

ellicottvilleNOW

LOCALLY OWNED & PUBLISHED ~ WIDELY DISTRIBUTED ◆ April 11-17, 2024



Official Newspaper of the Village & Town of Ellicottville and Town of Great Valley, New York
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Outdoor Adventure Is Calling Your Name!

Get Into the Swing of Spring: Breathe in Some Fresh Air and Explore the Best Our Area Has to Offer



Now that the warm weather has finally graced us with its presence, let's get out and enjoy it! Spring is a great time to be outdoors and most people take full advantage of this opportunity to explore. There is so much to do in and around the Ellicottville area that anyone looking for adventure has a plethora of choices.

Let's start right here in the heart of Ellicottville. Golf season has officially started and Holiday Valley's Double Black Diamond Golf Course is the place to be! Their front nine is currently open only, but the back nine will be closely following. Maybe mountain biking is more your style? HoliMont is ready to help you welcome spring at their ever-popular bike park, with over 16 trails and 10 miles of track for every level.

If you feel like venturing outside of town, you won't be short options. Allegheny State Park is a staple for a number of activities, like camping or kayaking. Take a day trip to McKean County, PA and hit up Kinzua Bridge State Park and Skywalk - an engineering masterpiece with one of the most stunning views you'll see in the heart of the PA Wilds. Whatever your preference, you surely won't find yourself bored this spring. Find more adventure inside.

... page 08

NEW VILLAGE CLERK HAPPY TO CALL ELLICOTTVILLE "HOME"

She followed her heart. Amy's long-time partner, Bill Rosenberry, Marketing and Corporate Events Manager at HoliMont, was not going to be convinced to leave Ellicottville, and dilemma! She loved Ellicottville, too.

Two years ago, Amy made her move, still commuting to Buffalo for her full-time job. She served as health care administrator for Senior Assisted Living/Memory Care for the NYS Department of Health. She loved her job; she hated the three hours on the road. She started thinking about what she would like to do before she retired when Bill showed her an ad in the local paper.

After interviewing for the Village Clerk job to replace the irreplaceable Mary Klahn, she realized that this position was her answer.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

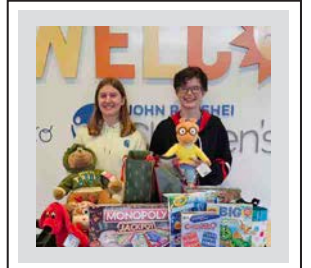
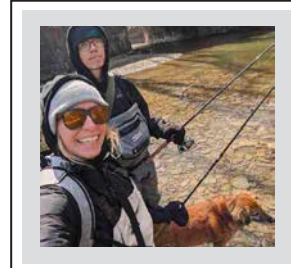
Ski season has ended, meaning it's time to hang up your snow pants, boots, skis, snowboards, and poles... and trade them in for your clubs and golf shoes! That's right, the Holiday Valley golf season is beginning, and along with Sky High Adventure Park and the continued operation of the Mountain Coaster, the fun keeps going all summer long. The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce is certainly taking advantage of the beautiful weather, with their Par for a Purpose event on Monday, May 20th. A portion of these proceeds will benefit the 11-Day Power Play, an incredible cancer benefit. "I wanted to do what I could to help spread the word on what they are doing to help with cancer research," said Barb Pump, Executive Assistant at the Ellicottville Chamber ... page 03

BREAKAWAY CLASSIC ADVENTURES: A WILD TURKEY HUNTER

I was first introduced to wild turkey hunting in the spring of 1998 by my wife's grandfather, a great outdoorsman, trapper, deer hunter and of course an exceptional turkey hunter. Ralph Foster was his name and there was nothing pretentious about him, as down to earth as a fellow could be! Ralph and his buddies owned a hunting camp in the little hamlet of Rexville beside the fire hall in Steuben County. When a hunting season wasn't on the calendar, one would hear the sounds of banjos, fiddles and steel guitars as a bluegrass festival was in full swing ... page 12

instaNOW

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60th Annual Maple Festival

Longtime Franklinville Event Celebrates Huge Milestone

By JESSICA SCHULTZ

Picture this: You're young, it's a spring Saturday and there's a cool breeze in the air. You walk the crowded rows of vendor tents in front of Franklinville Elementary School with some friends and you consider if you want to spend the \$10 allowance you were given on a candy apple and fries or on a must-have mood ring. That, my friends, is a memory full of nostalgia - an event that's been around since I was a kid.

That event is the Annual Maple Festival held in Franklinville, NY, and this year it is celebrating its 60th anniversary April 27th and 28th. *ellicottvilleNOW* took the opportunity to speak with event organizer, Ashely Schumaker, about the festival, how it kept going, and all the details of this year's festivities.

... page 11



photo / EnduranceFactor Events

TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE STARTING LINE

Racers take your mark! Multiple events are making their way to Cattaraugus County to challenge your endurance while adding a few fun surprises along the way. We've got two special Cinco de Mayo races up first: the EVGV 5k de Mayo at HoliMont, and the Ole 5k at EBC Little Valley. Both races support important causes to the community. Then we have local favorite - the Happy Half Marathon, 5k and Beer Mile. So sprint, jog or power walk your way to your preferred starting line and get ready to take on the adventures that await you! ... page 04

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ellicottvilleNOW is a publication produced by DesignPerks of Ellicottville,
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Contributions are always welcome. Submit your articles and photos or story ideas to our publisher:
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Publisher's PICK

PAR FOR A PURPOSE

The Ellicottville Chamber Tees Off to Raise Money for Cancer Research

BY PATRICK FERRINO

Ski season has ended, meaning it's time to hang up your snow pants, boots, skis, snowboards, and poles... and trade them in for your clubs and golf shoes! That's right, the Holiday Valley golf season is beginning, and along with Sky High Adventure Park and the continued operation of the Mountain Coaster, the fun keeps going all summer long. The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce is certainly taking advantage of the beautiful weather, with their Par for a Purpose event on Monday, May 20th.

GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT 11 DAY POWER PLAY

This golf outing gives ticket holders a day of golf, a boxed lunch, dinner, a golf cart for ultimate tooling around, and prizes. "There will be amazing prizes from our presenting sponsor of the event, Labatt," said Barb Pump, executive assistant at the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce.

The festivities start at 1:00pm via a shotgun start, and tickets can be purchased online at ellicottvillenyc.com.

A portion of these proceeds will benefit the 11-Day Power Play, an incredible cancer benefit run by Amy and Mike Lesakowski. Also sponsored by Labatt, the power play catalyzes cancer research and provides resources to patients and their families in a major way. Sponsors like Labatt and the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce are a major help to the final fundraising number at 11 Day Power Play, and Amy expressed her gratitude to have such a wonderful support system within Western New York. "We are incredibly grateful. Our sponsors like the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce help us raise critical funds and spread awareness beyond Buffalo," said Amy.

Barb and the Chamber were fortunate to connect with Amy and Mike Lesakowski a few years ago. "I wanted to do what I could to help spread the word on what they are doing to help with cancer research," said Barb.

A LOT OF HOCKEY FOR A LOT OF GREAT REASONS!

Hockey is a grueling sport. You need to be agile, strong, fast and smart. Now I want you to put this into perspective: A typical NHL ice hockey game is about two and a half hours. That's about 10 percent of the 24-hour day. If you watch two games, that's probably over 5 hours and creeping up on 20 percent of the day; meaning hockey players wrestle a puck under layers upon layers of gear for at least two hours on a typical game day. Now truth be told I'm not an athlete, so even the mention of sports will have me doubled over and gasping for air, but that sounds pretty exhausting! Now try this: hockey for 100 percent of the day; that's 24 hours of straight hockey!



Okay after doing the math, I've reached my conclusion. The folks over at the 11-Day Power Play cannot POSSIBLY be humans. We're coming up on their annual 250-hour hockey game!

