

# ellicottvilleNOW

LOCALLY OWNED & PUBLISHED ~ WIDELY DISTRIBUTED ♦ March 16-22, 2023

Official Newspaper of the Village & Town of Ellicottville and Town of Great Valley, New York

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## snowTRENDS: On Snow and On Stage

Holiday Valley and HoliMont Stack Up March Events with Music Festivals, Rail Jams, Spring Parties and More



@holidayvalley

Headlining Rail Rider Jamboree for the second year straight is Dark Star Orchestra. For a complete music lineup and to purchase tickets, head to [railriderjam.com](http://railriderjam.com). Gates open Saturday at 1:00pm.

BY BRENDA PERKS

If you thought Mardi Gras and Winter Carnival were as crazy as it gets, you're in for a wild ride over the next few weeks. Last weekend's costume wearing, bead slinging celebration was only the beginning of what's to come for our ski town's "season ending". And with winter making yet another comeback, snow conditions leading up to the final days of the 2022-23 snow sliding season should be epic!

This is probably my most favorite part of ski season - spring skiing and all the events that come with it. Mother Nature may have her own agenda for March, but warm, sunny days are destined to make their way to the lift lines. Goggles and patio parties will be at the top of my list. How about you?

Let's break it down... on deck at Holiday Valley is the Rail Rider Jamboree music festival and final installment of the Intense Milk Rail Jam Series this weekend, followed by everyone's favorite, Spring Pond Skimming Party next weekend. On the other side of the mountain, HoliMont has Chamber Day and Ditch Daze ready to roll. Find all the details inside.

... page 04

### AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS INCLUDING ECS RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Four area school districts and one New Jersey school recently received grants supporting new projects and education opportunities, together totaling \$4,633, from the Wolfinger Family Donor Advised Fund.

Harold "Sandy" and Connie Wolfinger established the Wolfinger Family Fund in 2019 and designed the fund to provide annual support for educational programming and enrichment opportunities for area students in schools.

Ellicottville Central School received \$752 for the purchase of STEM-related books and other classroom materials to introduce elementary-aged students to STEM-related activities. The lessons first introduce K-4th grade students to a story using the books purchased through the grant.

... page 08

## CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2023 SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL HEADLINER

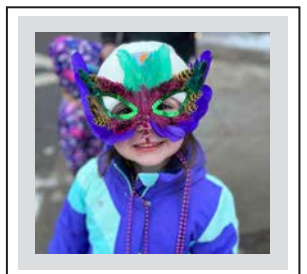
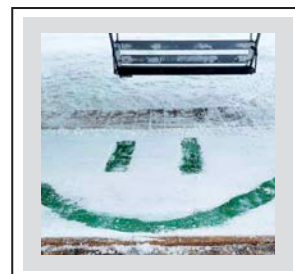
As ski season winds down and the snow melts away, the anticipation of who's playing Summer Music Festival runs high amongst both the locals and visitors who have made it a tradition to spend the July 4th holiday here in Ellicottville. The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce, which produces the three-day music event, has finalized an extraordinary lineup for this year's slopeside concerts at Holiday Valley. "The Players" featuring Grammy awarded and top former members of Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire will headline this year's music festival Saturday evening, July 1. This legendary group of musicians will no doubt have everyone dancing the night away. Find out who else is scheduled to perform... page 04

## Happy St. Patrick's Day! Fun Facts and Local Hot Spots

On St. Paddy's Day, everyone is Irish, including the venerated St. Patrick who is celebrated worldwide on this day. (Surprising fact: St. Patrick was not Irish!) Read up on the history of how this patron of Ireland came to be such an iconic figure. PLUS, we've gathered a list of all the hot spots to celebrate locally. Ellicottville businesses are ready to serve up good food and drink once you're off the slopes. So don your best green and live it up! Happy St. Patrick's Day... page 11

## instaNOW

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



## Maple Weekend in Western New York

Two Consecutive Weekends Invite the Public to Explore Our Local Farms



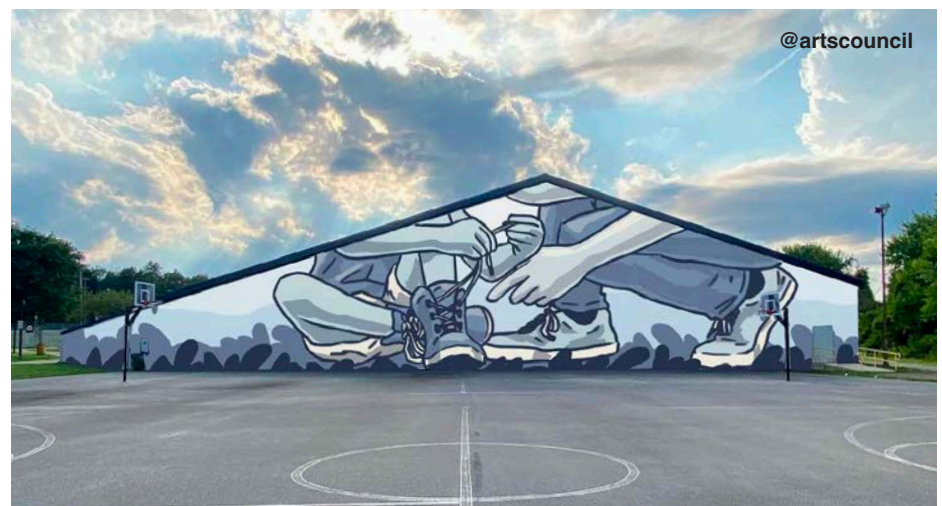
photo courtesy Maple Glen Sugar House, Gowanda

BY MARY HEYL

Whether it's drizzled over pancakes, stirred into a pot of chili, or glazed over salmon, it's hard to find a dish that isn't complemented by the delicious flavor of pure maple syrup!

If your maple syrup reserves are running low, Maple Weekend is the perfect time to restock. New York's Maple Weekend, a chance for the public to visit local maple syrup producers to learn about the sugar making process, is set for March 18-19 and March 25-26. Organized and sponsored by the New York State Maple Producers' Association, Maple Weekend is now in its 27th year, and it is the perfect opportunity to spend time with the family, see firsthand how syrup is made, and enjoy some delicious maple treats!

... page 11



@artscouncil

## PLANS FOR NEXT PUBLIC MURAL IN OLEAN APPROVED

Last year, artist Meg Saligman worked on a project that encompassed all four sides of the Liberal Arts Center building at SUNY JCC (Catt. Co. Campus). Her "The Heart of Olean" mural had 10% of the Olean population working on it with her. This year artist Alex Derwick brought his mural proposal to the Tri County Arts Council's attention and it was approved to be created this summer. It will be featured on a wall at the William O. Smith Rec Center. The theme: "Community Ties." *ellicottvilleNOW* spoke with Paula Bernstein, Executive Director of TCAC and the artist himself, Alex Derwick about the project... page 03

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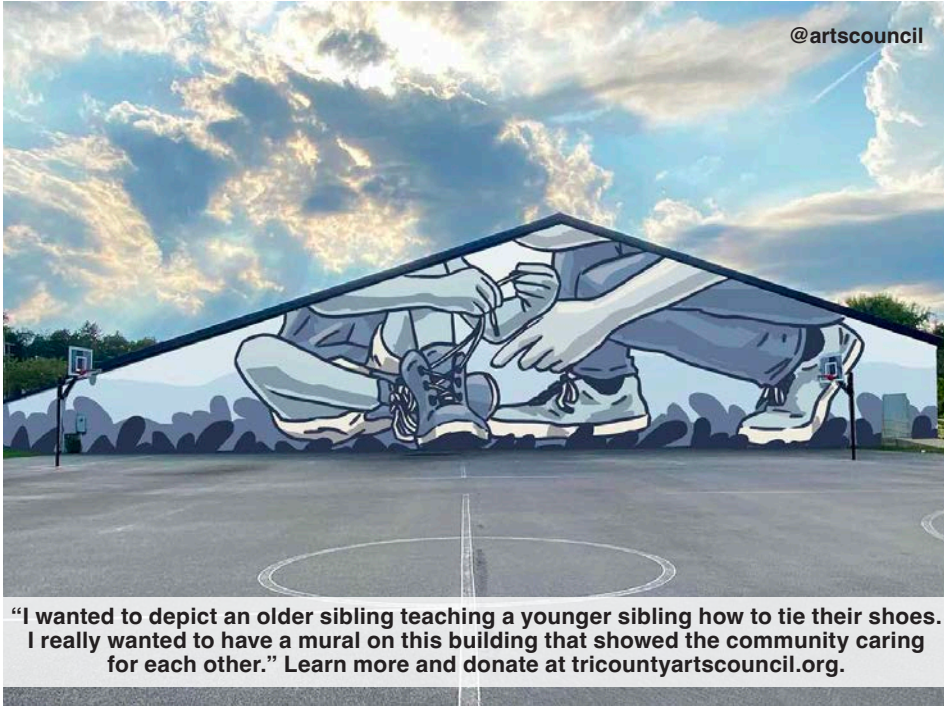
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# Publisher's PICK

## COMMUNITY TIES

Artist Alex Derwick to Create the Next Public Mural in Olean



@artscouncil

"I wanted to depict an older sibling teaching a younger sibling how to tie their shoes. I really wanted to have a mural on this building that showed the community caring for each other." Learn more and donate at [tricountyartscouncil.org](http://tricountyartscouncil.org).

