the Mountainside Cafe, DJ Dawson will be rocking the Main Lodge from 9:00pm-12:30am, and the grand finale fireworks will begin launch at 11:45pm and lasting through midnight! No entry fee is required, and everyone in the family is welcome to join in the fun!

Holiday Valley Marketing Director Dash Hegeman stated, "People visit Holiday Valley to make amazing memories, and New Year's is a perfect way to make memories that you can talk about for years to come. Plan to join us at the Main Lodge on New Year's Eve and say goodbye to 2023. We're looking forward to ringing in the new year in style and hope that you can join us in the celebration!"

Ellicottville Distillery is bolting into the New Year by inviting everyone out to 5462 Robbins Road at 11:00am on Dec. 31st for their annual 5k and Liquor Mile. (Yes... a liquor mile! At each quarter-mile mark, you'll receive a mini-cocktail made with spirits created by the Distillery, of course.) The run begins at noon; run one or the other, or challenge your endurance (and sanity) and do both! After you've beat your lungs up, enjoy live music and Fiammata Pizza from 5:00-8:00pm. The evening will end with fireworks. For more information call 716-801-0086.

For those of you heading into the new year with health and adventure in mind, the Western New York Mountain Biking Association is inviting everyone to gather at Allegany State Park in Salamanca, NY on Dec. 31st at 6:00pm for their New "Gear's" Eve Bike Ride. Take one last bike ride of 2023! (Don't worry, this isn't a timed ride and no one will be left behind.) Following the ride, a social will take place in the mess hall at Camp Allegany. (Bring you own snacks.) If you have any questions you can call the Environmental Education Department at 716-379-6939.

THE MAGIC OF LIGHTING

Chamber Expresses Appreciation for Efforts to Install Downtown Holiday Lights



ELLICOTTVILLE - Each year as a part of Christmas in Ellicottville, the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce lights up the village with holiday lighting on the streetside trees.

"The project, which began in 2016, has been supported by many donations and from the Chamber's operating budget, and I thought it might be a good time to provide some interesting facts," said Brian McFadden, Executive Director of the Chamber. "Since 2016, we have installed just under 30,000 feet of lights - new and replacements, which altogether equals 57,000 light bulbs! The average annual cost, with labor, over the 8 years since we started is \$4,500. I must say that in the early years, we did a lot of experimenting with various types of lights and installation methods and we now have a solid plan in place." McFadden expressed many thanks to the Chamber Board of Directors and sponsors for their amazing dedication to this project. "It's one of our favorites!"

Appreciation is also directed to Eric Dudek, who has spent hundreds of hours over the years installing the holiday lights. "You've probably seen him out there rain, snow or shine, all hours of the day," said McFadden. "Thank you for a great job, Eric!"

As of last year, the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce also took on the additional responsibility of the Ski Tree, providing regular maintenance and care. "It's all part of keeping with the spirit of Ellicottville," said McFadden. "We're all doing our part, and we appreciate all the help we receive to keep Ellicottville joyful, especially during the holiday season."

ROTARY RECOGNITION

Ellicottville and Olean Clubs Host Governor's Visit and Other Guest Speakers

ELLICOTTVILLE - At a recent meeting held at Dina's Restaurant in Ellicottville, the Rotary Clubs of Ellicottville and Olean hosted District Governor Scott Marcin, Rotary Foundation District Executive Director Sandi Chard, and Alzheimer's Asso-ciation WNY Chapter Executive Director of Development Lynn Westcott. Lynn spoke on the troubling progression of Alzheimer's disease and the toll this takes on family and friends. She also mentioned progress being made in research on the development of new medications



If ending your year in the woods or on the road isn't your thing, that's alright. Let's talk dinner plans. Dina's Restaurant, The Silver Fox Steakhouse, Villaggio, Katy's Fly-In in Great Valley all offer NYE-worthy dishes. Look them up on social to see if any of them are running specials. (We know Katy's Fly-In is featuring Dinner for Two for just \$60... how does chipotle crab cakes, creamy shrimp risotto and strawberry shortcake sound?) Afterwards, put on your dancing shoes and head out on the town for a lively night of celebration - Madigan's, Balloons Restaurant & Nightclub, 12 Gates of EVL, and FTR are just a few of our local hot spots. Ellicottville is filled with great places to get your party on to shake off 2023.

Last but not least, if you're feeling like a homebody, you could come down to the Winery of EVL earlier in the day and grab some flavorful wines for your at-home NYE toasting. And there's always the option of ordering up a couple of delicious pizza pies from Monroe Street Brick and Brew to-go. Make sure you and your guests are comfortably stuffed to start 2024.

So, whether at home, in town, or out hitting the trail, there is something local for everyone. And no matter how or where you choose to celebrate your New Year's Eve, just make sure you have the greatest time. YOLO as the kids once said. You only get one life, you should enjoy it. Cheers!

Lynn then presented Club President Weismantel with a Cutco cutting board for winning the friendly competition with the Olean Club for fundraising this past Fall leading up to the Walk to End Alzheimer's held in Olean. Sandi Chard spoke on the many great causes being performed worldwide and locally from a strong Rotary Foundation and the need to continually raise funds to support these efforts. She then acknowledged Weismantel as becoming both a Paul Harris Society member and a Paul Harris Bequest Society member as well.

Governor Marcin spoke on his own "Rotary moment" leading to joining Rotary and the importance of a strong and vibrant Rotary to the community and world. He presented Olean Club President Paula Bernstein with the Citation Award for accomplishment of 2022 goals and acknowledged the Ellicottville Club for its recent membership attainment which ranked near the top in the District.

FIRST DAY HIKE

PORTVILLE - Come out to the Lillibridge Trailhead at Pfeiffer Nature Center 1974 Lillibridge Rd., Portville, NY) on January 1st at 9:00am for the 9th Annual First Hike of the year. Welcome the New Year with a brisk walk around the property followed by post-hike hot cocoa! For more information on this and other upcoming events at the nature center, call 716-933-0187 or visit pfeiffernaturecenter.org.





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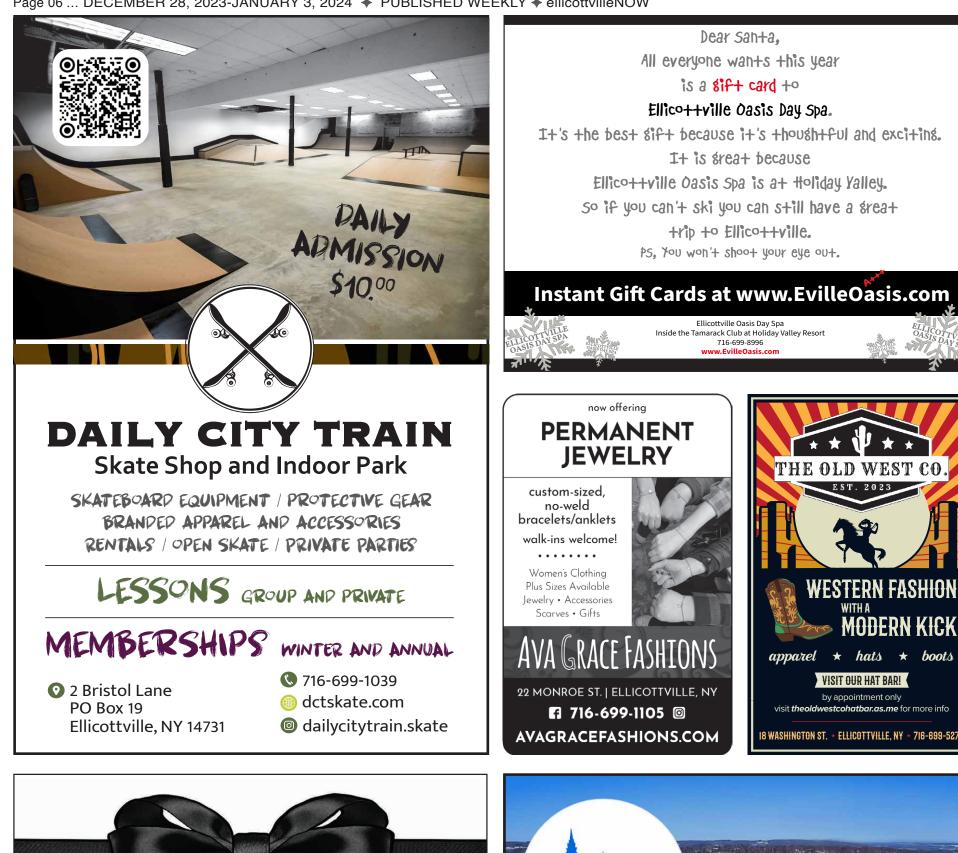
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MENU

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Ashley and Ryan are western NY natives and owners of Snowbelt Cannabis. They have been relentlessly preparing since 2021 to become cultivators in the great city of Jamestown, NY. "We took a grassroots approach and have set up a crowd investing campaign on Mainvest, allowing anyone to invest as little as \$100 and get 1.6x return on your investment."