That's right. The 11 Day Power Play is coming up, and it's the biggest one yet! With 2,300 participants, there will certainly be no shortage of competition on the ice! This out-of-this-world sporting feat has become a WNY tradition, each year striving to raise money for all aspects of cancer - from research to resources for patients and their families. Included in their list of beneficiaries are Roswell Park, Camp Good Days, Roswell Park Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program, and Make-A-Wish WNY.

The actual game kicks off Thursday, June 20th when community ice shifts open up. Registered teams are allotted three hours of playtime on the ice, and the game is open to players 11 and up. However, the festivities start off the ice as well, with the opening celebration running from 7:00-9:00pm at the LECOM Harborcenter.

"11 Day Power Play" continued page 14

RUN FOR A CAUSE

LACE UP FOR THE HAPPY HALF, CINCO DE MAYO, AND 5K OLE

Local Organizations Invite You to Take Your Place at the Startling Line and Encourage You to Get Creative!



BY COLLEEN EVANS

Racers take your mark! Multiple events are making their way to Cattaraugus County to challenge your endurance while adding a few fun surprises along the way. So sprint, jog or power walk your way to the starting line and get ready to take on the adventures that await you at the EVGV 5k De Mayo, the Little Valley Ole 5k, and the Happy Half marathon, which also offers a 5k and a Beer Mile.

EVGV 5K DE MAYO

Our mountain terrain sees it all - between the mud, snow and green grass - and each season brings something new to enjoy. Springing into action, let's get ready to run the EVGV Cinco De Mayo 5k happening at HoliMont on Sunday, May 5th.

Local residents are well aware of the efforts of the EVGV Trail organization, so now is your chance to run some trails to make some trails! HoliMont, America's largest private ski club, has grown into a four-season destination over the years with the perfect amenities to partner up for a few miles of fun.

Runners will be greeted at registration and whisked up to the top of the mountain. The course will wind along Saddle Pond, through the hiking trails, down Greer Hill and then bring runners to the last sprint toward the finish line by the HoliMont Chalet. Runners make note, while enjoying the scenic paths, you may want to keep an eye out for something else worth seeing... Trailsquatch. Hiding among the racers, the creature peers through the trees waiting for its chance to take the lead. Share your stories and sightings of the legendary Trailsquatch at the after-party back at the HoliMont Chalet with a Cinco De Mayo spread complete with tacos and music!

Participants of the EVGV 5k De Mayo can expect to receive a complimentary scenic ride on the Expo chairlift to the top of HoliMont, a competitor's race shirt, medal, and of course entry to the post-race taco party. Kristen Sciara, EVGV Trail committee member commented on what she looks most forward to as they wrap up their final preparations. "I love that we are already getting messages from competitors signing up who are different levels of runner. Many are excited to have a race where walking is welcome, so their kids and family members feel comfortable to participate, too! This is the foundational idea of the EVGV Trail. A place where everyone can get outside, enjoy nature and a bit of exercise."

Registration for the event starts at 10:00am on Sunday, May 5th and is priced at \$35 for adults and \$25 for students. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the EVGV Trail.

The EVGV Trail has been a long rooted for community project, formed back in 2011 by residents who saw the need for a walkable and safe multi-use trail system to connect locals and visitors alike to the area. And with some major updates in the planning process, they continue to push on, but funding is still crucial to achieve the end goal.

Kate O'Stricker of the committee let us know some of the current progress in the works. "The EVGV Trail committee has completed the detailed design for the Elk Creek portion of the trail with a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson Foundation. This portion of the trail will run between the Nannen Arboretum/Ellicottville Town Center, through the Ellicottville Village Park to Elizabeth Street. The Tim Hortons portion of the trail has been roughed in and the EVGV Trail committee and the Town of Ellicottville are in the process of getting signed easements with the seven landowners who have already approved grading rights for the trail."

This race isn't just about the finish line; its about the community. With hopes to add funding to the EVGV Trail, all proceeds will be added to the organization's efforts in constructing a walkable network that runs throughout the Ellicottville and Great Valley area.

Kristen expressed her excitement of the newly created 5k trail run/walk and gave us some insight on what participants can expect. "This is the first year; our intention is to make this an annual event. May is an excellent time to enjoy springtime in Ellicottville. Our registration is open, and competitors are signing up every day! We have reached out to running and hiking groups in our region, and thanks to a grant we were awarded from the Department of Economic Development, Planning, & Tourism, we have been advertising to our neighbors from Toronto to Pittsburgh! We hope this will bring tourism into the Village of Ellicottville as well! The trail continues on each day and with the help of engaging and exciting events like the 5K De Mayo, we get one step closer to the final goal!"

OLE 5K AT EBC LITTLE VALLEY

Now to our neighbors over in Little Valley, get ready for a second Cinco De Mayo event, the Ole 5k. Happening over at EBC Little Valley, the Friends of the Valley have put together a day sure to be filled with lots of fun and fitness!

A community event that welcomes all to the area, the Friends of the Valley encourage race enthusiasts of all ages to lace up and take part in their first annual 5k event.

Kicking off at EBC Little Valley, registration will begin at 11:00am with the race itself starting at 12:15pm. The course will start from EBC Little Valley, utilizing the Pat McGee Trail between 1st and 9th Streets and follow through the village blocks within the area such as Court Street and Rock City Street.

The Friends of the Valley have been eager to create an event that brings family, friends and visitors together for a day to brush off the winter blues and celebrate some much-needed springtime sunshine. Gathering that community spirit, the event aims to promote an active and enjoyable environment connecting runners, walkers and anyone in between to join in the fun - whether it's on the trail or at the after-party!

Speaking with Cedric Manganiello from the Friends of the Valley organization, he shared with us how the event came to be. "We were inspired to create this event in hopes of establishing a new annual tradition that stands out in the community. By organizing a unique and lively 5k walk/run with a fun theme, we aim to not only raise funds for charity but also generate resources for future events. We believe that bringing the community together for a good cause, while having a great time, will leave a lasting impact and create memorable experiences for all participants."

Through the efforts of the community, a portion of the event proceeds will go directly to the Saving Grace Outreach of Cattaraugus, NY which offers food programs, shelter services, education, advocacy and more to those experiencing hardship. It proves to be a special event for our community to grow and explore, paired with the opportunity to give back. A big thanks to the hard work of our local organizations and the vision they make possible with this new 5k event.

So, what better way to celebrate what is sure to be a success than with some of our favorite refreshments! EBC little Valley will be hosting the after-party for the event as the fun goes on with drinks and lawn games to continue through the evening. Cedric Manganiello went on to give us a glimpse of what's to come once you cross that finish line. "After the 5k, EBC has generously donated a free beer for each patron to enjoy as they celebrate their accomplishment. In addition, there will be corn hole set up for some friendly competition, and special food offerings to refuel after the race. While we are still finalizing the post-race activities, we guarantee a fun and lively atmosphere for all participants to unwind and enjoy the festivities."

A job well done for racers and organizers alike. Time to cheers and get to know your fellow racers. Flash those shiny medals and grab your complimentary event t-shirt and enjoy the evening! All racers also have included in their registration, a chance to win gift certificates to The Bear Brick, Hughes Hotel and more.

