

# Ellicottville **NOW**



LOCALLY OWNED AND PUBLISHED ♦ July 30-August 12, 2020

@evlnow ... Ellicottville's newspaper, published bi-weekly in print & on-demand online • subscribe at [ellicottvilleNOW.com](http://ellicottvilleNOW.com)

# FREE

## Take a Tour of EVL's NEW Publication

NOW is the Time ... Welcome to Your New Source for Local News, Events, Business Spotlights and More



photo/Jaimie Woodarek

BY BRENDA PERKS

Welcome to [ellicottvilleNOW](http://ellicottvilleNOW.com), published every other Thursday in print and on-demand online! Our team is made up of an amazing group of designers, writers, photographers, sales associates and distribution partners who all strive to create a cohesive media publication that encompasses what makes our region so special. Forging this new path will allow us to offer added media for extended, mobile-friendly readership, plus affordable advertisement visibility for our local businesses. And for those familiar with our previous publication, *SNOWED-IN* — you know, before the pandemic hit — you'll see some familiar features, including our Fan Photo Page, along with new additions, like our Classifieds and Community Bulletin. Go ahead, turn the page. Let's give you a tour.

... page 03

### Ellicottville Chamber Launches the EVL Pledge

The Chamber is finalizing their Fall promotional campaign focused on showcasing all the exciting things to do in Ellicottville, including chairlift rides, Sky High, and small events that some of the downtown businesses are planning to host.

To help bring visitors in, the Chamber is encouraging businesses take the EVL Pledge, an initiative to relay to visitors that Ellicottville businesses are doing their part to make people as safe as possible, by following mandates, wearing masks, and sanitizing regularly.

Chamber Notes ... page 04

### Working Remotely: A look at how one local insurance group is evolving

Ellicottville's Weed Ross Group, already an established insurance provider, continues to evolve in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. Owner Sean Cornelius, an avid snowboarder and a 3rd-generation insurance guy, calls Ellicottville home while navigating a market turned upside down. In a one-on-one interview, Sean shares with [ellicottvilleNOW](http://ellicottvilleNOW.com) how the insurance market has changed, some of the long-term effects he believes the pandemic will have on the insurance market, and how his operations have adapted to the limitations put in place during this challenging time. By Spencer Timkey ... page 07

### Walking 100 Miles with Finn

Bill Finnerty and his k9 companion are raising awareness and funds for Multiple System Atrophy (MSA); celebration set for Aug. 28th



@finnertysevents

BY MARY HEYL

On Aug. 28th, Bill Finnerty plans to celebrate the accomplishment of a special goal. Aug. 28th also happens to be his mother's birthday, and will ultimately become a belated mother's day for all at his restaurant (Finnerty's Tap Room). By Aug. 28th, Finnerty is planning to walk 100 miles in the name of multiple system atrophy (MSA), which his mother passed away from in 2013. Finnerty and his St. Bernard, Finn, are committed to walking 100 miles over the course of the month, donating funds raised to Defeat MSA Alliance, an organization that supports patients, educates medical professionals, raises public awareness and supports research for MSA.

... page 08



@ashfordstationbistro

### DINING OUT The Station: Farm-to-Table

It's not every day that a business celebrates its one-year anniversary in the midst of a global pandemic, but that's exactly what happened this year for the Ashford Station Bistro of West Valley. New businesses face numerous challenges in their first year of operation, and the fact that the Station addressed these in addition to COVID-19 restrictions is impressive, to say nothing of their delicious menu and summer plans. By Mary Heyl ... page 09



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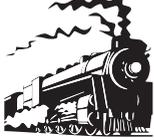
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# NOW *this ...* by Brenda

NOW is the Time ...

Welcome to ellicottvilleNOW. We have launched.



*Thank you.*

Thank you for picking up your first issue of ellicottvilleNOW. Thank you for taking the time to discover the dedication and passion that have been put into these pages for your enjoyment. Thank you for your support. Thank you so much.

Although this is the 1st edition of our brand-new publication, it certainly isn't my first rodeo. As many of you know — and for those being introduced for the first time — I published 3 seasonal newspapers that promote Ellicottville and Cattaraugus/McKean counties (SNOWED-IN, FORE! Golf NY/PA and The Summer Local). Launching in 2010, these newspapers were released monthly until, you know, the pandemic. But the past few months have been critical for me, my family and my publications. It's given me time to reflect. This community means so much to me, and I want to serve it more consistently — thoroughly examining the people, businesses and vibe that make this place tick. And in light of the crippling effects COVID-19 has had on the local economy, I feel a certain responsibility in helping to reignite the fire.

With that, I am thrilled to introduce ellicottvilleNOW. We have officially launched.

ellicottvilleNOW is a bi-weekly publication available in both print and on our brand-new website! I'm so grateful for the people that have helped me get to this point. My amazing co-pilot and assistant designer Meaghan Lucarelli, our team of writers, photographers, sales associates and distribution partners who all strive to create a cohesive media publication that encompasses what makes our region so special. Forging this new path will allow us to offer added media — more photographs, long-form feature pieces, in-depth coverage — for extended, mobile-friendly readership and affordable advertisement visibility for our local businesses.

We are locally owned and locally operated. Our mission is to promote current news, events and activities in Ellicottville and the surrounding areas, and promote the unique businesses that make our area a sterling tourist destination. ellicottvilleNOW is published every other Thursday, year-round, and is available for free in print and online at ellicottvilleNOW.com.

