

ellicottvilleNOW



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E.A.R.S. Never Stops Saving Lives

Empire Animal Rescue Society of Salamanca rescues over 1,000 homeless animals, despite pandemic

These animals and others are available for adoption through EARS. For a full list of animals, to download an application or to donate, go to empirerescue.org.



BY ANJANETTE NICOLAZZO

Guess who never gets to determine their fate, regardless of whether they are surviving a worldwide pandemic or not? Animals. Hit just as hard by the impacts of Covid-19, the Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS) out of Salamanca, New York never stopped saving lives. In fact, they saved and adopted out over 1,000 homeless animals during what will likely go down as one of the most chaotic years in our lifetime.

“We are very proud of our rescue numbers, especially since all of the weight is carried on the backs of our volunteers,” said Courtney Valent, Co-Founder and President of EARS. She expressed that EARS operates solely through local volunteers and is in immediate need for donations.

... page 04

Women's Ski Clinic at HV

From the newest gear to the most thrilling destinations, competitive ski racer Lisa Densmore Ballard has always had an eye on skiing trends. This year, she's noticed that outdoor winter sports have experienced a boom like never before, as COVID-19 has driven many to discover new ways to have fun, improve their health, and explore nature. “We still can do so much outdoors,” said Ballard. “It's great to be on the side of a mountain, breathing fresh air and getting exercise. You can be around your friends within reason, and it's good for your body and your brain.” Ballard is bringing her ‘Your Turn’ women's ski clinic to Holiday Valley for the 8th straight year.

... page 08

ELLICOTTVILLE REMINDS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO MASK UP

The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce has taken an active role in continually providing their membership of over 250 businesses with up-to-date COVID-19 changes to local, state and federal regulations. It is also the Chamber's mission to keep visitors aware that Ellicottville is serious about following all regulations. “Just this week, we changed the welcome signs to Ellicottville with a cheery but serious reminder to mask up,” stated Brian McFadden, executive director for the Chamber. “We have also purchased more EVL masks that are available for sale to the public at Daff Dry Goods and Ava Grace Fashions” ... page 07

Business: The Annex Event Center

With fresh minds at the helm, the Chaffee, NY wedding and event venue aims to redefine celebrations



@theannexwny

BY SPENCER TIMKEY

When Samantha Armstrong married in the summer of 2016, she utilized the space across the street from Pioneer Motorsport, her future husband's family business. The former site of the regionally-beloved Earl's Restaurant (famous for Mason Jars and eccentric decor), she transformed a pavilion, pole barn and sprawling acreage into a non-traditional wedding venue ... It was a hit.

“We had so much space to operate,” she said. “It was kind of a blank canvas for us. A little later, my mother-in-law Michelle presented the idea to my sister-in-law Stephane and I about potentially building a venue on the site.”

... page 07



@holidayvalley @alexandradoro

MAKING MOVES (NOW this, by Brenda)

What's that saying? “If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow.” For so many of us, we LIVE for snow - whether it's Mother Nature's or manmade. (Thank you snowmakers!) Give us winter and let us play! Holiday Valley echoes the joy in learning to love winter, which is why each year they host ‘Learn to Love Winter Day’ ... page 03

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NOW *this ...* by Brenda



Making Moves.

First. I think we can all agree that the Buffalo Bills fan base is nothing short of AMAZING! Buffalo has reemerged as a city of hope. And the excitement for this football team has proven contagious - even for non-Bills fans. (Ahem, yes, I am a Steelers fan and I will always bleed black and yellow, but those Bills are my next in line. After all, I'm living in Bills country and I married into a Bills family. It's inevitable.)

Second. I'll be the first to admit that watching the enthusiasm the Bills have brought to Western New York and the team's ability to rally community together ... well, even if my Steelers *had* made it through to the next round, I'd have been ok with the Bills taking a victory over them ... this year. (Did I actually say that?)

Buffalo has earned it. Western New York deserves it. Go Bills!

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER DAY

What's that saying? "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow."

For so many of us, we LIVE for snow - whether it's Mother Nature's or manmade. (Thank you snowmakers!) Give us winter and let us play! Holiday Valley echoes the joy in learning to love winter, which is why each year they host 'Learn to Love Winter Day' with deeply discounted learn-to-ski/ride packages. This year's event took place Friday, Jan. 8th, and according to Allie Doro, HV Snowsports Director, it was a resounding success.

"The day was amazing!" she said. "My team was beyond excited to introduce skiing and riding to people, and the turnout just fueled that fire. We had music, we had cliff bar snacks, and we had fun, as sliding on snow should be!"

Doro reported a record number 300 skiers and riders took advantage of winter fun on Learn to Love Winter Day, and she hopes that the activities of the day will encourage those participants to continue to love winter forever, through snowsports.

"My hope is that everyone had a smile from cheek to cheek," she said. "And it is all thanks to our team of instructors. They are so in love with not just skiing and riding, but teaching and sharing. They make learning to love winter fun!"

If you missed out on Jan. 8th's super deal, not to worry! The entire month of January is National Learn a Snowsport Month. Holiday Valley is offering half priced learn-to packages all month long. Head to holidayvalley.com/learn or call the Snowsports desk at 716-699-3505 for pricing and additional promos.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE STATION

A great way to finish off an epic day on the snow is with dinner and a movie ... (You know, the kind where someone else cooks, someone else cleans up, and someone else is in charge of the movie reel. In other words, away from home!) Take a scenic drive out to The Station Bistro in West Valley where owner Emily Tingue and her crew have put together a farm fresh menu and stellar line-up of family classics on the projector.

