# ellicottvilleNOW

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**SUZY'S STAR READINGS:** 

**HAPPY NEW** 

We had two big

deals happen to

launch the new year

with a bang. First,

the trickster planet,

Mercury, rules over

communications. It

had been retrograde

ahead and treat your-

self to that new phone

you've been eyeball-

ing, or choose your

new car. Move for-

ward with job offers,

appointing positions, signing contracts,

and moving forward

with schedules and

is that the jolly gas

giant, Jupiter, also has

gone direct after be-

ing retrograde since

September 4, 2023. If

you are feeling really

great already, you too

are in alignment with

mism, so we have big jolly Jupiter moving forward, excited to

with all things Taurus - because that is the sign he is in, now moving forward.

... page 12

the stars! Jupiter is the King of Opti-

get back onboard

The second big movement in the sky

planning.

accepting positions,

for 3 weeks and is

now direct. So go

YEAR!

# HoliMont Offers New Challenge for the New Year

On-hill Event Invites Participants to Learn Using Breath and Cold Exposure to Optimize Body and Mind



By Mary Weiser

For many, finding ways to feel comfortable, especially amid extreme temperature changes, is a natural inclination. Whether it's going from a toasty house to an already-warmed-up car with heated seats or an air-conditioned restaurant to an air-conditioned store, the human body tends to seek comfort above all else, noted Steve Beattie, certified Wim Hof Method instructor and founder of Breathing in Nature. However, the body is equipped to handle changes in our environment far better than most people think. He invites all to experience this for themselves at the Breath and Ice Challenge at HoliMont Ski Club on Friday, January 12th.

This one-day event challenges participants to learn how to use breath and cold exposure to hike up Exhibition Run and then plunge into the mountain top lake. A group of no more than fifty participants will meet inside the HoliMont ski chalet, where Beattie will lead them through a fascial flow movement routine to connect the mind and body. A central practice of the challenge is breathwork, and participants will learn the fundamentals of the Wim Hof Method with Beattie.

... page 04

# **EXPERIENCE WINTER IN THE ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS OF WNY**

When winter is ready to make its grand entrance, you can experience it in all its glory by snowmobiling, tubing, cross country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, and so much more! Whatever it is you do for relaxation, you can do it here in our serene, peaceful locations. Enjoy your leisure time by spending an extended amount of time here; we have a wide assortment of fine accommodations that will meet every need. While we wait for Mother Nature to bless us with some snow, we've compiled a list of winter opportunities to experience in the Enchanted Mountains - go ice skating at the William O. Smith Rec Center, test your luck at Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino, or take in a play at the Olean Theater Workshop ... page 11

Check out some of our featured InstaNOW photos! Want to see yours? Share your photos on IG, tag us and use #evInow! Find the grid on page 15.

insta





# Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic

Breakaway Classic Adventures: The Art of Snowshoeing

Many, many moons ago I was introduced to snowshoeing in the wilds of Northern Ontario.

At that time there was only one kind of snowshoe - my grandfather's! I think every kid

that learned to snowshoe had the same pair as I did. I don't think there ever was a different

kind! Mine were as long as I was tall and my feet kept sliding through the leather bindings, causing me to trip as I tried to step forward. Taking the first step was never easy! Many times taking a step was next to impossible, especially if the one shoe was sitting on top of

the one that I was trying to pick up. Another faceplant was the normal outcome! ... page 12

Ski Coach Lisa Ballard Returning to Holiday Valley for Two-Day Program



By Colleen Evans

Grab your gals and your gear, we're kicking off 2024 like a pro! This January, Holiday Valley welcomes back Lisa Ballard and her ever popular event, Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic. The clinic is a unique experience to hone in on your skiing skills, and for some, rediscover your love for the sport.

Set for January 24-25th, this two-day event is a time to expand and educate women on the way they ski. It's the first event of the year for Lisa Ballard and the kickoff for the 2024 Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic season. The Clinic is open to women ages 18 and up that have the capability to ski a blue square slope. Working with this base of experience, Lisa is able to group together like-minded women to build their strength and skills.

... page 04



### CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE RETURNS TO ELLICOTTVILLE DISTILLERY

The holidays are behind us, it's 2024 and now it's time to clean up the leftover debris from the festivities... starting with that Christmas tree you haven't taken down yet! (Don't act all shy about it; I admit mine is still up, too.) You could toss it out into your backyard and let it slowly decay over the next few months, or you could do something fun with the remains. Here's an option: bring it to 5462 Robbins Road in Ellicottville on Saturday, January 20th for the return of Ellicottville Distillery's Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire. Add it to the wood pile, then enjoy some delicious cocktails while it goes up in flames ... page 03

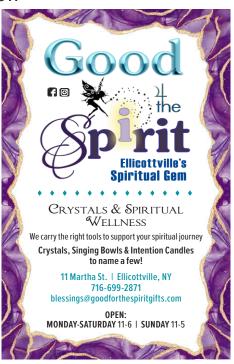


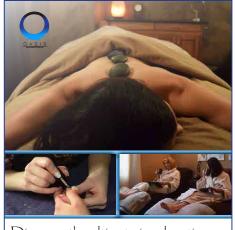
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# Publisher's

# PICK

# NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL BONFIRE

Ellicottville Distillery Wants Your Old Christmas Trees!



### By Jessica Schultz

The holidays are behind us, it's 2024 and now it's time to clean up the leftover debris from the festivities... starting with that Christmas tree you haven't taken down yet! (Don't act all shy about it; I admit mine is still up too.) You could toss it out into your backyard and let it slowly decay over the next few months, or you could do something fun with the remains. Here's an option: bring it to 5462 Robbins Road in Ellicottville on Saturday, January 20th for the return of Ellicottville Distillery's Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire.