By JESSICA SCHULTZ

Community should mean a great deal to all of us. It's where we grow up, who we raise our families with, the place we plant our roots. It means so many different things and keeping it not just clean and beautiful but inclusive and safe for all citizens when they come together. In that regard, the Tri-County Arts Council (TCAC) always has great ideas in the works.

Last year, artist Meg Saligman worked on a project that encompassed all four sides of the Liberal Arts Center building at the SUNY JCC Cattaraugus County Campus. Her "The Heart of Olean" mural had about 10% of the Olean population working on it with her crew and herself, proudly creating a display based on an American poet but also an Olean native. This year artist Alex Derwick brought his mural proposal to the Arts Council's attention and it was approved to be created this summer. It will be featured on the wall of the William O. Smith Rec Center in War Vets Park. The theme of his mural: "Community Ties." [ellicottvilleNOW](http://ellicottvilleNOW) had a great opportunity to speak with Paula Bernstein, Executive Director of the Tri-County Arts Council and the artist himself, Alex Derwick about the project.

**eNOW:** How did you come up with the "Community Ties" idea for the mural?

**ALEX:** A few years ago, a buddy of mine, Andy Mellon, was asking if I'd be interested in scouting locations in Olean for a potential mural. I immediately came up with a sketch based on my own memories of learning to ice skate at the recreation center; I can remember looking down at my skates and feeling like tying my laces was an impossible task - a small but worrisome moment for a kid. The beauty of a space like the recreation center or the basketball court or any space where physical activities are being held, there's usually someone there to help you learn the ropes. And the act of helping someone tie their shoelaces is a way to help build a kid's confidence.

**eNOW:** What does being able to paint this mural mean to you?

**ALEX:** Being a resident of Baltimore now, coming home is a special occasion. I helped Meg Saligman paint her mural last summer at JCC for 3 months and felt from the community that it was not only accepted but that public art was in fact greatly wanted in Olean. Growing up in Olean, I unfortunately did not feel that drawing or painting was seen as a worthwhile career. Falsely believing I had nothing to offer Olean pushed me away from wanting to make something in participation with my hometown. But my family and people like Kellie O'Brien, my high school art teacher, reminded me that there was a community supporting me while I was starting on my artistic path. Painting a large but intimate mural in Olean would feel like a personal homecoming with the place that softly steered me.

**eNOW:** Do you have any other large scale projects (or small ones) in the works?

**ALEX:** On top of "Community Ties," I have two large projects that are currently under NDAs, but one is a large mural in downtown Philadelphia and the other is a collaboration with a skateboard company. In my downtime, I'm slowly chipping away at a graphic novel I'm writing and illustrating that won't be complete for at least 2 more years. But I'm most excited about the feature film I'm editing and assistant directing with my partner, Van Tran Nguyen. We started filming in Olean last summer, flew to Vietnam in December to film there, and will finish shooting in Maryland next month. Our plan is to wrap up visual effects, music, and editing for the movie by the end of summer 2023. This is a follow-up to our previous collaboration, a short film called "Erie County Smile" which is available to watch on PBS.

Alex is very excited to begin the work for the Olean mural when he returns from his current project in August. The Tri-County Arts Council is excited as well.

**eNOW:** How does TCAC feel about the murals?

**PAULA:** Ideally, we would like to have a mural project each year going forward. Any artist that is interested is encouraged to apply by reaching out to us, as it is a long process for approval. Alex actually submitted his idea back last summer.

**eNOW:** Do you have specific requirements for the designs?

**PAULA:** The only thing we'd like is for the artist to make sure their design has community representation. We want them to follow their own inspiration, their own vision, while also incorporating a feeling of connection and togetherness for our local surroundings. That's why Alex's design appealed to us on so many levels. It's not just about the shoelaces but the point that people will always be there to help each other.

Thank you to both Paula and Alex, for taking the time to share their feelings on this project. We can't wait to see it in person once it's finished.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ON-SNOW EVENTS

Spring Skiing Brings Family-Friendly Parties to Round Out the Month of March



@holidayvalley

By **BRENDA PERKS**

If you thought Mardi Gras and Winter Carnival were as crazy as it gets, you're in for a wild ride over the next few weeks. Last weekend's costume wearing, bead slinging celebration was only the beginning of what's to come for our ski town's "season ending". And with winter making yet another comeback, snow conditions leading up to the final days of the 2022-23 snow sliding season should be epic!

This is probably my most favorite part of ski season - spring skiing and all the events that come with it. Mother Nature may have her own agenda for March, but warm, sunny days are destined to make their way to the lift lines. Goggle tans and patio parties will be at the top of my list. How about you? Let's break it down...

### INTENSE MILK RAIL JAM Saturday, March 18 @ Holiday Valley

Holiday Valley has partnered with Intense Milk over the last several years to bring a fun park series to the slopes. Typically held in the evenings in the Rail Fun Park at the bottom of Mardi Gras, the final park session transitions to a daytime slot at the base of Yodeler. HV's park builders take the snow used for Winter Carnival's Snobar and transform it into a sweet, flowy set-up featuring boxes and rails with a mini-quarterpipe at the end. Fun to participate in, and just as fun to spectate from the Yodeler deck. The jam-style format will award the best overall male and female riders as well as best trick.

"The Intense Milk partnership is a fantastic one because everyone benefits from it," said Dash Hegeman, marketing director at Holiday Valley. "Our Monday and Tuesday night buy-one, get-one free lift ticket offer is set up so that anyone who brings an Intense Milk bottle to the ticket booth can purchase two night lift tickets for the price of one. So that helps our guests save money, gets more people out on the slopes and helps to sell Intense Milk locally. The Intense Milk Rail Jam series has been really well attended this year. The third and final event this Saturday offers a \$500 cash prize to the winner so we're expecting to see quite the show being put on."

The Intense Milk Series takes place from noon-2:00pm and is open to skiers and snowboarders; helmet, waiver and parent signature for those under 18 is required. (Download the waiver at holidayvalley.com.)

### RAIL RIDER JAMBOREE Saturday, March 18 @ Holiday Valley

This is the concert you've been waiting for! Organizers of the Rail Rider Jamboree Music Festival are excited to return to Holiday Valley for Year Two of the all-day music festival, headlined by Dark Star Orchestra. Multiple bands, a vendor village, plenty of food and beverages... all paired with a feel-good, laid-back vibe from 2:00-10:00pm.

"We are so excited to return to Holiday Valley for our second year of the Jamboree," said festival promoter Jennifer Brazill. "The lineup is filled with incredible talent, with music for all ages. We really try to curate this event for everyone, to fit with the vibe of the mountain, which is good times and great music."

One exciting change to the festival is that the venue will be moving locations from the SnowPine Lot on Route 219 to the main parking area located adjacent to the Resort Center at the Base Area Parking Lot. "Not only will this new location allow for the Rail Rider concertgoers to have a more immersive Holiday Valley experience, but it'll create a really fun vibe for Holiday Valley guests who are out on the slopes," said Hegeman. "There will be great music playing throughout the day that people will be able to hear from the Mardi Gras lift, which should only increase interest for Year Three of the event. Plus, by putting the venue in an area that is covered in blacktop (which the SnowPine lot is not), it will make for a better overall concert experience for everyone involved."

ellicottvilleNOW had a chance to catch up with one of the bands on the bill; flip over to page 07 to read our conversation with Mike Gantzer, guitarist and vocalist of Aqueous. For a complete lineup of bands or to purchase your last-minute tickets, head over to railriderjam.com. Doors to the concert open at 1:00pm; kids 10 and under are free with a parent/guardian.

