

ellicottvilleNOW

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FREE

Arbor Day at the Nannen Arboretum

Community Invited to Tree Planting Celebration and Open House Later This Month; Volunteer Cleanup Days also Planned



@nannenarboretum
photo / ellicottvilleNOW

By JESSICA SCHULTZ

Arbor Day is fast approaching; this year it falls on Friday, April 28. The Nannen Arboretum will host its Annual Tree Planting Celebration - the perfect party for our Tree City USA, but this year you can expect it to be a little different. What kind of different? ellicottvilleNOW caught up with arboretum member Pat Kerl to discuss the details.

As for Ellicottville's Arbor Day, "We have a very special Annual Meeting and Arbor Day planned for this year," said Kerl. "We will be celebrating the legacy of the founder of the Nannen Arboretum, John Ploetz. John Ploetz's children are donating two trees for the Arbor Day planting and are hosting an Open House as part of our meeting. We will begin at 11:00am with our normal Annual Meeting and Arbor Day proclamation/planting and then transition to an Open House around noon."

Refreshments, sandwiches, cookies and drinks will be provided during the Open House which will last until 3:00pm. This all takes place in the auditorium of the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville NY, adjacent to the Nannen Arboretum."

... page 04

JAKE AND THE FATMAN BBQ CATERING CO.

There aren't a lot of BBQ options down in the Southern Tier. I've found myself in Buffalo on numerous occasions when I'm craving a tasty beef rib. But what if I told you, there is a BBQ catering company right around the bend in Springville, NY that not only has a food truck but will gladly bring that food truck to your next gathering and provide a BBQ smorgasbord?

Jake and The Fatman BBQ Catering Co. offers just that option. With a wealth of experience behind him, the owner Jake Cranston was built for the business. "I've always been a big food guy and BBQ has always been one of my favorites, often cooking backyard BBQs for family parties. Once I started getting good and a lot of positive feedback, I entered a local BBQ competition. After winning some awards people started requesting me to cater small parties. So I decided to start my own catering business in 2013."

... page 08

CELEBRATE DONATE LIFE DAY WITH ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL

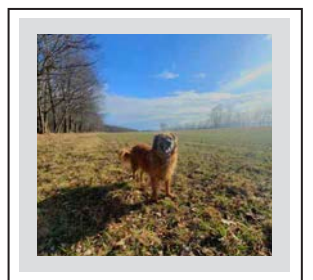
"For National Donate Life Month (NDLM) 2023, Donate Life America was inspired by the natural world of a pond coming to life in the spring. Visualize the frogs and toads coming out of their burrows hopping to and fro. They are a sign of healing and renewal. The water lilies popping up are signs of hope." More than 104,000 people across the country are currently awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. Thousands more are on the list for cornea & tissue transplants. National Donate Life Month focuses on registering donors and honoring deceased and living donors. ECS is doing a full-day event on this topic on April 28. A representative from Connect Life will be on-hand with brochures, fact sheets and registration cards for students to take home ... page 03

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy Coming to Seneca Allegany Casino

Jeff Foxworthy has been a staple in the comedy world for decades now and is still selling out shows all over the country. Making a stop at the Seneca Allegany Casino for one show only on Saturday, April 22, the comedian continues bringing the laughs that we all need right now and considers it the best job in the world. ellicottvilleNOW had a chance to talk with him recently (well... talk in between the laughter), and as he put it, have a fun conversation - not an interview - which he said he thoroughly enjoyed ... page 11

instaNOW

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Turning Movie Characters into Works of Art

Ellicottville Artist Shad Nowicki Pulls Inspiration from the Big Screen



By MARY WEISER

Artist Shad Nowicki was just a kid when scenes from the 1987 John Candy classic "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" were shot in WNY - right outside his childhood home! After meeting the whole cast and seeing firsthand how movies are made, Nowicki knew he wanted to learn everything he could about the world of television and film. Today, Nowicki knows this world in a way that very few people do - from the iconic scowl of Wednesday Addams to the determined gaze of Rocky Balboa to the kind-hearted smile of E.T.

Nowicki lives and paints in Ellicottville and is one of the most sought-after pop culture artists in the country. From Hollywood heavy hitters to silver screen legends, the list of stars he's had the pleasure of painting is staggering.

... page 08



photo / Olean City District Foundation

A NIGHT AT THE RACES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OLEAN CITY SCHOOLS

Want a fun way to spend a Friday night? "Night at the Races" is a fundraising event sponsored by the Olean Schools Foundation and hosted by the Woodside Tavern on the Range. Set for Friday, May 5, it's an event filled with great revelry. Event coordinator John Irving was excited to talk with ellicottvilleNOW about what guests can expect. "This is actually the 5th annual event," he explained. "One of our board members had previously attended a "Night at the Races" elsewhere and thought it would be a fun event for the Olean City School District Foundation to hold as a fundraiser. The event is held every year on the Friday before the Kentucky Derby." ... page 07

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Publisher's PICK

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Ellicottville Central School to Make a Splash During Donate Life Month;
Special Event for Students Planned for April 28th



BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

“For National Donate Life Month (NDLM) 2023, Donate Life America was inspired by the natural world of a pond coming to life in the spring.” Visualize the frogs and toads coming out of their burrows hopping to and fro. They are a sign of healing and renewal. The water lilies popping up are signs of hope. The roots have waited until spring to send their shoots out. National Donate Life likens the water lily to the support and partnership needed for hope to bloom. The lily pads we see on the surface of a pond are part of a much larger, supportive plant rooted below the water. The water lily plant reminds us of the “support and collaboration needed for hope to bloom.”

More than 104,000 people across the country are currently awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. Thousands more are on the list for cornea and tissue transplants. National Donate Life Month focuses on registering donors and honoring deceased and living donors.

Numbers: Every 9 minutes another person is added to the waiting list for an organ donation. 17 people die each day waiting for an organ. One organ donor, eye and tissue donation can save and heal more than 75 lives.

Who can donate: From the national donor website: “People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity, and social status are never considered.”

Here’s the good news locally... Tamara Peters, teacher at Ellicottville Central School (ECS) reported this: “I myself received a liver transplant from another teacher at the school almost 8 years ago. Shannon [Palmatier] has two sons who have just recently undergone transplants. Several alumni and retired staff have also either donated, been the recipient of an organ, or are family members of a donor or recipient family.”

ECS is doing a full-day event on this topic on April 28. A representative from Connect Life will be on-hand with brochures, fact sheets and registration cards for students to take home to discuss with their families. At an end-of-day presentation they will share data, statistics and their own stories and pictures.