Due to cannabis still being federally illegal, entrepreneurs of the industry face many challenges accessing capital including not being able to take out traditional business loans through banks. "This campaign will be a huge help in us being able to get up and going as quickly as possible. Through this investment crowdfunding platform, we



are providing our friends and the local community an opportunity to invest in our business. You, our friends and customers make our growth possible, and you (rather than a bank) should be able to benefit financially and share in our expansion and success. Through Mainvest, you're not just an investor... you're part of the business's journey.'

www.snowbeltcannabis.com

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PROFILE

WARRIOR FITNESS x TWO

Local Gym Set to Open Second Location in Little Valley



By Jessica Schultz

New year, new you. That's an old adage that becomes very prominent as we head from 2023 into 2024. Maybe you want to make some changes to your life - set new fitness goals, lose weight, take up a healthier lifestyle. Whatever your reason, figuring out how to start those plans and sticking to them is something we all struggle with. But help is here locally in the form of Warrior Fitness and Wellness and soon, there will be even more opportunity to "become a warrior" when their new location opens in Little Valley. ellicottvilleNOW spoke with owner Bradley Poole about what prompted the expansion and what his plans are from this point.

eNOW: What made you decide to open a new location and how has the road to opening been going?

POOLE: Our Ellicottville location is doing very well and the majority of our members are from the Ellicottville, Great Valley and Salamanca areas. Before opening Warrior Fitness, I had thoughts of opening multiple locations throughout Cattaraugus County. Well, now my dreams are coming to fruition. We don't have many members from the Little Valley area, so in order to reach those people, I decided there's no better time than now. Ellicottville is going well so let's go for it. We will be able to help people become better versions of themselves who live in Little Valley, Cattaraugus, Napoli, the Ottos,



Randolph and other surrounding towns. The overall mission of this is to spread awareness around your health and wellbeing, and to give people access to nice facilities like this one. I understand how important your health is. So, I'm going to bring the Warrior brand to them, and my team and I are going to do whatever we can to help people become healthier individuals. The road has not been an easy one. We started working on this space last spring. We had some setbacks, per usual, but we are finally ready to get this baby open!

eNOW: What prompted you to choose Little Valley for the space?

POOLE: I chose Little Valley because it's an up-and-coming town. There are over 1,000 permanent residents there with thousands of others living in surrounding towns. It is a market our Ellicottville location doesn't reach. We have a great team of trainers who can help these individuals get on the path to a healthier lifestyle. You have one life. You have to be healthy if you wish to make the best of it and live as long as possible. Your health starts with you taking that first step by showing up and letting us guide and help you through the process.

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

Ellicottville Native Ellen Frank Appointed New Town Historian



By CAROL FISHER-LINN

When Mary Elizabeth Dunbar left Ellicottville to live with her family, the Ellicottville Town Historian post became vacant. Admittedly, Mary Elizabeth left behind big shoes, so it takes someone with energy and experience, with creds and with the ability to continue stimulating the community interest in our town and village's history. Thankfully, Ellen Frank was in the wings, serving over the years in multiple capacities with the Ellicottville Historical Society.

On October 1st, Ms. Frank was appointed Town Historian by Town Supervisor Matthew McAndrew. The position is paid a small annual stipend by the Town and is renewed annually. One does not need to be a native of the town to become historian. In fact, Mary Elizabeth Dunbar was a native of Little Valley before she moved to Ellicottville to live out her days and to tirelessly serve the Ellicottville community. Ellicottville has had five historians since April 11, 1919, when New York Governor Al Smith signed the "Historian Law" into law. This was the first of its kind in the United States. Under this law every village, town, city, county, and municipality in NYS was required to have an appointed historian to document, preserve, interpret, and share the history of their communities. According to Ms. Frank, "It is part of the State's commitment to ensure that New Yorkers will have access to quality educational experiences enriched by cultural heritage resources."

Ellicottville's first historian was Bula Johnson, one of the first members of the Ellicottville Historical Society which was formed in 1957. Lena Reynolds came next for a short time, followed by Sue Parson, then Lois Siggelkow who served for 18 years, followed by Mary Elizabeth Dunbar. "I have a group of strong women to follow in this new journey of mine," says Ms. Frank.

Ms. Frank (nee Siriani) was born and raised in Ellicottville, graduating from ECS. After receiving her teaching degree, Ms. Frank taught the younger students in Salamanca for 33 years before she retired. Loving traveling and history, she visited all the museums/ homes of the Presidents hailing from Ohio. (There are 8, even one with a modern Ellicottville connection - ask her about it.)

Presently, Ms. Frank gives presentations on different presidents' homes or their museums. Having extensively toured Gettysburg and seeing it through the lens of an historian, she now gives presentations on Gettysburg and the people who survived the battle. Naturally, given the rich history of New York State and particularly Ellicottville and its connection to the Holland Land Company and Joseph Ellicott, Ms. Frank has given interesting and detailed talks on this history.

As Vice President of the Ellicottville Historical Society for the past 9 years, Ms. Frank developed and personally guided (sometimes in period costume) Historical Walking Tours around town, pointing out homes and interesting personal stories of the founders of Ellicottville. As for the founders, there is no getting away from her and her curious eyes - she even developed ghost tours, taking participants to the Jefferson Street Cemetery where many of those same people are buried, telling ghost stories along the way. It has been reported that mysterious floating orbs tend to appear at times during these ghost walks. On conversing with the new Town Historian, Ms. Frank assures us that these walks will continue. In addition, she will continue to plan and arrange field trips to interesting historical places in Western New York like this last year's trip to the Roycroft campus in East Aurora. She further assures us that the free speaker series will also continue with guest speakers telling (or singing about) exciting and enlightening tales of historical events or places, often dressed in period costume.

Jou unough the process.

eNOW: Will the new location mirror the original Warrior?

POOLE: We will be offering classes, memberships and personal training. As far as classes go, we will have a couple different classes that are different from our Ellicottville location. All of our classes can be found on the studiobookings app. Our future members can download it now, register, and then they will gain access to everything we offer.

eNOW: What services will be available? How much is membership? And what can members expect when they sign up?

POOLE: We're offering \$12 drop-in classes, \$110 for a 10-pack (good for 45 days) and \$180 for a 20-pack (good for 90 days). As for memberships, you can purchase a yearly for \$45 per month on autopay, 6 months for \$290 and 3 months for \$165. We offer a 15% discount for students, seniors, military and first responders. We also offer one month trial memberships: \$50 for single, \$80 for a couple, \$100 for a family of five or less. Speaking of family, yearly family memberships are \$120 per month for a family of three, \$140 for a family of four and \$150 for a family of five, all on autopay. Once members are signed up, they will have access to the facility anytime between 5:00am and 10:00pm via key code access. Those times may change depending on a few factors.

eNOW: What are your plans looking towards the future? Do you see more expansions headed your way?