### CHAMBER SKI DAY Thursday, March 23 @ HoliMont

"Snow Events" continued page 14

## SUMMER FEST HEADLINER

Former Members of Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire to Perform July 4th Weekend



ELLICOTTVILLE - As ski season winds down and the snow melts away, the anticipation of who's playing Summer Music Festival runs high amongst both the locals and visitors who have made it a tradition to spend the July 4th holiday here in Ellicottville. The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce, which produces the three-day music event, has finalized an extraordinary lineup for this year's slopeside concerts at Holiday Valley.

"The Players" featuring Grammy awarded and top former members of Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire will headline this year's music festival Saturday evening, July 1. Bill Champlin (two-time grammy winner and member of Chicago for 28 years) will be joined by Keith Howland (former guitarist of Chicago), Jeff Coffey (former lead vocalist of Chicago), and Gorden Campbell (former drummer of Earth, Wind & Fire). With hits like "If You Leave Me Now," "You're the Inspiration" and "Hard To Say I'm Sorry" from Chicago, coupled with the likes of "Shining Star", "Boogie Wonderland" and "September" from Earth, Wind & Fire, this legendary group of musicians will no doubt have everyone dancing the night away.

To add to an already stellar bill, Barracuda-America's Heart Tribute will perform the opening act, rocking the audience to their feet. Hailing from Music City (Nashville, TN), each highly talented member is world traveled with an impressive number of years of experience. The band is known for their monster vocals, brilliant musicianship and unceasing over-the-top performances which has created a solid foundation for this fabulous tribute to HEART. Taking everyone on a musical journey back in time, Barracuda-America's Heart Tribute articulately recreates the phenomenal songs of the 70s, 80s and 90s that are still loved by loyal Heart fans around the world.

The following evening, Sunday, July 2, Holiday Valley's slopeside stage will host the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. As guests of Summer Music Festival year after year, the BPO performance is a stunning celebration of the Independence Day holiday, as their finale is performed in unison with an extravagant fireworks display that can be viewed throughout the valley.

"This is an amazing weekend that always brings a great crowd to our town," stated Brian McFadden, Executive Director of the Chamber. "We've been hosting Summer Music Fest for over 25 years now and it never disappoints. One of the things our guests love about this event is that you can bring your own chairs, blankets and picnic baskets into the concerts, and there are no parking fees. It's a one-of-a-kind experience and very family-friendly. Kids love it just as much as adults!"

Pre-sale tickets for both concerts are now available and can be purchased directly at ellicottvillenyc.com. VIP packages and sponsorship opportunities are also available; contact the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce at 716-699-5046 for more information.

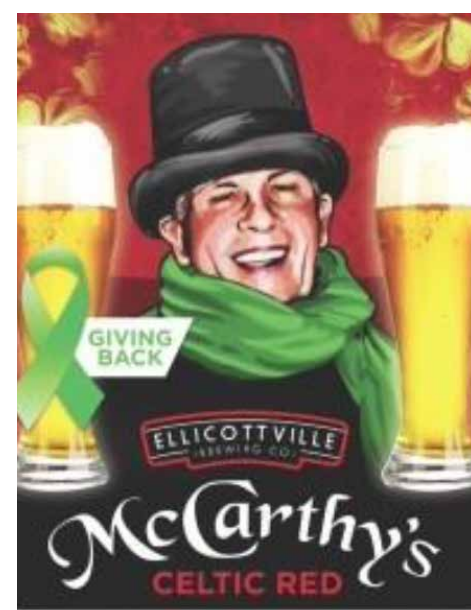
## LIMITED SPECIAL RELEASE

EBC to Donate \$1 From Each Pint of McCarthy's Celtic Red

ELLICOTTVILLE - Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, Dan Minner, brew master at Ellicottville Brewing Company, has brought back a limited edition of McCarthy's Celtic Red. This great brew was created to honor the "Voice of Ellicottville" Bob McCarthy. As EBC has done for a number of years, they will donate \$1 for every pint sold to the Bob McCarthy Foundation's Family Support.

This McCarthy's Celtic Red is a delicious Red Ale that will only be available at select establishments in Ellicottville for a short period of time. Make sure you ask for EBC's McCarthy's Celtic Red to support the Bob McCarthy Foundation and you enjoy a great beer!

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# INTERVIEW

## Rail Rider Jamboree Musicians Ready for Outdoor Festival



MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> • HOLIDAY VALLEY

By Melanie Hulick

Mike Gantzer & Friends are one of the acts set to perform at the 2nd annual Rail Rider Jamboree at Holiday Valley Resort this Saturday, March 18.

Gantzer, who's best known as a guitarist and vocalist of the band Aqueous, has gathered some of his best musical friends and is ready for the 2023 concert season. "Aqueous is taking a break so that one of our members can fully experience being a new dad," said the singer/songwriter.

Growing up he was into skateboarding, punk and metal music. As far as his musical influences, the singer said, "Jeff Beck, Jimmy Hendrix and Pink Floyd were big for me... but really there are too many to name."

His work with Aqueous garnered seven studio albums and a "smattering" of live albums. With the band taking a break, Gantzer has been recording a bunch of new music for his solo career that he is very excited about and will be released soon.

When I talked to him recently, I asked him to describe his music for me to which he replied, "The first thing that comes to mind from my perspective is open-hearted. I'm trying to make music with messages and lyrics that maybe I would've needed to hear 10 years ago. Stylistically, I think one of the things I appreciate most about this moment in time is the lines of genre are getting very blurred. Honestly, the fans have to decide what they think it is... if I had a dollar for every time I thought we were making one type of record, and then the fans heard it and had their own interpretation of it, I'd have at least \$5." (laughs)

Looking forward to being part of the Jamboree, I asked if he knew he was playing outdoors and he said, "I did hear that and that's fine with me... I love playing in the elements so come on out everybody... this is going to be really fun!"

For more information on the event and tickets visit [railriderjamboree.com](http://railriderjamboree.com) or [holidayvalley.com](http://holidayvalley.com). For more information on Aqueous visit [aqueousband.com](http://aqueousband.com).

## A CONVERSATION WITH MIKE

**HULICK:** You're playing the Rail Rider Jamboree this Saturday, March 18 listed as Mike Gantzer & Friends... I know you as a member of the band Aqueous.

**GANTZER:** Yes. I play in several bands and one of those is Aqueous, which is how I'm best known since that is what I've been part of for the past 15 years or so, touring and making albums with the band. I've got some tour dates this spring with Aqueous then we're taking time off because one of our members and his wife had a baby and it's very difficult sometimes to balance touring life with family life and wanting to prioritize being a new dad. So he asked for some time off and we're going to give it to him. In the meantime, I'm able to put together a real cool lineup of musicians I've met along the way from across the nation.

**HULICK:** Do you know Jennifer Brazil who started the Jamboree and puts it all together?

**GANTZER:** We've conversed by email, and she's been great to work with, but I've not actually met her and I'm looking forward to meeting her at the event.

**HULICK:** She's originally from East Aurora.

**GANTZER:** Oh cool! I love East Aurora.

**HULICK:** I had the chance to work with her last year on interviews with a couple of the acts. That was the first year she was presenting it and we were hoping that this would become an annual event. It's great to have someone that grew up here to be able to bring a festival like this to her own backyard and have it be successful.

**GANTZER:** For sure!! I wish her much success.

**HULICK:** When did you guys start the band?

**GANTZER:** We started when we were all 15 or 16-years-old and we're all in our early 30's now. It's been quite a journey. We all grew up together and started the band right in the middle of high school. Three of the four of us are original members and our drummer is from Cincinnati and he's been with us for seven or eight years now... but the rest of us are Buffalo kids.

**HULICK:** The bios of the band members on your website are, well, unusual. Who came up with those?

**GANTZER:** (laughs) Those were written years and years ago by one of our former drummers, someone that we still work very closely with named Nick Sonricker. He played drums for us many years ago and has also become a producer of content for us like when we do tour announcements, music videos... really any kind of video production stuff and graphic design. He's done a lot of work for us and he's a really close friend of the band.