National Pediatric Transplant Week is the last full week in April. The focus for that week is on ending the pediatric waiting list. In 2020, more than 1,700 children were helped with transplants. Today there are more than 1,900 children waiting; more than 500 are between the ages of 1 and 5. Children respond better to child-sized organs; it is possible for them to receive partial adult organs, such as for the liver, which is what most children on the list are waiting for. The children under 1 are generally waiting for a heart. Those 6-10 are waiting for kidneys. Children are also on the list for donor lung, intestine, and pancreas.

Become Inspired: Dr. Aleksandra Gmurczyk, a nephrologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago wanted to educate her kidney disease patients and their families, so she decided to donate her kidney as part of a kidney-paired donation. This comes about when a healthy person wishes to donate a kidney but is not a good match for the recipient whom they wish to help. So, a swap takes place with another donor and it’s a win-win. Another way to donate.

How to enroll: Remember, you have the potential to save lives as a donor. You can start by signing up through your state’s registry. For New York go to <https://donatelife.ny.gov/register/>.

Teenagers 15 to 17-years-old may register their intent to be an organ, eye and tissue donor (you can do this while registering for your driver’s license at the DMV, at DonateLife.net or at RegisterMe.org). However, until they are 18-years-old, a parent or legal guardian makes the final donation decision. A parent or legal guardian must authorize an organ, eye, or tissue donation for anyone under the age of 18. Go to <https://www.organdonor.gov/learn/process> to learn more.

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INSPIRATION FROM THE BIG SCREEN

Ellicottville's Shad Nowicki Turns Movie Characters Into Works of Art



By MARY WEISER

Artist Shad Nowicki was just a kid when scenes from the 1987 John Candy classic "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" were shot in western New York - right outside his childhood home! After meeting the whole cast and seeing firsthand how movies are made, Nowicki knew he wanted to learn everything he could about the world of television and film. Today, Nowicki knows this world in a way that very few people do - from the iconic scowl of Wednesday Addams to the determined gaze of Rocky Balboa to the kind-hearted smile of E.T.

Nowicki lives and paints in Ellicottville and is one of the most sought-after pop culture artists in the country. From Hollywood heavy hitters to silver screen legends, the list of stars he's had the pleasure of painting is staggering, to say nothing of his paintings of celebrities' family portraits or everyday moments. "Every one has been an experience," said Nowicki.

On Saturday, May 6, Free Comic Book Day, Nowicki will be a special guest at Dave & Adam's in Williamsville. Though not a comic book artist per se, Nowicki is known for his portrayals of all kinds of superheroes and villains, among many other pop culture icons. "One of the first actors I painted was Lou Ferrigno," said Nowicki. Ferrigno, who starred as the Incredible Hulk in the eponymous television series that began in 1977, is one of many celebrities who will be appearing at the Nickel City Comic Con, which is returning to the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center from June 30-July 2.

"Michael Rooker from 'Guardians of the Galaxy,' will also be at Nickel City," said Nowicki. "I was hired to do a painting of him like that famous Burt Reynolds centerfold pose. I worked with Donald Gibb from 'Revenge of the Nerds,' Steve Guttenberg, the original Captain America... These are my heroes, and these are the guys that - 30 to 40 years ago - were making awesome movies that now are kind of forgotten, but not to me. Meeting them and being able to work for them is a way to say 'thank you!'"

In addition to his appearance at Dave & Adam's, Nowicki will also be part of many other events this year. "I usually travel with around 60 paintings, and I've also done many prints in the last few years," he explained. "All are limited, numbered, and signed. It's a big booth space - basically a gallery on wheels!"

Nowicki will have a booth at the Living Dead Weekend in Pittsburgh from June 9-11, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the movie "Dawn of the Dead," as well as Nickel City during the last weekend in June. "The shows that I gravitate towards, since I do a lot of work for celebrities, are the more celebrity-based shows," he said. "Nickel

"Shad Nowicki" continued page 08

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Tri-County Arts Council Opens Nomination Window for Arts & Cultural Awards

The Tri-County Arts Council is currently accepting nominations for Arts and Cultural Awards, with winners to be announced at the Celebration Of The Arts. As we advocate for our region, we are taking the Celebration of the Art to Chautauqua County this year! Celebration of the Arts (COTA) will be on August 13th at the Pearl City Clay House at 220 East 2nd Street in Jamestown, NY 14701. The event will continue to honor artists, arts organizations, or arts supporters from Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. Nominations are due by July 1 and can be sent to TCAC Executive Director Paula Bernstein at paula@tricityartsandcouncil.org.

The following awards will be presented:

- Thomas Barnes Lifetime Achievement, named after longtime Arts Council board president: This award celebrates the career of an individual artist, organization, individual at an organization, or individual artist who, among other distinctions, has demonstrated particular commitment to his or her work throughout a long career and has made important contributions regionally, nationally or internationally in his/her field, especially at a milestone marker, such as retirement, job change, posthumous recognition, etc.
- Distinguished Artist of the Year: This award honors individual artists in any discipline for their creative excellence and superior accomplishments in 2022.

"Tri-County Arts Council" continued page 08

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Nannen Arboretum to Host Annual Meeting and Tree Planting Ceremony



By JESSICA SCHULTZ

Arbor Day is fast approaching; this year it falls on Friday, April 28. The Nannen Arboretum will host its Annual Tree Planting Celebration - the perfect party for our Tree City USA, but this year you can expect it to be a little different. What kind of different? ellicottvilleNOW caught up with arboretum member Pat Kerl to discuss the details.

"Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care," Kerl explained. "The idea for Arbor Day in the United States originated in Nebraska City. J. Sterling Morton and his wife, Caroline, were lovers of nature and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. In 1872, the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by Morton to 'set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit.'"

The Board declared April 10, 1872 as Arbor Day, offering prizes to the counties and individuals that properly planted the largest number of trees on that day. More than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. J. Sterling Morton became known as the "Founder of Arbor Day."

Shortly after this 1872 observance, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day each year with appropriate ceremonies. New York State celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April, the 28th this year. Planting trees is an act of kindness and optimism. Trees help clean the air, beautify our neighborhoods, provide homes for wildlife, conserve energy and topsoil, and help keep the atmosphere in balance. Life is just better when we live among the trees.

As for Ellicottville's Arbor Day, "We have a very special Annual Meeting and Arbor Day planned for this year," said Kerl. "We will be celebrating the legacy of the founder of the Nannen Arboretum, John Ploetz. John Ploetz's children are donating two trees for the Arbor Day planting and are hosting an Open House as part of our meeting. We will begin at 11:00am with our normal Annual Meeting and Arbor Day proclamation/planting and then transition to an Open House around noon. Posters and photographs from the early days of the arboretum will be displayed and several of the Ploetz and Nannen families as well as some of the original members of the arboretum will be available for conversation and reminiscing. Refreshments, sandwiches, cookies and drinks will be provided during the Open House which will last until 3:00pm. This all takes place in the auditorium of the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville NY, adjacent to the Nannen Arboretum."