So here I am, at it again. And oooh baby it feels good! I've come a long way since 12-year-old me was delivering the daily news to homes in my childhood neighborhood. I've come a long way since landing at Special-E-facts in 1999 as an assistant to its publisher, Hank Dubey. Since 2005 as a co-creator of The Villager. Since 2010 and SNOWED-IN, FORE! Golf and The Summer Local. This is my livelihood, and it gives me profound joy to promote this vibrant village and our neighboring communities. There's a level of satisfaction that can't be put into words when it comes to playing my part in helping support and promote our local businesses, our leaders, members of our community and encouraging visitors to our area. I am proud to live, work and raise my family here. Ellicottville is my home. It's my perfect fit.

I hope you enjoy the ride as much as I will.

B-

*Brenda Perks is the owner, editor and designer of ellicottvilleNOW and owner of Design Perks, a graphic design company affiliated with the local media/marketing agency, PandaGoat Media. You can reach Brenda at [brenda@ellicottvillenow.com](mailto:brenda@ellicottvillenow.com).*



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# MEETING NOTES

## CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce discusses festival cancellations and proposes smaller themed activities; encourages businesses to take the EVL Pledge

BY BRENDA PERKS

The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce invited Chamber members to their monthly membership meeting July 22, 2020. The meeting was held at the Wingate.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Barb Pump, Project Development Manager, shared with those present that members can now opt to pay their membership dues on the Chamber's website, via the "Join" tab on [ellicottvilleny.com](http://ellicottvilleny.com). New memberships can also be completed online via the "Join" tab.

### FALL FESTIVAL

According to Brian McFadden, Executive Director, the Chamber Board has been discussing Fall Festival for several weeks now, but it came down to crunch-time last Thursday, when a final decision regarding the cancellation of the event had to be made. As Brian explained, "The Chamber needs to apply for licensing and permits for Fall Festival at least 90 days prior to the event. With the current situation and the health risks involved due to Covid-19, the state and health departments are not issuing permits for any of these types of events. It just can't happen."

Since the Chamber announced the cancellation, there have been many comments circulating on social media. Brian reported that although there have been a few negative comments, most have been positive. As Brian explained, the health and safety of the community members, business staff, and visitors is #1 priority, and without the proper permits and licensing, there's nothing they can do about it anyway. Brian shared with the group that there is still tremendous opportunity to attract Fall visitors, and that he has heard from many local businesses that surprisingly, weekday numbers have been very good. Laura Solly (Daff) agreed, sharing that she has had many weekday shoppers in her store.

### THE EVL PLEDGE

The Chamber is working with videographer Ashley Baron (ABCinema / PandaGoat Media) on commercials promoting Fall visits and all the exciting things to do in Ellicottville, including chairlift rides, Sky High, and small promotions that some of the downtown businesses are planning.

To help bring those visitors here, Barb expressed that it is important that businesses do their part in helping to showcase the cleanliness of our village by following mandates,



In place of this year's Taste of Ellicottville, the Chamber is proposing a week-long promotion to encourage people to frequent the downtown district with the idea that restaurants could offer their fan-favorite Taste foods from previous years, on specific days of the week, or as a special plate.

wearing masks, sanitizing regularly, and by taking the EVL Pledge.

The EVL Pledge is an initiative the Chamber created to relay to visitors that Ellicottville businesses are taking the proper precautions to make people as safe as possible, so people coming to Ellicottville can enjoy their visit with peace of mind. Any business can take the EVL Pledge by going onto the Chamber's website and filling out the Pledge form. Once your business takes the Pledge, you will receive a Pledge poster to display in your storefront window, and your logo will be included on the Chamber website.

Barb encourages EVERY business to take the Pledge. "The more businesses that are on-board, the better it will represent Ellicottville as a safe place to visit." On the Pledge poster is "OUR PROMISE" ... As Barb explained, "'Our Promise' means that you care about those people that are coming into your business. You're letting people know that you're doing what you're supposed to be doing according to state and federal guidelines."

"When visitors walk down the street, they're going to look for the places that look the safest," said Brian. "I think we've done a really great job downtown to show that we are following the rules and that we're doing as much as possible to be safe." Brian and Barb reported that the number of Guide requests that the Chamber has received in the past month has gone up significantly, and clicks on the "How to Get Here Link" on the Chamber's website are up 160%, indicating how many folks are looking for a small town getaway.

"Chamber Notes" continued page 10

## VILLAGE BOARD

Business from the floor brings public questions at July meeting;  
Village holds public hearing on new refuse law

BY CAITLIN CROFT

The July meeting of the Ellicottville Village Board started with Business From the Floor, where the challenging party in the September Mayoral Election, William Coolidge, had six questions for the Board.

The questions are listed as received by the Village Board in an email from Coolidge, and the Board's answers follow.

Coolidge: Why is it that Finnerty's is utilizing the parking spaces still when there is inside dining allowed? Is the Village responsible if someone gets injured or worse? I know you all know I am very much against those spots to begin with as are many village residents.

Village Board: Restaurants are only at 50% capacity and are still allowed to use their approved outdoor seating. The liability is on the driver of the vehicle if someone is injured and advising on a hypothetical scenario has its inherent difficulties. (The Board advised they are not the governing body over restaurants and their procedure and should be taken up with the governing body - State Liquor Authority - if there are perceived violations.) Coolidge responded, "So you want me to blow a village business in?" (To this, Village Board member Greg Cappelli reiterated, "If they are violating their approved layout, the liability would be on the business owner and the driver in a hypothetical accident.")