POOLE: Our plan is to continue growing the Warrior brand. It's a special and powerful brand that has helped change the lives of many in just our three years of being open. We

"Warrior Fitness" continued page 22

In a museum report dated September 21, 1963, Bula Johnson noted that the Historical Museum was first opened to the public on April 27, 1961, with a few donated artifacts and several others on loan. The society chose to call the museum the "Historical Center," and has been open to the public five months a year, each Saturday afternoon (and some special occasions) from 2:00-4:00pm since that time.

Ms. Frank gave some statistics about guests coming through the building to catch snatches of our history. In 2023 it was open to guests June 30th to November 3rd with 1,226 visitors signing the book. These included persons from 20 states stretching from Delaware to California, and 8 countries including Canada, Ukraine and Moscow.

Many items of historic interest have been added to the collection. Fifteen are on loan, thirty-one were given to the reference library and one hundred have been donated. Al-

"New Town Historian" continued page 11

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Destination FUN

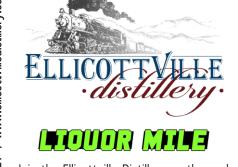
Upcoming Events to Mark On Your Calendar

@ HOLIDAY VALLEY RESORT 716-699-2345 | www.holidayvalley.com DECEMBER



Celebrate the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024 with a fun, family friendly party that ends with an impressive fireworks display. Join in for a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. The TVs in the Ullr Bar will be playing the NYC Ball Drop. The T-Bar will be open upstairs in the Main Lodge. Drinks and food specials will be available at the Mountainside Cafe and the Ullr Bar. Fireworks will start around 11:45pm and finish with a grand finale at midnight. Champagne will be given to guests age 21+ who want to take part in a NYE toast. Last but not least, DJ Campbell Dawson will be rocking the Main Lodge from 9:00pm to 12:30am.

716-597-6121 | www.ellicottvilledistillery.com © ELLICOTTVILLE DISTILLERY M DECEMBER



Join the Ellicottville Distillery as they celebrate the last day of 2023 with their annual "Liquor Mile" on Sunday December 31st! Distillery opens and registration for runners starts at 11:00am. Run starts at 12:00pm sharp. All proceeds will be donated to Oishei Children's hospital. After every quarter of a mile you get a miniature cocktail, so 1 mile run = 4 drinks! Fiammata Pizza will also be on site. Live music from 5:00-8:00pm, with fireworks at 8:00pm! This race will not be timed and will be partially cross country, weather permitting.

@ ALLEGANY STATE PARK 716-379-6939 1 www.wynba.org m DECEMBER



The New Gear's Eve Bike Ride begins at Camp Allegany at 6:00pm. Grab your bike and some friends to join Allegany staff and WNYMBA members for the last ride of the year. Bring lights, wear warm and reflective gear and a helmet. Participants may be split into different paced groups, if necessary. (Don't worry, no one will be left behind!) A social will follow the ride in the Mess Hall at Camp Allegany. Bring your own snacks. For any questions, call the Environmental Education Department at 716-379-6939.

@ HOLIDAY VALLEY RESORT 716-699-2345 | www.holidayvalley.com ANUARY



Humans were not meant to hibernate, and there's no better reason to get up off the couch and out into the fresh air than learning to ski or snowboard. Oh wait... how about a discount??? All weekdays during January get a half priced learn to ski or learn to snowboard package for ages 12 and up! The daytime price is \$40 and the price for a night package is \$32.50. And even better on Learn to Love Winter Day, January 5, the Learn to Ski or Snowboard package is just \$25! Bring your friend, your spouse or your child - skiing and snowboarding are twice as fun when you have a buddy!

ĥ **@ Holiday Valley Resort** 716-699-2345 | www.holidayvalley.com JANUARY



CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Back when Holiday Valley began in 1956, the skiers borrowed many ideas from their favorite Canadian Resort. When the resort officially opened in 1958, our good friends from the North came to visit and have been skiing with us ever since. That's why we celebrate Canadian Friendship Week. As a special deal, lift tickets and equipment rentals will be 30% off, January 1 through January 5, 2024. Promotion only applies on full priced items. Previously discounted lift tickets and/or rentals do not apply for this promotion.

@ HOLIMONT SKI RESORT 716-699-2320 | www.holimont.com JANUARY

T SKI RESORT holimont.com

@ HOLIMONT 716-699-23201 www.h

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IANUAR

HOLIN BREATH AND **ICE CHALLENGE**

Put yourself in the expert hands of certified WHM Instructor, Steve Beattie, to learn using breath and cold exposure to optimize body & mind. Learn about the underlying physiology and psychology to achieve peak performance. Then put the theory into practice dipping into the icy waters on top of the mountain. Start learning the Wim Hof Method today and start your journey to a happier, healthier and stronger you. All proceeds from this event go directly to the Good Climb Endurance Challenge. You can register for the event at breathinginnnature.com.







ANUARY



@ DOWNTOWN ELL 800-349-9099 | www.ellicot JANUARY

Fill your Ellicottville experience with a lively weekend of great blues music during Ellicottville's annual Winter Blues Weekend. The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce is excited to present this high-energy, soulful celebration in the heart of our village, with over 15 regional acts performing in all the downtown hot spots. The music kicks off Friday evening and continues through Sunday afternoon, making it a weekend you won't want to miss. All performances are free to enjoy!

alley

YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI **CLINIC WITH LISA BALLARD**

@ HOLIDAY VAL 716-699-2345 1 www.holida Holiday Valley Snowsports School is featuring the 10th annual YOUR TURN women's clinic on Wednesday and Thursday, January 24 and 25, 2024 led by Lisa Ballard, a widely acclaimed coach and ski racer and assisted by several of Holiday Valley's finest women instructors. Intermediate skiers who can ski the blue squares through advanced skiers who want to take their skiing to the next level will benefit from this clinic. The clinic will begin at 8:00am with registration and breakfast. Pre-registration is advised as attendance is limited. Questions, call 716-699-3506.

CONTRACTOR'S DAY

HoliMont Contractor's Day is an event filled with many fun activities that take place on and off the slopes. This year's activities will include the 36th annual Dave Pitkin Memorial Ski Race, dedicated to him to commemorate his enduring spirit, his contributions to the HoliMont Racing Club, and his part in creating the racing hill. Participants can also enjoy the infamous Bombardier Ball Drop, lunch provided by Dina's at the Mont, a vendor market and an Après Ski Party. This event is sponsored by many local businesses and helps to celebrate and support our local community. Join in the fun for one of our most favorite days of the year!

ellicottvilleNOW ◆ PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY ◆ DECEMBER 28, 2023-JANUARY 3, 2024 ... Page 09









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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING AT THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PHASE 1B REMEDIATION CONTRACT?

YOU'RE INVITED! TO A MEET & GREET

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

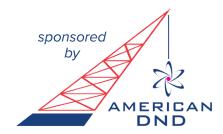
JANUARY 24, 2024 2:00- 6:00PM



WEST VALLEY HOSE CO. FIRE HALL 9091 ROUTE 240 WEST VALLEY, NY 14171

COME LEARN ABOUT THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT & MEET AMERICAN DND REPRESENTATIVES.

DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEING PART OF FUTURE WORK ON-SITE!





MEETING NOTES

ELLICOTTVILLE VILLAGE BOARD

Mayor Announces Approval of Environmental Impact Award for Outdoor Public Skatepark; Medical Equipment Program Receives Permission to Use DPW Building

BY COLLEEN EVANS

Mayor John Burrell called to order the last meeting of 2023 for the Ellicottville Village Board on December 19th. The first order of business brought to the attention of the Board was some good news. Starting off strong, it was announced that the Village was approved for the Built-to-Play Skatepark Environmental Impact Award (EIA) Grant which helps fund processes and design features that lessen the environmental impact of the recently constructed skatepark (located inside Ellicottville's Village Park). The \$50,000 will be applied to complete the already scheduled progress in motion.

Business from the Floor: A few major topics were brought to the Broad for discussion. First, the Ellicottville Medical Equipment Loan Center. The initiative at the moment is to find a satellite location for the Ellicottville Medical Equipment Loan Center. The center aims to provide medical equipment along with an experienced recommendation for those in need. The loan center is being funded by the Bob McCarthy Foundation and will also work alongside Interfaith Caregivers who will provide the management for the program.