While the Arbor Day event is typically hosted by staff only, they do have a special Spring Clean-up planned at the arboretum on Saturday, April 29 and Monday, May 1 from 9:00am-noon both days. As Kerl stated, "We start with leaf and branch removal from the arboretum grounds followed by removing all the netting that was used to protect some trees/shrubs from the area wildlife. These are not long days and with many volunteers, we accomplish many tasks on the to-do list quickly. It is a great opportunity to make new friends while giving back to your community. And coffee and snacks will be available! Everyone is always welcome to participate."

The arboretum team can always use volunteers for when their regular Monday work days begin again in May and continue through the summer into fall. Here are examples of the areas where they need your help:

- Picking up downed branches and twigs and raking leaves.
- Maintaining perennial beds including watering, weeding, mulching, planting, cutting back, etc.
- Maintaining Chapman Sanctuary and Celebration Walk including watering planters, weeding bricks and pavers.
- Maintaining the Herb Garden including setting rocks vertical as required, weeding beds, path, steps, planting herbs.
- Maintaining trees and shrubs including pruning, creating/maintaining mulch beds around trees/shrubs.
- Installing/maintaining items such as signage, benches and tasks requiring hand tools and painting bridge structure and shed structure.

When asked why she felt that this celebration was important for the community, Kerl had a lot to say. "Arbor Day is an opportunity to gather together with members of the community and acknowledge the importance of trees in our town and village," she said. "Ellicottville has been designated as a 'Tree City USA' for the last 41 years by the Arbor

"Arbor Day" continued page 08

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PHOTO REWIND

HoliMont Celebrates the End of Ski Season with a Special Visitor

On Sunday, April 9, HoliMont closed out the 2022-23 season with live music on the patio and a special appearance from the Easter Bunny as members, guests and the public enjoyed bluebird skies and spring conditions. Easter eggs were scattered on many of the ski trails, providing one of the most fun Easter Egg Hunts imaginable - for both kids and adults. (Would you expect anything different from a ski resort?) The lifts may have stopped spinning, but it's only temporary... Sunset lift will turn again come Memorial Day weekend, when HoliMont switches gears to bike season! Purchase your Bike Park season's pass NOW and save... details at holimont.com/programs/bike-park/.

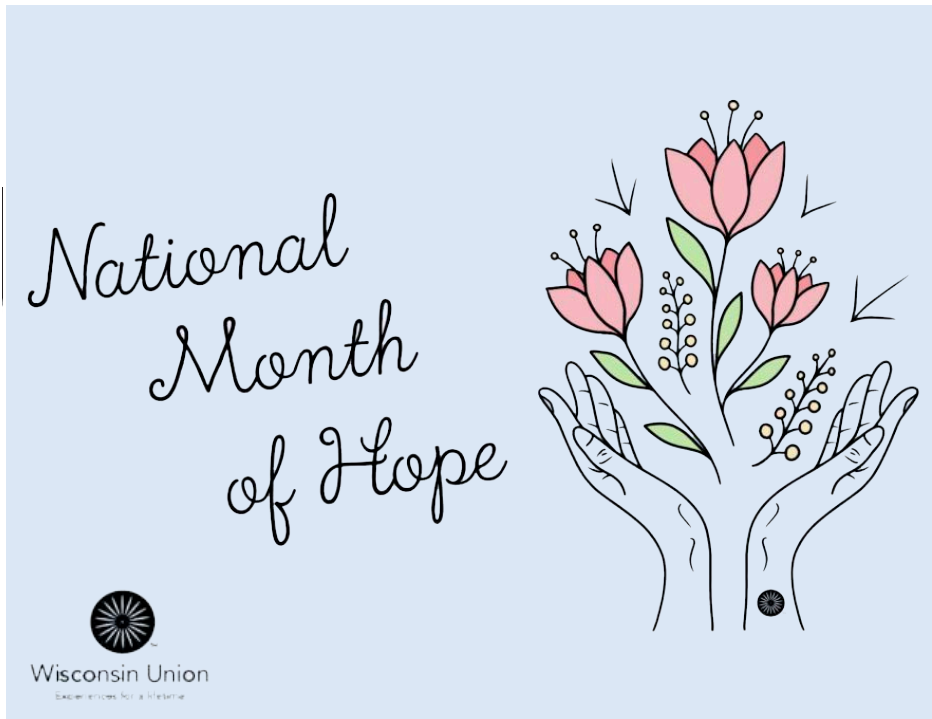
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REGIONAL

NATIONAL MONTH OF HOPE

Good Deeds Abound in April... Get Involved. It Feels Great!



BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul... and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all." - Emily Dickinson

Spring! Ahhhhh. Sunshine and showers. Snowdrops and slickers, daffodils and downpours, tulips and tadpoles... it seems that the whole world comes into bloom to brighten our days. In our town, winter may be King, but when Mother Nature comes calling bringing the hope of spring, winter bends a knee and bids her welcome. When she leaves her floral decorated calling card the only word on it is HOPE. That word alone brings feelings of confidence and trust.

This National Month of Hope also lends a hand in lifting spirits. Each of us can be bearers of hope in many ways. Like Mother Nature, we too, can lift others by volunteering, donating, or contributing our time, our empathy, our wisdom, knowledge, and kindness. We can be with people, one on one, who are alone, with no one to talk to or with whom to share their lives. Perhaps a friend, neighbor, community member, or someone in a nursing home could find a bit of hope realizing that someone honors and respects their existence. There are many organizations in our local community who offer hope through the hands of volunteers which serve as the conduits.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Connecting Communities in Action (CCA) works with the community, for the community in meeting people's most basic needs. With comprehensive, strength-based customer-focused programs they provide hope through "safe and affordable housing, home rehabilitation and weatherization, prevention, and education." They also "offer mental health services, food security, and support for youth, families, and survivors of crime." Delivering trauma-informed care is their priority through which people can get help to take the next step forward. They serve individuals and families, the elderly, the disabled, and the disadvantaged in southwestern and central New York. As CCA Board Member, Sharon Mathe has stated, "We are looking at our role as a community builder not just providing programs but jobs and resources to help people really sustain themselves." Connecting Communities in Action is located at 25 Jefferson Street, Salamanca, NY, phone 716-945-1041.

ROTARY CLUB OF ELLICOTTVILLE

Over the past number of years, the Rotary Club of Ellicottville has been a source of hope by providing equipment and monetary support for many local organizations. The Ellicottville Food Bank at The United Church of Ellicottville has grown, creating a need for facility storage and efficiency. Val Germaine, Nancy Rogan and Rev. John Woodring worked with the Ellicottville Rotary to update the entire project. They now have new shelving, storage containers, prep tables, and freezer containers to care for the hundreds of people reliant upon the Food Bank. The Ellicottville Food Bank services the Ellicottville community with a totally volunteer staff and is open Monday 1:00-3:00pm, Wednesday 4:00-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-noon every week. Share hope by becoming a volunteer. Your assistance or donations are also gratefully accepted at the Great Valley Food Pantry, 4808 Route 219, Great Valley, phone 716-699-2585. The GV pantry is open Thursdays from 4:30-6:30pm and again on Saturday from 8:00-10:00am.