Coolidge: Why are we paying Niles still when he's serving for the Coast Guard? Why

are we not letting him go and filling his spot if that's what is needed? \$1,000 a week is a lot of money to pay someone that's remotely working. Also, is it a conflict for him to be doing both?"

Village Board: Niles Pierson (Town/Village Engineer) is working remotely as the Town and Village navigate the interviewing process. He will be let go when the transition has been made. The pay for the Town/Village Engineer is split between both municipalities. It is not a conflict of interest as Pierson cleared this with his commanding officer.

Coolidge: I would like to know what is happening with the Burrell Cutlery property. Why do we own it and are we responsible for the toxic cleanup? Also, are we responsible for the back taxes? There are a lot of questions regarding this property. Also, is it a conflict as well?

Village Board: The former Burrell Cutlery building was owned by JB Capital Management for nearly ten years when the Village acquired the property. The sitting Mayor was not involved with this company and the acquisition was spearheaded by Deputy Mayor Cappelli. The back taxes associated with the former owners were forgiven by the County because the plan is to tear the building down and create Village Municipal Parking, something that is needed and a demand in the village. There is not a conflict because the current mayor was not associated with JB Capital Management.

Coolidge: Why are we paying overtime to DPW full-time guys to come in and water the flowers over the weekend? I was told that the lesser paid part-time workers do the work of the higher paid guys during the week so we save money and it's more cost efficient that way. So are the higher paid workers not working? Are we not paying them still? Yes it's confusing but that's how it was explained to me.

(Clarification was asked by the Board to the nature of the question. Coolidge asked to ex-

"Village Board" continued page 10



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# BUSINESS

## WORKING REMOTELY

Ellicottville's Weed Ross Group, already an established insurance provider, continues to evolve in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. Owner Sean Cornelius, an avid snowboarder and a 3rd-generation insurance guy, calls Ellicottville home while navigating a market turned upside down.

By SPENCER TIMKEY



### Interview with SEAN CORNELIUS

**eNOW:** What led you to the insurance game?

**S. CORNELIUS:** I grew up around insurance. My father is still a State Farm agent in Erie, PA and has been since 1983. My grandfather also ran a claims office out of Kane, PA for State Farm. I started working in insurance in 2004 handling hurricane claims for State Farm in Florida as an independent contractor with Crawford and Company. I then got hired directly by State Farm and joined their National Catastrophe Response team in 2005. I met my beautiful wife in 2007 and left State Farm for Travelers Insurance so I could be with her in Miami, FL while she finished graduate school. I traveled all around the country in my 20's assessing claims that arose from any number of natural disasters - hailstorms, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes.

In 2010, after marrying my wife and convincing her to leave sunny Florida for the mountains of western New York, I moved back and landed in Ellicottville. I had grown to love Ellicottville while attending St. Bonaventure University, snowboarding regularly at Holiday Valley, and working as a ski tech at Mud, Sweat 'n Gears while I was in college. In April 2010 I started working on the agency side of the industry and I haven't looked back since.

**eNOW:** Within the last few years, you've expanded on your operation, adding additional offices around WNY. How did that come about?

**S. CORNELIUS:** Weed Ross had such a solid foundation in Ellicottville. John Weed started the agency back in 1957 and Gary Ross took over in the mid-80s, so I really wanted to build upon their tradition but also make it my own. I took over in March of 2016 when Gary Ross retired. From the beginning I knew I wanted to have more than one office location. The stars aligned and another Bonas grad, Joe Palumbo, began working with me from the analytics side of the business and eventually made the leap to the agency side. After a short while together we knew this was a great partnership and in January 2019 Weed Ross Group was formed with the acquisition of our second agency. Since then we have acquired four more agencies in the WNY area and currently operate offices in Ellicottville, Randolph, Batavia, and Orchard Park. We have had great success in growing our business while keeping the connection to the local communities. We continue to look for opportunities to expand Weed Ross Group in WNY and the surrounding areas.

**eNOW:** What kind of insurance do you offer?

**S. CORNELIUS:** We offer just about everything. Auto, home, motorcycle, ATV, boat, snowmobile, life, and commercial insurance. We insure a variety of businesses in WNY including restaurants, contractors, sporting goods stores, breweries, and schools to name a few. We also specialize in secondary and seasonal homes, insuring many ski chalets and lake houses in communities throughout WNY. As an independent insurance agent, Weed Ross Group works with over 40 different insurance companies to provide our customers with the most choices and best options.

**eNOW:** Some of your marketing includes using your two sons, Harrison and Finn, often kitted up in their snowboarding equipment. A family-owned business usually resonates well with the market. How do you use that to your advantage when you're competing with the big guys?

**S. CORNELIUS:** Well, the two of them are cuter than I am. Insurance has been in my family for three generations so far and I am hoping that Finn and Harrison will make it four. We want people to know that we understand them and their need for protection (and if you know Finn and his daredevil tendencies, you know he needs all the protection he can get). Nowadays we have more clients than we used to, but I still give out my cell phone number to any client that wants it and it is on our machine at night. The big guys won't do that. And let's be real, Weed Ross Group is nothing without the team. I am lucky to have a great team. I have folks on my team that have worked for Weed Ross for 30+ years and I know that there is no substitute for experience. Having a team with a diverse industry background really gives us an advantage. Weed Ross was recently recognized in Buffalo Business First as being one of the largest agencies in WNY (number 23). I am very proud of that and very proud of the team that helped us get there.

**eNOW:** Expanding on my last question - how do you compete? In an age of digital and instant gratification, what strategies do you use to encourage the market to work through you?