Yes, you can byoctc (bring your own Christmas tree corpse) to the Distillery and add it to the wood pile, then enjoy some delicious cocktails while it goes up in flames (around 6:00pm). Sounds like a good time, right? ellicottvilleNOW reached out to Bryan and Renee Scharf, owners of Ellicottville Distillery, to ask what everyone else is probably wondering... "What's the story behind this?"

### **HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

"We used to do the real Christmas tree thing every year. And then when we were done with it, we didn't want to just leave it laying in the backyard. So, we started dragging it out to the big fire pit we had back there and set it ablaze. Then we got to thinking... how many other people wish they could do that, too?"

Of course, a lot of people don't have the luxury of just dragging things out back and lighting them on fire. (Hard to explain to your neighbor 5 feet away that you didn't mean to burn down their garage.) And the Distillery wanted to expand their winter events anyhow. Renee said, "We don't typically have a lot of activities once the snow starts flying. So what started as a conversation about hosting a nice winter bonfire turned into inviting everyone who wants to bring their used-up Christmas trees and tossing them onto the stack. It's been a hit ever since!"

The number of trees brought to the Distillery increases every year, with last year being their biggest showing yet - approximately 60 trees! People can either drop off their trees when they are done with them or they can call the Distillery and one of their staff will come out to pick them up. There is the option of hauling trees out the day of the fire but they prefer to have them ahead of time so that the pile is ready to burn.

### MORE THAN JUST A BONFIRE

And don't think this is just driving out, grabbing a beverage and watching branches get crispy. There's more to add to the fun! Live entertainment will play from 5:00p-8:00pm. Local favorites, Kody and Herren, will be rocking the stage with their multi-instrumental harmonies. The duo, based out of Springville, NY, are inspired by roots music with a motto of "Music + Adventure + Food + Dogs = Happiness" and always aim to entertain their audiences. They have released their 15-song debut album, "Till The Sun Will Rise", which you can purchase for download on their website, kodyandherren.com.

You'll also be able to snack on some lovely hors d'oeuvres throughout the day and enjoy a special hot beverage to keep those hands nice and warm before the fire is lit. (Go ahead, make a whole day of it... the Distillery opens at noon that day!)

Following the bonfire, the Distillery plans to take a little "event break" for a bit. "We are pretty low-key for the winter months," Renee said, "so we're going to pause and have some much needed family down time. The Distillery will still remain open during its regular hours, but hosting any extra fun will be on hold."

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Renee did tell us that they are looking ahead at 2024's events. In the works: a new St. Patty's Day gathering, adding in another Leek Fest-type activity come spring. And of course, they're always working on setting up their big Distilled and Chilled Music Festival line-up for August, as well as their annual golf tournament to support Oishei Children's Hospital, their Pig Roast, Motorcycle Showcase and more.

Keep up-to-date on January 20th's bonfire and other events by following the Ellicottville Distillery on Facebook or go to their webpage at ellicottvilledistillery.com. In the meantime, stop into the Distillery and taste test some of their popular spirits, including their Maple Bourbon Creme, their Honey Spirit, or their Blueberry vodka. Then purchase a bottle or two to take home to share with your friends and family!





# snowTRENDS

# HEY LADIES, IT'S YOUR TURN!

Ski Coach Lisa Ballard Returning to Holiday Valley for Women's Ski Clinic



By Colleen Evans

Grab your gals and your gear, we're kicking off 2024 like a pro! This January, Holiday Valley welcomes back Lisa Ballard and her ever popular event, Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic. The clinic is a unique experience to hone in on your skiing skills, and for some, rediscover your love for the sport.

Taking place January 24-25th, this two-day event is a time to expand and educate women on the way they ski. It's the first event of the year for Lisa Ballard and is the kickoff for the 2024 Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic season.

A woman of many talents, Lisa found her passion for instruction in the 1990s between her time racing as a pro skier and sports broadcasting. An Adirondack, NY native, skiing came naturally to Lisa, almost like walking. She took to the lifestyle and carved her name in the books, with multiple titles and championship rankings worldwide. Expanding the sport beyond the slopes, she has published articles and books, photographs, and television works to highlight all that skiing has to offer.

It's this kind of range and passion that'll be behind the "Your Turn" group instruction, getting the opportunity to learn from one of the best! Looking forward to the event Lisa explains, "Oh I'm excited, I'm really excited about it... I get to go skiing with a bunch of great gals at a really nice place and have fun, and do what I love to do, so I certainly look forward to it. It's wonderful!" And that's exactly what it's about positivity and productivity, having a good time with good people in a great place.

The Your Turn Ski Clinic is open to women ages 18 and up that have the capability to ski a blue square slope. Working with this base of experience, Lisa is able to group



base of experience, Lisa is able to group together like-minded women to build their strength and skills. With over 9,000 women having taken the ski clinic, many come back to reunite for all of the friendships and fun that's been built along the way. And the newcomers? Well, they quickly get right into it and become part of a growing community of women backing women on the slopes.

So, let's look at the endless benefits that are offered in this year's Your Turn Ski Clinic... Hosted on January 24-25th starting at 8:00am, tickets to the event include two days of skiing with Lisa Ballad along with some of the highly talented women ski instructors of Holiday Valley. Over the course of the event, you're also offered video analysis, equipment information, and demo equipment. The video analysis is a great way to familiarize yourself visually with your own moves while getting positive feedback to expand your range. When talking about the equipment information offered, it's worth mentioning that Lisa Ballard has also been involved in ski and ski boot design, making her your go-to woman for all things ski related. She takes that knowledge and helps women find the most beneficial equipment for their bodies, because with the right gear you'll find yourself more comfortable and capable on any slopeside conditions. Lisa discussed how women deserve this chance to take a moment for themselves saying, "It's your turn to have a great day on the slopes... this is a way for gals to give themselves a gift!"