NANNEN ARBORETUM

"He who plants a tree plants hope." - Lucy Larcom, 19th century teacher, poet, author

Every year on Arbor Day trees are planted at the Ellicottville Nannen Arboretum to celebrate the legacy of arboretum founder, John Ploetz. Everyone in the community is welcome and encouraged to attend. The arboretum is located at 28 Parkside Drive, phone 716-474-9801.

Three local opportunities for you to volunteer have been outlined for you. But there are so many other things a person can do to bring hope to others. Call or write a letter to someone who has had a significant impact upon your life. Your outreach may hit them at a time in their life when they need affirmation and hope. Visit the sick and imprisoned. Write them cards and letters. Share your story about overcoming obstacles and finding hope with those who are experiencing down times in their lives. See a need? Lend a hand. Empty nester? Look into fostering a child. Find a homeless person and take them lunch and a bag filled with everyday common necessities that we take for granted. Love animals? Adopt one from a reputable shelter. That, dear reader, is what **HOPE** looks like.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

'Horsing Around' for the Benefit of the Olean City School District Foundation



BY JESSICA SCHULTZ

Want a fun way to spend a Friday night? "Night at the Races" is a fundraising event sponsored by the Olean Schools Foundation and hosted by the Woodside Tavern on the Range. Set for Friday, May 5 (doors open at 6:15pm), it is an event filled with great revelry and event coordinator John Irving was excited to talk with ellicottvilleNOW about what guests can expect.

First, let's get a quick overview of its history. "This is actually the 5th annual event," explained Irving. "One of our board members, Barb Lias, had previously attended a "Night at the Races" elsewhere and thought it would be a fun event for the Olean City School District Foundation to hold as a fundraiser. The event, which started in 2017, is held every year on the Friday before the Kentucky Derby."

They've got a few new things for 2023. As Irving indulges, "Back in 2019, we added the Trifecta 50/50 raffle and the High Roller betting table. Last year we moved to a larger venue, went to two screens and two wager tables. This year we will be adding a DJ to entertain between races and smaller 50/50s throughout the night. As always, if you have a non-winning bet ticket you can use it to enter into the drawing for one of the many door prizes."

Irving said the event consists of 10 video horse races with an 11th auction race at the end. As part of the fundraiser, people will donate \$10 to name one of the 100 horses in the races. If their horse wins, they will receive a gift certificate to a local restaurant. They also have a derby hat contest in two categories: traditional hat and most unique hat. This year there will be a piñata which participants can purchase tickets for a chance to take a swing at it. Door prizes will be drawn after the 11th race.

Along with a great entertainment lineup, you can also expect a great spread of food! Since this year's event falls on Cinco de Mayo, the menu will have a Mexican theme. Start out with apps before the first race - cheese, veggies and crackers. Followed by tacos, fajitas, quesadillas, rice, chips and salsa, guacamole, and pizza. This year's signature drink: margaritas, of course.

What's in the months following? The Olean City School District Foundation is planning their annual golf tournament to be held in June. In November they participate in Cattaraugus Gives Day. "We need to thank all our sponsors and donors for all the success these events bring," said Irving. In June the Foundation hosts the Wall of Honor. John advised this award recognizes the accomplishments of past students and faculty. Since 2020, the OCSDF Foundation has fulfilled over \$150,000 in grant requests.

The Olean Schools Foundation, established in 2002, was created to provide additional funds to support special academic programs and curriculum enrichment in all Olean City Schools. Creative opportunities that support the education of Olean students immensely influence their growth and cultural awareness. New experiences, projects, and programs expand their minds and broaden their horizons. For more information, please visit oleanschools.org/foundation.

ECS CARING CLOSET

Gently Used Clothing and New Personal Hygiene Items Available Soon

Ellicottville Central School is proud to announce that the Caring Closet will soon be up and running again. This student-created support system collects new or gently used clothes for free distribution among the school's PreK-12. ECS Students and staff may donate directly on campus by placing items in a sealed bag and dropping them off at the Nurse's Office. Other alternative drop-offs for community members are:

- The Donation Shed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Warrior Fitness & Wellness
- The Ellicottville Memorial Library

Please place items in deposit bags labeled "ECS" and include whether they have been washed. The school is also happy to accept un-used, sealed, personal hygiene items. Items most requested by students are hoodies, jeans, leggings, t-shirts, sneakers and self-care items. Any student or community member looking to reach out for clothing or hygiene items may directly contact ecscaringcloset@ecsny.org.

BUSINESS

JAKE AND THE FATMAN BBQ CATERING CO.

A BBQ Company that Comes to You!

By JESSICA SCHULTZ



There aren't a lot of BBQ options down in the Southern Tier. I've found myself in Buffalo on numerous occasions when I'm craving a tasty beef rib. But what if I told you, there is a BBQ catering company right around the bend in Springville, NY that not only has a food truck but will gladly bring that food truck to your next gathering and provide a BBQ smorgasbord?

Jake and The Fatman BBQ Catering Co. offers just that option. With a wealth of experience behind him, the owner Jake Cranston was built for the business and ellicottville-NOW had a chance to speak with him about how he got started and what their company has to offer.

Jake was very happy to tell the tale of his love for BBQ. "I've always been a big food guy and BBQ has always been one of my favorites, often cooking backyard BBQs for family parties. Once I started getting good and a lot of positive feedback, I entered a local BBQ competition. After winning some awards people started requesting me to cater small parties. I decided to start a catering business in 2013."

We all know that there are a lot of different kinds of BBQ (and so many opinions about which is best.) So what types of BBQ does Jake and the Fatman cover? "We offer traditional slow smoked BBQ, such as our award winning pulled pork, beef brisket, St. Louis ribs and our house blend smoked sausage."

And BBQ isn't complete without the sides. They have a full menu of homemade sides including their famous mac and cheese, roasted red potatoes and cranberry slaw. They also

make all of their own BBQ sauces - Fatman's Original, Apple BBQ and Jalapeño BBQ.

How can you get Fatman's finger-lickin' goods? Rest assured they offer full service and drop-off catering options as well as their food truck. Their full menu is available on their website, www.jakeandthefatmanbbq.com and they cover most of the Western NY area.

They are also involved with other another local staple place to visit. They have been providing their pulled pork and their Fatman's Original BBQ sauce to both of 49 Coffee House's locations for the past 4 years. The two companies have a great working relationship and have no plan of changing that dynamic anytime soon.