It was proposed to the Board that they be given permission to use the open office space on Mill Street within the DPW building. The office space is currently not in use and if made available, they plan to renovate as well as separate the additional back space to allow for the Village to utilize that extra area if needed. The Village Board approved the use of space for the program with well wishes. This is a volunteer based center and if at all interested in providing your time or equipment, you can look further into the management end on their Facebook page under Interfaith Caregivers.

Briefly discussed were the plans brought to the Board's attention by farmer Richie Stewart, on his potential plans to open a Cannabis shop at 11 Martha Street. Seeing that this is a relatively new retail category, the Board directed Mr. Stewart to take this through the channels of the Zoning and Planning Board for approval. On the topic of cannabis, the adoption of Local Law No. 7 went through, which is a zoning code amendment to adopt a cannabis regulation. This will be put into effect once received and approved by the State

of New York. This fell under the report of the Planning and Zoning Board and along with the additional information provided, was approved by the Village Board.

Engineering Report: Amendment No. 1 was reviewed and approved for the Elizabeth Street Project. This was made off of the original March 28, 2023 Agreement and set to continue construction services approximately through November 1, 2024.

The new Mill Street Parking Lot was addressed, as it is currently barricaded and unavailable for use. While the construction has been completed - including the sidewalks, curb, light pole bases, entrance, and all paving - the Village is waiting for the electricity to be connected. Once National Grid is available for the connection, the electric will be serviced along with the installation of charging stations. The lot will remain closed until further notice.

DPW Report: Some end-of-year maintenance was provided through the department. A large amount of clean-up was done, along with the removal and cleaning of the Home-town Hero banners. Benches have been stored for the winter, and streets, as well as side-walks, have been plowed and sanded as needed.

Adding to the upkeep of the village, the Alley Katz presented new planters to be installed throughout as a replacement to the barrels. These beautiful new additions will be three feet tall and allow for adjustable legs, providing a sturdy base. The design calls for a wood trim frame, green siding with black etched details of the mountains, and ELLICOTT-VILLE imprinted on the additional face of the planter. They look to be a perfect addition to the appeal of the village.

Moving into 2024, the Ellicottville Village Board will continue on their same schedule for meetings, which will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Town Hall, One West Washington Street. For additional information, go to ellicottvillegov.com.

RAIL TRAIL AWARDED EPF GRANT THROUGH NYS PARKS

Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Works to Re-imagine Cascade Bridge, Preserving its Historic and Architectural Features



Left: Aerial view of the current Cascade Bridge. Right: A photo simulation of the proposed Cascade Bridge followig ECRT project improvements.

ORCHARD PARK - In the latest round of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative awards, Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Inc. has been awarded an Environmental Protection Fund - Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grant of \$278,800 through NYS Parks. These funds, along with a grant from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation with support from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, as well as ECRT funds, will be used to assess the historic, high trestle Cascade Bridge spanning Cattaraugus Creek between the Towns of Concord and Ashford, and determine a cost estimate for a new decking design incorporating features based on public and stakeholder input. ECRT will also design and construct a trail approaching from the north to the bridge. This key bridge will be a highlight of the ECRT and future Southern Tier Trail.

This award is the result of ECRT's successful Cascade Bridge Planning and Trail Development Environmental Protection Fund grant application made to NYS through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). ECRT President Mary Brummer announced the award, stating, "This grant presents an exciting opportunity. The historic and architectural features of the Cascade Bridge provide a unique foundation on which to build. We look forward to working with the residents and elected officials in the Towns of Concord and Ashford to create a bridge design that our entire region will enjoy."

development."

"We are excited about the collaboration that has resulted in an amazing opportunity to reimagine the Cascade Bridge. We are thankful for the work of the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation to support this effort to create new opportunities for recreation, tourism, and economic development. This historic bridge and beautiful natural setting will provide an amazing connection between Erie and Cattaraugus Counties along the Southern Tier Trail," said JJ Tighe, Director of Parks & Trails for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

From the 1850s through the 1870s, the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad (BPRR) provided a direct route to and from the Pennsylvania coal mines. Passenger service began in the Buffalo division in 1883, and the railroad named some of its locomotives after the towns along its route; e.g. Ashford, Glenwood, Orchard Park, Springville, and West Valley. Passenger service became so popular, the railroad started offering multiple excursions to the Southern Tier. Cascade Park was known for its beautiful, natural setting. The bridge is 185 feet high and 780 feet long. Its 200-foot-high banks, caves, and waterfalls made it the perfect location for picnics and parties in the early 1900s.

NYS Senator Partick M. Gallivan (R-C, Elma) announced, "This funding represents an investment in our regional assets and will enhance the experience for residents and visitors alike. I applaud the municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and others for working in collaboration to identify these projects, which will promote growth, tourism and economic

Passenger service came to an end on the division in 1955. Freight service continued into the 1960s. BPRR officially ceased service in 2008 and applied to the federal Surface Transportation Board for the ability to railbank 27 miles of the corridor from Orchard Park to Ashford. In 2018, ECRT acquired a long-term rail-banking lease which calls for the creation of a multi-use recreational trail along this former rail corridor. Learn more: www.ecrailtrail.org.

NEW TOWN HISTORIAN

cont. from page 07

though interest is high to receive more items of historical significance for the archives, there is a problem with accepting them, until such time as the society has more space to safely house those historic treasures. One of dearest wishes of Ms. Frank and all who are involved with the Historical Society is to have a larger building, or perhaps another building in the village donated to expand the services and displays of the society. Presently, with their limited space, there is not even room for anyone to do research on the premises. Options are being reviewed in earnest.

The new board consists of Dawn Westfall, President; Gina Hensel, Vice President; Carolyn Bauer, Secretary; and Bob Ellis, Treasurer. These individuals, with the help of

many dedicated volunteers, keep the doors open and programs available to the Ellicot-tville community.

After a discussion about where students went to school before the current school building was built, it occurred to Ms. Frank that she would like to hear from individuals in the community who attended classes in various homes or scattered buildings. Ms. Frank asked if we would put out her request to get information from the community. You can mail 6538 Donlen Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731, or email ellicottvilletownhistorian@ gmail.com. She is developing a Facebook page as well - EllicottvilleTownHistorian where people can contact her about anything related to the history of Ellicottville.

Congratulations Ellen Frank and may your term be long, productive, and enriching to both you and the entire Ellicottville community.

ellicottvilleNOW

YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

A Look Back at All the Ways We Worked Together in 2023

By Brenda Perks







It's a word you see often in ellicottvilleNOW: COMMUNITY. And it's no wonder why. Our area has mastered the art of coming together - whether it be helping families in need and fundraising for local organizations, supporting school projects and cheering on our athletes, embracing the #shopsmallsbusiness movement by lifting each other up, or sharing in the many feel-good events and activities that take place in our corner of WNY that we just can't seem to get enough of. No matter what the occasion, our businesses, our residents, our volunteers... we bring people together.

Just spend some time in Ellicottville and our neighboring towns and you'll easily discover many examples of "community", whatever the season. Let's look back at 2023 and hit on just a few of them...

WHEN LOCAL BUSINESSES TEAM UP

At the top of the year, two Ellicottville-based businesses, Weed Ross Insurance and The Boardroom Snowboard Shop, joined forces to give a group of young snowboarders a boost in a growing winter sport that the business owners themselves are very passionate about.

What was once a program focused on racing gates has evolved into a freestyle team determined to master the terrain parks. HoliMont's freestyle snowboard program, which launched six winters ago with just a few participants, has grown to over two dozen. You may not have noticed this group of shredders on the hill dressed in their own personal coats and pants in years past, but you certainly recognized them last ski season. Thanks to Weed Ross and the The Boardroom, each HoliMont Snowboard Team member was outfitted with a "HoliMont Snowboard Team" jacket. It may not seem like a big deal on the outside, but for the kids, it's a feeling of inclusion and pride... and "being official," as one team member expressed. For the sponsoring businesses, it's just what they do. And that's what makes this community so special.