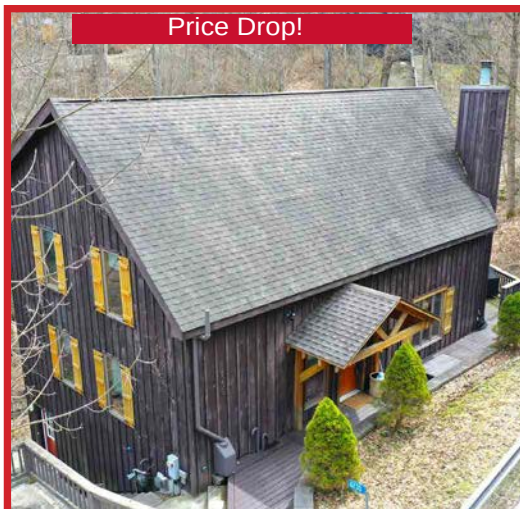
HAPPY HALF MARATHON, 5K & BEER MILE

Alright now for those looking to add a little more distance to their racing ability, check out the Happy Half Marathon at Holiday Valley Resort through EnduranceFactor, scheduled for Saturday, May 11th at 9:00am. Within this event, they also offer a 5k, but to really mix things up you have to check out the Beer Mile! We spoke with Doug Bush, event director of the Happy Half on what to expect from an event of this scale.

With about nine months to a year of planning and extensive safety and course regulations in place, the Happy Half and the 5k events are open to all ages with the exception of the Beer Mile which is 21+. Doug touched base on the extra touches that go into their courses. "Our goal of all of our events is to try and make them add elements that are a little bit fun and different."

And that's exactly what you can expect running in the Happy Half. Bringing smiles and surprises to running enthusiasts is such a fun way to change up your typical half mar-

"Run for a Cause" continued page 12



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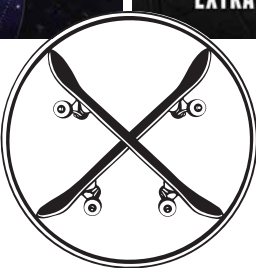


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LOCAL SPOTLIGHTS

AMY HAYWARD

New Village Clerk Happy to Finally Call Ellicottville “Home”



By CAROL FISHER-LINN

She followed her heart. Amy’s long-time partner, Bill Rosenberry, Marketing and Corporate Events Manager at HoliMont, was not going to be convinced to leave Ellicottville, and dilemma! She loved Ellicottville, too. For those of us who are under Ellicottville’s spell, that’s easy to understand.

Two years ago, Amy made her move, still commuting to Buffalo for her full-time job. She went to Emerson College in Boston for journalism, yet much of her career involved health care; she served as health care administrator for Senior Assisted Living/Memory Care for the NYS Department of Health. She loved working with people in clinical trials, and she also handled company operations, serving as VP for a multiple acquisitions company. Amy wore many hats before coming here. She loved her job; she hated the three hours on the road. She started thinking about what she would like to do before she retired when Bill showed her an ad which appeared in the local paper. Could this be the answer to her dilemma?

After interviewing for the Village Clerk job to replace the irreplaceable Mary Klahn, she realized that this position was her answer. The thought of no longer being on call after twenty years was reason enough, but living in the Ellicottville community sealed the deal. Having grown up in Grand Island, Amy loved small community living, and according to her, that is quickly becoming quite elusive. Perhaps not as elusive as The Lake Erie Monster “Bessie” first spotted in 1793 and last seen in 1993, but you get the point. Granted, Ellicottville is no longer the “Mayberry” it was when I moved here in 1974, but back then we did know practically every person walking up the road, had a personal relation with shop/restaurant owners and folks at the post office (for years I received mail simply addressed, Carol Fisher, Ellicottville, NY), and like me, Amy immediately realized this wide-opened-armed community was “home.”

A great proponent of workplace balance, the job is ideal, cutting out commute time and adding the more personalized aspect to her employment. She is enjoying getting to know the people who make up Ellicottville, so do stop and introduce yourself. Although we had a phone conversation, I could easily envision the smile on her face when she spoke about the warm welcome she has received by the community and by Mayor John Burrell and Mary Klahn, who has graciously been training Amy. She laughed when she spoke of the like-mindedness she shares with Mary, especially noting the color coding of files and the everything-in-its-place modus operandi.

Since a Deputy Clerk, Erica Linderman from Franklinville, is part of the new staffing, Amy will be able to do many of Mary’s tasks plus she will eventually be taking the budget tasks off our Mayor Burrell’s shoulders. Amy also feels confident in the team she and Erica make, as they share the same work ethic and outside interests.

A history buff, she was delighted to discover that Mayor Burrell was a walking history book, having spent his entire life here and comes from a long line of settlers all the way back to the Mayflower and the Anne. Incidentally, since she is becoming aware that in Ellicottville there is no such thing as six levels of separation - more like two - she is hoping she will find that she is connected to someone in the area. Her family is Welsh, others are from Massachusetts, and her grandfather worked on the Manhattan Project. Hey, you never know!

Amy and her crew love the outdoors so you might just catch her taking a walk during lunchtime. She says she has been very blessed because in her previous jobs she traveled all over the world giving presentations and seeing the sights of places like Dublin and Prague, so called the “Cinderella City” because it survived the bombings of WWII. “The churches are breathtaking,” says she, “and the holiday market fabulous!” The one thing she learned about the Europeans that she greatly admired was they work to live; they don’t live to work. Which fits nicely into her workplace/family balance theory. Amy works hard and plays hard, especially loving and excelling in swimming.

Amy says that she is blessed to have the job she has, to work with the people who have welcomed her, and the community she can’t wait to get to know better. Please join our family at ellicottvilleNOW in welcoming this new member of our community. Welcome, Amy!



SKI 4 A CURE AT HOLIMONT

Ski Club of Lockport Present Donation to Roswell Park Alliance Foundation



L-R: SCOL members Julia Drinnan Doran, Tom Doran, Amanda Berg (Roswell Park Alliance Foundation) and Jon Laverty at the Roswell Park Sciences Center.

LOCKPORT, NY - The second annual Ski 4 a Cure, presented by SCOL (Ski Club of Lockport) and hosted by HoliMont on February 16, 2024, was a fun and memorable experience that benefited Roswell Park’s Comprehensive Cancer Center’s most pressing needs. Through HoliMont event ticket sales, online, offline donations, basket and 50/50 sales, SCOL and HoliMont raised \$10,500, which SCOL presented to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation on March 21, 2024.

Every dollar raised for research leads to \$23 in external grant funding, which would equal \$241,500 to help support 20 donor-funded research initiatives, 50 plus donor-funded quality of life programs and so much more for Roswell Park’s 49,000 patients.

Skiing conditions were tremendous, courtesy of the awesome job of HoliMont’s trail grooming. The weather was mostly overcast with snow and colder temperatures, which all made for fantastic skiing! The fun-filled day of events included a free demo day provided by The City Garage. Technicians quickly fit participants from a wide selection of skis to try. Their tent was conveniently located just below the Expo chair. Thanks go out to Trey Clauss and Sean Lowes.

The cancer survivor parade - the signature event - snaked down Expo slope to honor survivors and their families. This year participants wore a variety of color beads to represent the different types of cancers. A grab bag prize was awarded for the best parade costume. For the scavenger hunt, participants took selfies with the selected items from a list that was provided by HoliMont. Grab bags were awarded to 6 winners. For the Most Consistent Timed race, each racer took two separate runs through the gates on the Fall Line course. We had winners from four categories: men and women over 60 and men and women under 60. Grab bags were awarded to the winners. For the Bombardier game, skiers purchased numbered tennis balls to benefit Ski 4 a Cure funds. As they rode up Expo lift, each skier tried to drop his or her ball so that it would land and stay inside of a large trash can on the slope below. Grab bags were awarded to 5 winners.

SCOL would like to thank all of the donors, including the following businesses for their contributions or services: HoliMont Ski Resort, The City Garage, Snowflake Ski Shop, Team Pritchard Real Estate, Ellicottville Tiny House, Calvin’s Furniture & Leather Gallery, The Ski Company, Ava Grace Fashion, Holiday Valley, Davison Road Inn, Lockport’s Palace Theater, Phatman BoardShop, Ellicottville Brewing Co., Balloons Restaurant, Monroe Street Brick and Brew, Watson’s Chocolates, Spurbach Family Chiropractic, Daily City Train Indoor Skatepark/Shop, Gear Up at HoliMont, Tops Markets, Tim & Bonnie’s Restaurant, Dina’s at HoliMont catering, Jennah Bradley from HoliMont, the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, and SCOL members and others who donated to the Basket Raffle.