Jake's is unique. Although BBQ has gained a lot of traction in the WNY area, they don't offer just one particular regional style of BBQ. Having over 10 years of BBQ experience, Jake and his team have gained knowledge in different styles of BBQ from many different regions. Their Texas style Brisket is as simple as salt and pepper. Their Memphis style dry ribs and pulled pork is their own unique style. Their BBQ sauce is ketchup based with brown sugar and spices similar to Kansas City BBQ. When you add their sides - all made from family recipes - you really get a home cooked meal every time. And their customers really appreciate the authenticity of their BBQ.

2023 marks Jake and The Batman BBQ's 10th year in business and they look forward to offering high quality family made BBQ for many years to come. To get in touch with them for catering options please visit their website at www.jakeandthefatmanbbq.com, call 716-912-9072 or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

SHAD NOWICKI

cont. from page 04



City will have around 25 celebrities and Steel City will have 30 to 35 usually every time."

When he's not traveling to events and conventions, Nowicki can be found in his studio working on commissions. Some clients contact Nowicki to paint a favorite scene from a beloved movie or television show, while others commission him to paint portraits and special family moments. "I'm a method painter," he explained. "If I'm painting something from 'The Goonies,' I'll have it on loop for 12 hours!"

Regarding the celebrities who commission Nowicki for special pieces, he said, "A lot of times, it's not them doing anything that has to do with the films. A lot of times, it's having to do with their families. Sometimes, they want a painting from a movie they did that's not a really famous one, but one they loved."

Since high school, Nowicki has been devoted to painting, though he also works in several other mediums. "I did oils for 10 years and then realized that just takes too long," he laughed. "I've done acrylics for the past 30 years because they dry quickly and I can use a hair dryer for extra coats. I do lots of detail work and photo realism." Currently, Nowicki is working on a project that has been under wraps for quite some time. "It is a movie project, and hopefully in the next few weeks, I can talk about it!"

So what would Nowicki be doing if he wasn't an artist? "If I never painted, I'd love to get into special effects work," he said. "I've been fortunate to meet people at the Tom Savini School in Pittsburgh, which is known for that. I really wish they would have had that when I was younger. I lived in the country... One thing that was available to me was painting. Now, later on in life, I find myself doing a lot more sculpting for myself."

Those who are interested in Nowicki's prints or would like to commission their own iconic painting can contact him through his website www.shadart.biz or through social media.

TRI-COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

cont. from page 04

- Outstanding High School Senior: This award recognizes an outstanding 2023 high school senior graduate who will be continuing their education at any college or university, and pursuing studies in dance, fine arts, graphic design, music, or theater. This award comes with a \$250 scholarship proudly sponsored by Hedley Brook Insurance and Christie's Boutique.
- Excellence in Arts Education: This award honors an arts educator for their work in providing art instruction that helps to guide the next generation of artists in our region and cultivating lifelong supporters of the arts.
- Volunteer of the Year Award: Many of the region's arts and cultural organizations rely on volunteers to put on the show! This award recognizes the outstanding volunteer efforts of an unpaid individual or group that has had a major impact on the arts and culture sector.
- Program of the Year: This award will honor the achievement, dedication, and creativity of an individual or organization from each county of the three counties.

Any individuals in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties can be nominated through July 1. Please email your name, the name of the person you are nominating, and why you are nominating them to paula@tricityartsandculture.org. Winners will be celebrated at the Celebration of the Arts (COTA) on August 13th at the Pearl City Clay House at 220 East 2nd Street in Jamestown, NY 14701.

ARBOR DAY

cont. from page 04

Day Foundation. The Foundation provides a framework for communities to maintain and grow their tree cover. You can see the 'Tree City USA' flag flying along the asphalt path in the arboretum. The Nannen Arboretum provides an area of nature appreciation and environmental awareness. It is a peaceful and educational area for walking and selecting trees for your home, for if it grows here, it will most likely flourish in your landscape."

The arboretum also has great plans for the 2023 summer. Their Education Program this year will feature a speaker each quarter. They had Lyn Chimera, Erie County Master Gardener, speak on pruning in March. On May 3, 2023, Tim Baird, local retired Science teacher, will speak on the Continental Glacier and Cattaraugus County. The program will take place at 6:30pm in the auditorium of the Ellicottville Town Center. Additional presentations will be scheduled for the third and fourth quarters of the year.

Thank you, Pat, for taking the time to speak with us and for sharing such great info about the upcoming Arbor Day Celebration. Hope to see a lot of the community there!



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INTERVIEW

BLUE COLLAR COMEDIAN JEFF FOXWORTHY COMING TO SENECA ALLEGANY



.....
APRIL 22 • 8:00PM

By Melanie Hulick

If I said the line, “You might be a redneck if...”, there’s only one person most people would automatically have in their mind - Jeff Foxworthy. There is no mistaking those oh-so-funny one liners or the warm southern accent when they’re delivered.

Foxworthy has been a staple in the comedy world for decades now and is still selling out shows all over the country. Making a stop at the Seneca Allegany Casino for one show only on Saturday, April 22, the comedian continues bringing the laughs that we all need right now and considers it the best job in the world.

I had a chance to talk with him recently (well... talk in between the laughter), and I got the chance to, as he put it, have a fun conversation - not an interview - which he said he thoroughly enjoyed. Foxworthy is like comfort food. Warm, inviting and addictive.

The comedian’s career started back in 1984 when he was working at IBM and a bunch of co-workers entered him into a stand-up comedy competition against working comedians, not amateurs, at a local comedy club. He won the competition, which was his first time on stage and the rest as they say - you got it - is history. From there he garnered much success as a stand-up comedian and has become the largest selling comedy recording artist in history by talking about and identifying with America’s blue collar nation. His first comedy album, “You Might Be A Redneck If...”, released in 1993 sold more than three million copies by 1996.

His most popular bit, “You Might Be A Redneck If...” is still a favorite, not by just fans and audiences everywhere, but by other comedians. Teaming up with comedians Larry The Cable Guy, Bill Engvall and Ron White in the early 2000’s, they traveled coast to coast for three full years bringing their Blue Collar Comedy Tour to sold out venues wherever they went.

Foxworthy has continued his comedy success through TV specials and shows, radio shows, producing, hosting game shows and writing, authoring 26 books and counting. As an enthusiast of the outdoors, this multi-talented entertainer has his own online company, Foxworthy Outdoors, which has Foxworthy-brand hunting and outdoor products, as well as webisodes documenting his friends’ hunting, fishing and land conservation journeys.

Our conversation was so much fun and I got many thoughts about his life, but I think the thing that means the most to him is his fans that have been with him through the years and he truly feels blessed and thankful for the life he has because of them. I think he summed it up perfectly saying, “At the end of the night if they’re walking out saying, ‘Oh my God I can’t remember the last time I laughed like that’, it was worth every bit of effort to me.”