"The best and most rewarding part of owning Weed Ross has been the ability to give back to the local community," said Sean Cornelius. "We support many events and charities in our area throughout the year. Supporting the HoliMont Snowboard Team/Program is something that is near and dear to my heart. I have been snowboarding since I was 12-years-old and it has been a major part of my life. My sons, Harrison and Finn, have now found the same love for snowboarding that I have, and this team has been excellent for them."

As for Timkey, he and his shop need no introduction. A family-run business in its 39th season, Spencer is the second generation of The Boardroom Snowboard Shop and snowboarding advocacy. The Burton jackets provided by The Boardroom - coupled with the HoliMont Snowboard Team name and sponsoring business logos applied on the jackets by Sports Locker of Olean - has each HoliMont Snowboard Team member and coach now proudly donning their passion on and off the slopes.

REPAIRING THE RAIL CARS

It's hard to make sense of the destruction people cause sometimes, especially when it happens to a staple historic attraction. In mid-January, the Salamanca Rail Museum had all four of its rail cars vandalized, resulting in over \$9,000 worth of damage. Just to give you some background on the museum's historical significance, the Rail Museum is a fully restored passenger depot that was originally constructed in 1912 by the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railways. It was acquired in 1980 and brought back to life through a combination of donations, government funds and volunteer labor. The two-story building's main lobby reflects the simple elegance of its age. The ticket office is still authentic, right down to the office furniture and telegraph machine. It boasts a brick-walled baggage room and even a special "Ladies Retiring Room" with multiple windows to let in light. The whole place is an exact duplicate based on the original architectural plans. Oh, it must have been a delight to visit in its heyday!

The museum is open to visitors seasonally (or by appointment) and provides an opportunity to experience a bygone era from over 90 years ago - through photos, video presentations and artifacts. Some of those artifacts that crowds are always happy to see are the authentic rail cars that were broken into; at least 31 of their windows were smashed out and their seats cut open.

As a non-profit organization, this was a harsh blow. Sixt Lumber and Robinson Construction & Residential Electric were instrumental in offering their generous assistance during the emergency, helping the Rail Museum secure the cars and working to avoid any further damage from the winter weather. Many other local businesses stepped up to offer their support to repair the rail cars and purchase/install a security system. The community came together to help build this beautiful historical attraction back to its glory.

ON-SNOW "FUN" DRAISERS

Unique to our area is the ability to raise substantial support for area organizations while enjoying the thrill of skiing and snowboarding. Both Holiday Valley and HoliMont provide a home base for many on-snow events. Two that stick out from this past year are Ski 4 A Cure and The Boardroom Banked.

Inspired by The Ride For Roswell summertime cycling event, the Ski Club of Lockport (SCOL) created a day centered around outdoor winter activities - where all members of the family would have the chance to participate and have fun together, skiing/snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, competing in races, scavenger hunts and more, with the end goal to raise money for cancer research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"I saw a fundraising event like this at Vail ski resort in Colorado," said SCOL board member Tom Doran. "It was called "Pink Vail. It's a big festival with thousands of people all wearing pink and having fun to raise money for their local hospital out there."

The inaugural event, held at HoliMont in February, kicked off with an emotional "Survivors" Parade down Exhibition slope featuring cancer survivors, their family members and friends, all traversing to the bottom on their skis and snowboards. A colorful parade it was as participants were encouraged to wear colors that represent the cancer they are/



were affected by.

Ski 4 A Cure will return to HoliMont on February 16th with even more activities. Tickets are already on sale and can be purchased through HoliMont's website at holimont.com/ events.

On the other side of the mountain, snowboarders across the western New York region pull out the fresh wax come each March in preparation for the annual Boardroom Banked Slalom held at Holiday Valley. The 2023 event saw yet another epic display of community coming together to not only celebrate standing sideways and cheer on one another, but to help others in need.

"While the Banked is a day to celebrate western NY snowboarding, we also use it as a tool to raise money for a great cause," said Spencer Timkey, owner of The Boardroom Snowboard Shop which organizes the event. For the second year in a row, proceeds were donated to P.U.N.T. Pediatric Cancer Collaborative, a Buffalo-based nonprofit that assists families affected by pediatric cancer. Close to \$5,000 was raised for the cause, outshining the year before, thanks to the generosity of all those who love to snowboard.

If you love snowboarding, mark your calendar for Sunday, March 3, 2024 when the 6th annual returns to Holiday Valley. (It's a great spectator's event too, for those who don't ride.) Keep tabs right here in ellicottvilleNOW and follow @holidayvalley @boardroom-eville on social.

COMMUNITY MURAL

Community means a great deal to all of us. It's where we grow up, who we raise our families with, the place we plant our roots. It means so many different things and keeping it not just clean and beautiful but inclusive and safe for all citizens when they come together. The Tri-County Arts Council of Olean (TCAC) understands the value of community, which is why for the second year in a row, they invited an artist to design and create a larger-than-life mural that the entire community can enjoy and appreciate.

Following the successful installation of 2022's mural by artist Meg Saligman titled, "The Heart of Olean" (which encompasses all four sides of the Liberal Arts Center building at the SUNY JCC Cattaraugus Campus), the Arts Council's attention shifted to artist Alex Derwick for 2023, who's mural, "Community Ties" now graces the wall of the William O. Smith Rec Center in Olean's War Vets Park.

"I wanted to depict an older sibling teaching a younger sibling how to tie their shoes. I really wanted to create something that showed the community caring for each other," Alex said about his proposed mural design. "I came up with the design based on my own memories of learning to ice skate at the recreation center. I can remember looking down at my skates and feeling like tying my laces was an impossible task - a small but worrisome moment for a kid. The beauty of a space like the recreation center or the basketball court or any space where physical activities are being held, there's usually someone there to help you learn the ropes. It's not just about the shoelaces but the point that people will always be there to help each other."

passion of local skateboarding advocates and a matching grant awarded by The Skatepark Project and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. With title sponsorship for the project supported by the New Car Dealers of WNY Charitable Foundation, the skatepark is named the New Car Dealers of WNY Ellicottville Skatepark.

As the lead advocate of SK8EVL, we can't thank the New Car Dealers of WNY Charitable Foundation enough for their support in this endeavor. Their \$100,000 donation turned into \$200,000 as a result of The Skatepark Project and RCW Jr. Foundation's "Built to Play" matching grant program. Add to that all the support we've received from businesses and community members right here in Ellicottville, and we now have a state-of-the-art facility that welcomes all ages, all skill levels, and most importantly, a safe space where our youth can be active, develop friendships and express themselves through the sport of skateboarding.

"The Ellicottville community has come together to create an incredible new recreational resource for the young people of the area," said Benjamin Anderson Bashein, executive director of The Skatepark Project. "The Skatepark Project is proud to be a part of helping make the Ellicottville Skatepark a reality."

The facility, which invites the public to use at no charge, has seen skateboarders from all over the country come enjoy the park since opening, and has received great feedback from skaters and non-skaters alike.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

The Frank Pitillo Memorial Lighting Fund was created in June 2022 by Nick Pitillo who explained the purpose of the foundation as this: "This project is to replace the lights on the sports field at Ellicottville Central School, which have fallen in disrepair. These lights were originally put up through a community effort in 1977 in honor of my brother Frank Pitillo, a local athlete that was killed in a motorcycle accident. These new lights will be in place for years to come, so they can help create new memories for the next generation. Whether it's playing a sport, or attending games, "Friday Night Lights" is a cherished tradition that has created countless memories for generations, not only here, but across the entire country."

As the new school year approached, and thanks to COMMUNITY, the Frank Pitillo Memorial Lighting Fund reached its fundraising goal and the new lights were installed in time for the ECS Homecoming Weekend varsity football game. In a heartwarming moment, the Pitillo family shared with all in attendance the monumental joy and celebration of flipping the switch in honor of the late Frank Pitillo, writing history for the second time at ECS.