And it's true. It's a time made exactly to build each other up, take the challenge and the victory, and of course have fun while doing it! What better way to celebrate those snowy victories and get to know each other more than over some of the many meals included at the event, like daily continental breakfast, lunch, and a Wednesday evening dinner. Door prizes will also be given out during the event.

This is the 10th year for the Your Turn Ski Clinic to be held at Holiday Valley and hopes are for a forecast of snow and fun! Having skied around the world, Lisa credits Ellicott-ville and Holiday Valley as being a place she holds high. "I really look forward to going to Holiday Valley every year," she said. "I love Holiday Valley! I go to ski resorts all over the country and they're not all major big mountain resorts. Holiday Valley has an incredible vibe!"

The people and the amenities provided really add to the experience. The newly upgraded

# **BREATH & ICE**

HoliMont Embraces the New Year with a Brand New Challenge



By Mary Weiser

For many, finding ways to feel comfortable, especially amid extreme temperature changes, is a natural inclination. Whether it's going from a toasty house to an already-warmed-up car with heated seats or an air-conditioned restaurant to an air-conditioned store, the human body tends to seek comfort above all else, noted Steve Beattie, certified Wim Hof Method instructor and founder of Breathing in Nature. However, the body is equipped to handle changes in our environment far better than most people think. He invites all to experience this for themselves at the Breath and Ice Challenge at HoliMont Ski Club on Friday, January 12th.

This one-day event challenges participants to learn how to use breath and cold exposure to hike up Exhibition Run and then plunge into the mountain top lake. A group of no more than fifty participants will meet inside the HoliMont ski chalet, where Beattie will lead them through a fascial flow movement routine to connect the mind and body. A central practice of the challenge – which is also the central component of Beattie's Breathing in Nature – is breathwork, and participants will learn the fundamentals of the Wim Hof Method with Beattie.

"I've had the opportunity to work with Wim Hof and train with him," said Beattie, who has trained and taught all over the world. "I teach people how to tap into their resilience."

So what exactly is the Wim Hof Method, and how can it prepare one for a January hike up a mountain and the ensuing icy plunge? Beattie explained that this method is comprised of three pillars: breathing, cold exposure, and commitment. By modifying one's breathing through the Wim Hof Method, one activates the parasympathetic system, which is directly connected to the heart, thereby lowering the heart rate and creating the sense of calm.



The second pillar, cold exposure, has perhaps the most surprising benefits. "When the body is exposed to deep cold, it releases cold shock proteins," Beattie explained. "The adrenaline flushes inflammation from the body." Other physical benefits include faster metabolism, reduction of swelling, improved sleep, and a stronger immune response. Beattie has experienced these benefits firsthand. "Chronic inflammation is the root of most diseases," he pointed out.

After several years of dealing with the pain of rheumatoid arthritis, Beattie began practicing the Wim Hof Method, and has been

symptom-free for 10 years without medication. "Cold exposure exercises your vascular system in ways you just can't normally do," he added. In fact, the physical benefits of cold exposure can even be experienced by taking cold showers. "Every other mammal adapts to the cold," Beattie pointed out. "We're capable of so much more than we think."

The third pillar, commitment, is rooted in willpower, which is a key component of enduring change. Conscious breathing and cold exposure require determination and dedication, and the benefits of immersing oneself in challenging circumstances – such as the Breath and Ice Challenge – cannot be overstated. Improved self-esteem, immunity, and wellbeing are just some of the benefits of such a challenge. Additional information can be found at www.wimhofmethod.com.

### ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

For those ready to embark on this transformative journey, Beattie invites them to register now for Breath and Ice. The event begins at the Ski Chalet at noon and concludes at 4:00pm. Participants should plan to dress warmly in multiple, loose-fitting layers, bring their swimsuit and towel for the plunge, and the usual necessities for a hike, such as a water bottle and daypack. For the indoor portion of the event, exercise clothes, including warm layers, and a yoga mat are needed.

Beattie advised that the hike takes about 20 minutes, though this amount of time may

"Breath and Ice Challenge" continued page 14





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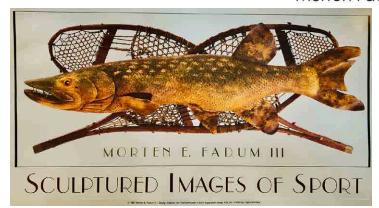






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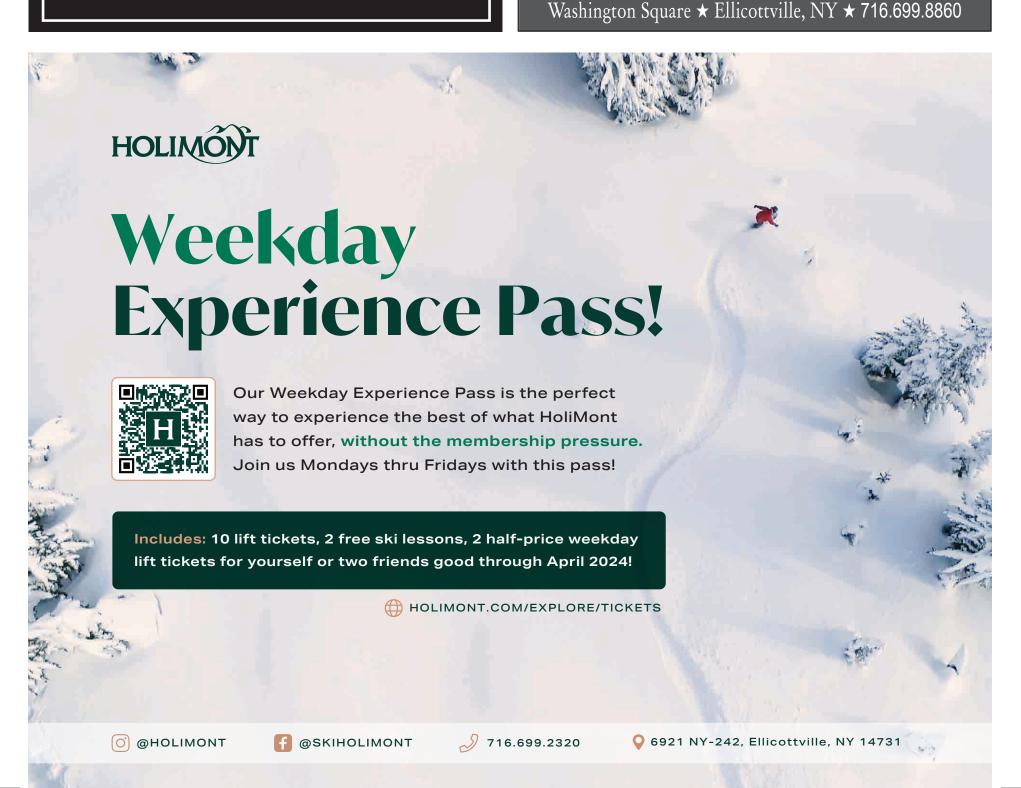
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# **Upcoming Events to Mark On Your Calendar**