We've always had a kinda vibe of take the music seriously, don't take yourself seriously. We like to keep a sense of levelty of the whole thing and we always loved the creativity and the whimsy behind those descriptions.

*\*NOTE: To read the band's bios go to: <https://aqueousband.com/about>*

**HULICK:** They are very creative. I loved reading them. Has Nick been part of the album cover designs as well?

**GANTZER:** It depends... there were certain eras where he was, and really off and on through our career, like up until one of our most recent releases called "Burn It Down". He's actually been involved with several of them, whether he actually designed them or came up with the concept. We had an album in 2012 called "Willy Is 40" and that title is a nod to a bridge in Niagara Falls that has had that spray painted on it for as long as we've been alive, and so we made a cool concept up with that... and we had gone to a park in Niagara Wheatfield at one or two in the morning and shot an album cover that had a lamp - a very vintage lamp - that we found at a Salvation Army and we ran an extension cable from our van and lit it up... So he's basically been involved whether musically or creatively for most of our career.

**HULICK:** Talking about album covers... were you old enough to remember vinyl albums?

**GANTZER:** Well I think what's funny about that is vinyl has had quite a resurgence and I've been a part of that. I grew up in the age of CDs, and when I was 11 or 12 I was still getting cassette tapes and that was sorta transitioning over to CDs. I try to look back on the ceremony of the thing... that was my first experience and I remember saving up money to go to a record store and I had just enough money to get like one CD a month, so that CD was important and I'd treat it with great care. I'd go home and open the little pamphlet in there and I'd just sit and read along with what was playing.

It's actually been very nice to reconnect with that feeling a little bit with vinyl. There's a lovely record store just a few blocks from my house and I'm in there probably more often than I should be. (laughs)

**HULICK:** (laughs) It's great that you can make an album in a certain color now... like Elvis' "Moody Blue" album where the record itself is blue.

**GANTZER:** I think there's still magic about unique choices like that. I think anything that's intentional adds a cool feeling to it when you see that an artist had a vision and they followed through with it. The attention to detail matters I think. That's probably why vinyl has had a resurgence... the convenience of digital media can't be understated, I mean it's amazing, and of course there are pros and cons, but people really yearn for that special moment, that connection to the tangible item and so I'm glad it still exists and I love it.

**HULICK:** What's a typical tour for you... do you do two weeks at a time or is it different each time?

**GANTZER:** Basically it kinda depends on the context. In the spring and fall months traditionally with Aqueous we would do longer tours like anywhere from three to five weeks out at a time. We go city to city and make certain routes around the country that make sense. That's one experience and then another is during the summertime there are more events in the realm of Rail Rider Jamboree where the schedule and logistics for these type of shows can be a little bit different; they're all over the country, so we might be flying for some of those or it might be a weekend run where we hit a few places... it depends.

Over the years our touring schedule and model has changed and adapted as the band grew. It's kinda come full circle for us with the band taking a little bit of a break. Sometimes I think everything in life is a balance and I'm really proud of what we've built and proud that we are able to put each other first and make room for life, because life happens too, of course.

**HULICK:** Do you write your own music?

**GANTZER:** Yes. Of course it's fun to throw in an occasional cover. We've always prioritized writing our own music, so everything I've done with Aqueous and the solo stuff I'm working on right now are all original.

**HULICK:** Do you have a favorite place to play?

**GANTZER:** Town Ballroom in Buffalo is up there for me... at least the top five. I grew up seeing shows there and would be inspired by bands I loved playing there. It was quite an achievement to play there as Aqueous and filling a room like that the past few years.

# COMMUNITY

## SPRING 2023 EQUINOX

Celebrate the Change of Seasons Monday, March 20th at 5:24pm



BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

*Now Nature hangs her mantle green  
On every blooming tree,  
And spreads her sheets o' daisies white  
Out o'er the grassy lea.*  
- Robert Burns

Spring is on the way! Good things are about to happen, but before we celebrate, let's take a few moments to learn a bit about this equinox (from the Latin "aequus," meaning equal, and "nox," meaning night). At the March 20th Equinox, the sun is positioned directly over the equator. The earth's axis does not tilt toward or away from the sun, creating nearly equal hours of night and day all over the world, only twice a year, in September and in March. March brings the Vernal equinox, heralding the entrance of Spring (September's equinox is called the Autumnal Equinox). Beginning March 20th, hours of daylight will increase, and hours of darkness will decrease until we come to the Fall equinox in September. Now, that is something to celebrate! But celebrating spring is nothing new. Humans have been doing it for thousands of years in ways from deeply spiritual to totally bizarre.

Wondering about the spiritual, I contacted Rev. Suzy Woo, owner of Good for the Spirit Gifts at 11 Martha Street in Ellicottville (716-699-2871). She wanted all of us to know that "this year's equinox will be one for the books, not easily forgotten. Imagine, we have survived the COVID Pandemic. That is a remarking of time, almost like where were you during 9-11 or when the Beatles were on Ed Sullivan? This is one of those moments with this true marking of the new year, the Spring Equinox." Without going through how this all takes place in astrological terms, suffice it to say that she says that things point to "massive, new societal change." "We are being invited to become filled with more 'light' - this is the dissolving of religious walls that separate or hurt, and a more lateral, grassroots way of life - this is the point of demarcation." Further, she states, "It is about 'going for it', taking a chance, a risk, to stick one's neck out for what they believe in." Expectations: "We can expect the rest of the darkness behind the pulpit to crumble and something anew, by the people and for the people, to replace it, without prejudice." She punctuates all this by these words: "This is a big one."

On the earthly side of things, we can prepare for these changes and for the coming of this new season by taking time to celebrate the new life surrounding us in nature. Snow may still be on the ground, but we know the brave snowdrops are poking their pretty heads out of the ground here in Western New York. Go for a walk or bike ride and observe the signs of spring around you. Listen... was that a robin I heard? Watch the sun come up or go down. Do what Betty Bush and I did on sunny, snowy days. We sat up on my porch roof in swimsuits and fur coats, soaking up the delicious sun's rays all over our bodies. Our elevation here puts us that much closer to heaven, and that is just so good.

Start some plants indoors (ahh, new life!) Don't be in too much of a hurry to clear outdoor brush too early. Many of our precious pollinators (bees, butterflies) overwinter in dead plant material. Remove it too soon and you can kill these important garden members. Research says a good rule is to wait until temperatures are consistently 50 degrees. Patience!

While thinking of things to do outdoors, why not invite friends over, prepare a spring feast and have a bonfire. Marshmallows, of course, but the equinox spirits invite you to tell stories, sing, play music, even dance, beat drums, and try to stand an egg on end. We don't have a Stonehenge, but we do have the Nannen Arboretum where one could take a quiet walk and get in touch with their spiritual side.

Let's talk about that spiritual side, harkening back to what Dr. Woo told us earlier. Without being overly enigmatic, just look around every new day as Mother Earth creates her magic. No matter what troubles befall humankind, she faithfully returns and turns a frigid, monochromatic landscape into a world of balminess, with sensuous breezes and cheerful, sunny, delicious colors that warm our souls. We are spiritual beings wrapped in human form, so as Dr. Woo reminds us, "Become filled with more light." Don't be led by what others think. "Stick your neck out and go for it." Jump in and play your key role in the changes to come.

While you gear up to be comfortable with your spiritual side, do earthly stuff by decorating your home for spring - put up a spring twig tree and decorate it with flowers, animals, and decorated eggs. Buy wooden ones online or blow out fresh real eggs to create family heirlooms. Now is the time for spring cleanup for a fresh start. There are businesses right in this community which can be of service to you in these and the following endeavors. Meditate, practice yoga or Pilates, read, pray, surround yourself with beautiful aromas from essential oils, light candles and just sit... and be... (ahhhh!)... and let Mother Earth and spring wrap their arms around you. Happy Spring!

## FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Wolfinger Family Fund Supports Area Projects and Learning Opportunities



OLEAN - Four area school districts and one New Jersey school recently received grants supporting new projects and education opportunities, together totaling \$4,633, from the Wolfinger Family Donor Advised Fund.