The new system is more environmentally efficient, using up to 75% less energy, and if you had a chance to attend a game under the lights this past fall, you noticed increased clarity

Alex's mural included assistance from members of the community, who were invited to help paint on specially organized "public paint days" - a true example of community and bringing people together. Going forward, TCAC hopes to be able to support a mural project each year and welcomes any artist that is interested to apply by reaching out to them at 716-372-7455 or info@myartscouncil.net.

PUBLIC SKATEPARK OPENS

Following three years of fundraising and a year of construction, the Ellicottville Skatepark Committee (SK8EVL) and the Village of Ellicottville hosted a grand opening celebration of the new concrete public skatepark located inside Ellicottville's Village Park. The June 30th event welcomed a great crowd, high-energy entertainment, local vendors and food trucks, plenty of giveaways, and of course, skateboarding! Special guests included Mary Wilson and Dave Egner from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and members of The Skatepark Project including Tony Hawk's brother, Steve, and sister, Lenore. The Skatepark Project team gifted close to 100 skateboards to kids and teens that attended the celebration throughout the day.

The skatepark, designed and built by Grindline of Seattle, WA, is a culmination of the

and reduced blind spots, which certainly helps our young athletes play safely.

FOOD PANTRY EXPANSION

We've all needed a little bit of help at some point in our lives. There's no shame in seeking assistance in a time of need. Our local food banks provide plenty of people with sustenance. It's what they do. They help. But earlier this year, the Great Valley Food Pantry asked for the community's help. They had outgrown their space.

"The Great Valley Food Pantry was set up inside the Great Valley Town Hall in 2019 to assist folks residing in Great Valley, Humphrey and Killbuck," said Jan Benson, Pantry Coordinator. "It is our intention to offer food assistance to many in our area who fall into the low and limited income category. The pantry has gone from helping 20 residents to now approximately 150-170 each month!"

Due to the growing need for assistance, the Town built an addition onto the Town Hall. The 37'x42' area now exclusively serves as the pantry, but the contents and fixtures inside were the responsibility of the food pantry to supply, through donation. This is where the community stepped up to the plate. 3-door coolers, a large freezer, folding chairs, stainless metal tables and shelves, storage bins, shopping carts, paint and monetary donations came pouring in, along with many donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries and house-hold items to help restock the shelves. The new space was completed this past fall and is now able to assist the many residents who walk through its doors in need.

"Year In Review" continued page 15





Please contact 716-553-8801 for any additional information or questions you may have

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER

cont. from page 03

The two days of clinic includes video analysis, equipment information and demo equipment. Attendees will be fed a continental breakfast and lunch both days. Dinner will be provided on Wednesday followed by a presentation to help folks ski more confidently. Lodging and lift tickets will be available at special rates!

Ballard, author of the top-selling ski instructional book, "Ski Faster! Guide to High Performance Skiing and Racing", has written thirteen books as well as hundreds of articles. Besides competing, Ballard has successfully coached and instructed skiing for over thirty years. Finishing



second overall in the world in 2023 and ranking 1st in Super G, Ballard (member of the U.S. Ski Team in the late 1970's and 1980's six-year veteran of the Women's Pro Ski Tour) has topped 100 national titles several years back. Named "Masters Skier of the Year" six times by U.S. Ski and Snowboard, what woman wouldn't want to attend this clinic as over 8,000 women have had breakthroughs in their skiing while taking Ballard's clinics!

"Every year, women look forward to taking part in this event," Hegeman said. "It's all about camaraderie and fun; along with picking up some new tips and tricks on how to be a better skier and have even more fun out on the slopes." Clinic registration begins at 8:00am with breakfast. For information or to reserve your spot, call 716-699-3506 as attendance is limited and pre-registration is advised. The cost of the clinic is \$389 per person.

Why not make the most out of winter this January during "Learn a Snowsport Month" and make your way on over to Holiday Valley to learn how to ski or snowboard? Check out the Holiday Valley website at holidayvalley.com for more information as they offer numerous other ski and snowboard programs for both kids and adults and so much more!

YEAR IN REVIEW

cont. from page 13



IN TRUE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

One hundred years ago, a group of good people in Cleveland, Ohio established an organization to manage personal endowed funds established by families, groups and organizations for charitable foundations. Today, these groups exist all over the United States. One such group, the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation (CRCF), hosts an annual nonprofit networking day each year to help other local nonprofit organizations grow their funding capacities. Called Cattaraugus GIVES and taking place on Giving Tuesday, CRCF has gone from raising \$28,000 for 40 participating nonprofits in 2017 to over \$275,000 for 88 nonprofits in 2019 to over \$306,000 for close to 90 organizations in 2023!

The one-day, 24-hour online fundraising blitz has helped so many local organizations to continue their mission - from Empire Animal Rescue Society to the Pink Pumpkin Project to the Ellicottville-Great Valley Recreation Trail, Cattaraugus GIVES acts as the kickoff to the holiday fundraising season.

Bob McCarthy's Irish Christmas has created quite the buzz over the past 18 years, and this year was just as exceptional. This fun evening honoring the event's namesake reflects the generosity and compassion of our tight knit community as many turn out to support the cause. Hosted by The Bob McCarthy Foundation each December at Ellicottville Brewing Company, Irish Christmas never disappoints with unique auction items paired with freshly baked pies by Ellicottville's finest local bakers, with funds applied towards the foundation's Christmas initiatives - Santa's Workshop and the Santa Sheriff Program. Proceeds also provide funding for the foundation's year-round family support services as they strive to level the playing field for those less fortunate in our community. This year's event, held December 1st, was able to help 29 families totaling 117 individuals, and as a volunteer at Irish Christmas each year, I can tell you there is no sign of this wonderful event slowing down. The foundation is already working on details for 2024!



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CCA (Connecting Communities in Action) and the Salamanca Schools Transportation Department teamed up earlier this month to "Fill the Bus". This yearly event invites the community to come together to make a difference for those in need by donating non-perishables and even toys and books to add to a family's holiday wishes. All proceeds go directly to support CCA's Nutrition Department which offers an in-house pantry, a community kitchen, and a community garden.

ERA Team VP Real Estate and Vacation Rentals experienced an overwhelming success of their 2023 Toys for Tots campaign, bringing in over 500 toys, thanks to the generous outpouring of support from their clients and the community. Let's not forget to mention the donation bins set up inside M&T Bank, the Project Christmas initiative at Ellicottville Central School, 2024 calendar sales to benefit our furry friends, and you've got a whole holiday season of feel-good fundraisers that everyone can get behind, each one raising more money and more awareness than the year before! That's the value of community! How wonderful it is when we all connect for the greater good!

Cheers to 2023. Let's rally together to make 2024 another monumental year for the books!

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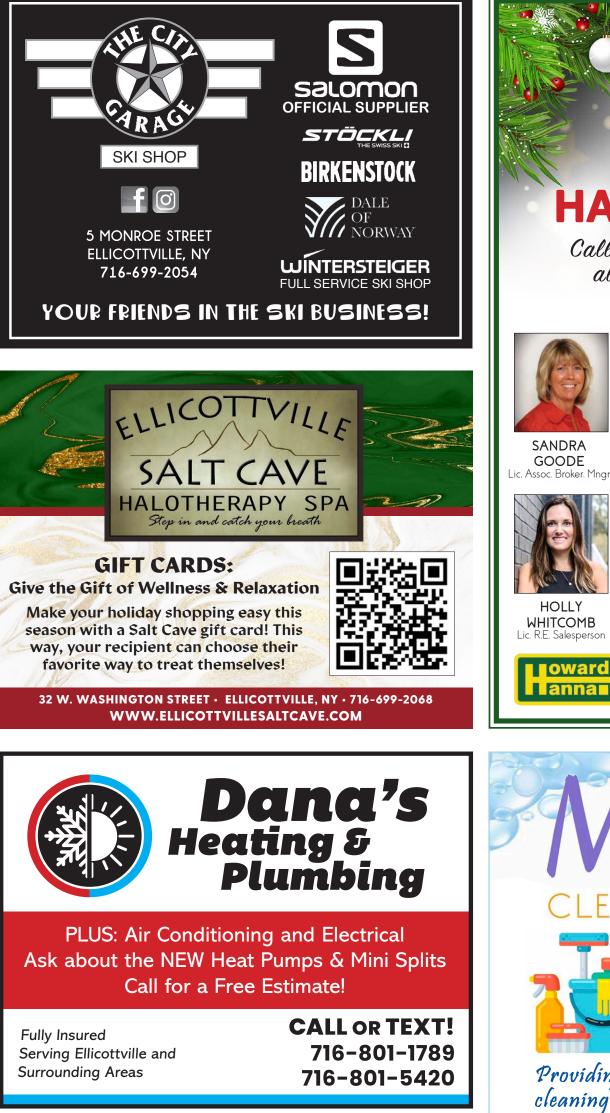