We thank Amanda Berg and Allison Lockwood from the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation for all of their help with the planning of the event and for coming down to HoliMont to help with the various events and to hand out beads to cancer survivors.

We also thank ellicottvilleNOW newspaper for their wonderful article and for including our color Ski 4 a Cure poster in their January and February newspaper editions and to The Villager for their article. Thanks go to the many Ellicottville businesses for displaying our poster through the season. The 3rd Annual Ski 4 A Cure event will take place at HoliMont on Friday, February 14, 2025.

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL

New Medical Equipment Loan Center to Host Informational Open House

ELLICOTTVILLE - The Bob McCarthy Foundation and Interfaith Caregivers are looking for local volunteers to help provide the best possible services in the local community. During National Volunteer week, they are planning to host a community social on Friday, April 26th from 4:00-7:00pm at the new Medical Equipment Loan Center. The open house setting invites community members to come learn about the loan center’s plans and volunteer opportunities available. Your attendance does not lock you into a commitment but rather will provide you with information to see if volunteering is a good fit for you. Just one hour a month could change the life of someone in our community!

The new Medical Equipment Loan Center is attached to the Ellicottville DPW building at 17 Mill Street, across the street from Fitzpatrick and Weller. For more information please visit bobmccarthyfoundation.com or interfaithcaregivers.com.

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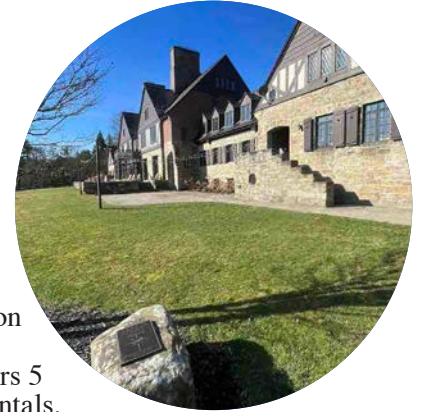
Holiday Valley Resort isn't just known for its ski slopes - they're also known for their Double Black Diamond Golf Course. Now that spring is here, it's time to get out on the green! The course is a pleasant blend of mountain and flat terrain and the grounds are diligently manicured to provide optimal putting surfaces. The Practice Facility is open now daily from 8:00am until dark. The front 9 of the actual golf course is also now open for your enjoyment. Keep an eye on their website and Facebook page for updates on the full 18-hole course opening and any upcoming special events.



STATE PARK SOIRÉE

@ Allegany State Park
2373 ASP Route 1 • Salamanca, NY
716-379-6450
parks.ny.gov

Allegany State Park is the largest state park in New York, divided into two sections - the Red House and the Quaker area. The Red House area is a staple location to take the family for a cookout, hike, or a combination of any outdoor activity. It offers 5 miles of paved bike paths, boat and bike rentals, beach, swimming, fishing, cabin rentals, camping areas, tennis court, basketball court, two rentable pavilions, multiple picnic areas with outdoor grills and more. Visit parks.ny.gov for information on the Quaker area and to make camping and/or pavilion reservations.



HIT THE TRAILS

@ HoliMont Bike Park
6921 Route 242 • Ellicottville, NY
716-699-2320
holimont.com

HoliMont is ready to help you welcome in the spring with a little bike adventuring on their ever-popular bike trails and bike park. They have 16 mountain biking trails, over 10 miles of track and are planning on building even more, featuring cross-country, downhill, technical terrain and freeride terrain trails for beginners to expert level riders. Trails are open now to ride at your own risk and will open officially with lift service on May 25th. Come out to experience New York State's first mountain bike park. Visit holimont.com for more details and information on park operating hours, events and programs.



ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10

@ Kinzua Bridge State Park
296 Viaduct Rd. • Mt. Jewett, PA
814-778-5467
visitANF.com

Located in McKean County, PA, the Kinzua Bridge State Park is 339 acres of spring and summer fun possibilities. With great views, self-guided exhibits, and the 600-foot pedestrian walkway over the Kinzua Gorge, it's a great place to visit for a breathtaking afternoon. Named "One of the World's Top 10 Most Beautiful Skywalks and Viewpoints in the World" by the Culture Trip UK, the Kinzua Bridge Skywalk is an engineering masterpiece with a rich history and one of the most stunning views you'll see in the Pennsylvania Wilds. Picnicking and hiking opportunities abound.



KEEPING IT LOCAL

@ Ellicottville Village Park
11 Parkside Dr. • Ellicottville, NY
716-699-4636 or 716-244-7573
Open Daily

Ellicottville's own local outdoor hot spot that's been a part of the town since most of us were kids ourselves, features a pavilion and picnic area with grills, swing sets, slides, basketball court, and tennis court. It's the perfect place for a spring outing! And it is now also the home of the extremely popular Ellicottville Skatepark. This is the place to shred on your skateboard, roller skates, scooters or BMX bikes, with multiple bowls and street area. Rest in between tricks on one of the newly installed benches and picnic tables. Gather your family and friends, pack a picnic and visit Ellicottville's local park.



AN EIGHTH WONDER

@ Rock City Park
505 Route 16 • Olean, NY
716-372-7790
rockcitypark.com

Rock City Park has been a popular attraction since 1890, with the largest exposure of quartz conglomerate in the world, hence its label as one of the Eighth Wonders of the World! You can join thousands of visitors who enjoy climbing over, under and through massive rock formations on the 45-minute self-guided trail. Rock City Park also boasts a museum, picnic areas, and of course a souvenir and gift shop, where you can find something to remember your adventure. You can even book your special events there - birthdays, weddings... you name it!



WHIMSICAL WANDERING

@ Griffis Sculpture Park
6902 Mill Valley Rd. • East Otto, NY
716-667-2808
griffissculpturepark.org

Located between Ashford Hollow and East Otto is a 425-acre outdoor art museum. Created by artist Larry W. Griffis Jr. in 1966, this was the first sculpture park in the U.S., and now the park features over 250 large scale sculptures that guests can view and interact with dispersed over miles of amazing hiking trails. Each sculpture was placed with the natural setting in mind, creating a truly unique experience between art and nature. Griffis Sculpture Park is also home to some very unique events including Night Lights and the Griffis Summer Music Festival. It's an epic place to spend a beautiful spring day!



EXPLORE THE FOREST

@ Allegheny National Forest
Throughout McKean County, PA
814-927-5700
visitANF.com

The Allegheny National Forest is made up of over 514,000 acres. It dominates the western end of the Pennsylvania Wilds and contains within it and around it some of the region's most treasured places and experiences. It includes two national scenic areas, two wilderness areas and two national wild and scenic rivers (one of those being the Allegheny). The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) offers a wide variety of recreational activities including hiking, mountain biking, boating, camping, hunting, fishing, ATV riding and snowmobiling that result in about 4 million visitors annually. No wonder it's called the "Land of Many Uses"!