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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 5th, 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!

# JANUARY 7–9 @ HOLIDAY VALLEY RESORT 716-699-2345 | www.holidayvalley.com

# Holiday Valley

# COLLEGE DAZE

Spend winter break at Holiday Valley with this special lodge and lift package designed for college students. Cost is just \$242.48 per person for quad occupancy at The Inn at Holiday Valley, 3 days and 2 nights lift tickets (start anytime Sunday through 4:30pm on Tuesday), an arrival gift, hosted parties, tastings and more. First time skiers or snowboarders get a FREE 1.5 hour lesson, rental equipment and a beginners area lift ticket. College Season Passholders can deduct \$100 from their package price. Start skiing as early as 8:30am on Sunday; check in Sunday is after 3:00pm.

# JANUARY 9 © ALLEGANY STATE PARK 716-354-6263 | www.facebook.com/alleganystatepark.com



# Snowshoe Trek

Join us every Tuesday evening at 4:30pm for a trek into the sunset at Allegany State Park. Beginning January 9th, Park Naturalists will lead interpretive snowshoe treks, weather depending, or hikes if there is not enough snow. Be sure to dress for the weather, bring a flashlight, water, a snack, and a sense of adventure. Do you need snowshoes? No problem. The park has several pairs to rent for FREE! Please call to reserve snowshoes by noon the day of each hike. For more information contact the Environmental Education/Recreation Department at 716-354-6263.

# JANUARY 12 @ HOLIMONT SKI RESORT 716-699-2320 | www.holimont.com



# 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.

# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ST. PAUL'S CHURCH The delivery of the deli



# SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is hosting spaghetti dinners for everyone's dining pleasure on the following Saturdays: January 13th, February 17th, and March 16th. Guests can enjoy a delicious plate of spaghetti noodles covered in a delectable red sauce alongside yummy garlic bread. There are two dining options: You can dine in or take out from 4:00-4:30pm. Adults are \$15, kids 12 and under are \$10. For more information or questions, please call 716-699-2265 or visit St. Paul's Church Facebook page.

# JANUARY 19-21 @ DOWNTOWN ELLICOTTVILLE 800-349-9099 | www.ellicottvilleny.com



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!

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Do you have a pesky, live Christmas tree lying around wasting away in your living room? Now that the holiday is over, it's time to take that baby down. But what are you supposed to do with it? Well, you could come join us for Ellicottville Distillery's annual Christmas Tree Bonfire on Saturday January 20th! They open at 12:00pm that day, there will be live music with Kody & Herren from 5:00-8:00pm, and then they will light the fire around 6:00pm. Bring your used Christmas trees to add to the pile!

# JANUARY 24 & 25 @ HOLIDAY VALLEY RESORT 716-699-2345 | www.holidayvalley.com

# Holiday Valley

# YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC WITH LISA BALLARD

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. Please call 716-699-3506 with any questions.

# ANUARY 26





# 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!





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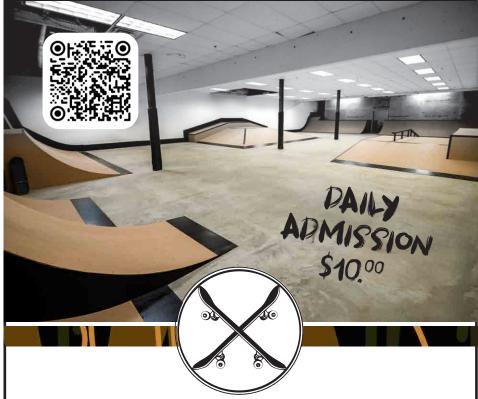
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# REGIONAL

# GET OUT & EXPERIENCE WINTER

The Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County are Calling



Experience winter in all its glory by snowmobiling, tubing, making your own cross country ski trails on state land, ice skating, ice fishing, and so much more! Whatever it is you do for relaxation, you can do it here in our serene, peaceful locations. Enjoy your leisure time by spending an extended amount of time here; we have a wide assortment of fine accommodations that will meet every need. While we wait for Mother Nature to bless us with some snow, here is a list of winter opportunities to experience in the Enchanted Mountains

**ICE SKATING:** Put your ice skates on or rent a pair and glide along the ice indoors at the William O. Smith Recreation Center in Olean, NY. Call 716-373-RINK to confirm ice skating hours. The Enchanted Mountains also has two outdoor rinks as long as the weather allows - Little Valley Skating Pond and the Ice Pond in Salamanca.