.....

For more on Jeff Foxworthy visit jefffoxworthy.com.
For tickets and show info visit senecacasinos.com
and click on Seneca Allegany.

A Conversation with Jeff Foxworthy

HULICK: You’re doing a show on April 22 at Seneca Allegany Casino. Do you have a Buffalo or western New York connection?

FOXWORTHY: Through the years I’ve been up there a lot and I think it’s because it’s more like a blue collar city. I remember thinking the first time I played there that I’m a kid from the south, and I wondered is this going to work? And when I got there I was thinking hey they’re just like we are in the south with a different accent. (laughs)

HULICK: (laughs) Your jokes about upstate New York are hysterical. You have hit the nail on the head - the ones on the weather and how we handle it especially. My husband and I were heading to the store recently and it was 41 degrees and I said to my husband to be on the lookout for shorts and sandals. (laughs)

FOXWORTHY: (laughs) No kidding! And they do do that. (laughs) There’s always that guy that’s got shorts and a hoodie on and it’s like 12 degrees and I’m like... dude! Aren’t you cold? He’s like no I ain’t cold. (laughs) That’s not normal... it’s not OK!

HULICK: (laughs) My brother moved up here from Ohio and I warned him about the snow and the long winters and of course it’s impossible to make someone understand it. They have to experience it themselves.

FOXWORTHY: Well yeah. It depends on what you’re used to, because if we get a half inch of snow here in Georgia there will be 100,000 people dead! (laughs) We don’t have snow plows and all that stuff. I always say when we get an inch of snow you know in New York they got the TV on watching all of us driving into the ditch and walking home.

HULICK: (laughs) That’s too funny. You’ve done so many things in your career... stand-up, TV, producing, radio, you’ve written books... plus you have your own outdoor company. If you had to pick one of those things, what would you like to do the most?

FOXWORTHY: Well I will say this. I’ve always been creative. I write, I paint, I draw, I’ve invented games... and I’m very thankful that I’ve gotten to do a lot of different things, because creatively that’s fun to try something different, but if you put a gun to my head and said you couldn’t do but one thing, without a doubt it would be stand-up, which is kind of unusual because most people get into stand-up as a spring board for them to do TV and movies. Once they do that they don’t go back and do stand-up again. For me I just love that live aspect of it. I love looking in the people’s faces... you know two seconds after it’s out of your mouth if it’s funny or not. I’ve always done a lot of couples stuff - talked a lot about men and women and why does my wife do this and why I drive my wife crazy doing that, so when I’m looking out as I’m telling this stuff and you see people elbowing each other or they’re pointing at the other one you realize that - oh I’ve taken a part of their real life that they don’t think of as funny and made them laugh at themselves. There’s so many different ways to do stand-up, but that’s the way I want to do it. I just assume that if I think something or my wife says something, or my family does something I just assume other people are thinking and saying and doing the same thing. So when they come backstage and say... oh my gosh you’ve been in our house... that’s just such a great compliment to me. You made them laugh at themselves.

HULICK: We need you guys more than ever these days...

FOXWORTHY: It’s a very weird time in our country. We’ve lost the ability to laugh at ourselves and now we live in a world where everyone has to be right. That’s why people beat each other up on social media is they have to be right. Well when you have to be right that means somebody else needs to be wrong and no one wants to engage in a conversation where they have to be wrong. One of the advantages of age is you realize that, hell I’ve been wrong about so many things in my life. There’s things I argued vehemently against when I was 20 that I now argue vehemently for. The truth is we’re all wrong about something and we’re all wrong about a lot of somethings and so if you give up that need to be right, and if you have that ability to laugh at yourself, I think it makes it all so much easier because that’s what comedians do... they’re truth tellers. We hold things up and think why do we do this? Does anybody else have a mother that does this? Or does anybody’s husband do this? That’s what connects us and that’s what stand-up is all about is geographically we may be from different places but it’s finding those common threads that we have. We’ve kind of lost that and we need to get back to that.

HULICK: I know. Things are so different these days in many ways. Then you add in being “politically correct” and you get slammed around every corner you try and turn.

FOXWORTHY: Right! I don’t have to agree with you, and I’m not offended if you believe something, but you don’t have the right to make me believe the same thing. It’s very funny actually because comedians think about words; you know that because you’re a writer, and I think it’s very ironic that we live in an age where people are screaming for tolerance and diversity but the minute somebody doesn’t think, vote or act like they do they want to ruin their life and ironically that is neither tolerant or diverse. What makes life go round is we’re not the same. God infinitely created a million different trees and a million different fish and it would be awfully boring if we all looked and voted and thought the same way.

HULICK: Was there a moment when you knew you made it?

FOXWORTHY: Yes, I think for me it was... of course young people wouldn’t understand this, but when I grew up it was being on Johnny Carson. When you went on his show they would tell you that if Johnny doesn’t like your stand-up routine at the end of your six minutes he would just clap. If he likes you he’ll give you that big OK sign, and if he loved you he’ll call you over to the couch for a chat. When I got to the end of my six minutes I was scared to look because it was kind of like Caesar deciding do I live or do I die.

HULICK: (laughs) Thumbs up or thumbs down.

FOXWORTHY: (laughs) Yes. When I looked he was waving me over to the couch. A few years ago I was doing the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon and one of the producers came up to me and said they had gone back through some of the old files and they’d found this, as he handed me this 8x10 picture of me sitting on the

Jeff Foxworthy Interview” continued page 12

COMMUNITY

Letter: Thank You For Your Support to Help Canines in Need



It's because of all your support and kindness that Willow and I were able to do something so special for such a deserving family. Meg and her parents melted my heart this week with their passion and generosity to help animals in need and just being all around wonderful people.

Megan has dreamt of having her own rescue since she was a kid and her dreams are so close to becoming a reality with this beautiful property they acquired in 2019. Willow and I got to take a tour of the property and the barn that will house dogs later this year. I can already picture all the happy dogs running through the rolling fields, swimming in the pond and hiking through the miles of trails. Pieces of the land are named after dogs that impacted Meg's life and lead her down this path. I couldn't help but tear up when her mom asked me why I would do something so nice for people I've never met before. It's always been because I love animals and to help people who selflessly look out for them.

As we've done the past few years now, Willow and I have custom created and sold inspiring Willy-Goat Adventures calendars featuring Willow and her canine friends, with all proceeds going towards animals in need. This year we chose Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary to help them in their quest to get established. And this year, just like years past, we hit our goal!

Willow and I would not have been able to raise \$1,000 for Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary, Inc. if it weren't for our community's generosity and support! Read more about CCLS and their mission on their website (celebrationofcaninelives.com) and give them a follow! There's also an option to donate on the site if at some point you can help out. No amount is too small and I wholeheartedly know that it will make an impact on Meg and her family and the future dogs of CCLS.