Harold "Sandy" and Connie Wolfinger established the Wolfinger Family Fund in 2019 and designed the fund to provide annual support for educational programming and enrichment opportunities for area students in schools.

The Smethport Area School District received three grants, totaling \$1,187, for three projects in the district schools. The district received \$480 to begin a new "wildlife and fisheries" class for students in grades 9-12. The grant will allow the school to purchase materials such as scat samples of common PA mammals, silicon track prints and more. This class will be a new elective for Smethport high schoolers, according to Christine Lightner, biology instructor.

A \$382 grant will support the purchase of hydroponics and aquaponics supplies for students in environmental science classes in grades 10-12. These supplies will help students learn about growing food in the environment. In the class, students take care of aquaponic and hydroponic tanks in the classroom that allow them to care for their own sustainable ecosystem throughout the year, according to Michelle Ackler, environmental science teacher. These lessons also teach students how they can grow food inside their own homes through learning about water testing, different seeds, plants, herbs and vegetables.

A grant of \$325 will support the purchase of new free weights for the middle/high school weight-room to be utilized by physical education and athletics programs. The purchase of the light (1-10) pound free weights will be especially helpful for rehabilitation from injuries during the school year for students and athletes and younger students getting into the practice of weightlifting, said athletics trainer Melissa O'Brien.

Coudersport Area School District received \$1,000 for an expansion of educational opportunities in the school's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Learning Lab, including the beginning of a robotics program and the purchase of a 3D printer and related materials. The robotics program will allow Coudersport High School students to write computer programs that enable a robot to perceive its environment, make plans and decisions, and execute tasks.

"Robots have taken over repetitive jobs and, in the future, they will assign more mundane jobs to robots," said Theresa Daniels, Smart Lab instructor. "Therefore, the future belongs to problem solvers and creative thinkers. As teachers, we must prepare our students for this field."

Ellicottville Central School received \$752 for the purchase of STEM-related books and other classroom materials to introduce elementary-aged students to STEM-related activities. The lessons first introduce kindergarten-4th grade students to a story using the books purchased through the grant. Teachers then relate the text to a real-life engineering task and ask students to complete a related challenge as a team, said Leah Farnum, an Ellicottville second grade teacher.

Northern Potter School District received \$750 in support of a new survival sciences class for 11-12th grade students, which helps students learn more about scenarios and practices for outdoor survival as well as necessary skills for use in everyday life. Students will learn about safety and emergency injury treatment, fire building, foraging and food preservation and more, according to Heidi Jackson, science education teacher.

The Wolfinger/Wilhelm grant program, made possible through the Wolfinger Family Fund, provided a \$944 grant to the Belvidere School District (NJ) to purchase supplies for a landscape design course under the supervision of Matthew Duckworth, agriculture teacher, for high school students that covers the various aspects of landscape design and construction.

Sandy's mother, Dorothy Wolfinger, and her sister, Alice Wilhelm, were lifelong residents of Belvidere and attended schools there from grades 1-12. Alice also taught kindergarten at Belvidere for many years. Sandy and all of his siblings - Ray, Carol and Kirk Wolfinger, and cousin, George Wilhelm - attended Belvidere from kindergarten on.

Donations can be made to the Wolfinger Family Donor Advised Fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation, 301 North Union St., Suite 203, Olean, NY 14760 or online at [cattfoundation.org](http://cattfoundation.org).





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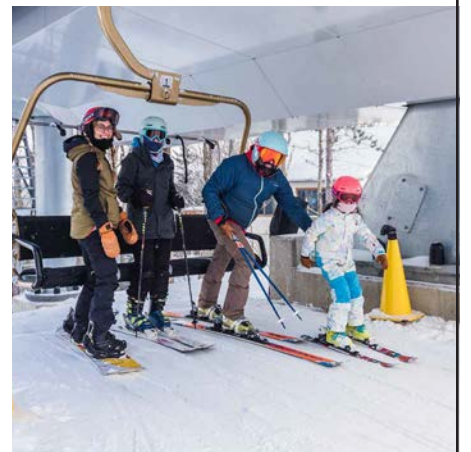
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# TRADITION

## HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY

Erin Go Bragh: The History of St. Patrick May Surprise You



BY CAROL FISHER-LINN / JESSICA SCHULTZ

On St. Paddy's Day, everyone is Irish, including the venerated St. Patrick who is celebrated worldwide on this day. (Surprising fact: St. Patrick was not Irish!) Here's the lowdown on this patron of Ireland...

He was born in Britain in the fourth century. His folk were wealthy. In those days, every country was raiding other countries, stealing goods, and abducting children. He got caught in the fracas and was snatched at age 16 by Irish raiders. The young lad was enslaved and forced to work as a shepherd.

Now, being a shepherd is a cold, lonely and rough life. Likely to keep himself sane, he turned to religion and became a devout Christian. In his later writings he claims that he had visions, and after six years, he heard God's voice in a dream telling him to leave Ireland. There are skeptics to his story but in his own writings he related how he walked almost 200 miles to the Irish coast (distance from Ellicottville to Syracuse, NY or London, Ontario) and then somehow got on a ship and escaped to Britain. He went home only to be visited by an angel in a dream telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. The poor guy didn't know if he was on foot or horseback, but he listened to the angels and over the course of many years, he studied and became ordained as a Catholic priest. The Church then sent him back to Ireland.

Some say he introduced Christianity to Ireland, while others say he ministered to those Christians who had already been converted by others. No matter. The Irish people loved Patrick. The day we celebrate as his honored day is not his birthday but the day he allegedly died in his beloved Ireland, around 460 A.D.

We have this image of the Irish being impish and jolly - filled with good humor and laughter. Sadly, the Irish history is a hard one on many counts, especially during the famine years 1845-1851, when nearly a million of those Catholic descendants of St. Patrick's days arrived in America - unwelcomed. They were maligned because of their religion and treated poorly.

One such refugee was Peggy Doyle Olcott who landed in Buffalo's rough-and-tumble Canal District. Indeed, lads and lassies, today's Canal District was not for the faint-o-heart in those old days. Peggy ran a saloon, while her son, Chauncey Olcott, worked on the waterfront. But, ah, the lad had a voice of the angels and was determined to get out of the squalor and bring a bit of redemption for the Irish by using it.

"In a 1909 interview, Olcott explained his life's mission in the arts as 'trying to help the world along with the genius of Ireland.' Olcott played an important role in changing the image of the stage Irishman." (wnyheritage.org Chauncey Olcott: Buffalo's Golden-Tongued Tenor). Olcott wrote the classics, When Irish Eyes are Smiling, and My Wild Irish Rose, putting an Irishman and Buffalo on the map.

### FUN FACTS AND LOCAL INDULGENCES

We've all heard the stories about St. Pat. The luck of the Irish, the pot o' gold, the legend of the leprechauns... But what about some real facts of the Patron Saint of Ireland and the holiday he's come to represent?

**FUN FACT:** St. Patrick actually wore blue and not green. Check out the surviving artworks of the man - he's always rocking blue robes. Actually at the time, green was thought to be an unlucky color. As time progressed, green became the national color, so that's why you wear green now. (Also, "Saint" Patrick was never actually officially named as such but his contributions to the Catholic Church have granted him spiritual figure status despite that.)

**FUN FACT:** Why do we never hear about female leprechauns? Because there is no record of them. Leprechauns are actually thought to be rejected fairies that have grouchy personalities and are prone to mischief. (Elf on the Shelf, take a seat!)

**FUN FACT:** St. Paddy's falls in the period of Lent. But no worries, the church actually lifts the ban of no meat on this particular day of celebration. So eat, drink and be merry. (Wait... wrong holiday, sort of.)

**FUN FACT:** Contrary to popular belief, St. Pat's is not the most popular drinking day

"St. Paddy's Day" continued page 14

## THE SWEETEST SAP

Maple Weekend Celebrates 27 Years of Sugar Making



The Wright family of Franklinville has been making syrup at their farm since 1840. They invite the public to tour their operations during Maple Weekend.

BY MARY HEYL

Whether it's drizzled over pancakes, stirred into a pot of chili, or glazed over salmon, it's hard to find a dish that isn't complemented by the delicious flavor of pure maple syrup! If your maple syrup reserves are running low, Maple Weekend is the perfect time to restock. New York's Maple Weekend, a chance for the public to visit local maple syrup producers to learn about the sugar making process, is set for March 18-19 and March 25-26. Organized and sponsored by the New York State Maple Producers' Association, Maple Weekend is now in its 27th year, and it is the perfect opportunity to spend time with the family, see firsthand how syrup is made, and enjoy some delicious maple treats!