**ICE FISHING:** For the heartier sportsperson, try ice fishing on our lakes during one of those sunny, brilliant wintry days. There is plenty of room to spread out and set up your shanty. Our lakes provide excellent habitat for many sports fish, including tiger musky in Lime Lake and Walleye along the reservoir. Drop a line in at New Albion, Case, Harwood, Quaker or Red House Lakes for even more fishing fun! For information on licenses, bait shops, and guidelines for fishing in the Seneca Nation, please visit EMFun.us/Fishing.

**HISTORICAL SITES IN CATT. COUNTY:** Explore the unique history, culture and heritage that can be found in Cattaraugus County Museums and historical sites, as well as in the Seneca Nation's Onöhsagwë:de Cultural Center.

The Onöhsagwë:de Cultural Center welcomes visitors to explore the "American History you Won't Find In Textbooks". Seneca History is rich, but little known and understood. Though faced with constant challenges, the culture and depth of the Seneca tradition is still very much alive and celebrated. Known as "The Keepers of the Western Door" for being the westernmost among the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Seneca are a matriarchal society that has participated in what is accepted as the first modern democracy in the Western hemisphere since 1100 A.D. Yet many sacred lands have been taken by the United States, even as recently as the 1960s to build the Kinzua Dam in northwestern Pennsylvania. See this historical exhibit and others, as well as modern exhibits like "Indian Ink: Iroquois and the Art of Tattoos". The Cultural Center is open seven days a week. The beautiful building sits on the opposite side of Rt. 86 (Rt. 17) as the Casino and half of the rooms in the Casino gaze upon the Cultural Center.

There is an expansive amount of cutlery history that can be found in the Village of Cattaraugus, the Town of Little Valley and the City of Olean. One such place that tells one of these stories is the Cutco Ka-Bar Visitors Center in Olean. Known all over the world, this Center has knowledgeable and helpful staff that will help you learn the timeline of how the company started and grew, as well as the how the products are made and sold. There are antique displays, historical photographs and documents. Plus, bring in your Cutco products for factory sharpening through their lifetime guarantee!

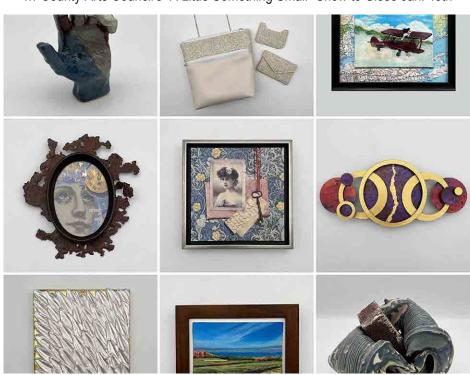
**SENECA ALLEGANY RESORT & CASINO:** Try your luck at 1,800 state-of-the-art slot machines and your skill at 33 table games at the Seneca Allegany Resort and Casino. Nestled along the New York/Pennsylvania border at the foot of the majestic Allegheny Mountains, you will find comfort, fun and relaxation all in one place. The area's only AAA Four Diamond Award-winning resort features luxurious hotel rooms, a full service salon, an indoor pool with a fantastic view and a fantastic mix of fine dining and casual restaurant options. The slot machines include classic favorites and the latest in technology and themes. With over 68,000 square feet to the casino floor, you are sure to find your lucky machine. The Seneca Allegany Events Center (located in the same building) brings top-notch entertainment to the area. Country artist Brantley Gilbert will perform Feb. 10th (purchase tickets at senecaalleganycasino.com). Past performances have included Chicago, Peter Frampton, and REO Speedwagon, as well as comedians Howie Mandel and Jeff Foxworthy.

**THEATER:** The theater is alive and well, and as you know the saying goes, "The Show Must Go On". And that means in the winter as well. Spend a delightful evening inside dreaming of other lives lived and hearing the great stories and musicals put on by our fantastic local talent. The Olean Theatre Workshop has provided family theater for over 35 years, offering fine live performances for those wishing to enjoy a little more of the indoors over the winter months. Upcoming shows of Barefoot in the Park (February 25-28), The Odd Couple (April 25-28), and Witness for the Prosecution (October 26-29) are just some to look forward to! Follow Olean Theatre Workshop on Facebook or visit their website oleanworkshop.org to see what other shows are on the docket for this year.

"Winter in the Enchanted Mountains" continued page 14

# **EXHIBIT ENDING SOON**

Tri-County Arts Council's "A Little Something Small" Show to Close Jan. 13th



OLEAN - The Tri-County Arts Council announces that the "A Little Something Small," the third annual juried small works show, which is taking place now in the Peg Bothner Gallery, located at 110 West State Street in Olean, will end soon.

From now until January 13th, the public is invited to view more than 110 pieces of artwork submitted by over 50 different artists from Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. Each piece is available to purchase in person or online at www.tricountyartscouncil.org, and a portion of each sale supports the arts council. The Best in Show: "Impact Series #15" by Marshall Green of Wellsville and Honorable Mention, Professional Artist: "In a Mellow Tone" by Karen Fitzpatrick of Ellicottville, are still available for purchase.