"Our staff has chosen a variety of movies to feature on Wednesday nights for all ages," said Tingue. "Some family, teen, kids and couples features have been planned for the next few months moving into spring to allow families a fun and safe experience."

Of course, with a good movie comes good desserts! Popcorn is provided, and diners can

"NOW this..." continued page 11

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PET ADOPTION

E.A.R.S. SAVES OVER 1,000 HOMELESS ANIMALS, DESPITE PANDEMIC

January 24th is "Change a Pet's Life Day" ... consider adopting an animal looking for its "forever" home, or donate to help Empire Animal Rescue volunteers care for them

BY ANJANETTE NICOLAZZO



The first adoption of 2021: Rosie has found her "forever" home with this wonderful family.

Guess who never gets to determine their fate, regardless of whether they are surviving a worldwide pandemic or not? Animals. Hit just as hard by the impacts of Covid-19, the Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS) out of Salamanca, New York never stopped saving lives. In fact, they saved and adopted out over 1,000 homeless animals during what will likely go down as one of the most chaotic years in our lifetime.

"We are very proud of our rescue numbers, especially since all of the weight is carried on the backs of our volunteers," said Courtney Valent, Co-Founder and President of EARS. Due to Covid-19, Courtney spent March through July rescuing alone, in addition to what she and the fosters were already doing. "It was a very lonely year in rescue, tough mentally and physically. The days were never ending."

EARS is well-known locally and in surrounding areas for rescuing dogs and cats, but will rescue any animal in need, from horses to birds to lizards. "There really are few places for people to turn to when it comes to stray animals or rehoming pets," Courtney said, "Even the Cattaraugus County SPCA in Olean asks people to call EARS to help, as they do not have the resources to help the number of animals in need in our area."

When foster space is available, EARS also rescues animals from poor rural areas in dire need of assistance. Often times these are high-volume, open-intake kill shelters. "These animals are only given 3-5 days to live. Owner surrenders are killed first because they know nobody is coming to look for them. Strays have a five-day hold," said Courtney. According to data collected in 2019, 625,000 pets were euthanized in American shelters, making the mission at EARS even that much more critical.

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

EARS operates solely through local volunteers who have full-time jobs and help with the animals when they can; they do not receive government funding. Volunteers foster, clean, wash bedding, clean carriers and crates, transport, and do office work such as applications and medical records. With that said, community support is vital. Medical bills are exclusively paid for through adoption fees and fundraisers, with roughly \$3,000 spent on average per week on veterinary care. Since there are so many homeless and unwanted pets, spaying and neutering is always a priority, and any animal that comes through the door is fully vetted.

EARS was hit hard due to Covid-19 and is seeking immediate donations. Courtney suggests ideas like hosting a dress-down day at your workplace or setting up a matching fund through your work in support of EARS. General donations can be made in a variety of ways, through PayPal (please select Friends and Family) at empirerescue@gmail.com, through Venmo @empirerescue, via USPS to EARS, P.O. Box 445, Salamanca, NY 14779, or by checking out their Amazon wish list for supplies under: Empire Animal Rescue Inc.

"We are also actively seeking a transport van, as ours does not have much life left. If anyone has any leads or connections to help us find something reliable and safe, we would greatly appreciate it," said Courtney. The group also hopes to wrap the new EARS van with sponsors and logo information, and encourages any businesses interested in advertising to reach out to them. Aside from private donations, EARS hosts various fundraisers to help with their medical bills. "Last year we had a yard sale where we collected items from the public to sell in order to make much needed funds. We fundraise on social media, and individuals request memorial donations to go to our cause for animal lovers they have lost," said Courtney. Bags of cans can also be donated to their open account at Allegany Beverage in Allegany (across from Saint Bonaventure). Their mascot Louie is an EARS rescue pup who will likely greet you when you go in.

STORIES OF LOCAL RESCUES

"There is a case going on right now in Salamanca where the dog was so completely emaciated and starved he could barely walk. He was left tied up to a back porch in the summer sun with no food or water and left for weeks on end. These are the cases that haunt us. I am not sure how a human being could ever walk by an animal that looks like a skeleton day in and day out and do absolutely nothing. That poor dog had never been to a vet, yet they paid thousands of dollars to purchase him. It makes very little sense," Courtney said.

She continued, "We just recently had another case just like this on the other side of town. This time a female dog who was SKIN and BONES. The collar that once fit her was hanging off her."

"Both dogs are safe now and are actively recovering, but a lot of damage has been done and they will never quite be the same. Humans can be very selfish and evil – we must speak for those who have no voice."

Another rescue that happened in Salamanca was an extreme multiple cat rescue that The City of Salamanca Code Enforcers reached out to EARS for assistance on. They estimated there were 40 cats on premises. Only three were able to be caught without a trap.

"We started trapping on Tuesday and by Saturday we caught 99 cats and kittens," said Courtney. "They were coming out of the ceiling tiles and cupboards ... we even found newborn baby kittens in the pullout bed in the couch. It cost us over \$10,000 to vet those cats, which was a difficult task at the time. The sad part is someone was living in this house. People often think we only help pets in need but many times we save the people, too. We are all about prevention and preventing things like this from happening."