While many think of Vermont as the maple syrup state, New York has the largest resource of tappable maple trees in the United States, according to the NYS Maple Producers' Association. With over 2,000 maple sugarmakers throughout the state, there are many sugarhouses that are within a short drive of Ellicottville, and nearly all are planning to open their doors this weekend and next to share their process. From those who make syrup as a hobby to those who make syrup their full-time business, all are continuing a tradition that began centuries ago. In fact, maple syrup is one of the oldest natural food products in North America, as indigenous communities made syrup by putting hot rocks into maple sap collected in hollowed out logs, according to Professor Brian Chabot of Cornell's Maple Program.

While the technology is different today, the process is largely unchanged. Trees that are at least 30 years old are tapped, a process that does not harm the tree. In February, sap usually begins to flow, and temperature is an important factor when it comes to just how much sap runs at any given time. Bob Wright of Wright Farms, Inc. in Franklinville said, "We want it to be cold and freezing at night and get up to about 40 degrees during the day. If it's too warm, the buds start to come out and the holes in the trees start closing up."

Sap is collected into a bucket or a tubing collection system that empties into a central collection tank. Interestingly, sap is comprised of about 98% water and 2% sugar, so an essential part of the process is removing the water to concentrate the sweetness. This marks the third year that Wright Farms will have their new evaporator set up and running to show visitors how it is used to boil the sap to remove the water. The Wright family has been making syrup at their farm since 1840, and Bob Wright has been involved since he was old enough to hang a bucket on a tap!

Just how many gallons of sap does it take to make a gallon of maple syrup? Tim Ulinger of Ulinger's Maple Farm in East Otto noted that it depends on the sugar content of the sap, which can vary. "When we first tapped in the first week of February, the sugar content was high in the sap; higher sugar means less sap to make one gallon of syrup. It took 43 gallons of sap to make one gallon that first week. Right now, it's about 60 gallons of sap for one gallon of syrup." As of the second week of March, Ulinger made 3,400 gallons of syrup, with a goal of 4,000 gallons this year. "We had a bit of a record day, where we made the most syrup in one day than we ever had," he noted. "We made 480 gallons of syrup in one day. If you multiply that by 43, that's how much sap we collected that day!"

When the temperature of the boiling sap is about seven degrees above the boiling point of water, the syrup is usually done. Once it's filtered and bottled, it's ready to share! "If maple syrup is produced right, it really can't go bad," said Joe Boberg of Boberg's Maple in Delevan. "Just like honey, if it's sealed and stored properly, it will last a long time - up to a year in the refrigerator once it's opened."

Bottled syrup is then graded, said Sue Lesefskes of Maple Glen Sugar House in Gowanda. "Different grades are dependent on the sugar content at the time," she explained. "The color can range from golden, which is milder, to very dark, which is the strongest flavor." The Lesefskes look forward to families visiting their farm, where they will have wagon rides through the sugarbush and plenty of maple treats to enjoy. Now a 30-year member of the NYS Maple Producers' Association, Maple Glen Sugar House has been participating in Maple Weekend since it started over 25 years ago.

Maple Weekend is a great time to sample new ways to enjoy maple syrup! Joe Boberg will be serving his famous maple cr me, a delicious spread that is perfect on a bagel or toast. "I make it old school," he explained. "I boil it by hand and whip it up. It's a lot of extra work, but it's delicious." The possibilities for using maple syrup are endless! "Anything you'd use brown sugar for, you can use maple syrup," Boberg pointed out.

"Maple Weekend" continued page 14

# MAPLE MUSTS

## 2023 Maple Weekend Places To Visit

AREA MAPLE PRODUCERS ARE OPENING THEIR DOORS TO THE PUBLIC FOR TWO SPECIAL WEEKENDS, MARCH 18-19 AND MARCH 25-26

### FAMOUS MAPLE CREME

@ Boberg's Maple  
2298 Edmunds Rd. • Delevan  
716.378.8736



Planning to be open both days and both weekends, Boberg's Maple hopes to offer the chance to watch the evaporating process (weather depending). Fun fact: They have approximately 900 taps! They will be offering samples of syrup and their famous Maple Creme, a sweet spreadable treat that can be used like butter on toast, muffins or just eaten straight off the spoon. Snag a jar or a jug or both to take home. The modern building is close to the road with easy parking, so stop in!

### AYCE PANCAKES

@ Moore's Maple Shack & Pancake House  
10437 Galen Rd. • Freedom  
716.492.2714 | mooresmaple.com



Customers can purchase maple products in the shack year round or purchase products online. The legendary pancake house was opened approximately 30 years ago and customers can enjoy All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes with eggs, ham, or sausage and REAL (of course) maple syrup. Keep in mind, Moore's restaurant is open everyday starting March 1st until mid-April, 9:00am-2:00pm. Reservations aren't accepted so make sure to come early; the line can get long!

### MAPLE OPTIONS GALORE

@ Ulinger's Maple Farm  
8835 Crumb Hill Rd. • East Otto  
716.499.7243 | ulingersmaplefarm.com



A family owned maple farm for over forty years that just keeps growing. (They have over 14,000 trees!) Ulinger's Maple Farm will be open both days of both weekends for Maple Fest and are always open online (visit their website). They sell their items in several different locations. (Fun fact: Their maple syrup is used in EVL Coffee Co.'s maple lattes and their candy is available at Nature's Remedy.) They offer both Grade A and Grade A Dark (formally Grade B) fresh maple syrup, maple caramel popcorn, chocolate covered maple candy and pure maple cream.

### MAPLE SYRUP & CHEESE

@ Sticky Paws & Eden Valley Creamery  
12540 Dredge Rd. • South Dayton  
716.481.1634 | mapleandcandy.com  
edenvalleycreamery.com



For this year's Maple Fest Weekends, neighbors Sticky Paws and Eden Valley Creamery are teaming up in South Dayton for both weekends so that they can share their delicious offerings to their visitors while highlighting the benefit of local agriculture. Open 10:00am-4:00pm on the 18th, 19th and 25th, and 10:00am-3:00pm on the 26th, they will be sharing samples of syrup, cheese and maple ice cream. There might even be an outdoor display!

### WARM AND FRIENDLY

@ Arcade Center Farm  
7298 Route 98 • Arcade  
585.492.3821 | Facebook/ArcadeCenterFarm



Enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of steam and fire as water is boiled out of maple sap to leave pure New York State maple syrup. Arcade Center Farm's wood burning evaporator produces tasty syrup that even Grandpa would recognize as quality. Demonstrations are weather-permitting as Mother Nature allows. A variety of maple products are available for purchase in their quaint, country store.

### ALL THINGS SWEET

@ Maple Glen Sugar House  
2266 Gowanda Zoar Rd. • Gowanda  
716.532.5483 | mapleglensyrup.com



This sweet dream come true for co-owners Paul Lesefski and his brother Dana, the Maple Glen Sugar House is one of the most up-to-date maple syrup producers in NYS. They will be presenting a candy making demo. There will also be tree tapping demos and wagon rides through the sugar bush. Free tours are available every weekend in March. On dates other than Maple Weekends, call to schedule. Don't forget to visit their shop; there is a variety of great gifts in price ranges everyone can afford.

### DEMOS & DINNER

@ Sprague's Maple Farms  
1048 Route 305 • Portville  
716.933.6637 | spraguesmaplefarm.com



The beloved full service restaurant that's open daily hopes to be participating in not just the two Maple Fest Weekends but all four weekends of the month (weather permitting). They will have evaporators operating at the authentic old-fashioned sugarhouse. Guests will be able to read information on how the Native Americans made maple syrup using the provided signage, there will be sugar on snow, maple cake donuts, and wagon rides to the sugarhouse. Activities occur each Saturday and Sunday in March from 10:00am-4:00pm and it's all FREE!