Artwork ranges from watercolor, gouache, oil painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, sculpture, stained glass, and more. Each participating artist submitted one to three pieces of artwork under 12 inches by 12 inches, and some have already sold out. This year's participating artists include Sannie Adams, Stephanie Baker, John Balacki, Karen Barber, Bonnie Bennett, Jessica Ellen Boice, Rose Brawn, Judson Brown, Victoria Brown, Christopher Capozzi, Kate Caswell, Lisa Conn Conklin, John Crandall, Wanda Dean, Laurie Donner, Debra Eck, Corey Fecteau, Karen Fitzpatrick, Ruth Flood, Barbara Fox, Pat Shannon Gay, Sherri Geary, Stephanie Goodwin, Ed Green, Marshall Green, Theresa Heinz, Amanda Hulbert, Jodie Hooker, Noah Howard, Sean Huntington, Daniel Jordan, Peter Jones, Bonnie Leigh, Melissa Locke, Myriam Mayshark, Keith McKale, Lilly Milliman, Bradley Mitchell, Stephanie Mitchell, Kristen Muench, Jean Nevinger, Violet Nolder, Nancy Pascarella, Sarah Phillips, Jo Jo Pingitove, Eva Potter, Daryl Reding, Megan Saboda, Mathew Schmidt, Jessie Lampack Slattery, Carol Smith, Geraldine Nash Smith, Tiffany Smith, Debbie Stillson-Travis, John Stromberg, Darlene Subulski, Tara Walker, Deb Weatherell, Michael Weishan, Eileen Weishan, Jennifer Widger, Mikel Wintermantel, Jennifer Wolbert, Abby Zickefoose, and Glenn Zweygart.

# SPAGHETTI DINNER

Audubon Community Nature Center Hosting Drive-Up Dinner Jan. 20th

JAMESTOWN - Audubon Community Nature Center's Spaghetti Dinner Drive-up is a popular annual event that is expected to sell out again this year. All meals for the Saturday, January 20th event are to-go only. Each includes a generous helping of spaghetti with red sauce and meatballs, side salad, sliced bread, and a cookie. Vegetarian dinners are also available that include veggie-balls. To enjoy a home-cooked spaghetti dinner while supporting nature education, pre-order your meal and choose the most convenient pick-up time for your schedule. Drive-up times are every 15 minutes between 4:00 and 6:00pm, and meals are delivered right to your vehicle.

Make your reservation by Sunday, January 14th by calling 716-569-2345 during regular business hours or go to AudubonCNC.org and click through "Programs and

Events." Cost is \$18 per meal. (Food may contain allergens such as wheat, eggs, and products that have been packaged in facilities that process tree nuts. Food substitutions are not possible.)

Audubon Community Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, NY and Warren, PA. You can visit the nearly 600-acre nature preserve, check in on the live birds of prey, and hike, snowshoe or cross country ski over five miles of trails dawn until dusk daily for free.

The three-story Nature Center building houses interactive displays, a collection of live animals including the Hellbender exhibit, and the Blue Heron Gift Shop. Visitors are welcome Monday through Saturday 10:00am-4:30pm, and Sunday 1:00-4:30pm. Nature Center members and SNAP/EBT cardholders have free building admission daily. Building admission is also free every Sunday for non-Nature Center members.

Audubon Community Nature Center builds and nurtures connections between people and nature by providing positive outdoor experiences, opportunities to learn about and understand the natural world, and knowledge to act in environmentally responsible ways. To learn more about Audubon and its many programs, call 716-569-2345, find Audubon Community Nature Center on Facebook, or visit AudubonCNC...

# ellicottvilleNOW

# LIFESTYLE

# Breakaway Classic Adventures: The Art of Snowshoeing

By Indrek Kongats

Many, many moons ago I was introduced to snowshoeing in the wilds of Northern Ontario. At that time there was only one kind of snowshoe - my grandfather's! I think every kid that learned to snowshoe had the same pair as I did - my grandfather's. I don't think there ever was a different kind!

The old bent wooden frames, the lacquered rawhide webbing and the leather harnesses aptly described my grandfather's and I'm pretty sure your grandfather's and your friend's grandfather's brand of snowshoe - the grandfather snowshoe!

Mine were as long as I was tall and my feet kept sliding through the leather bindings, causing me to trip as I tried to step forward. Taking the first step was never easy! Many times taking a step was next to impossible, especially if the one shoe was sitting on top of the one that I was trying to pick up. Another face-plant was the normal outcome! They do make small snowshoes nowadays that actually fit small bodies and feet, but not the brand that I had - the grandfather!

I learned a lot on my own, trial and error, making snow devils rather than angels; you know the face first kind of impressions in the snow looking down into the lower sanctum rather the heavens above! To avoid stepping one shoe on the other, you'll have to develop a wide gait that initially is awkward and tiring but it does solve the problem. The other problem with the foot sliding through the binding is solved by using a toe cup style binding. The toe cup prevents or limits the forward creep of your foot as you snowshoe.

Another lesson I learned was to never get my snowshoes wet! When your shoes get wet and the snow starts to accumulate on them, they will freeze up; it's the same scenario as with wet snow clinging to a snow shovel. We all know how nasty that is to deal with! The shoes become extremely heavy. Walking into an unfrozen stream should be avoided at all costs. Not only will your shoes get heavy, your binding will also freeze up and be extremely difficult to get off.

Snowshoes have the binding positioned so that when you lift your foot up, the balance or pivot point is below the ball of your foot. The tail of the snowshoe should drop while the front of the snowshoe should rise. The two-fold advantage of this pivoting action is so that snow on top of the shoe's webbing will slide off (only if the shoe didn't get wet that is). The rising tip of the snowshoe will help you step above the snow or obstacle rather than plowing through the snow and/or tripping. If you are already a skier you know that the curved tip of your skis helps you ride over the snow, accomplishing the same as the pivoting snowshoe!

Different snow conditions determine the different approaches or techniques that you have to incorporate into your snowshoeing. Deep show requires a slower approach or pace. Walking through deep snow, snow that's above your knees or even hips requires a shorter stride. This snow requires a trail breaking approach. Each step has to pack the snow down in front to a manageable level so that you can keep moving forward.

On hard packed snow you can almost run with your shoes on. Lengthen your stride but be careful not to trip over your own feet! Ideally your shoes under these conditions will be shorter for maximum speed with less trip ups. Hard pack conditions occur either on a groomed of well used trail or when there is an icy crust that has formed after a thaw and a freeze or a night of freezing rain. Be careful under these frozen conditions not to break through the icy crust; it could be very painful once the sharp crust strikes your shin.