PETS UP FOR ADOPTION



Above: Hope, Apollo, and Enzo are three sweet Boxer mix pups who were going to be shot in rural Kentucky by their breeder because they couldn't be sold due to having demodectic mange. The breeder didn't want to put any money into them. They were rescued and transported to EARS, where they've been fully treated. Their fur is growing back and they are ready to find their "forever" homes. They are really very sweet, and whoever adopts them will be really very lucky to have them.

Center: Bacon is a guinea pig heading in for surgery this week to have a tumor removed. The EARS team would love for you to say a prayer for their little buddy.



Right: Lina is a sweet 12-week old kitten who enjoys napping, playing and exploring her surroundings. She will make a fun companion for adults and kids.

At left: These gals have never been handled but they are sweet and ready to learn. EARS' foster homes are currently getting them socialized and ready for their new families. They will be ready to adopt later this month. Keep an eye out for them when they are ready for their next steps in life. Follow @Empire Animal Rescue Society on Facebook.

HOW TO ADOPT | HOW TO DONATE

EARS animals are housed in foster care and can be applied for online through their website at www.empirerescue.org. To see a list of available pets, go to empire.petfinder.com, and be sure to follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/empireanimalrescue. As the organization's lifeblood, general donations are always needed and appreciated. Every dollar counts.



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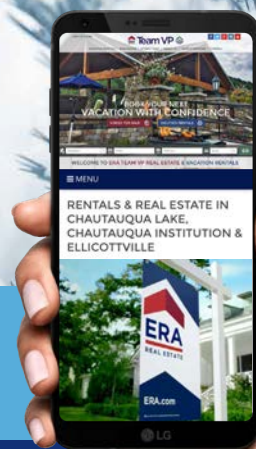
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BUSINESS

WNY'S NEWEST EVENT CENTER

With fresh minds at the helm, The Annex aims to redefine celebrations



BY SPENCER TIMKEY

The idea was born out of experience. And a lack of options.

When Samantha Armstrong married in the summer of 2016, she utilized the space across the street from Pioneer Motorsport, her future husband's family business. The former site of the regionally-beloved Earl's Restaurant (famous for Mason Jars and eccentric decor), she transformed a pavilion, pole barn and sprawling acreage into a non-traditional wedding venue.

It was a hit.

"We had so much space to operate," she said. "It was kind of a blank canvas for us. A little later, my mother-in-law Michelle presented the idea to my sister-in-law Stephane and I about potentially building a venue on the site. There was some apprehension at first ... none of us have any experience in building wedding venues (laughs). But the more we thought about it, the more sense it made. We discovered that there was a major lack of options for larger weddings, especially with ample indoor/outdoor space."

And away they went. The lot behind Earl's — which the Armstrong family had purchased some years before — includes 26 acres of beautiful land, interspersed with wide open spaces, a stream and some forestry. The goal? Create a space that felt like it belonged.

"Steph, Michelle and I scoured online, looking for ideas and what was resonating with brides," said Samantha. "We also used our own experiences in both going to weddings and getting married. We understood we had an unbelievable experience in front of us — being able to not only build the venue from the ground up, but to be able to implement new, fresh ideas and provide more opportunities for our community."

Having the space and creativity allowed the Armstrong girls to consider no idea too over the top. From a massive bridal suite with individual makeup stations to a manmade pond to the minute details you won't see until you're there, the 16,000 square foot space is as impressive as any.

In terms of location, it doesn't get much more convenient than Chaffee. Almost dead center of the region, you can be there from any point in western New York in under 90 minutes. The sunsets are *kisses fingers* breathtaking, only more so when the fading light dances through the massive overarching windows.

Walk into The Annex and you'll have to pick your jaw up off the freshly-polished concrete floors. Timbers welcome you as you enter the main doors. The main foyer is flanked by three wings, each one as beautiful as the next. A massive stone fireplace sets the tone, lying underneath an intricate metal & crystal chandelier. On the back side, the bridal suite offers it's own private terrace, and an outdoor space with a beautiful covered canopy doubles for both ceremonies, receptions, dance floors and added space.

The Annex hosted its first wedding last weekend. The first one was going to be a challenge regardless ... until you added in the pandemic and all of its restrictions.

"We got creative," Samantha said. "We kept it under 25 people, and the bride and groom were so appreciative and understanding. It was the perfect "soft opening" for us, even though it was an actual wedding. Safe to say everyone had tears in their eyes."

"The Annex" continued page 12

FROM THE CHAMBER DESK

Ellicottville reminds residents and visitors to mask up



ELICOTTVILLE, NY - The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce has taken an active role in continually providing their membership of over 250 businesses with up-to-date COVID-19 changes to local, state and federal regulations that affect them, including State Liquor Authority directives. It is also the Chamber's mission to keep visitors aware that Ellicottville is serious about following all regulations.

"Just this week, we changed the welcome signs at all three entrances to Ellicottville with a cheery but serious reminder to mask up," stated Brian McFadden, executive director of the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce "We have also purchased more EVL masks that are available for sale to the public at Daff Dry Goods and Ava Grace Fashions."

Both retailers are located on Washington Street. All proceeds from the mask sales will continue to go to local charities. To learn more about the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce and their proactive approach to keeping Ellicottville safe for its residents and visitors, contact the Chamber at 800-349-9099 or go to ellicottvilleny.com

"Ellicottville is amazing, and as we say, 'Doesn't This Place Feel GREAT!'"