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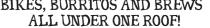
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LIFESTYLE

Core Performance: Resolutions Fail

BY KIM DUKE, CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER

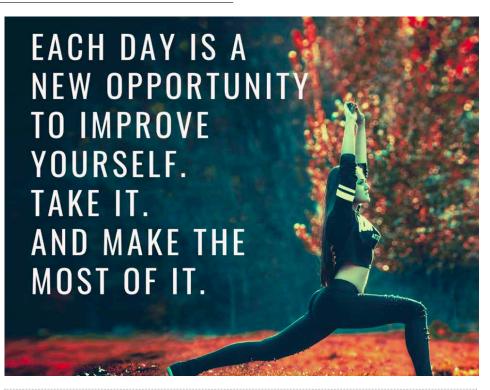
Every time January 1st hits, so do resolutions. I am amazed at the number of quick fixes, diets and new fitness equipment that fills every available commercial spot year after year. Fitness equipment is now so amazing that all you need is 14 minutes a session and you will lose fat and get ripped. Interestingly enough, the person portraying the wanna-be-athlete is typically already ripped and super good looking. I have known too many folks who have bought into this fantasy, only to be sadly disappointed by the actual amount of work that needs to go into getting their fitness and health back on track. So disappointed, they quit altogether.

New Year's resolutions have a sense of déjà vu. They seem to be the same as any other year. We make promises to ourselves about how we are going to change. Sadly, studies have shown that 60 percent of people had given up after six months and who knows how many of the remaining 40 percent secretly gave up but didn't want to admit it.

One of the main reasons New Year's resolutions are so hard to change is that we come up against rock hard habits. Typical targets for resolutions like healthy eating, quitting smoking and taking up exercise are very difficult habits to alter because these patterns of behavior have been built up over many years.

Instead, it's much better to try and replace the bad habit with a better one. Rather than suppressing a snacking habit, for example, it's better to make the snack food healthier switch from candy to apples. If you find yourself slipping, here's a tip for quickly boosting self-control: Try thinking about your core values, something you really care about. It could be your partner, your family or a higher ideal. Studies have found this can help boost your self-control in a moment of weakness.

Finally, one of the most important messages emerging from the research is that breaking old habits is hard. The temptation is to bite off more than you can chew, but baby steps are likely to work better. Try to start with minor bad habits, or only part of your bad habit. For example, it may not be possible to tackle unhealthy eating all in one go, but you can at least change what you habitually eat for breakfast. With this change under your belt, you can layer another good habit on top, and then another.



Kim Duke is a certified personal trainer and owner of Core Performance Fitness and Training, located at 55 Bristol Lane, Ellicottville, NY. Kim resides in Ellicottville where she raised her two sons, Zach and Nik. For more information about her studio visit her Facebook page, go to www.coreperformancefitness.com or call her directly at 716-698-1198.

For big changes, think small.



This is a special article to help you get a finger on the pulse of the first half of the new year!2024-2025 will bring so much upheaval and change, you won't recognize your "old" life. Look at how our world has changed drastically and dramatically since 2020.

Next round - everything involving the sky, outer space including extra-terrestrials, social media, technology and communication is going to take off at warp speed! Read on for how it will impact you!

AIR SIGNS - GEMINI, LIBRA & AQUARIUS

A big boost of needed support from the universe for the air signs as we begin springtime Work on being more flexible in your body - yoga, stretching, etc. Muscle-test your supple-

By Suzy Woo, B.Msc

Suzy's Star Readings: Happy New Year! What Can Your Sign Expect for the First Half of 2024?

static around you will begin to sort itself out and you won't feel that you've wasted time waiting as some of the pieces fall into place. Reach for self-mastery via spiritual, charitable, prayer, support, occult work, dreamwork, shamanism - take excellent care of your health and work on safer boundaries, allow yourself more time to recharge.

FIRE SIGNS - ARIES, LEO & SAGITTARIUS

For the fire signs, you will be exactly that - on fire! Be sure to stay grounded; this will be very important because sensitive topics will be percolating and you can jump on your soap box and be a bit much for others. Fire signs often are, but we need that motivation, that leadership, so please burn your energy safely. Choose what to get excited about. Be careful not to be a match near a fireworks store. Hold your own candle and allow yourself to light the way for others, to feel safe, to feel heard, to blaze a path for others to follow. Streamline and integrate powerful words to go with your actions, mean what you say and say what you mean. Work to maintain balance. Allow rest when you need it; you are not infallible. Forge forward with redefining your IDENTITY. It is important to focus on what matters to you and practice living in alignment with that more and more.

EARTH SIGNS - TAURUS, VIRGO & CAPRICORN

Be careful not to be too demanding of yourself; you can only move so fast. You can expect continued anxiety until late April which is when it will finally start to subside. Earth signs are slow moving, cool, steady and practical, but you have been having plenty of internal earthquakes to your body, mind, and nervous system. It is important to stay hydrated for earth signs. Keep your body strong, keep your mind open to hear and learn. Everything will be speeding up around you and it won't feel comfortable because earth likes slow and steady. People will be buzzing about everything. Best advice is stay in your lane, help keep the peace by keeping organized and helping others to know their expectations.

- you finally feel less bogged down and more springy, chatty and social. It's an excellent ments and vitamins - your body is going through changes, and you may have outgrown particular health practices. Check for expired foods, vitamins, and things in your lifestyle, including relationships. If you don't adapt, you may lose some friends. Be sure to reflect on the lessons you experience from everyone around you; they are showing you something about yourself, whether helpful, hurtful or indifferent. Don't tolerate behaviors that are abusive, manipulative or toxic. If someone is always throwing digs at you, speak up about how it makes you feel and get to the bottom of it. Don't expect everyone to know how you process their behaviors; what you tolerate will grow. It is up to you to say it out loud or in writing. Try to get everything out that needs venting before mid to late April, or you're going to hit a boiling point and you may really lash out.

opportunity for learning, taking classes, mental exploration and experiencing quantum leaps in conceptual understanding. Be mindful not to get preachy; there will never be a time that you know all there is to know. Keep learning and stay open. Don't become complacent. Speak up. Plan on journaling more than usual, take lots of notes because things will be speeding up and information will be dumped in massive quantities and from every direction. You don't have to study every single thing; only follow the things that are of meaning for you to help prevent needless clutter in your head. This is important as air signs are huge thinkers and communicators! Air signs must speak, write, express. Get lean and strong in your conquests. Don't bite your lip or look the other way another day - have the conversations that you need to have. Break out of codependency. Speak your truth. Everyone will not be growing with you; you will outgrow some relationships and circumstances.

WATER SIGNS - CANCER, PISCES & SCORPIO

It will be a little challenging as you can feel heavy, burdened, or snagged on mechanic aspects of your plans, including plans to build, be it a physical home, business or a business plan. It may seem that your plans to move forward are in extreme slow motion. In the springtime, everything around you speeds up like crazy and it can feel overwhelming. The way to move through 2024 will be by reflecting inwardly and asking the deeper questions such as, "Why am I mad?" or "Am I waiting for someone or something else to complete me?", or you can really be stunted in your sense of direction. Ask yourself what makes you happy. It has to be centered on your heart energy - what is something you can work towards to feel a sense of purpose or fulfillment? Then start doing smaller things that move you towards those types of goals. In the meantime, the whirlwind of chaos and

I have opened the doors to my full year ahead report! There is a \$22 special or if you want my personal review added to it, it is also on special for just \$50, deliverable within 3 days via email available on my website. You can also get your birth chart for free on my website at suzy-woo.com/chart-generator. Enter your date, time and city of birth and voila!