Uphill approaches require crampons on the bottom of your shoes to help climb icy slopes while shoeing the flats usually requires longer tails on your snowshoe for better tracking.





Your own body weight and purpose of your trip outdoors will also determine your equipment needs. The bigger the shoe and the heavier your load the better you float, while the smaller the shoe the better maneuverability.

Traditional wooden snowshoes in the beaver tail style of the Huron are universally considered the best - a proven design that has stood the test of time. There is a real satisfaction in using traditional Native American designed wooden snowshoes, especially on open fields and in old growth forests. They are quiet and float better on deep new snow.

By removing the tail of the Huron you get the Bear Paw, the forefather of the modern high tech shoe design very useful in extremely tight quarters or in conjunction with a snowmobile fitting neatly under the seat or strapped along the side. All modern high tech snowshoes are made with an aluminum frame and solid synthetic webbing with climbing crampons located directly below the foot. The best bindings are the ratchet type used by snowboarders as these are easy to operate without removing your gloves or mitts.

Some overlooked accessories when you are out shoeing is a set of telescopic ski poles useful for keeping your balance and testing for deep snow or thin ice. Any form of hiking boot will do as long it's not too bulky, stiff and heavy. Don't forget the sunglasses; the darker the lens the better, and a neck gator to cover the face and lips from sun and wind burn. Wow! I think you are all set! Enjoy the snow!

Indrek Kongats is an artist, traveler, outdoorsman, and business owner residing in Ellicottville. He operates River Dog Art Gallery in Houghton, NY, and his Breakaway Classic Adventures specializes in adventure travel destinations. Learn more about him at breakawayclassicadventures.com.

## Suzy's Star Readings: Happy New Year, Friends and Stargazers!

By Suzy Woo, B.Msc



We had two big deals happened to launch the new year with a bang.

First, the trickster planet Mercury, rules over communications. It had been retrograde for 3 weeks and is now direct. So go ahead and treat yourself to that new phone you've been eyeballing, or choose your new car. Mercury rules over these things. Move forward with job offers, accepting positions, appointing positions, signing contracts, and moving forward with schedules and planning. Mercury is intellectual and rules thinking, planning, and making lists; so full speed ahead!

The second big movement in the sky is that the jolly gas giant, Jupiter, also has gone direct after being retrograde since September 4, 2023. Jupiter rules over long distance travel (planes and ships), Mercury rules over short distance (car) travel, but also beliefs, philosophies, religion, law and is good luck! If you are feeling really great already, you too are in alignment with the stars! Jupiter is the King of Optimism, so we have big jolly Jupiter moving forward, excited to get back on board with all things Taurus - because that is the sign he is in, now moving forward. He is giving us the green light to spoil ourselves, to beautify ourselves - you may feel inclined to get a new tattoo, makeover, to open a new

savings account, to do a spa day, to eat the cake - these are all things ruled by Taurus. Jupiter makes it big, but when he was in retrograde motion, things stalled in these departments and we needed to gain introspect. Now both these planets are taking pressure and weight off our minds and backs.

The one thing we do need to be careful of with these planets changing motion is overdoing it, (another Jupiter thing). Be careful not to shop for that car that happens to be out of your budget. Have the chocolate decadence just once, but don't buy an in-home chocolate fountain and ice cream maker. Be wise, use discernment, because you'll have to pay for it down the road if you bite off more than you can chew today. It is easy to get carried away on luxury items because we want to treat ourselves. Do so, but do so with discipline; a thing we can lack this week.

This is also an 8 year, and will be the Year of the Wood Dragon - I have done 30 year-ahead reports and can see it will be the year of extremes. For most, it is a big opportunity

anead reports and can see it will be the year of to stand up and stand out, to really refine who we are and get into alignment with our values. Wishing you all the prosperity you would wish for yourselves! My year-ahead report is on special through the end of the month. Also, if you are interested in learning how to do quantum healing, I only offer it once a year, and it launches January 11th. It is fully online, you can take it from anywhere in the world, and can watch the replays at any time!



All my best to you and thank you for your readership!

Your sister from the stars, 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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**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.

### FOR RENT

ALPINE WILDERNESS LODGE VACATION RENTAL: Available weekly or weekends, December 20th through September 30th. Sleeps 14. Pet friendly! Located only 8 minutes to Holiday Valley and Ellicottville. Surrounded by wildlife and hiking/snowshoeing trails. 60-foot deck overlooking pond. Book your skiing, hiking, biking, or fishing adventure TODAY! Please email ellicottvillefun@hotmail.com or call 716-244-0608.

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**ROVER MAKEOVERS:** Professional pet grooming. Owned and operated locally by mother and daughter, Teresa Mercer and Calla Wagner. Call 716-364-2302 for an appointment. 16 Elizabeth St., Ellicottville. "YOUR DOG IS OUR DOG."

PLACE YOUR AD: Classified ads appear in both print and online! \$10 per issue up to 40 words, 25¢ each additional word. Call 716-699-9816, stop by our office at 9 W. Washington St. or email your ad to us at info@ellicottvilleNOW.com.

# **COMMUNITY**

**VISIT ST. JOHN'S** Episcopal Church at the village's historic four corners. Hosting a visitor-friendly service every Saturday at 5:00pm. Any and all are welcome to attend!!

# 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.

### YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC

cont. from page 04





Mardi Gras lift, high-capacity snowmaking capabilities, and the dedicated workers are just some of the many reasons each season here is a successful one and with plenty more to come!