Greater Olean Area Chamber preparing 2021 events & activities guide

OLEAN, NY - The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing its May 2021 through January 2022 Events and Activities brochure. Events located in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties in New York State, as well as McKean and Potter counties in Pennsylvania are encouraged to send in information about their events. Needed information should include event name, date, location, telephone number and event details.

With all the cancelations, rescheduling and postponing of events and activities in 2020, GOACC did not publish this brochure last year. It's with anticipation and a mix of caution that Chamber staff is asking for 2021 dates. "GOACC has unveiled its 2021 dates and are committed to bringing a full slate of events to the community. Our top priority remains in the health and safety of our guests, vendors, volunteers and all involved who help make these events GREAT!" reported Meme Krahe Yanetsko, GOACC COO.

The deadline to enter information on events and activities is Wednesday, March 31st with the brochure's release date set for May 1st. This brochure is delivered to over 150 locations in a 100-mile radius of Olean. It is also sent to both regional visitors centers in New York, and one in Pennsylvania. Please send your information by phone to 716-372-4433, fax to 372-7912 or email tourism@oleanny.com.

What's next for the Santa Claus Lane ornament?

OLEAN, NY - The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce is looking to the community for ideas for its 2021 Santa Claus Lane ornament. Through the ornament sales, holiday lights are funded and can be lit in Olean from November to early January. The ornament will be the twenty-sixth in a series created by artist Kathleen McDonald.

Every year, the Santa Claus Lane committee chooses the landmark to be designed on the 3-1/2 inch circular resin ornament. The artist sketches the layout from photos provided by Chamber officials and a prototype is created. Once the prototype is approved, work begins with the process of pouring and hand-painting each piece. The ornaments arrive in Olean.

"Santa Ornament" continued page 12

ON-SNOW EVENTS

‘YOUR TURN’ WOMEN’S CLINIC RETURNING TO HOLIDAY VALLEY

Intermediate/advanced skiers invited to two-day programming with renowned ski racer/coach Lisa Densmore Ballard; pre-registration required

BY MARY HEYL



photos courtesy Lisa Densmore Ballard

From the newest gear to the most thrilling destinations, competitive ski racer Lisa Densmore Ballard has always had an eye on skiing trends. This year, she’s noticed that outdoor winter sports have experienced a boom like never before, as COVID-19 has driven many to discover new ways to have fun, improve their health, and explore nature. “We still can do so much outdoors,” said Ballard. “It’s great to be on the side of a mountain, breathing fresh air and getting exercise. You can be around your friends within reason, and it’s good for your body and your brain.”

No one knows this better than Ballard who, at 59, ended last year ranked in the top four in the world in the FIS Master’s circuit. She’s seen every aspect of ski racing, from competing on the U.S. Ski Team leading up to the 1980s Olympics, to racing collegiately, to the World Pro Ski Tour, and now the U.S. Alpine Masters. Since 1991, she has also been coaching, writing, and commenting on skiing for several outdoor publications and nearly every major news outlet, from ESPN to NBC. In her words, “I just feel like skiing and ski racing are sports you can do for life and do at a very high level.” Ballard is excited to share this passion and her years of experience at Holiday Valley next week during her annual Your Turn Women’s Ski Clinic Jan. 21st and 22nd.

Uncertain how this year would look given pandemic restrictions on gatherings and travel, Ballard has been pleased to see that ski clinics are very much in demand. The Montana resident leads clinics all over the United States, and so far, each one has sold out and added a waiting list. A New York native who grew up in the Adirondacks, Ballard said Ellicottville is one of her favorite destinations. “It’s a tradition to come back here every year and spend a couple days at Holiday Valley,” she said. “There are new gals and returning ones each year, and it’s just a really fun couple of days where you can improve your skiing and learn a lot about your gear, meet other skiers, and just get better at the sport. It’s a supportive and enjoyable way to do it!”

Since 1991, about 7,000 women have gone through the Your Turn program all over the country to improve their skills and learn the intricacies of the sport and equipment, especially as they pertain to women. Ballard explained, “I give a presentation on what makes

women’s ski gear women-specific and what the trends are. You’ve got to have the right tool for the task, so to speak, so I start with that.”

Over the years, Ballard has worked with several companies to help develop women’s ski gear. “For many years, the manufacturers would call them ‘unisex models’ and there were just a small number of women’s skis,” Ballard reflected. “Now, you see as diverse an offering for women as you do for men from most manufacturers.” This year, Ballard is sharing a new ski, Secret, made for aggressive female skiers.

Making sure one’s skis are tuned correctly is important, Ballard noted, as many get skis and never or rarely tune them. Participants work in small groups with an instructor and Ballard rotates among the groups throughout the day to work with everyone. “Of course, skiing is a sport that men and women can enjoy, but there are some things specific to a gal on snow, though,” Ballard pointed out. “Women carry their center of gravity in their hip area, whereas with men, it’s in their shoulders and chest. This directly affects how you stand and balance on your skis, and we discuss these kinds of differences. It’s a totally friendly environment, and you can ask questions as candidly as you want.”

Specialty clinics include how to use your hands effectively and how to ski The Wall. Video analysis is also part of each day and a vital tool, according to Ballard. She said, “I can tell you to do something on your skis five times, but until you see yourself on video, it doesn’t always register.”