**S. CORNELIUS:** We use agency automation, technology and data to our advantage in a way that not a lot of agencies our size are using it. The creativity with technology has allowed us to really become one office. Four physical locations operate as one team and that has helped Weed Ross Group expand in the market while retaining the feel of a small local agent. We started implementing many tech upgrades to our business model well before the current global situation and it keeps getting more relevant. I also think that culture plays a huge role. My team really cares about our clients; we want them to know that when they are with us, they will be taken care of, we will respond to them in a timely manner, and they won't have to be transferred around or put on hold. Weed Ross Group is in a unique position as we are small enough to care and really connect with the client but big enough to advocate for our clients' needs with insurance carriers.

**eNOW:** Now, to the elephant in the room. COVID-19 has completely turned our world upside down. But companies and businesses are learning to rapidly evolve. What are some of the things you're doing to overcome the limitations the pandemic has placed on us?

**S. CORNELIUS:** Before COVID I would tell you that the insurance industry was creeping along at a snail's pace when it came to technology. Weed Ross Group had identified this problem years ago and positioned ourselves well in terms of technology from the beginning, understanding that tools to increase efficiency, security, convenience, and service benefit our clients in many ways. And when COVID hit, our preparation paid off. We have been able to seamlessly transition from an in-office presence to a remote system that has not missed a beat. We use a variety of internal communication systems, e-signature software, and collaborative platforms to work with our clients both near and far. Especially with the border closures and people sticking close to home, Weed Ross Group has a technological infrastructure in place that can service clients wherever they are. We recognize this is an incredibly tough time for our clients both personally and professionally, and we are working hard to make sure our clients feel

"Weed Ross Group" continued page 13

# ENTERTAINMENT

## STROLL THE STREETS

Free entertainment for families every Friday evening in downtown Ellicottville



BY LOUISA BENATOVICH

Slowly emerging from its sanitized cocoon of solitude, Western New York yawns, stretches, and takes tentative steps into the sunlight. After months of attempting new hobbies and trial subscriptions to everything on the Internet, we have finally been able to enjoy the summer outdoors.

Ellicottville's socially distanced Stroll the Streets has been a weekend highlight for happy wanderers - visitors and locals alike. The perfect remedy for a long week of work readjustments and human interaction, this weekly event is the ideal tail-end of a day spent hiking the Holiday Valley slopes or playing golf. Every Friday from 5:00-8:00pm, the town's businesses spill onto the sidewalks of Ellicottville's downtown, showcasing their wares, offering samples, and hosting drop-in activities. Be it sidewalk chalk, sponge candy snacks, or sips at the winery, Stroll the Streets is fit for all ages.

Within the business bustle, the Stroll also boasts face painting, balloon twisting, a fantastic farmers market (4:00-7:00pm), and live music every week. Buskers and bands serenade the streets as the sun sets gently over the hills. It is truly special, even for those experiencing Ellicottville as their every day.

"It is a great way to enjoy a Friday night with your family!" says Carla Kruszynski, a long-time Ellicottville local and mother-of-three. "The entertainment is always interesting and often interactive. Sometimes we will go to dinner and then for a stroll. You are guaranteed to bump into some friends along the way."

In light of Covid-19 regulations, Stroll the Streets sponsors - the Rotary Club of Ellicottville and M&T Bank - are working closely with event organizers to ensure visitor safety and security.

"We are limiting our entertainment this year to a smaller number, allowing people to be able to social distance better," says organizing committee member and Ava Grace Fashions owner Jessica Gilbert. "Our face painters and balloon twisters have guidelines from the CDC and state levels."

The Ellicottville Farmers Market (EFM) enforces similar regulations, mandating face-masks to be worn by vendors and customers at all times, maintaining distance between tents in accordance with CDC guidelines, and ensuring that plenty of hand sanitizer will be on hand, if you will, donated by the Ellicottville Distillery.

"The Ellicottville Farmers Market is a place that aims to provide an open air, community setting that allows local vendors to showcase their hard work, goods, and produce," says Caitlin Croft, the market's organizer and spokeswoman. "Giving a platform for local producers to sell their goods makes our community that much more connected."

The market, situated snugly in the grassy space in front of the 1887 Building, hosts an expansive variety of WNY growers, producers, foragers, and kitchen geniuses. Jamestown's BioDome, Ellicottville Greens, and Om Nohm Gluten-Free Bakery grace the star-studded list of vendors, alongside anticipated newcomer Perfectly Blended Farms and morel aficionado/Fungus Goddess, Quincy Widger.

"Stroll the Streets may be a little more low-key this year," acknowledges Jessica Gilbert, "but we know so many people who look forward to this on a weekly basis."

Join neighbors, friends, and newfound acquaintances at Stroll the Streets, each Friday evening through Aug. 28th. With ice cream, fresh produce, and balloon animals in [sanitized] hand, unmask the true beauty of Ellicottville's enchanted hills ... with masks on, of course.

## WALKING 100 MILES WITH FINN

Bill Finnerty raising awareness and funds for MSA, celebration set for Aug. 28th



BY MARY HEYL

Whether you left it in the dryer, in the pocket of yesterday's jeans, or in a different car or purse, the realization that you've arrived mask-less at your destination is an awkward one. That is, unless your destination is Finnerty's Tap Room at 5 E. Washington St. in Ellicottville.

"If you need a mask, just ask," is owner Billy Finnerty's new motto. "We don't want people to feel uncomfortable if they come out and realize they forgot it."