Skiing is a sport you can continuously grow with, having the opportunity to redevelop your abilities at any point in life, so why not now? For us women, let's push for a day out, just like one of the ski clinic's meanings, it's "your turn", so take it! There's still open availability for the event, along with a full schedule posted on Holiday Valley's website that includes registration. You can find more information at www.HolidayValley. com. While on the site be sure to look for discounted lodging at The Inn at Holiday Valley to fully enjoy your time. Excluded from event discounts, you can also choose to book the Tamarack Club, which provides condo styled rooms and a newly opened restaurant, Edna's (previously John Harvard's). You're bound to find the perfect fit for yourself or group while taking in all that the Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic and Holiday Valley have to offer!

For more information on Lisa Ballard, her impressive life and career in professional skiing, instruction, and everything in between check out www.LisaBallardOutdoors.com.

# Lunch & Learn

# Free Master Gardener Winter Education Series

### **House Plants 101**

Monday, December 6, 2023
Noon-12:30pm

Join Master Gardener Irene
Culpepper and she shares tips and
tricks on growing beautiful house
plants, common issues and how to
propagate cuttings.

### **Vermicomposting Class**

Monday, December 11, 2023 Noon-12:30pm

Learn how worms reduce our food waste and turn it into rich organic matter for your garden.

## Planning a Vegetable Garden

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 Noon-12:30pm

Come learn some tips and trick on how to successfully grow your own food.

# National Seed Swap Day & Catalog Party

Saturday, January 27, 2024 Noon-1:00pm

Join CCE's Master Gardeners to learn all about seed starting, where to buy seeds and bring seeds if you would like to swap! Join us in person at CCE-Cattaraugus
28 Parkside Drive Ellicottville or Via Zoom

Please preregister by calling: 716-699-2377 ext 127 or visit:

https://cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu/events

# Make Jam & Learn How to Can!

Thurs. February 1, 2024 Noon-3:00pm

In honor of National canned food month, participants will get to make jam and take a jar home!

# A Visit to The Soil Food Web; a Magical Place That Will Help You Grow Your Best Garden Ever!

Monday, February 12, 2024 Noon-12:30pm

Join CCE Master Gardener, Dinah Hovey as she takes you on a journey into the wonderful world of soil health.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County provides equal program and employment opportunities

### **BREATH AND ICE CHALLENGE**

cont. from page 04

increase depending on snow coverage. For those who want to experience the benefits of cold exposure but may have mobility issues, Beattie says that they can take the chairlift up the mountain. He will be accompanied by several instructors, and the "plunge" into the lake will be in a safe, controlled environment, as participants will be in neck-deep water and not required to swim.

Registration can be completed online through the event listing at holimont.com or at breathinginnature.com/hollimont-breathice. To learn more about Beattie and Breathing in Nature, visit breathing-innature.com or email Beattie at steve@breathinginnature.com.



# WINTER IN THE ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS

cont. from page 11







WNY AMISH TRAIL: For the ultimate viewing, travel through our Old Order Amish community on New York's Amish Trail in a rural setting with open landscapes. You will come upon Amish buggies that go a comfortable speed of 10mph. Don't be in a hurry... slow down and appreciate the winter scenery. Make sure you stay on the main roads, as the side roads may not be plowed. As you make stops at the different Amish owned shops, you will be able to fill up on delicious baked goods, buy a handmade quilt and stock up on wonderful gifts all before going home. Not sure where to go? Visit AmishTrail.com to request the newly updated, FREE brochure and map which can be mailed directly to you.

There's so many things to do in our beautiful Enchanted Mountains, even when there's no snow! Don't let winter pass you by - get outside and see for yourself. To learn more about any of these and other fun adventures, visit EnchantedMountains.com/Winter.

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♥ taxicab077: Happy New Year! Welcome 2024! Another successful Brydalski-Kruszynski New Year's Eve celebration. Holy moly, we all (almost) made it to midnight together. Blessed with the best family & friends!



○friends\_of\_allegany\_state\_park: The 13th Annual First Day Hike at Camp Turner was a huge success with over 250 people in attendance!



ຸດandrea.solar.716: The family that skis together... #ellicottvillenow



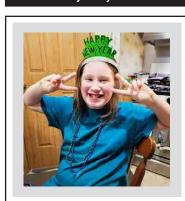
**Qanfvisitorsbureau: First Night**Bradford #carriagerides #visitpa



¬visual\_ronin: Ellicottville, NY lit up for the winter
#travelphotographer #smalltowns #skiresort #christmas #evlnow



**□ □ □ j\_kruzin: NYW fireworks at #holidayvalley #evlnow** 



**○ bloodunderrazor: Anime says Happy New Year! #nyefun #evlnow** 





Gandroutsos: skiing #winter #holidayvalley #ellicottville #evlnow @ellicottvillenow #skiingisawesome



□holiday\_valley\_race\_team: Wishing everyone a Happy New Year from the HVRT kiddos! #youthskiracing #skiingislife #evlnow



୍ଦାcove1: Happy New Year's Ellicottville, NY from the DiPasquale Girls! #evlnow

# ATTENTION ALL BUSINESSES AND CONTRACTORS:

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!











Welcome to this spectacular newly built Brownstone Home. This rustic modern retreat is located on a private lot just across the street from HoliMont Ski Club and only 5 minutes from downtown. The large rear deck offers stunning views of the slopes. This home boasts numerous top of the line amenities to give added luxury to your stay. This includes open floor plans on all 3 levels. You can rent the entire home or one of two parts. The smaller apartment upstairs contains a galley kitchen with island seating, living area and one bedroom with 2 queen size beds and full bath. The main house contains 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a master suite with king size bed, a large kitchen with spacious island seating, a living room, and a lower level living room with a covered walk-out patio. Exquisite finishes include: Custom cabinetry with quartz counter tops, custom lighting, natural gas, radiant floor heating, hardwood flooring throughout, internet and cable. The spacious 2 car garage conveniently offers separate and private entries to either unit. Fully furnished!

## YOUR VACATION STARTS HERE! \*SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY\*

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