How did I do? I would love to hear from you at hello@suzy-woo.com. With great love and gratitude, my monthly astrology for January will be posted next week!

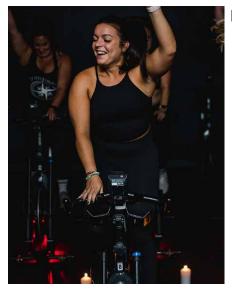
- Suzy Woo

Rev. Suzy Woo, B.Msc, is a Spiritual Healer, Astrologer, and Psychic Medium specializing in Energy, Sound, Light and Crystal Healing. Suzy is the owner of Good for the Spirit Gifts, 11 Martha St., Ellicottville, NY. Follow her on IG/FB, find her at suzy-woo.com or call 716-699-2871.

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Local health and fitness opportunities to kick-start your 2024 journey



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NOW HIRING: The Gado-Gado team is looking for an addition. We're looking for a hard-working and motivated individual to work alongside us. Must be available on weekends and festivals! Email resumes and a brief introduction to gadogado98@ hotmail.com. *This is a yearly position, not seasonal.

OPEN POSITION! Looking for a new member to join our Kazoo II team. Parttime, year round, weekends a must. Please drop off your resume at the store, 21 Washington Street, Ellicottville, NY or call 716-699-4484.

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CATTARAUGUS ONE STOP CAREER **CENTER:** The schedule of workshops from the Cattaraugus One Stop Career Center for January has been released and includes a wide range of set workshops as well as explanations of other programs that the center provides. The One Stop Center's goal is to provide constructive, convenient information to employers, businesses, workers and job seekers in Cattaraugus County. The orientation/career planning workshops are scheduled for January 4th & 18th from 9:30am-12:00pm and will provide an overview of the job search and career development resources and services offered through the One Stop. It will also provide an introduction to the Resource Area. The One Stop Career Center is located at 175 North Union Street in downtown Olean. For more information to register for the workshop, please call 716-375-2890 or visit online at Cattco.Org/one-stop.

WARRIOR FITNESS

cont. from page 07

feel more like a family than a gym. It's awesome to see all the transformations that have taken place and see all the friendships being made within our walls. We will continue expanding into different parts of the county until we can no longer expand. Way down the road, maybe expand into different areas in New York State.

eNOW: Anything else you would like to add?

POOLE: I want to thank everyone for their support over the past three years. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for the members we already have. They believe in our mission. They enjoy our facility. They have helped our brand in more ways than they know. To our future members, we can't wait to open our doors to YOU! We will welcome anyone and everyone with open arms!

Warrior Fitness and Wellness will host a Grand Opening of their new location in Little Valley, NY this Saturday, December 30th at 9:00am with a special ribbon cutting and champagne toast ceremony. Their original location in Ellicottville is located at 5A Park Avenue. Reach Warrior Fitness at 716-699-1100 and make sure to visit their Facebook page to keep up with classes and special events.

LLC NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Ryokosha Baking Company LLC. Auth filed 8/18/2023. Cty: Allegany. LLC org with Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 08/18/2023. SSNY desig. for process and shall mail a copy of any such process to: 29 W Main Street, Angelica, NY 14709. Purpose: any lawful act.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Domestic Limited Liability Company 75 Main St Portville NY LLC was filed by the NY Dept of State on 10/31/23. Its office location is Cattaraugus County. SSNY has been designated as an agent of the LLC upon whom process against shall be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: 432 Portville Ceres Rd Portville, NY 14770. Purpose: any lawful act.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT: TAKE NOTICE, that I Robyn George, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Ellicottville, County of Cattaraugus and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Ellicottville for the year 2024, and that I will attend at the Ellicottville Town Hall, 1 W. Washington Street, in the said Town of Ellicottville, from January 2nd, 2024 to March 31st, 2024, 9:00am to 4pm, on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on the said roll. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2024, without charge or interest. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of 1% for each additional month thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant to law on the 1st day of April, 2024. Dated: December 28, 2023, Robyn A. George, Collector of Taxes, Town of Ellicottville.

REQUESTS FOR BIDS - Cotter Rd. Box Culvert: The Town of Ellicottville is accepting Bids to furnish a pre-cast concrete box culvert for Cotter Rd. Specs and Information can be obtained from the Town Engineer by calling 716-699-9005 or by email ben. slotman@evlengineering.com. Sealed bids will be received by the Town of Ellicottville located at 1 West Washington St, P.O. Box 600, Ellicottville, NY 14731, until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and then at that time and place opened and read aloud. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, and to accept the bid, which, in their opinion, meets the intent of the specifications and deemed most advantageous to the Town. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN BOARD

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING: PLANNING BOARD: TOWN OF ELLICOT-TVILLE, NEW YORK: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Ellicottville Planning Board will hold a special meeting on Monday January 8, 2024, commencing at 6:00 PM, at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731.

SATURDAY WITH SANTA

Allegany State Park Continues to Collect Donations

ALLEGANY STATE PARK - The magic of Christmas and the spirit of giving was all around at the "Saturday with Santa" event held December 2nd at Allegany State Park. While the event was free, organizers suggested a donation of non-perishable food items or toys for local organizations.

This year, Allegany State Park patrons along with staff collected two large boxes for Toys for Tots and 128 pounds of food distributed to Saving Grace, a nonprofit 501(c) (3) located at 26 Mill Street in Cattaraugus, NY. According to Elizabeth O'Neill, Saving Grace's Director, there is a huge need in the Cattaraugus area alone, with 285 residents utilizing the pantry. They also offer a backpack program with Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School that provides children with snacks and one meal for a family over the weekend. Over 130 youth are a part of this program. Saving Grace additionally supports Little Valley, Great Valley, West Valley, Gowanda, and others outside Cattaraugus County.

The food drive at Allegany State Park runs through February because the need for food does not cease when the holidays end. Drop-off locations include Red House Administration (main lobby) and Quaker Run Administration (Rental Office lobby). Further donations will be distributed to other local food pantries.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more. For more information on any of these areas, visit parks.ny.gov.

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 \bigcirc baroness_abcinema: Wow, we only have 5 @willygoat_adventures calendars left. We can't wait to see what we raised for Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary in Cuba, NY! #adoptdontshop #evlnow #rescuedog



Cellicottvillebrewing: Happy Holidays from EBC! Cheers! #brewedtoentertain #ellicottville #evlnow



িsaisonsinn: Seasons greetings from Saisons Inn #evInow



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Charlesbchamberlain: Wishing everyone a #merrychristmas



Gebstein6: Pete Widger is headed out for yet another ski season! #holimont #evlnow



○compasscyclesudio: Merry Christmas from our family to yours

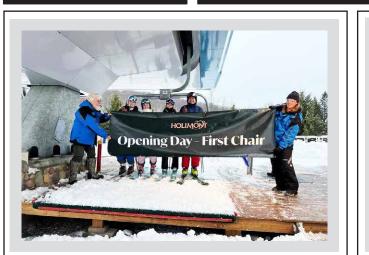






Cellicottvillenow: The whole team at ellicottvilleNOW wishes everyone Happy Holidays! #evlnow #ellicottvilleny @boardroomeville িrickmac6150@ Let's go Buffalo. Lift art by Auge. #liftieart #festivus

♥ bperksey: Karma said, "My friend @willy_goat adventures came to visit me at the office and gave me a specail gift! #merrychristmas



♀holimont: Opening day - First Chair. Our early riser were Dave Turliuk, Julie Turliuk. Great start to 2023-24.



Pohiogirl.travelingword: Date night when you're 40 @ellicottvilleny Page 24 ... DECEMBER 28, 2023-JANUARY 3, 2024 ◆ PUBLISHED WEEKLY ◆ ellicottvilleNOW





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