For Finnerty, providing masks is about taking care of the community and is an important part of his and the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce's pledge to keep Ellicottville safe and healthy. "If someone is traveling to eat at our place and they forget their mask or if they're in someone else's car and don't have it, we're not going to turn them away," said Finnerty. "For us, it's a small additional cost, but something we gladly take on to provide for our customers or anyone if they need a mask. Get one here and go enjoy the town!"

Providing masks is just another way Finnerty continues to make all feel welcome in his pub, which opened in 2016. Finnerty reflected on his first few months in business. "The way people came back day after day literally got us through, and we've got friendships everywhere." From Rochester to Salamanca, to Erie, Pennsylvania and beyond, even Finnerty's earliest customers feel as local to him as those who live in town.

These past few months have reminded him of those early days, as many of his original local customers continued to support Finnerty's even when it was only open a few days each month. "We lost our Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day crowds, which for Finnerty's was huge," he recalled. Although Finnerty's was closed for a time, the pub gradually reopened a few nights a month for Friday fish fries.

Finnerty said, "We opened up slowly to three days a week, and now we're at four days: from Friday through Tuesday in August. We're bringing back Sundays, and I'll be tending bar in the afternoon - hopefully there's a football season!"

Whether one is traveling from near or far to enjoy a local brew or meal at Finnerty's, "You're going to be treated like a local here," he said. "For people who live here or those who have canceled their vacations, there's not a better staycation than Ellicottville!" In fact, no matter where you live, all you have to do is mention you're a local at Finnerty's, and you'll receive a 10% discount on your bill.

A great day to stop by is Aug. 28th, when Finnerty plans to celebrate the accomplishment of a special goal, his mother's birthday, and a belated mother's day for all. By Aug. 28th, Finnerty is planning to walk 100 miles to raise money and awareness for multiple system atrophy (MSA), which his mother passed away from in 2013. A Parkinson's-plus disease, MSA is often misdiagnosed as Parkinson's disease (PD) or dementia, as it is a neurodegenerative disorder that has similar symptoms. However, as its name implies, MSA affects many body systems and is far rarer and more severe than PD, so proper diagnosis is key; the earlier a patient is diagnosed, the better.

For eight years, Finnerty's mother was misdiagnosed with PD. "If I would have known what it was, we could have fought it in a very different way when we had a chance to fight it a little better," said Finnerty, who took care of his mother until she passed away. "She fought the whole way; she danced in my and my brother's weddings. She rallied, but there were over a dozen hospitalizations. With COVID-19 right now and immune

"Finn's 100 Miles" continued page 13

# DINING OUT

## ASHFORD STATION BISTRO

All Aboard for the Station Bistro's Summer Offerings



By MARY HEYL

It's not every day that a business celebrates its one-year anniversary in the midst of a global pandemic, but that's exactly what happened this year for the Ashford Station Bistro of West Valley. New businesses face numerous challenges in their first year of operation, and the fact that the Station addressed these in addition to COVID-19 restrictions is impressive, to say nothing of their delicious menu and summer plans.

Earlier this year, the Station closed for approximately one month and re-opened mid-April for take-out on Fridays and Saturdays. Since then, the restaurant has gradually increased its offerings and hours, while staying true to its farm-to-table roots.

Starting July 1st, co-owners Emily Tingue and Troy Skowronski have enjoyed serving both lunch and dinner indoors, on the patio and offering take-out from Wednesday through Saturday. In addition to the Station's signature farm-to-table meals, this summer includes car cruise-ins, live music and more!

"We've been farm-to-table since we opened," said Tingue. "We've created relationships with about eight to 10 rotational farms that supply all of our meats." Currently, the Station is working with Rise and Swine Farm in Franklinville and selecting their own meats and cuts through a USDA-stamped butcher.

According to Tingue, the restaurant's produce is "really local," and it doesn't get more local than Tingue's own backyard. Her Lucky Day Homestead in nearby Machias provides many of the herbs and produce for the restaurant. The Homestead also has a small Airbnb cabin that is available to rent, though rentals were on hold for part of this year.

"In doing that, it actually breathed new life into the Homestead again," said Tingue, who turned the cabin back into a pie station, which is how Tingue first began serving customers several years ago. Her roadside pie stand, which is licensed through the state department of agriculture, sold an average of 20 to 30 pies per week during the pandemic.

Now, Tingue is happy to be able to sell whole pies and serve by the slice at her restaurant and is gradually reopening the Airbnb. "The Homestead gives us the ability to make transitions, which I'm so grateful for," she said. In addition to providing a source of income through pie sales, the Homestead also provided Tingue with a guaranteed source of food for the summer and fall. "We knew we had lettuce, onions, herbs and more planted - produce that costs a lot," she said.

Tingue is proud to serve authentic, delicious food – a value that informed her upbringing on the very Homestead she now owns and operates. "I'm seventh generation," said Tingue. "I've lived here my whole life, but I've also traveled throughout the country and around the world."

In Tingue's home and her restaurant, "We do things from scratch. I render my own lard, use farm-fresh eggs and gather all of our ingredients locally." The restaurant's menu typically changes quarterly, as she follows a seasonal produce rotation. Right now, strawberry rhubarb pie is the seasonal delight, and Tingue looks forward to apple season this fall and making a customer favorite: Emily's French Apple Pie. A celebration of her French heritage, this pie features local apples, raisins, allspice and an orange vanilla icing. "I also make a salted pretzel crunchy peanut butter dark chocolate pie that's pretty intense, too," Tingue added.