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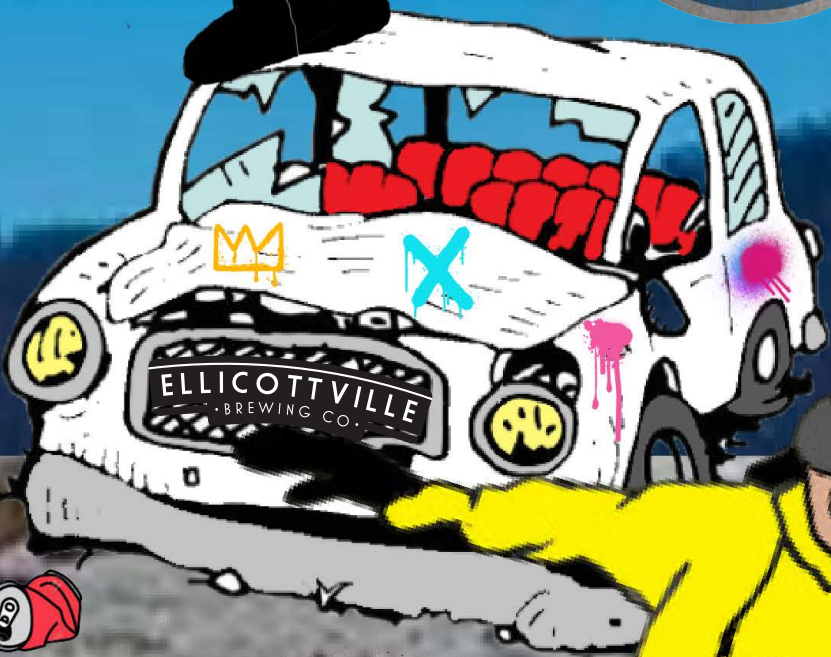
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REGIONAL EVENTS

60TH ANNUAL MAPLE FESTIVAL

Longtime Event Celebrates Huge Milestone



BY JESSICA SCHULTZ

Picture this: You're young, it's a spring Saturday and there's a cool breeze in the air. You walk the crowded rows of vendor tents in front of the Franklinville Elementary School (32 South Main Street) with some friends and you consider if you want to spend the \$10 allowance you were given on a candy apple and fries or on a must-have mood ring. That, my friends, is a memory full of nostalgia - an event that's been around since I was a kid.

That event is the Annual Maple Festival held in Franklinville, NY, and this year it is celebrating its 60th anniversary April 27th and 28th. ellicottvilleNOW took the opportunity to speak with event organizer, Ashely Schumaker, about the festival, how it kept going, and all the details of this year's festivities.

eNOW: Six decades is a huge milestone for any event. What has fueled the WNY Maple Festival all these years?

SCHUMAKER: Franklinville has so much history and the WNY Maple Festival is something our community is very proud of. Coordinators and committee members change but there is always someone else interested in carrying on the tradition. Many families have lived here for years so it is not uncommon for the torch to be passed. People are invested and want to see this event continue.

eNOW: What's new for this year's festival? The area has expanded into Park Square; what will be happening there?

SCHUMAKER: There are a few new things going on. The parade route will be changing to cover more of Route 16 and to streamline the lineup process as the parade has grown substantially. Anyone is welcome to fill out a parade application and dress up to walk through the parade. We have had many people sign up to walk through in their favorite costume with friends/family. The Hinsdale Color Guard will be participating in the parade. Parade and Float contest info can be found at wnymaplefestival.com/parade/.

To address the need for seating throughout the event, there will be a large tent with tables and chairs in the food court area this year.

There will also be signs attached to the ceiling directing visitors to where vendors are. We encourage everyone to at least check out the classrooms and look at the interactive festival map (this will be available online via our website no later than one week before the festival.)

We expanded the festival in 2023 to Park Square to diversify the event to attract a wider variety of interests and draw attention to our village's downtown. Many of these buildings have changed ownership and businesses have been popping up. Park Square is designed to have a relaxing, family friendly vibe where people can enjoy each other's company along with farmer's market style vendors, wineries, breweries, distilleries, and live music. There are several new vendors in this space including Merritt Wineries' "Slush Bus" and KSW Photography setting up a 360 degree video platform. The platform fits 3-4 people with a camera that creates a video that circles around the tourists. And of course we have a nice line-up of performers for our Music in the Park Series, which takes place in the Square.

Saturday, April 27th, Searchlights & Satellites will play 10:00am-1:00pm - they play a mix of 90s pop and alternative rock. Then Travis Happoldt from 1:00-4:00pm rocks the stage with his grunge country. Sunday, April 28th starts with Rog Pettengill, 10:00am-12:30pm followed up with the country and variety slinging Hintz of Thunder from 1:00-3:30pm.

Also on April 28th will be the Franklinville SAPS Color Fun Run. This is a 2.75-mile course that starts at the high school, with check-in at 8:00am and the run beginning at 9:00am. Day-of event registration is \$10 per person and you can do pre-registration up until Wednesday, April 24th. Visit the website, wnymaplefestival.com, to sign-up now. (This event is hosted by the FCS/TBA Student Council.)

eNOW: It wouldn't be Maple Festival without the vendor market. How many vendors are you expecting to set up this year and what will they be offering?

SCHUMAKER: As of April 4th, 141 vendors are fully registered. Vendors will be set up at Park Square, the high school front yard, and the inside & outside of the elementary school. The maple products tent is a must-visit and will feature area maple farms selling their products. We are expecting a few stragglers so we would put the final count right around 150. About 100 vendors are returning from last year and the rest are new. Everyone's favorite vendors will be returning to their usual spot. Notable additions this year include Cutco, Corning Museum of Glass, several artists offering different varieties of art, succulents, etc. Compared to prior years, we have attracted a wide variety of offerings and

"Maple Festival" continued page 14

FLOAT THE ALLEGHENY

Annual Regatta Returns to Olean this May



oleanny.com

OLEAN - The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of the popular Float the Allegheny river rafting and kayaking event for 2024. The event will be held on Saturday, May 18th.

"There has been considerable investment in kayak launches along the Allegheny River, with an eye on improving the viability of recreational activities along that great resource. This event aims to take advantage of, and promote, that viability as another reason to plan a trip to the Enchanted Mountains," said Adam Jester, Interim Chamber Executive Director.

The route will start at the Olean Boat Launch on West Riverside Drive, one block west of the South Union Street Bridge. The end point will be the Allegany Boat Launch, near Allegany River Park on W. Union Street in Allegany. Registration will take place at the launch point from 10:00am-12:00pm, with drop-in from 11:00am-12:00pm. Organizers have built in time for participants to park their vehicles near the end point and get back to the launch point for drop-in. No kayak? No problem! Chamber Member A-1 Rent All & Sales is offering kayak rentals to participants at a special rate. Please contact them at 716-373-7368 as kayak quantities are limited and are first come, first serve.

The event continues at Randy's Up the River, where the official after-party will be held immediately following - with live music, games and raffles to take place from 2:00-5:00pm. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, whether they participate in the Float itself, or are just looking for something fun to do that day.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register on the Chamber's e-commerce site, shop.oleanny.com (click Shop, and then Chamber Events), or by emailing GOACC at events@oleanny.com. Float participants will each pay \$20 and will receive an after-party food voucher, two drink tickets and an exclusive event promo item. For folks who just wish to attend the after-party, food and beverages will be available for purchase. Everyone is welcome!

Keep an eye on the Chamber's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OleanNYChamber for additional updates.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

Celebrate Earth Day By Volunteering at Audubon Nature Center

JAMESTOWN - April is National Volunteer month, dedicated to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. You are invited to celebrate National Volunteer Month and Earth Day 2024 by joining Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC) staff and volunteers Saturday morning, April 20th as they work on projects to maintain and improve the Nature Center building and grounds.

"Put simply, Audubon could not exist without our volunteers," says Audubon Volunteer Coordinator Emily Nelson. "Last year 267 volunteers donated 8,238 hours to the Nature Center buildings, grounds, education, animals and more. Of those volunteers, 110 were new or came back after years away. Auditors value ACNC's volunteer force at approximately \$260,000 yearly."

To volunteer on April 20th, register between 9:00-9:15am, then you can select your group to tackle different projects such as sprucing up the gardens, cleaning, grounds work, among others. This is a family-friendly event with something for all ages and abilities. Work parties tackle their jobs between 9:30am-noon. After all the hard work, you can stick around and celebrate your accomplishments with lunch. Participants are encouraged to wear clothes that can get dirty; dress for the weather - the event happens rain or shine - and bring work gloves if you have them.