Importantly, Ballard’s clinics are COVID-19-friendly and based mostly outside. Meals are mostly grab-and-go, and video analyses take place via Zoom after skiing, instead of in-person in small groups. Ballard added, “We’re still going to be able to have fun! I have already had a number of clinics, and it’s so fun to see how happy people are to be out on the hill and getting better with their skiing.” Ballard’s clinic is designed for intermediate to advanced skiers. To register and learn more about “Your Turn,” including the full schedule and video footage from last year, visit <https://www.holidayvalley.com/activities-events/your-turn-women/>.

HOLIDAY VALLEY REALTY CO. CELEBRATES 2020 SALES

ELLICOTTVILLE - Holiday Valley Realty Co. celebrated a fantastic 2020 sales year this past Tuesday afternoon during a special luncheon held at John Harvard’s Brew House inside the Tamarack Club at Holiday Valley Resort.

The highest accolade went to licensed agent Louise Oefling, who once again was acknowledged as a multi-million dollar producer.

“We celebrate all of our agents’ successes and we hope to continue through 2020!” said Joany Bund, associate broker and sales manager for Holiday Valley Realty.

For more information about Holiday Valley Realty Co., contact their sales office at 716-699-2000 or click over to holidayvalley.com/realty



photos / Holiday Valley Realty Co.

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3. Reasons you selected them - Why they should WIN to erica@oleanny.com no later than **January 23rd**

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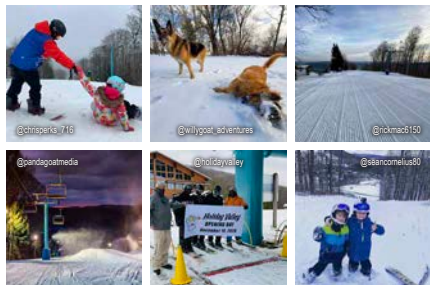
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MEETING NOTES

ELLICOTTVILLE VILLAGE PLANNING BOARD

Chiba Chiba store sign approved; Variance application received for single family residence addition

BY CAITLIN CROFT

The monthly meeting of the Ellicottville Village Planning Board took place this past Tuesday evening, January 12th. The meeting opened with a sign approval for Chiba Chiba CBD, Apparel and Gifts. The business occupies space at 18 Washington Street, the former location of Dekdebruns Ski Shop. The application was for an exterior hanging sign. All village code requirements have been met in regard to height, colors and size. There was a motion to approve; a second and ayes carried.

Discussion then followed pertaining to a project at 45 Monroe Street for a single family residence addition. The project will include exterior renovations and raising the house roof from a 1-1/2 story home to 2 stories. The front porch and rear deck are already in the required front and rear yards. The applicant has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for variances to front and rear setbacks. A Public Hearing has been set conditionally, pending the results of the ZBA meeting, for February's meeting. There was a motion to conditionally set the Public Hearing; a second and ayes carried.

The next meeting of the Village Planning Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:30pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Please contact the Village Clerk's office at 716-699-4636 for login information.



NOW THIS ... BY BRENDA

cont. from page 03

anticipate a tasty selection of The Bistro's homemade specialties - Southern style pecan, French apple, and mixed berry pies are house favorites.

With limited capacity, reservations are a must. Give The Station in West Valley a follow on Facebook for the movie line-up and a glimpse of their dinner menu, then book your table by calling 716-942-3040.

AVA GRACE ON THE MOVE

Jessica Gilbert, owner of Ava Grace Fashions, is looking to add some excitement to her business. Over the last several months, Gilbert has been working closely with the CCIDA to align her fashion boutique inside a new space. In talking with Gilbert just the other day, I can't help but have the upmost respect for the passion and dedication she has not only for her business, but for her customers and for this community as well.

"I've been blessed to be able to operate my store in downtown Ellicottville for the last several years," Gilbert said. "I've had to move around a few times due to leasing contracts and property sales, and now I find myself confronted with the same situation yet again. This time, I'm looking to find a permanent home for Ava Grace Fashions by investing in a building, and the IDA has been very supportive in guiding me along the way to ensure that Ellicottville doesn't end up with another empty storefront."

As Gilbert finishes up the details of her business plan - including a final decision on a new location - her faithful customer base can rest assured that come springtime, Ava Grace Fashions will be bigger and better than ever. Gilbert advised that her own label is also in the works, putting Ava Grace Fashions on the fast track to becoming a national brand. Don't miss a beat! Get on the mailing list (avagracefashions.com) or follow Ava Grace Fashions on Facebook for project updates, special offers and new arrivals.

MOVING ON ...

On a personal note, this month marks a special occasion - one that brings me joy to remember, yet at the same time I'm working on to forget. Following a one-year treatment to kick leukemia's butt, last January I returned to Roswell to ring the Victory Bell. On all days - my birthday. It certainly gave extra meaning to "turning 40". Fast-forward, here we are one year later and I am happy to say that all is back to normal (well, as normal as can be, despite a pandemic.) I'm healthy as can be, I'm more motivated than ever, and I am officially done looking back. I will continue to embrace each and every morning that the sun rises, with my family and friends and this wonderful community by my side.