- Ashley Baron and Willow

JEFF FOXWORTHY INTERVIEW

cont. from page 11

couch talking to Johnny and Johnny had his head back and his mouth was wide open laughing. They asked me if I would like to have it and I teared up. That was a million years ago and I had nothing from that first time on the show and I said to them, you don't know what this means to me, because that was my whole goal in life at that point, and I remember going home that night and laying in bed thinking... I don't have a plan... that was all I ever wanted to do.

HULICK: (laughs) Now what, huh?

FOXWORTHY: (laughs) Exactly! Now what?

HULICK: We still watch that show on one of those retro stations and it is just so funny how people acted back then.

FOXWORTHY: He was the best. He knew how to make everybody look good. He didn't have to top you, he was happy with promoting you.

HULICK: What is the funniest joke or one liner that you heard another comedian say?

FOXWORTHY: Jay Leno told me one not long ago (going into his best Jay Leno imitation)... You know people always say they can't remember... meaning you'll be on stage for an hour and a half and people will come back after the show and say I couldn't stop laughing and I can't remember a thing you said. So he goes on to say here's a joke that's totally clean and short and easy to remember. A man and a woman were married for 30 years and the woman passed away. When they were carrying her casket into the church for the funeral they cut a corner too sharp and banged it against the wall. They heard this muffled voice, so they set it down and opened it up and she was alive! She sat up, she climbed out. She lived for 30 more years and then she passed away and as they were carrying her casket into the church the husband shouted... watch the corner... watch the corner! (laughs)

HULICK: (laughs) Oh my God! (laughs)

FOXWORTHY: (laughs) And it's totally clean, but it's funny. He told me that and I stood there and laughed for five minutes. I said to him... that's brilliant! (laughs)

HULICK: Jay just played at the same place you're going to play.

FOXWORTHY: He's never going to quit. There's a few of us like Seinfeld and Jim Gaffigan that are that way thinking stand-up is the greatest thing in the world. We do it because we absolutely love it. People ask me why I don't retire and I say because I still love doing it. I've always had this fear that I didn't want to be the person that stayed at the dance too long. I didn't want to be that comic where people would be saying... oh my God, do you remember when he used to be funny and he's not funny anymore. My wife always tells me that if I listen closely to the audience they will tell you and you're not there yet because they are still laughing hard.

HULICK: You know what Jeff? When that time comes maybe they're not laughing because they've changed, not you.

FOXWORTHY: I hadn't even thought about that... and they have changed... it's a different environment. You know 20 years ago I never edited when I was writing. I'm not cruel or mean natured so if I said something that would hurt somebody's feelings I wouldn't say it. But now you find yourself in an environment where as I'm writing everything down long hand - yes I still do that before I put it in the computer - I'll find myself hyper focusing on it making sure there's nothing there that somebody's going to get offended about and comics shouldn't write that way. I know I'm not alone in that because my friends are saying they find themselves doing the same thing. I think we're taking ourselves too seriously.

HULICK: I agree. I interviewed Larry The Cable Guy a few years back and I asked him what the funniest joke or one liner he's heard another comedian say and he said right away... I have one you can print and one you can't because you'll get in trouble.

FOXWORTHY: Hopefully it swings back because we're all idiots and none of us have life figured out. What you find as you age is some things aren't worth fighting about, it's not worth getting worked up about.

HULICK: There's two things I could not do without in a day and that's laughter

and music.

FOXWORTHY: They're both that release valve that keep you from going crazy. I am so blessed because both of my girls live 10 to 12 minutes away and when they come over, which is usually about every day, we're always laughing... always laughing, and I'm so thankful to have a life like that.

HULICK: The fact that your life includes making other people laugh, it doesn't get better than that.

FOXWORTHY: Yes, and I've always viewed it that way. I never felt like I had a job. I have the greatest occupation in the world. I love what I do. Sometimes I think... don't say that out loud because they'll make you get a job picking up heavy stuff. Just keep your head down and your mouth shut until they catch on.

HULICK: (laughs) Did you always want to be a comedian? Were you funny as a kid?

FOXWORTHY: I was always funny. I grew up in a little blue collar town and I didn't know that being a comedian was an option. As a kid I would save my allowance and I would buy comedy records. In the early days it was Flip Wilson, Bob Newhart and Cosby and I would memorize them and I would go to school and perform them. I was a good student; my report cards were good, but it was said that I was always trying to make everybody laugh and I talked too much. I didn't think that was a career option, I always thought you had to go do a job you didn't like, which I did. The only reason I ever went on stage was because I was working at IBM fixing machines and I worked with a bunch of guys that went to the comedy club all the time and they kept coming to work saying... Foxworthy you're funnier than these people and you need to do this. They entered me in a comedy competition. Not for amateur night, this was a competition for working comedians and I was like... crap you all... I don't even have material! I went home and wrote five minutes about my family and I went on stage and I was a nervous wreck, but I knew a minute and a half into it... I thought this is it... this is what I want to do. Mark Twain said one time that the two biggest days of your life are the day you were born and the day you figured out why. This was me figuring out why I was born, this is my gift. I won the competition that first night on stage. I remember driving home beating on my steering wheel saying... oh this is it! I quit my job at IBM. My mother's first question was... are you on the dope? Whatever the dope was!

HULICK: (laughs) No way!

FOXWORTHY: (laughs) I said no and I think I can do this. Five years later I was on Johnny Carson. The first thing my mother said about that was... well you know you wasted all those years at IBM.

HULICK: (laughs) Oh my God! (laughs)

FOXWORTHY: I'm like, oh for crying out loud mother... you can't have it both ways.

HULICK: (laughs) She's your mother and she's thinking I'm going to have the final logical word. That's hysterical!

FOXWORTHY: A-b-s-o-l-u-t-e-l-y!

HULICK: How did your show, "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader" come about?

FOXWORTHY: Mark Burnett called me and asked if I would ever consider hosting a game show and I said no. I don't think so. It just seems cheesy to me. I asked what the premise was and he said adults taking an elementary school test for a shot at a million bucks. I started laughing and said that's brilliant because everybody's going to think they can do it. So I thought that I could still be funny while good naturedly ribbing people. So we did it for six years and I loved doing it. I never would have thought I'd enjoy something like that. I said early on I don't know why my brain has hung onto all the lyrics from the theme song from Gilligan's Island, but it deleted everything about triangles. Your brain's like... we don't need that so get rid of it, but keep the Gilligan's Island thing... we might need that.

HULICK: (laughs) Jeff I have had so much fun talking to you and I can't wait to see you on April 22. Do you have a message for your fans that will be coming out to see you?