Many know Tingue from the relationships she's cultivated in over 25 years working

"The Station Bistro" continued page 13

## CARSON'S BBQ COMING TO EVL

Ken Carson is Firing Up the Pit in Support of the Ellicottville Skatepark Project



By BRENDA PERKS

Four months. That's all the time that remains to raise as much funding as possible for the construction of a permanent concrete skatepark in Ellicottville. The clock is ticking, and the Ellicottville Skatepark Committee (SK8EVL) is in high gear to meet its goal, which turned nearly impossible overnight, when our nation came to a standstill this past March.

Rewind: Summer 2018, a group of local skateboarders met with Ellicottville officials to discuss a grant opportunity to bring a state-of-the-art outdoor skate facility to the Village Park. The Tony Hawk Foundation and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation have teamed up to offer up to \$250,000 in matching funds to qualifying communities across western New York in their mission to help these communities build quality skateparks that are open to the public and free to use. With support from Ellicottville's Village Board, Ellicottville applied for and received grant approval last November.

The challenge: Raise the full match. \$250k. Under the grant contract, the Foundations only allow one year to fundraise. This puts Ellicottville's fundraising deadline at Nov. 30, 2020.

Four months.

With much support received early on, SK8EVL was on the fast track for advocacy and awareness. Ellicottville Mayor John Burrell and the Village of Ellicottville committed \$20k to the project. The Rotary Club of Ellicottville followed suit with another \$20k. Ellicottville Town Supervisor Matt McAndrew expressed his support in also providing financial assistance (amount TBD). Top it off with raffles held over this past ski season and generous donations from Ellicottville's full-time and part-time homeowners which continue to come in, and the project is closing in on \$80,000 to date.

But SK8EVL still has a long way to go. Throw in a pandemic, resulting in the cancellation of pretty much every event on everyone's summer radar, and the SK8EVL committee found itself in a race to navigate new ways to fundraise.

Enter Carson's BBQ.

Covid-19 may have taken away many of summer's enjoyments, but the one thing it hasn't surrendered, is your traditional summertime chicken BBQ. From now until Fall, you can undoubtedly find a roadside BBQ stand on any given weekend. Take a drive on the 219 north of Ellicottville and you'll see Ken Carson and his team (including his mom on occasion) serving up chicken and rib dinners most Saturdays and Sundays, typically selling out within just a couple hours. Anyone familiar with the Carson family and their restaurant, Carson's Ashford House (owned by Ken's dad, the late Joel Carson), can attest to their mouth-watering reputation. Although the restaurant (which established its roots in Ellicottville back in the early '70's) is no longer in operation, Ken continues to satisfy the cravings of long-time customers throughout the surrounding communities with his on-site BBQ pit and catering service. Lucky for Ellicottville, he is bringing his pit to the village for one day. Mark your calendars NOW.

On Saturday, Aug. 8th, Carson's staff and members of SK8EVL will be set up at the Village/Town Hall (across from the post office), dishing out to-go dinners fresh off the grill, from 11:00am until gone. Get your filling of a half chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob, and butter with roll for \$14.00. As a supporter of the Ellicottville Skatepark, Ken is generously donating all profits from the day to the skatepark fund. SK8EVL will

"Skatepark" continued page 14

# HEALTH & FITNESS

## The "New Normal" at Gyms and Studios

By **KIM DUKE**, CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER, CORE PERFORMANCE



Having no other option but to workout at home was definitely one of the many downers of the shut-down due to Covid-19. But exercise addicts who can't handle another Zoom class spent hoisting soup cans instead of free weights are eager to enjoy dedicated workout space and real equipment. Outdoor classes are being taught and indoor classes/training has to be drastically modified.

To combat high-risk factors associated with gyms/studios - close quarters, bad circulation, mouth breathers, gruntes and locker rooms - many gym/studio owners have had to step up their sanitation procedures. Most have slashed their capacity by 50%, some have mandated masks to be worn while training or have their trainers only wearing a mask. Gyms/studios have 'pods' where participants are required to stay during fitness classes/training. And one gym owner I know has even set up sweat shields between cardio equipment.

No matter how diligent the new procedures are, you can take a few simple measures to protect yourself.

First, remember to bring your own water bottle, towel and simple equipment like mats and resistance bands. Do not share equipment like dumbbells, benches, and medicine balls, and sanitize before and after using.

At Core Performance, only personal training is occurring. Each client is screened before stepping into the studio and their equipment is all set out, sanitized and ready for use. After my clients finish their customized workout, I complete all the sanitizing and use different equipment and different sides of the studio space for proceeding clients.

Since this virus still has so many unknowns and gray areas, it is always best to be cautious. This means if you are not feeling well, please stay home. At this time, working through an illness is not recommended and could potentially be dangerous to those who come in contact with you.

Still, one in four Americans say they'll never return to the gym, according to a survey by market research company OnePoll. If you're brave enough to head back, you'll likely enjoy more space, clean equipment and peace of mind - at least until everyone else gets sick of doing dumbbell presses with Minestrone.

*Kim Duke is a certified personal trainer and owner of Core Performance Fitness and Training located at 55 Bristol Lane, Ellicottville, NY. Kim resides in Ellicottville where she raised her two sons, Zach and Nik. For more information about her studio visit her Facebook page or [www.coreperformancefitness.com](http://www.coreperformancefitness.com). Reach Kim at [kduke65@gmail.com](mailto:kduke65@gmail.com).*

### CHAMBER NOTES

cont. from page 04

Laura Solly (Daff) suggested that businesses post photos on social media of their staff in masks and using the hashtag #evlpledge to help grow awareness.