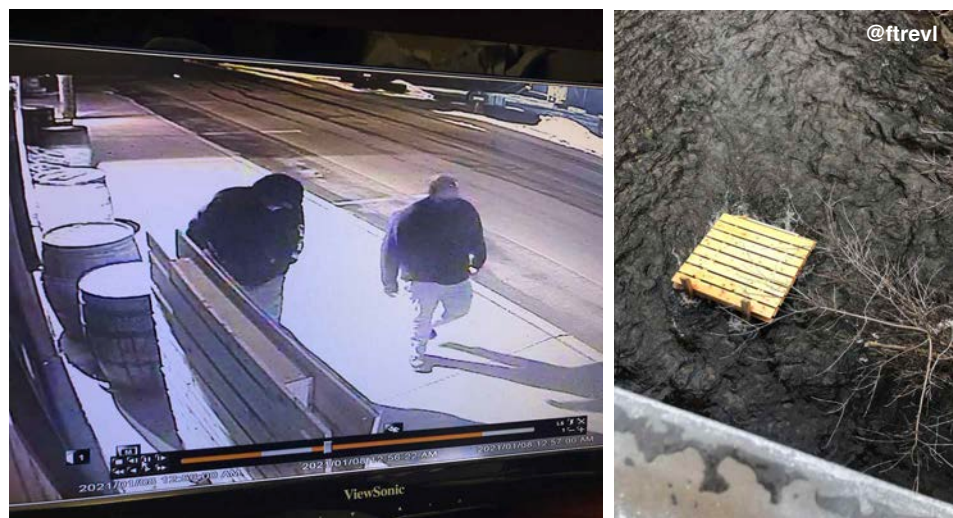
Please remember, as we continue on this journey of life, that tomorrow is never promised. Take time to appreciate what you have and who you have, be good to each other, and get out there and move! Life is beautiful. Take advantage of it.

B-

Brenda Perks is the owner, editor and designer of *ellicottvilleNOW* and owner of *DesignPerks*, a graphic design company affiliated with the local media/marketing agency, *PaNDaGOAT Media*. You can reach Brenda at brenda@ellicottvillenow.com.

LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER

EPD apprehend individuals responsible for vandalism to Finnerty's sign



When I arrived at work last Friday at Finnerty's Tap Room, I realized something was off. After spending the previous day hanging TVs and replacing our front blinds, I realized the wood divider that we use as a sign out front of the restaurant was missing. At first, being confused, I went back to our house camera system and was able to spot the culprits and their thieving actions around 1:00am that same day.

That's when the good people of Ellicottville sprung into action! First I called Brian McFadden at the Chamber to help me coordinate the next steps. Doing a little detective work on my own and following the path of the culprits, I was able to find the divider thrown into the creek behind the hotel across the street.

Officer Jim from the Ellicottville Police Department came right over and took a statement, watched the camera footage and went right to work tracking down the two offenders. McFadden called the Village DPW who braved some cold waters to retrieve our divider and bring it back to the restaurant. I can't thank Norm Forrest and Norm Folts from the DPW enough for taking care of a local business struggling to stay alive.

This total team effort doesn't end there. Officer Jim from the EPD sent me a message on Saturday around 4:30pm saying that they have identified the individuals and would like to take a statement from me, but understood that I was celebrating the first Bills' first Playoff win in 25 years and that "we can handle everything on Monday morning." Incredible job!

On Monday, Officer Kelly from the EPD came and took my statement and explained that they had it solved almost immediately! Just incredible on all parts of our super village all working together! The common theme I have come away with from this situation is:

Don't Mess With Ellicottville ... or the people that look out for the many outstanding businesses here will find you! Humbled and Grateful,

Billy Finnerty,
owner, Finnerty's Tap Room

HEALTH & FITNESS

About Those New Year's Resolutions: For Big Changes, Think Small

By KIM DUKE, CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER, CORE PERFORMANCE

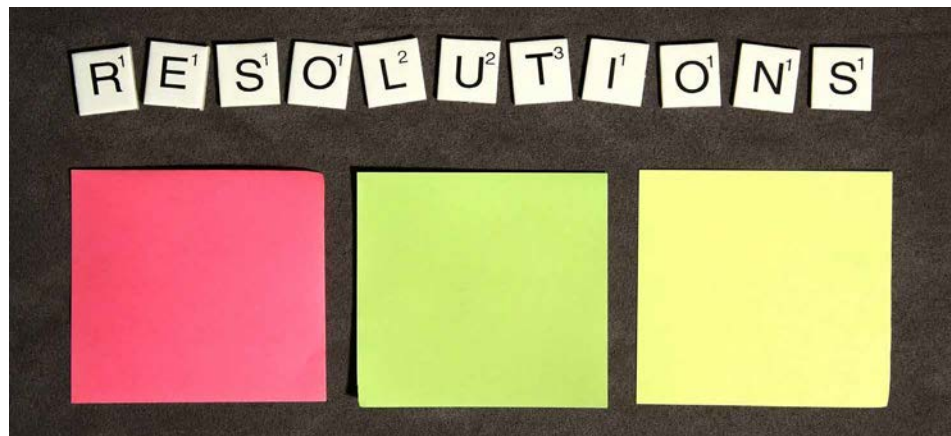
2020 is finally over! The year that seemed to start off with such high expectations turned out to be the year that just kept on giving us new things to fear and new hurdles to overcome. We were delivered into the “new normal” which is a phrase I have grown to despise. This led many of us down a rabbit’s hole of overeating, over drinking and little to no exercise. Instead of gaining the “Freshman 15”, many instead put on the “Covid-19”. We fell out of routines that kept us on the right track and fell into binge watching Schitt’s Creek, 90 Day Fiancé and The Crown, just to name a few. And so we vowed to make some changes right after the last plate of cookies was devoured along with the champagne and cheese. We made a New Year’s Resolution ...