### FIVE GENERATIONS

@ Wright Farms, Inc..  
9053 Laidlaw Rd. • Franklinville  
716.676.2556 | wrightsfarmsmaplesyrup.com



Five generations of Wrights have worked to maintain the tradition of making maple syrup and everything maple syrup since 1840. As a matter of fact, Leon E. Wright Sr. was inducted into the American Maple Museum's Hall of Fame in the year 1978 for his contributions to the industry. With over 7,200 taps they produce an average of 1,500 gallons of syrup per year. They will be open for visitors both days on both weekends, so stop in and see what 5 generations of Wrights have created.

### SMALL SCALE OPERATION

@ Blesy's Maple  
7129 Henreitta Rd. • Springville  
716.866.8291 | Facebook/BlesyFarmLLC



Come out to Blesy's Maple for Maple Weekends 2023. Open both days on both weekends, you can view a small scale maple syrup operation and learn all about the process of making it. From start to finish this is a sticky job and the Blesy's is family owned and operated. They will also have maple suckers, maple cotton candy and of course maple syrup available for purchase during the event. Hope to see you there.

### PANCAKES AND SYRUP

@ Benz's Sugar Shanty LLC  
12939 Van Slyke Rd. • East Concord  
716.432.2377 | Facebook/Benz'sSugarShanty



Benz's will be offering an all day Pancake Breakfast, along with tours of their Maple Syrup operation and an explanation of the process from tap to table. Come view the display of maple syrup related antiques, some over 100 years old! They will also be offering samples of many of their products that are available to purchase inside the general store. Along with a Pancake Breakfast, they will have Maple Hot Dogs and Maple Milk Shakes. The Pancake Breakfast cost is \$8 per person, both weekends, 9:00am-4:00pm.




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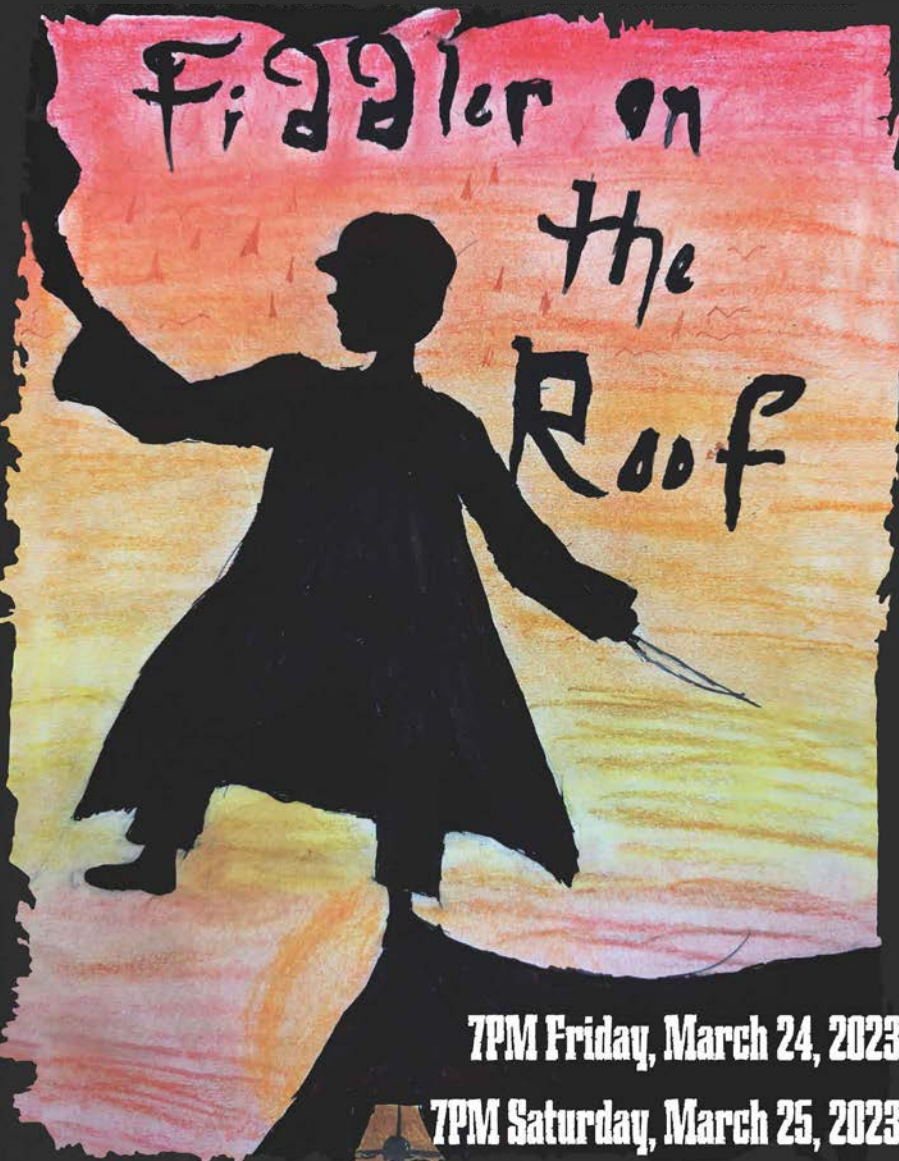


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**7PM Friday, March 24, 2023**  
**7PM Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**The Ward at Ellicottville Central School - Tickets \$7 at the door.**

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: VILLAGE OF ELICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 beginning at approximately 6:00 PM at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input and comments on: Zoning Permit 2022-230 - an application by Jeff Hayes for an area variance to allow the expansion of a non-conforming building. The project site is located at 29 Elizabeth Street, identified as tax map parcel 47.004-1-10.17.

Plans for this project are on file and available for review at the Engineering Department Office located at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Village website at [www.ellicottvillegov.com](http://www.ellicottvillegov.com). The Zoning Board of Appeals will take statements at the public hearing from all persons interested in the project. Persons wishing to do so, may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 475, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to [greg.keyser@evlengineering.com](mailto:greg.keyser@evlengineering.com).

## SNOW EVENTS

cont. from page 04

“The season may be winding down, but winter isn’t over yet!” exclaimed Jessica Wallace, business development manager of the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce. “Get your gear and bring an appetite and take part in a fun day of après skiing, food catered by Di-na’s at The Mont, beer, wine, prizes and live music by Party Squad.”

Indeed, a tradition for local businesses and their staff, Chamber Ski Day brings the party to the ski slopes and outdoor patio (fingers crossed for sunshine) for a day of networking and fun. Any excuse to get out of the office and onto the snow midweek, right?

Participants are being offered two different ticketing options: take advantage of a day of spring skiing (lift ticket included) with lunch and après party for only \$55, or just come to the après party from 4:30-6:30pm for only \$20. Pre-registration is required and should be completed before March 22. To register, head to [ellicottvillenyc.com](http://ellicottvillenyc.com).

### POND SKIMMING Saturday, March 25 @ Holiday Valley

I’m pretty sure an introduction to Pond Skimming is not needed, but for those unaware, there are quite a number of snowsports enthusiasts who find it invigorating to don a costume, strap on their skis or snowboard, and barrel down the lower part of Yodeler slope towards an ice water-filled trench, where they’ll try their luck (they’ll need quite a bit of skill, also) to skim across its entirety, without sinking or crashing.

“Pond Skimming is always a fan favorite because not only is it entertaining to watch, but it’s equally, if not more, entertaining to take part in,” said Hegeman. “There’s always a huge crowd at the base of Yodeler to cheer on participants, which creates an incredible end of the season party atmosphere. The music is great, the vibes are high and the participants, whether they make it across the pond or not, never fail to get the crowd pumped up.”

Registration will take place outside Holiday Valley’s Yodeler Lodge on the day of the event starting at 11:00am, with a maximum of 50 skimmers accepted. Kids under 18 must have a parent signature; minimum age is 8 years old. Skimming will commence at 1:00pm with prizes awarded in various categories, including Best Skimmer, Best Costume, Best Kid and Best Splash.

### DITCH DAZE Saturday, March 25 @ HoliMont

If you attended last year’s inaugural Ditch Daze event, you experienced the high energy fun of a hand-dug mini-halfpipe, viewable from Expo lift and showcasing a non-stop flow of snowboarders in a jam style format all day long. The HoliMont Park Crew has teamed up with LOUD Performance again this year to set the stage for an all-out super fun snow sesh, with a little different layout.

“We’re switching it up this year,” said Chris Perks, HoliMont Parks Manager. “Our crew is planning to put together a Holy Boly style set-up with lots of snow features including snowcanos, mini quarters, wall rides, plus some rail features. It’ll be a good mix of everything and a fun day of shredding for sure!”