### FOOD AND WINE WEEK

In place of this year's Taste of Ellicottville (which is also cancelled), the Chamber is proposing a week-long promotion to encourage people to frequent the downtown district for their dining pleasure, Aug. 7th-16th. The idea is for restaurants to offer their fan-favorite Taste foods from previous years, on specific days of the week, or as a special plate. To add to Food & Wine Week, it was suggested that restaurants could partner up with one of the shops, and diners would receive a coupon or voucher to that shop with their check.

Bill Finnerty (Finnerty's Tap Room) suggested doing a promotion where if someone dines at X number of restaurants during that week, they would be entered into a draw-

ing for a gift basket with gift certificates and goodies donated from local businesses.

Barb plans to reach out to Chamber members to see who is interested. The Chamber will need the majority of restaurants to agree to participate by July 29th or they will not proceed with the promotion. Once details are organized, the Chamber will begin a promotional campaign, which will include designing an event poster listing all participating businesses, social media campaign, etc.

### OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Rock 'N Roll Weekend: Cancelled. However, it was proposed that Ellicottville host informal Cruise Nights one day a week during September, open to anyone that wants to bring their cars down to display. Michael Sherburne (Wingate Hotel) offered the Wingate parking lot as potential space, depending on dates/times and space availability.

Golf Outing: Barb announced that the Chamber Golf Outing is a GO. It is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 10th at Holiday Valley. Foursomes can sign up at the Chamber office or on the website at [www.ellicottvillenyc.com](http://www.ellicottvillenyc.com).

### VILLAGE BOARD

cont. from page 04

plain how the duties are administered and why part-time help doesn't perform these smaller tasks all week. Mark Chudy fielded this question and advised there is a rotating schedule for employees who work weekends and extended hours. Chudy also advised that the one part-time summer employee would not want to come in 7 days a week nor would any full-time employee. That is why there is a rotating schedule.)

Coolidge: Garbage is not getting picked up properly. I have seen many instances when garbage bags rip open and it's everywhere. They leave it on the road as well. I'm not opposed to the garbage rate increase but I believe we should be what we pay for.

Village Board: Currently today we are addressing a new Refuse Law that will give "teeth" to enforcing the garbage problem the village has.

Coolidge: I would ask that the Village make Rockwell a no heavy truck street. Semis come up and down the road and can't make the turn at either end so they cut the corner and either take out the sign on Mill and Rockwell or they go over the catch basin at Park and Rockwell. Trucks have a perfect and safe route from Mill to Maple and can turn around on Park and head back the same way.

(The Board advised they would look into this matter and get some answers for Coolidge.)

Coolidge thanked the Board for their time and advised he had to sign off for another meeting and would be looking into any questions he had further.

Next, Caitlin Croft (author) spoke outside of her reporting duties, as a village resident, to

thank the Board in regard to the work the engineering department has done. Over the years she saw how forming a standalone engineering department freed up functionality of the Board and allowed for better budgeting as Nussbaumer & Clarke was not charging for services per project. She also noted how from a Planning perspective, the GIS program and project Pierson spearheaded is invaluable for future projects.

The meeting continued with the Public Hearing on the new Refuse Law, Local Law No. 2-2020 (Solid Waste Management). The major change to the new law is that containers will now be required for garbage pick-up and if they are not used, the homeowner will be issued a ticket which will result in consequences such as warning and/or fines. The fine structure has yet to be determined. There were no comments from the public or written comments received.

Engineering Report: Currently the Town/Village Engineer is working remotely, while serving in the Military, until a replacement is found. The initial interviews have been conducted and the field has been narrowed.

Special Events: The Village Board is working on finding a new Board member to serve as the head of the special events committee since former Trustee, Spencer Murray's resignation.

Old Business: There was a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Refuse Law. There was a motion to approve Local Law No. 2-2020; a second and ayes carried. There was a motion to extend the moratorium on Short Term Rentals through 12/31/2020; a second and ayes carried.

New Business: There was a motion to accept Joe Nosbisch's resignation from the Village Zoning Board of Appeals; a second and ayes carried. There was an inquiry to host a tournament at the Village baseball fields but they are not ready for use.

The next meeting of the Village Board will be held virtually on August 18, 2020 at 6:00pm. Contact the Village Clerk for information on how to connect.