Putting 2020 aside, most 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% of people had given up after six months and who knows how many of the remaining 40% 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.

This past year has pushed many of us to a breaking point at one time or another, and breaking old habits can be 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. Add in fitness



where you can, 10 minutes, then 20 minutes and before you know it you will be gaining on that healthy routine too. You will have good days and you will have bad days. Be gentle with yourself and try and look for the positives in each day. And, always remember: for big changes, think small ... consistent, effective efforts lead to success.

Slow and steady wins the race.

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 or www.coreperformancefitness.com. Reach Kim at kduke65@gmail.com.

THE ANNEX

cont. from page 07

Given a blank slate — and a fresh build — the Armstrong girls have documented the entire process by harnessing the overwhelming power of Instagram. Potential brides and clients could follow along with the progress in real time, thanks to a constant refresh of @theannexwny’s feed and stories. While the building’s beauty and detail can’t be understated, it’s the people behind the project that’s been a driving force. Each Armstrong girl brings something to the table, combining to create a tour de force of creativity, hustle and passion.

“This project, like any, has had its fair share of difficulties, but we believe we are exactly where we are supposed to be right now” Samantha said. “We had a vision and weren’t going to stop at anything to make it come to fruition. As we are booking new clients and having follow-up meetings with the couples that had faith in us ... we are attending the best day of their lives, and watching that one moment makes all of the work worth it. THAT is the reason why we did it. And now ... with a wedding under our belt and the building finished, we’re looking ahead to countless events, weddings and celebrations.”

The Annex can be found on Instagram at @theannexwny or www.theannexwny.com. They’re currently offering tours and bookings through 2022.

SANTA ORNAMENT

cont. from page 07

individually boxed, with a brief description of the ornament. Several buildings that have been suggested to be an ornament include: Rock City Park, Bartlett Country Club, Christopher Columbus Lodge, Dal Tile Plant, Downtown Deli, Governor Higgins Mansion, Lincoln Diner, Olean House, Spragues Maple Farms, Olean Public Library, Paul’s Steakhouse, PickUps, St. Mary’s School, Thatcher Plant Factory, and Warner’s Pizza.

Past ornaments include (starting in 1999) the Olean Municipal Building, the Fannie E. Bartlett House, St. Mary of the Angels Church, Olean High School, St. Stephen’s Church, St. Bonaventure University, a depiction of Santa Claus Lane, the Olean General Hospital, Olean Post Office, Community Bank, Ivers J. Norton, the Castle Restaurant, St. Francis Hospital, Chuck Wagon Restaurant, Palace Theater, Boardmanville Elementary, Red and Trudys, North Union Street streetscape (1st hundred block west side), Olean Class Cars, Cloud 9 Amusement Park, Bradners Stadium, Henry H. Hill, Archbishop Walsh, Beef ‘n’ Barrel Restaurant, and Tasta Pizza. Please submit ideas to GOACC no later than February 1st by calling 716-372-4433, emailing info@oleanny.com or on facebook at facebook.com/OleanNYChamber.

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ATTN: Melissa Sawicki, District Clerk
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, New York 14731

EOE.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

VILLAGE OF ELICOTTVILLE. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ellicottville on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. via phone at 1-712-832-8330, access code 532 4670. The purpose of Local Law #1 of the year 2021 is to amend Local Law No. 2 of the year 2020. A local law Regulating Solid Waste Management and Recycling in the Village of Ellicottville. By order of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ellicottville.

TOURISM GRANT DEADLINE EXTENDED

LITTLE VALLEY, NY - The Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism (EDPT) will continue accepting applications for the 2021 Cattaraugus County Group B Tourism Promotion Grant Program through March 31, 2021. EDPT feels this extension is necessary to allow for local decision makers to analyze the status of Covid-19 and make more definitive plans for their events and their advertising dollars. A portion of the bed tax is intended to provide grants for advertising and promoting various new or expanded tourism events, unique festivals, attractions and experiences that will attract more visitors for extended stays, overnight visits and day getaways. This grant program seeks to establish the importance of programs and opportunities that promote or support the development of specific themes or significant attractions and events, all of which enhance the level of visitor experience in the area. Eligible applicants include Chambers without full-time staff, business associations, non-profit organizations, events, festivals and other tourism associated activities. For more information visit www.EnchantedMountains.com/Group-B or call Samantha Hayes at 716-938-2307 .

OBITUARIES

George Allan Thayer • August 10, 1930 - December 30, 2020



(Rev) George Allan Thayer was blessed with 90 years and went to be with our Lord and Savior on December 30, 2020 due to COVID-related complications. He was born in Kendall, NY on August 10, 1930 to Rev. Thurber Thayer and Grace (Barringer) Thayer and the eldest to sisters Virginia Harter (deceased) and Ruth Marzolf of Florida. He was amongst the 11th generation of Thayers in America having resided at the family farm in Akron, NY and proud to have joined Thayer reunions at West Point. George was a graduate of Perry High School (1947) and attended Alfred University and Roberts Wesleyan College and Asbury Seminary.

As the Reverend George Thayer, he served Christ in both WNY and Northern PA Methodist Churches following in his father's footsteps. He was an active member of Solomon's Porch of Little Valley and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellicottville where he enjoyed singing his favorite hymns and praising the Lord.