Walk-ins are welcome, but registration ahead of time is appreciated. Call 716-569-2345 during business hours or go to AudubonCNC.org and click through Programs and Events. Even though the program is free, you will need to click through check-out to complete your registration.

If there are other volunteer projects you would like to take on - like caring for Audubon's many animals, working with the education staff, helping with clerical work, gardening or working at festivals and events - you can contact Nelson at 716-569-2345 or ENelson@AudubonCNC.org.

LIFESTYLE

Breakaway Classic Adventures: A Wild Turkey Hunter

BY INDREK KONGATS

I was first introduced to wild turkey hunting in the spring of 1998 by my wife's grandfather, a great outdoorsman, trapper, deer hunter and of course an exceptional turkey hunter. Ralph Foster was his name and there was nothing pretentious about him, as down to earth as a fellow could be! Ralph and his buddies owned a hunting camp in the little hamlet of Rexville beside the fire hall in Steuben County. When a hunting season wasn't on the calendar, one would hear the sounds of banjos, fiddles and steel guitars as a bluegrass festival was in full swing. In fact, as you're about to step onto the porch which doubled as a stage, chiseled into the stepping stone was a greeting... "Welcome Bluegrass Lovers."

Somehow everything fit together perfectly at the old camp - the music, the camaraderie, tall tales and of course the food. If by chance you were offered an opportunity to be a guest, you'd wake up at 4:00am to the smells of breakfast wisping into the loft where you bunked... squirrel stew as always on the menu!

The camp never held more than a few acres of land but had a babbling brook running through it. Back then you didn't need to own your own land; neighbors always let you hunt on theirs! Ralph was a natural at making friends and had such an easy-going personality that his many neighbors and friends always looked forward to his visits. He was not only welcomed for his storytelling and quick wit but also because he was another set of eyes safe guarding their property from trespassers and evil doers like litter bugs and joyriders on ATVs.

Spring turkey hunting starts May 1st and runs to the end of the month. Unlike fall hunting hours from sunrise to sunset, the spring hunt is just half a day, starting a half hour before sunrise and ending at noon. The bag limit is also different; in the fall you are allowed to take one bird of either sex for the season, while in the spring you are allowed two bearded birds. Also, in the fall you can hunt with the use of dogs much like in traditional upland game hunting, whereas in the spring you are not.

Ralph, in his quiet way, made sure everyone was up at 4:00am with the coffee pot percolating like a freight train about to go off its tracks, and the sizzling of his cherished cast iron skillet frying up home fries in one and strips of bacon in another. By 4:30am the troops are out the door and on our way to our designated hunting positions as determined the night before. Everyone has their favorite posts and it's important to get all set up and comfortable well before the turkeys come down from the roost. Another part of the evening war planning was to drive around the countryside, stopping frequently and pulling out an owl call to scout out locations where the turkeys are roosting for the night. Hearing the hooting of an owl, they can't help themselves from gobbling back and giving away their locations.

The edge of a field along an old fence row of gathered stones was Ralph's favorite waiting spot located to an adjacent raven sprouting a hillside of tall hemlocks. Turkeys like to roost in the tall evergreens about halfway up their trunks, as it's easier for them to fly from hilltop to treetop horizontally than flying straight up.

Ralph's number one lesson that we all learned from time spent with him, was to be patient, remain absolutely still until it hurt, and above all, be extremely quiet. His signature saying, remembered by all the generations that hunted with him right down to his great grandson, was that "a turkey can hear a mosquito from a hundred yards away." Thus, he used his turkey call sparingly with the precision of a surgeon, knowing when to cut the silence, for how long



and with what strokes. You can't undo what you shouldn't have said once it leaves your lips!

The box call was his call of choice and his most cherished possession, handcrafted for him by one of his longtime hunting partners. Not that he had anything against the numerous other types of calls out on the market today, but holding a well-designed wooden box call in his hands was like a violinist holding their Stradivarius. The cords resonating from that call were music to a turkey's ears! His weapon wasn't nearly as important as his box call but nonetheless, without it, few if any turkeys would have been harvested. The Remington 870 Wingmaster that he used was more of a hunting companion than just a shotgun. In his later years, he never loaded till he was comfortably sitting down; it served as a cane to climb some steep slopes and a shoulder to lean on to catch his breath once nearing the top.

Ralph always looked the part of a well-seasoned hunter and not a model from a Cabela's or L.L. Bean catalogue. Like a cowboy, if Ralph would have had his way, he would have died with his boots on. And although they were the famous Bean's duck boots, they were never laced up, making them quicker to slip on in the morning and easier to kick off for his afternoon nap on the living room couch. Ralph was born on May 31, 1921 and passed away on June 1, 2013. You could say that he was born and died a true turkey hunter with 92 seasons under his belt and as many turkeys!

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

Letter: The Litter Problem



I love springtime and all it has to offer, that is except for the litter that appears in our bushes, ditches and highly traveled sidewalks that lead into our quaint village. Some of it may have gotten there by the wind, but most of it is there because someone decided they were done with the beer/seltzer/coffee they were drinking while walking to town and tossed their unwanted can without missing a step. The areas where the litter is most prevalent is typically the areas where there is the most foot traffic. One such area is the pathway that runs between Tim and Bonnie's and Elizabeth Street. The bushes are loaded with empty vodka bottles, beer cans and general garbage thrown there by someone too darn lazy to put these items into the proper receptacle. This can also be seen as you walk either sidewalk along Route 242/219.

This problem is not just a village issue, but a town-wide issue. Take a walk on Hencoop or Plum Creek (two roads I frequently walk) and you will see cans within feet of each other. Then there are the Airbnb homes that put their garbage out either improperly or too early/late. Once the crows and critters get to it or the garbage cans get knocked over, the mess becomes enormous. I could organize a town-wide clean-up/take my walks with a garbage bag in hand, but will it prevent it from continuing? My guess is it will not. This problem seems to get worse every year... well, at least it does on my road. I know this because I typically will grab a few garbage bags and clean as far as I can walk and reach, only to have to do this again the following year.

My question is: why are people just tossing their empties and garbage wherever they want, knowing that someone else will have to clean it up? And who should be ultimately responsible for all of this unwanted trash? My theory is that this "I don't care" attitude is much bigger than just tossing your empty beer can. It demonstrates a level of entitlement and arrogance that seems to be growing more common and widespread. It does not discriminate by age, gender, race or nationality since I have witnessed this behavior/attitude represented by all of the above.

I know I cannot control the way other people behave; I can only control my own behavior and encourage others to do the same. I still think organizing a town-wide garbage pickup day would be a great idea. My concern is how do we get the point across to visitors/residents that this is our town and we do not appreciate or desire to pick up after you? That this behavior is not only unwanted, but it is also willfully wrong. It demonstrates such a lack of character and depravity and will no longer be tolerated. Because what separates privilege from entitlement is gratitude. And gratitude begins when the sense of entitlement ends.

- Kim Duke,
Local resident & business owner

RUN FOR A CAUSE

cont. from page 04

athon. This and of course the top amenities Holiday Valley has to offer. Lodging packages and world class accommodations, the property is extensive and more than impressive. The perfect balance between physically active and mentally relaxed while enjoying the scenery.

The course itself will welcome locals and visitors alike as Doug discusses the added tourism the event brings as they go into their 9th year running. "We usually get a total between 750-1,000 runners; that's what we're on track with this year." Runners will begin the race at Holiday Valley Resort, traveling through Great Valley, down Klawitter Road and back. The course offers plenty of water stations to assist racers as well as top notch safety protocols to assure each runner's well being.

With two other races offered, the 5k and the Beer Mile, runners from any level can compete at their own pace. The 5k course is a great start for those looking to some distance under their belt. For this event the course will run from Holiday Valley to Ellicottville Central School and back. Now for those looking for a different challenge, find your way to the Beer Mile.