FOXWORTHY: Yes. I'm so grateful to them that because of them I have been allowed to do this for so long and I've never taken that for granted. I'm always thinking about how can I put a night together that they'll be glad they came. I don't take for granted their time and their hard earned money they spend on me.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE, NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ellicottville on Tuesday, April 18th at 6:00 P.M. in person located at One West Washington or via zoom, go to <https://www.ellicottvillegov.com/village.html>. At the Public Hearing the Village Board of Trustees will receive comments on: A Local Law #2 of the year 2023. This Local Law shall be known as "Amendment to the Zoning Map of the Village of Ellicottville as it pertains to 7 East Washington St. (SBL 55.036-1-23.1)".

VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE – NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ellicottville on Tuesday, April 18th at 6:00 P.M. in person located at One West Washington or via zoom, go to <https://www.ellicottvillegov.com/village.html>. At the Public Hearing the Village Board of Trustees will receive comments on: A Local Law #3 of the year 2023. A local law of the year 2023 Amending Local Law #1 of the year 2019 entitled "zoning local law" as amended from Time to time.

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POSITION AVAILABLE: If you're looking for a position that pervades every facet of the tourism industry and allows the most room for movement and advancement, a career at the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce may be the option for you. From being part of an exciting, fun and busy office environment, assisting in producing and presenting 18 annual events and festivals and working with our team creating social media marketing campaigns, you will always be busy.

Experience in social media and Microsoft office products is a must, as is a great personality.

You will be part of a community culture that attracts over 1.5 million visitors annually and grows in leaps and bounds. The successful applicant requires a good knowledge of Ellicottville and the surrounding region and must be comfortable in communicating with a large membership.

For more information on a career with the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce or to schedule an interview, just drop us an email at info@ellicottvillenyc.com.

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING: SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

The Ellicottville Central School District has an anticipated opening for a full-time Speech Pathologist with a start date of September 2023. Minimum qualifications: 1) Master of Arts or Science Degree in Speech Language Pathology or Communication Disorders in Science, and 2) New York State license to practice speech-language pathology. Interested Candidates are invited to apply at: <https://ellicottvillecentral.recruitfront.com/JobOpportunities>. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 19, 2023. EOE

COMMUNITY

THE FITNESS CENTER AT ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL (weight room) is now open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (on days that school is in session) from 4:00-7:00pm through May 31. Individuals must sign in each time. For additional information, please contact the school at 716-699-2316.

STUDENT COUNCIL HOT DOG SALE: On Tuesday, May 16, the Ellicottville Central School student council will host a fundraiser in front of the school from 11:00am-6:00pm. For a \$5 donation enjoy a hot dog, chips, drink and dessert! Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY

BLOOD DRIVE: The American Red Cross will host a Blood Drive on Friday, April 21 from 1:00-6:00pm in the community room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 6360 Route 242, Ellicottville, NY. You can schedule your appointment by going to redcrossblood.org.

OPEN HOUSE: Please join us at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cattaraugus County, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, for an Open House and Dick Rivers' retirement party, 4:00-7:00pm. It will be a great time to honor Rivers' years as executive director and tour the newly renovated building. Refreshments will be available.

SNOWMAKERS BALL

Event Next Week; There's Still Time to Donate Auction Items!

Villaggio's Annual Snowmakers Ball is happening Thursday, April 20 from 5:00-9:00pm, to honor those who make Ellicottville's ski season possible. This is Villaggio's way of thanking all the snowmakers, groomers, lift operators, maintenance crews, office staff and others for all the hard work they put in throughout the winter months to make Holiday Valley and HoliMont great for visiting guests. The event is open to the entire community, so everyone can come out to show their appreciation for these heroes.

Restaurants from all over town are donating food (set up buffet style) and Tim Britt will be performing from 5:30-8:30pm. Local sculptor and winner of Food Network's "Outrageous Pumpkins" Eric Jones will be on-site doing free caricature drawings. There is no cover charge; however, donations are being accepted for the Frank Pitillo Memorial Lighting Fund, which is raising money to install new lights for Ellicottville Central School's football field.

Besides great entertainment and food, the Snowmakers Ball will feature a silent auction featuring some really great items donated by businesses, organizations and individuals throughout the Ellicottville community. Villaggio is continuing to accept donations for silent auction items; those who would like to contribute can contact Andrea Austin via email at andrea@villaggioevel.com or call the restaurant at 716-699-2199 to make arrangements for drop-off or pick-up.

ELLICOTTVILLE LIBRARY

Spring Activities for Both Kids and Adults!

Spring is officially here and the weather is (finally) warming up. The changing of the seasons doesn't just bring green grass and pretty flowers; it also signals new activities and programs at the Ellicottville Memorial Library. They've got a lot of great things going on, so let's explore!

Back for 2023 is the Adult Reading Challenge. One year, 12 books (or a book a month) based on that month's theme. The challenge for the month of April is "Read a Book Because You Liked the Cover." Once you've completed the challenge, just stop in to the library and fill out a drawing slip. (It doesn't matter if you missed the first couple challenges, anyone can jump in at anytime.) The challenge is always listed in the library's newsletter, so make sure you are signed up to receive it!

Tuesdays at 2:00pm are always a great time to bring your kids (or yourself) into the library for Crafts with Cathy. And Wednesday is Story Time from 9:30-10:00am. For additional activities, head to the library's website, ellicottvillelibrary.org. The Ellicottville Memorial Library is located at 6499 Maples Road, phone 716-699-2842.

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@j_kruzin: Sunrise hike at Holiday Valley. #evlnow #holidayvalley @ellicottvillenow



@ellicottvillefarmersmarket: IT'S OFFICIAL!! The EFM Community Herb Garden at the Nannen Arboretum is a go for Summer 2023! #freshherbs



@sk8evl: The Grindline crew is back at it! #evlnow



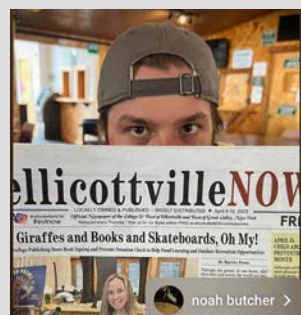
@hiyfarm: A brisk WNY day outside. #farmlife #wnyspring



@ellicottvilleNOW: Lunch time craving? Burritos, beers and bikes. #evlnow #shoplocal #eatlocal #ellicottvilleny



@snowbeltgardens: Holy Oyster Mushrooms! #harvest #evlnow



@rainingken: Hiding behind my favorite paper! #evlnow



@caitysogreaty: A rainy afternoon with our giraffe friends #powerpoems #ellicottvilleskatepark #ellicottvillenow #bekind



@baroness_abcinema: Canine Lives Sanctuary #itsfortheanimals #animalrescue #evlnow #goodcause #savealife



@team_pritchard: Some sunny images from this past Easter #beautifulweather #springishere #evlnow #getoutside



@lexvogt: Not sure it gets better than this! #evlnow #holimont

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