He served honorably as a Marine during the Korean War (1951-1953) and shared his love and experiences for both Christ and country with all he met.

George was a ham radio enthusiast and was known as the "Peanut Whistle Preacher". He also worked at WNYS/WGGO radio in Salamanca, NY where he built their first broadcast tower. His radio career included WBVB, WCTL and CBN. In his retirement, he blended his passions to create his own website, "Christian TV Services" to continue his ministry. His favorite pastime was cheering on the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Sabres.

George married Alfreda Gates (Roulo) in 1957 and has 5 children: Robert Thayer, Rochester, NY; Rebecca Perrault, Penn Yan, NY; Rachel Thayer-Workman, Rolesville, NC; Roger Thayer, Syracuse, NY and Randall Thayer, Fuquay-Varina, NC. He is survived by his 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren who remember him for his story-telling, handshakes and puns.

He was remarried in 1974 to Joyce (Underwood) Thayer who predeceased him in 2011 and was step-father to her 4 children and with whom he shared an infant soul, John Mark.

A spring memorial will be held and internment will be next to Joyce at Middlebury Cemetery in Middlebury, PA. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the VA Hospital in Buffalo, Solomon's Porch, Little Valley or St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellicottville.

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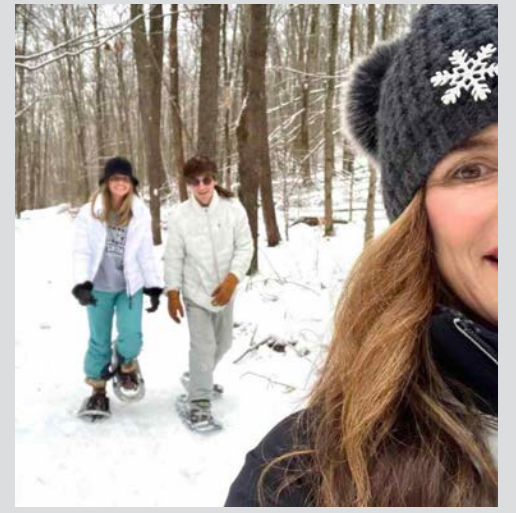
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shannonlshepherd: My favorite place with my favorite people #evlnow #holidayvalley #ellicottvilleny #skiandride #maskup



escornelius80: Keeping warm and safe at our mini-chalet at @holimont! #skiinsiout #evlnow



lcove1: New Years resolution: take at least 15 minutes a day to get outside #happy2021 #evlnow



holimont_parks: Open to the PUBLIC Monday - Friday. Even on a cloudy day our parks look good! #holimontparks #terrainpark #evlnow



sk8evl: A little winter can't hold this skater back. #sk8evl #evlnow



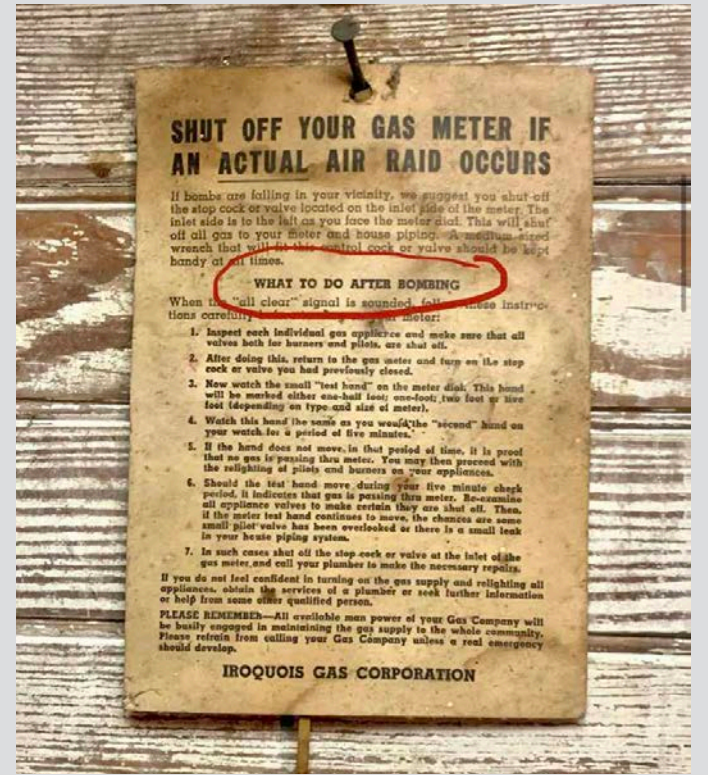
hornhillpottery: Another amazing day on the hill #grateful #evlnow



sagetheadventuredog: Fun day at the dog park #ellicottvillenow



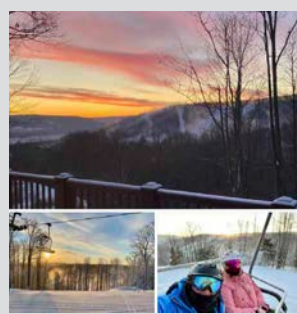
willygoat_adventures: #wetwilly #chasingwaterfalls #evlnow



team_pritchard: Some of our older homes ... stumbled across this in a basement! #airraidshelter #backintheday #realestate #evlnow



ellicottvillenow: Sunshine! #evlnow #holimont #getoutside



rickmac6150: Double header Day #skiandgameday #evlnow



jtdaw6: First park run of the year #evlnow #holidayvalley



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