Have you ever dreamed of being awarded the fastest beer miler in Western New York? Because this is your chance! Individual and team entries will compete for a timed mile with a beer to be downed at each ¼ mile mark. If entering as a team, each runner will race a half mile and drink two beers between markers. The current record is held at 4 minutes and 34 seconds, so get ready!

Keep in mind if this is your go-to event you must have your valid ID of 21 years or older and have a designated driver. But once you have your planned race in place, get ready to enjoy the day and all of the goods that come along with it! Beer Mile participants will receive a custom shirt and entry to the after-party sponsored by Southern Tier Brewing. As for the Happy Half and 5k racers, they will receive a finishing medal, post-race snack bag, custom shirt, and also entry to the after-party held at Holiday Valley's Main lodge. And why not keep the evening going all weekend by adding lodging for your stay at Holiday Valley, which offers discounted rates to event-goers? Registration to this event is open but cost varies by date of completion so act fast to secure your spot in one of Ellicottville's most anticipated running events!

Following these events and surely more to come, there looks to be a busy schedule ahead for any and all racers as we shift into the spring and summer seasons. For more information on the events listed, you can reach out directly to EVGV Trail at www.evgvtrail.org for the 5k De Mayo, the Facebook page of the Friends of Little Valley for the Ole 5k on their page under Little Valley Happenings, and the event page for the Happy Half at www.happyhalftrun.com. So wherever your running shoes take you, enjoy the sunshine and we wish you luck!



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6568 MAPLES ROAD
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HEART OF THE VILLAGE



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT THEELLICOTTVILLETEAM.COM

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START AND END AT EBC LITTLE VALLEY

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH 2024

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11 AM

RACE STARTS 12:15 PM

PORTION OF PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SAVING GRACE OUTREACH

REGISTRATION INCLUDES T-SHIRT, RACE ADMISSION, 1 PINT OF BEER AT EBC LV, AND A DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE TICKET

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Pfeiffer Nature Center's Trail Sale 2024

Saturday, May 11th, 10a-6p

Rain Date: Sunday, May 19th

Join us on the trail for fun,
food, raffles, vendors,
music, and more!








PNC's Eshelman Preserve
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MARTENS CLEANING SERVICE: Professional carpet cleaning, deep cleans, construction clean-up, grout and tile cleaning, residential cleaning. Call Christina Martens, 585-435-7158.

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

GRUMPY GRANDPA'S LAWCARE: New business, offering lawn mowing and other services as needed, including small construction. Call 716-353-0275.

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

EMPLOYMENT

NOW HIRING: The Gado-Gado team is looking for a hard-working and motivated individual. Must be available on weekends and festivals! Please email resume to gadogado98@hotmail.com.

HELP WANTED: The Silver Fox Steakhouse is looking for experienced cooks. Email resume to silverfoxeville@aol.com.

FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 520 square feet of office space at 39 Mill Street available for rent starting in August. Rent is \$600 a month plus gas, electric, water and snowplowing. Must sign 3 year commercial lease. Please call for details 716-699-4516 or 716-397-9527.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE: PLANNING BOARD: VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Ellicottville Planning Board will conduct an Architectural Design Review on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. The purpose of the review is to consider changes being proposed to an existing residential structure located at 23 Parkside Drive, further identified as tax map parcel 55.027-2-6.23. Plans for this project are on file and available for review in 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.

LLC NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of QSKI, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/20/2023. Office location: Cattaraugus County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 630 Chairfactory Rd, Elma, NY 14059. Purpose: all lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of ELEXCO PROPERTIES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/25/2024. Office location: Cattaraugus County. Princ. office of LLC: 505 West Henley Street, Olean, NY 14760. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 505 West Henley Street, Olean, NY 14760. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

COMMUNITY

VISIT ST. JOHN'S FOR SATURDAY SERVICE: St. John's Episcopal Church is located at the village of Ellicottville's historic four corners. We host a visitor-friendly service every Saturday beginning at 5:00pm. Any and all are welcome to attend!

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: The Ellicottville Memorial Library is now recycling used/empty and new/unused printer cartridges, cell phones/smartphones, old laptop computers and tablets. Please remove user info, passwords and unlock all phones and tablets before you donate. Computer hard drives will be cleaned of all personal information by CGRP. The library makes a profit on the sale of these items. Please include AC adapters and cords when possible. Just drop the items in our collection box. Thank you for helping us recycle! The Ellicottville Memorial Library is located at 6499 Maples Road. For questions, call 716-699-2842.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Immediately after the Village Board meeting on Tuesday, April 16th the Organizational meeting will be held.

MAPLE FESTIVAL

cont. from page 11

an increased number of businesses showcasing their services.

eNOW: Could you give us more details on some of the festival events? The Maple King and Queen contest, kiddie rides, petting zoo, etc.

SCHUMAKER: The King and Queen contest for this year is going to be particularly special. Program Coordinator, Amy Burton, has a great event already in the works! Class of 2024 Seniors will show off their talents and compete for the crown of Queen & King. They will also be recognizing winners from each of the previous years. Their goal is to have as many winners as possible from previous years in attendance and they need your help tracking everyone down! A list of former winners can be found in the event posts on their Facebook page. Tag someone or private message them with their contact information so they can reach out if they are not on Facebook. All previous winners will be invited to the group "WNY Maple Festival-Past King & Queens". This group will be used to coordinate 2024 plans with previous winners and track who may be able to attend.

As far as entertainment outside of the Music in the Park, there will be small carnival rides and games in the front yard of the elementary school. I-Got bingo will have a tent set up for people to play in. Gellyball arena will be set up for the 2nd year (this is a softer alternative to paintball, utilizing hydrated gel balls with lower impact for play). You can test your dexterity and stamina on the Mechanical Bull Rides by Buckin' Bull Rides in the high school front yard. Small kiddies can visit the Petting Zoo (FFA building off South Academy) run by Franklinville FFA, and you can't forget the annual Car Show & Chicken BBQ at the fire hall on Sunday. The traditional All-U-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast remains a huge hit each festival. Sessions both Saturday and Sunday run from 7:30am-2:00pm. Cost is \$9 for ages 13 and up, ages 4-12 or those over 60 are \$7 and kids 3 and under are free. Proceeds go to WNY Maple Festival Inc. (non-profit organization). Syrup from Wright's Maple Farm is used. New this year, \$1 from each breakfast will be donated to the Franklinville Central School Spanish Club. Spanish Club members and advisors are planning a trip to Peru in a couple of years and have been working hard to secure volunteers and will be volunteering themselves during the festival weekend.

eNOW: Do you see WNY Maple Festival continuing to expand and offering new things to enjoy in the years to come?

SCHUMAKER: I believe the festival will continue to be a WNY staple for many years to come due to the amount of community support it receives. The festival was on pause for two years due to COVID but we have regained momentum and interest. With the evolution of technology, specifically online shopping, society doesn't get out as much as they used to. We are committed to always keeping the staples of the festival intact while sprinkling in new and exciting things to keep up with the times/trends.

eNOW: Anything else you would like to share with the community?

SCHUMAKER: We are still looking for volunteers for our All-U-Can-Eat pancake breakfast. Shifts are 3 hours long and volunteers receive a free breakfast after their shift. And we'd also like to extend our thanks to this year's sponsors: Great Lakes Cheese, premiere sponsor. P&CG, premiere sponsor. Melissa Bedell/ERA Team VP Realtor, silver sponsor. Zuech's Environmental Services, silver sponsor. Hopkins, Sorgi, & McCarthy PLLC, bronze sponsor. Cutco, bronze sponsor. Cattaraugus Container Inc., patron. Shelly's Shear Look, patron.

So if you've never been to the Annual WNY Maple Festival (where have you been??) or you'd like to fill an afternoon with nostalgic fun, this is the year to visit. You can find a full schedule of events for both Saturday and Sunday on their website, wnymaplefestival.com, and remember to keep an eye on the Facebook page for any updates.