Happening on a Saturday (typically a day only open to HoliMont members and their guests), Ditch Daze invites the public to come play! Bring your style and all your friends. Sponsors will have plenty of product to go around, LOUD Performance, Earth II Humans and other local vendors will be set up, and Jamestown Skate Products owner Pete Schiera will be on the mic as the day’s special guest emcee. For additional details including registration and lift ticket pricing, keep an eye on HoliMont’s social pages.

Whew! The second half of March is proving to be a busy one, but will no doubt be a blast! Don’t wear yourself out; we still have April to look forward to. See you on the snow!

## MAPLE WEEKEND

cont. from page 11

“Baked beans, a big bowl of chili, sauerkraut and pork chops - all taste better with a little bit of maple syrup!”

Bob Wright is looking forward to another great Maple Weekend, which he encourages families to enjoy. “It’s a good family time, and it doesn’t cost anything to come out,” he said. “It’s a great thing to get the kids out to see where food is being made.” He recommends that visitors dress for the weather, as sugaring season is usually mud season! To learn more about Maple Weekend and see a map of all participating sugar makers and pancake breakfasts, visit [www.mapleweekend.nysmaple.com](http://www.mapleweekend.nysmaple.com).

## EMPLOYMENT

**LEAD CARPENTER:** Must have at least 5 years experience. Apply in person to G.M. Nickolson Construction, Inc. 42 Mill Street, Ellicottville, NY 14731 or email: [gmnickolson@aol.com](mailto:gmnickolson@aol.com).

**EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS:** Apply to G.M. Nickolson Construction, Inc. 42 Mill Street, Ellicottville, NY 14731 or email: [gmnickolson@aol.com](mailto:gmnickolson@aol.com).

## SERVICES

**EVL LAUNDRY SERVICE:** New service available in the Village. Done for you laundry, just drop off at Ava Grace Fashions, 23 Jefferson Street and we will do your laundry! [ellicottvillelaundry.com](http://ellicottvillelaundry.com).

**MARTENS CLEANING SERVICE:** Professional carpet cleaning, deep cleans, construction clean-up, grout and tile cleaning, residential and business cleaning. For a quote or to book your cleaning, call Christina Martens, 585-435-7158.

## SERVICES

**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. Located in the village at 16 Elizabeth Street, Ellicottville. Pet accessories also available for sale. “YOUR DOG IS OUR DOG.”

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## ST. PADDY’S DAY

cont. from page 11

in America. It’s actually the fourth. It was behind New Year’s Eve, Christmas and the Fourth of July. (Hmmm... do you think we drink a lot?)

**FUN ACTIVITIES:** Alternatively to drinking, there are a lot of other ways to celebrate. Think food and fun... Bake soda bread, serve an Irish meal (corned beef and cabbage, Guinness stew, Shepard’s pie, colcannon (mashed potatoes and cabbage mixed together), etc. Whip up a shamrock shake (or go to Katy’s Cafe or Ellicottville Coffee Co. for their version of minty goodness), listen to some Irish music, search for lucky four leaf clovers, or sip an Irish whiskey. (Full circle back to the alcohol again.)

**LOCAL FUN:** Madigan’s is our locally famous, family-run Irish bar (aka The Green Bar). On St. Patrick’s Day they are the place to be. They are legendary for their corned beef and cabbage special. Get yourself a Guinness and you’ll be laughing, as they say.

Finnerty’s Tap Room (FTR EVL) is the #BillsMafia headquarters in EVL and they’re always good for a St. Patrick’s Day evening out. Opening early at 12:30pm with live Irish music from 2:00-5:00pm, live bagpipes from 5:00-7:00pm and rounding out the fun is Brian Ash from 7:00-9:00pm. Stop in and grab yourself a shot of Dr McGillicuddy’s and one of their nightly specials.

12 Gates of EVL puts a lot of pride into their New York Deli style sandwiches. Pull up a stool and opt for a corned beef on rye or a traditional reuben to highlight the holiday. Enjoy a pint while you’re there!

The end of HoliBreak at HoliMont Resort is bittersweet on St. Paddy’s Day (that’s still the 17th for anyone who forgot) but they are going out with a Live Irish Band from 4:00-7:00pm. Shred the slopes and then listen to some festive tunes.

The fun doesn’t end on Friday. You can celebrate all weekend, because the annual Rail Rider Jamboree will be on fire this Saturday at Holiday Valley. The Grateful Dead tribute band, Dark Star Orchestra, is headlining this year’s music festival. There are so many other great musicians on the bill; get your tickets at [railriderjam.com](http://railriderjam.com).

Food and drinks are the heart and soul of St. Patrick’s Day and Ellicottville businesses are always ready to rock the weekend once you’re off the slopes. So don your best green and live it up this weekend. We’re all a little Irish on St. Paddy’s Day!

## SOFFEL NAMED TO COUNCIL

ERA Team VP Real Estate Broker/Owner Appointed to 2023 Advisory Group

CHAUTAQUA - ERA Team VP Real Estate & Vacation Rentals announced that Bill Soffel, Broker/Owner, has been appointed to the ERA® National Advisory Council for 2023. This nationwide group of brokers was selected based on a specific set of criteria, including leadership success and business acumen. As members of the NAC, each broker will be responsible for providing critical input and constructive review on various matters related to the continued success of the ERA® brand.

“I chose to be affiliated with the ERA brand nearly 20 years ago because of their leadership, collaboration, and innovation, which has carried all the way through today. I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues nationwide to build a brand that is bigger and better than ever before.”

Soffel will serve along with 12 other brokers/owners, CEOs, COOs, and presidents of ERA companies across the nation. Soffel has been in the real estate industry for over 40 years. In 2021, ERA Team VP Real Estate was the recipient of the 2021 Gene Francis Memorial Award, the highest-level award offered by the franchise, and is also a contender for the 2022 award. ERA Team VP Real Estate includes roughly 90 agents throughout 8 offices in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about the company and/or to view current properties listed for sale, please visit [ERATeamVP.com](http://ERATeamVP.com).



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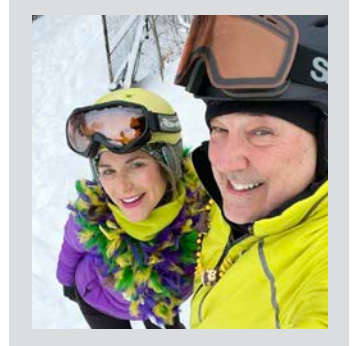
shannonishepherd: A magical day on the mountain! @holidayvalley #mardigrasparade #evlnow #idobelieveinfairies #friezurbunzoff #snowsurfing #skitheeast



bperksey: HoliMont Snowbard Team wrapped up another great season! #evlnow #holimontparks #freeride #teamwork #friendship



hornhillpottery: Winter is back on the hill! #evlnow



llove1: Mardi Gras on the slopes #evlnow #mardigras #holimont



holiday\_valley\_race\_team: Who doesn't love sitting around a campfire? #evlnow #ellicottvilleny #youthskiracing #winterfun



debbiegeorgesf: Mardi Gras Family Ski #evlnow #holimont



lizard0421: Wood grain at #holimont #boardtime #evlnow



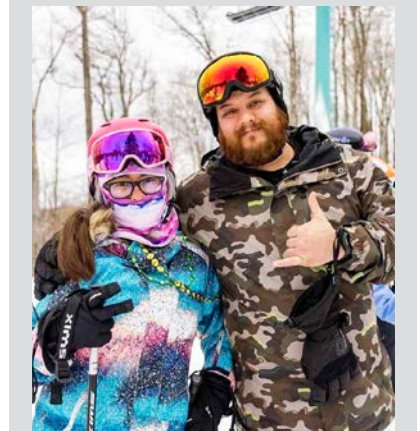
kayla\_lyn4: Cute face from Mardi Gras! #evlnow @ellicottvillenow #weekendfun #mardigrasparade



hvp patrol: Thank you Ellicottville! With your support we raised over \$2,500 and 75+ food boxes. #supportlocal #giveback #evlnow



rickmac6150: Happy Monday! #liftieart #holiday valley #evlnow #snowart



holidayvalley: Another great Winter Carnival is in the books! #evlnow

Ski time at HoliMont!



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