11 DAY POWER PLAY

cont. from page 03

"The entire community is invited to be part of this fun-filled night. We celebrate our top fundraisers who play in a special hockey game, celebrity guest appearances, indoor fireworks, food and beverage to purchase along with the 2024 11 Day Power Play merchandise," said Amy.

At first, I'll admit it seemed crazy to me that an organization would pull off such a laborious event year after year all for a fundraising effort, but after speaking with Amy, I understand that this isn't just a hockey game. The Lesakowski family's annual event makes perfect sense. They certainly have eleven days or 250 hours' worth of love, motivation and nerve to feed the effort against cancer that so many fight in Western New York and beyond each and every day.

THE BACKSTORY

Amy Lesakowski, along with her husband and three children have enjoyed Western New York as their home for many years. "We spend a lot of time in Ellicottville enjoying all four seasons," said Amy. She was diagnosed with a rather aggressive form of breast cancer in 2009. She battled her cancer with the support of her three children and husband, Mike Lesakowski. Luckily, Amy had access to resources that saved her life, like an innovative new drug woven into a long-term chemical treatment plan.

It's no secret that we Western New Yorkers are fortunate to have such phenomenal treatment hubs like Roswell Park. The Lesakowskis noticed a problem years later with some of these resources; clinical trials that made the difference between life and death for Amy were not available to Mike's mother, Evelyn, who unfortunately lost her hard-fought battle at age 62. That was in 2016; a year prior to the first 11 Day Power Play.

There is nothing else in this world like the feeling of watching a loved one fight the long and hard battle that is cancer. It's truly taxing on the mind, body and spirit. After two battles and a crushing loss, the Lesakowskis decided that something must be done; everybody should have access to these life-saving resources, no matter what. They set out to break the world record for the longest hockey game... and they did, raising \$1.2 million in their first year!

"A clinical trial at Roswell saved my life, but to date, there needs to be more available," said Amy. Obviously, the goal is a cure, but Amy told me about another aspect of treatment that makes a huge difference. It's called immunotherapy... "treatment that helps your immune system fight cancer," mentioned Amy. The goal is to lessen the significant and ever-recognizable impact that other treatments can have on the human body. "It's giving patients less harsh treatments and hope. Roswell Park is working hard right in our backyard to bring immunotherapy to the forefront of cancer care," Amy added.

Resources like this and others that save lives are the result of the brilliant minds at Roswell. Supporting their research in any way we can helps to heal bodies and bring people together, and Amy says this is exactly what keeps her motivated every year. "We are inspired by those we have lost and those who continue to fight this disease," Amy said. "They need our support, and the 11 Day Power Play is doing just that!"

In seven years, \$6 million has supported Roswell Park in their research, with other significant margins being allocated toward programs like Camp Good Gays and Oishei Children's Hospital. This year, 11 Day Power Play hopes to add to that in a bigger way than ever, with 250 hours of love, community and hockey coming just this summer. Since 2017 the 11 Day Power Play has raised a total of \$10 million in just seven years thanks to generous donors in WNY and beyond.

Learn more about the 11 Day Power Play fundraiser at 11daypowerplay.com. And don't forget to show your support in Ellicottville by participating in the Chamber's Par for a Purpose golf tournament at Holiday Valley on May 20th! Find your foursome and register at ellicottvillenow.com.

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mrsski815: Love these 2 birthday buddies. For their 13th birthday, they decided to have people bring gift donations for @ochbuffalo instead of presents. #lookforthehelpers #bekind #ellicottvillenow #oishei



mini.chalet_ellicottville: Sad because ski season is over? Or happy that we're entering golf and mountain biking season!? #evlnow



bpgctaphouse: Eclipse Vibes! #totalsolareclipse @ellicottvillenow



holimont_parks: See you May 25th for opening day! #evlnow



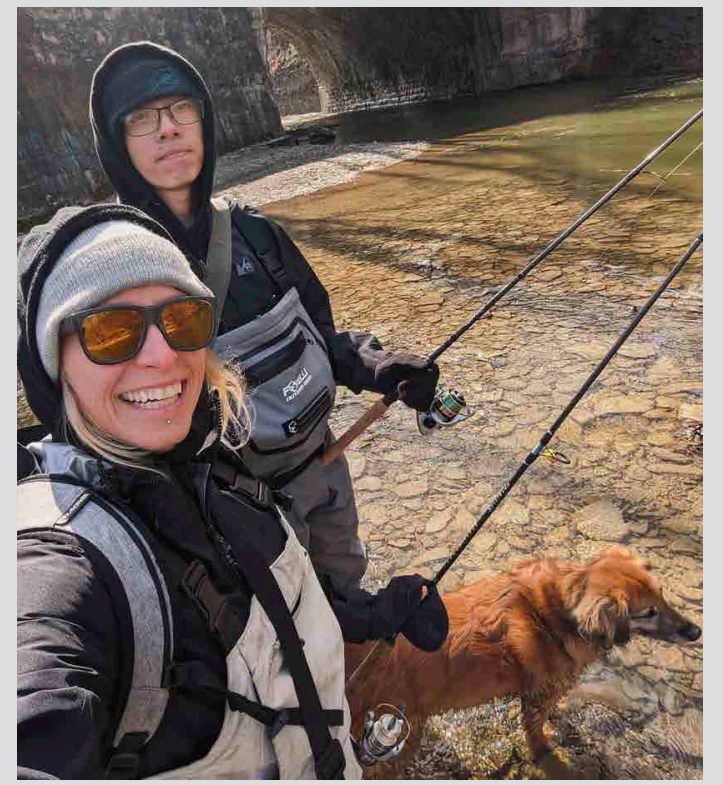
dailycitytrain.skate: @cptjonnybarbershop stopped into the shop to gift us with this Comet Cruiser. Thanks dude! #evlnow



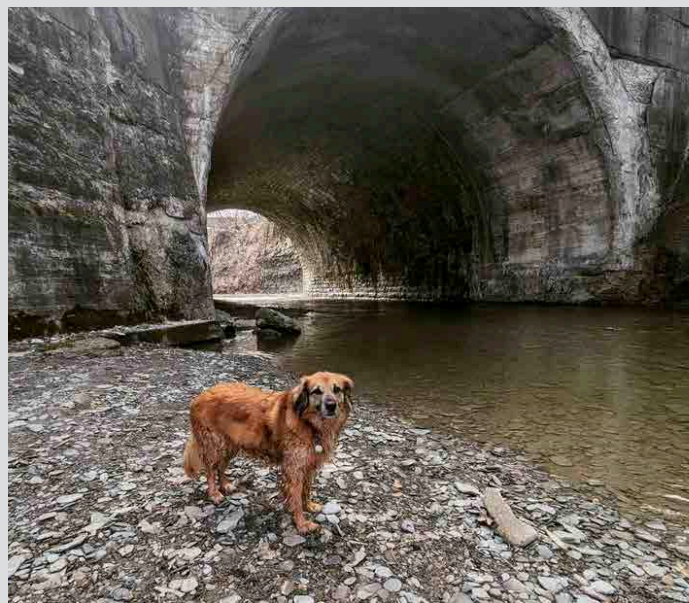
wildroamer.shop: Fully stocked with new (and vintage) goodies!



kkdido: #eclipse @holidayvalley #ellicottvillenow



baroness_abcinema: Lil opening day excursion with my nephew and @willygoat_adventures #troutseason #tourchautauqua #evlnow



willygoat_adventures: Sniffin out trout on opening day! #evlnow #adventuredog #fishwithdogs #livingmybestlife #coolestdogever



matt_bruhhhhh: Eclipse was in full effect in Ellicottville. #totality @ellicottvillenow



ellicottvillenow: Eclipse Party @holimont #evlnow



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