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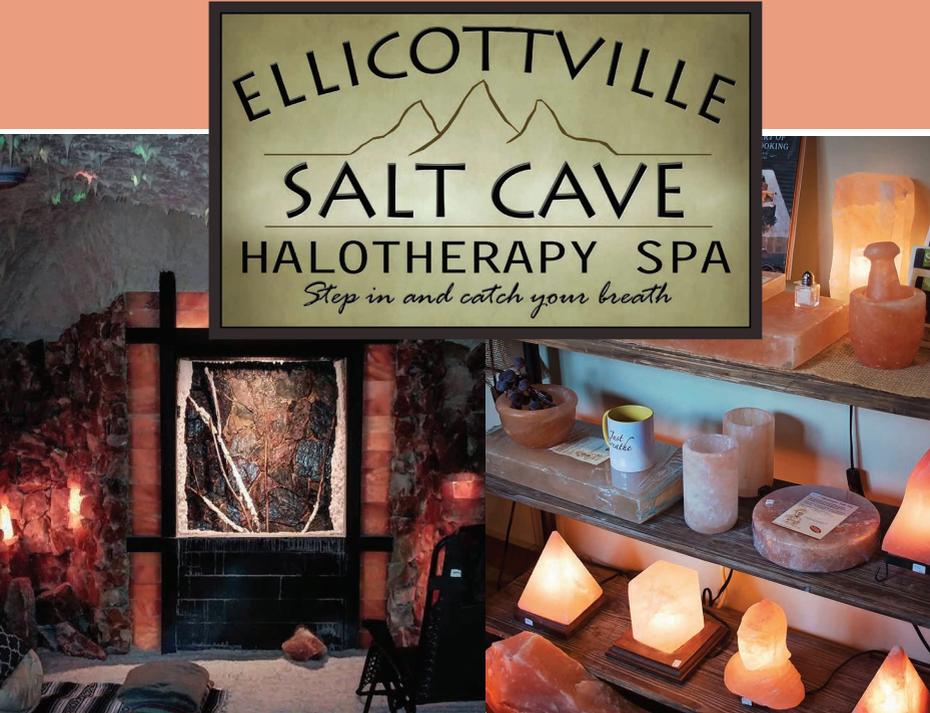
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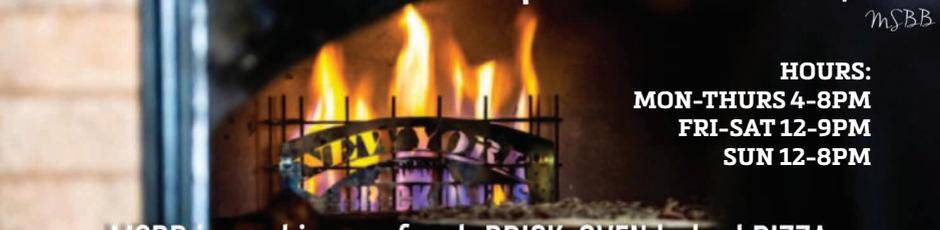
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## WEED ROSS GROUP

cont. from page 07

protected, have access to their agent when needed, and do our part in the world to keep people safe.

**eNOW:** Has the insurance market changed because of COVID? Not just operationally, but the way insurance companies are offering coverages?

**S. CORNELIUS:** The market has changed and is continuing to change. New types of businesses are emerging, and existing businesses are pivoting to keep afloat. Insurance companies set the price based upon historical data, so this has thrown them for a loop. I was recently speaking with an industry expert and his projection is that it will be harder to place business insurance and the price will increase as we move forward. But on the flip side, insurance companies have been offering flexible payment options and there was even a give-back of some of the cost of auto insurance to the policyholder. So, this is a moving target and Weed Ross Group is doing everything we can to stay up-to-date on the information and think outside the box to meet our clients' needs.

**eNOW:** What are some of the long-term effects you believe the pandemic will have on the insurance market? If any, how does a local agent like yourself stay ahead of the game?

**S. CORNELIUS:** I think placing insurance for certain businesses is going to become more difficult, but I am seeing great examples of businesses being flexible and adaptable in this situation and that tends to serve them well. Weed Ross Group continues to be creative in the ways in which we serve our clients. One of the biggest assets we have is that we work with over 40 insurance carriers and we have more options for clients than most local insurance agents in WNY. My team is also doing more trainings and taking classes to stay up-to-date on the changes brought on by COVID. Their knowledge and experience are a valuable resource. And Weed Ross Group is also working hard to give back to the communities we work in, whether it be through donations to food pantries, gifts to the local library, or even an addition to a goody bag for graduating seniors. We realize this time has been hard for so many for a variety of reasons and we want to do our part to help our community come out of this as strong as possible.

**eNOW:** Favorite snowboard in your quiver?

**S. CORNELIUS:** You saved the hardball questions for last ... It would have to be the latest addition to the quiver which was an awesome gift from my amazing wife. The Jones Storm Chaser 160; it is the ultimate powder board. I last rode it at the end of February when Ellicottville was hit with the huge snowstorm and it just floated down the mountain. I can't wait to be out there again on that board and my fingers are crossed that winter is good to us this year in many ways!

*Weed Ross Group operates offices in Ellicottville, Randolph, Orchard Park and Batavia. Learn more about Weed Ross group at [weedross.com](http://weedross.com) or email [info@weedross.com](mailto:info@weedross.com) to connect with Sean and his experienced staff.*



@weedrossgroup

Above: Sean (left) with business partner, Joe Palumbo.  
Below: A member of HoliMont, Sean enjoys snowboarding with his family, wife Erin, and two sons, Harrison and Finn.



## FINN'S 100 MILES

cont. from page 08

deficiency, awareness for people with MSA is really important."

Finnerty and his St. Bernard, Finn, are committed to walking 100 miles over the course of a month to raise awareness and money for the Defeat MSA Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization that supports patients, educates medical professionals, raises public awareness and supports research for MSA. Donations can be made on Finnerty's Facebook fundraising page #FinnFightsMSA. In just the first two days of his 100-mile challenge, donations surpassed Finnerty's \$1,200 goal. "I can't wait to see where this goes!" he said.

Visit Finnerty's Tap Room on Friday, Aug. 28th to celebrate 100 miles, enjoy live music by Tui Osborne, participate in raffles, and enjoy a special Mother's Day dinner or drink.

"Anyone can bring their mom," said Finnerty. "She eats free. Stop by for fun, music, and a day where we can honor our mothers, wives, anyone who's such an important part of our lives and the reason we're on the planet: the people who raised us. It's a big deal to let moms know how important they are in this day and age, especially all of the roles they've taken on during this pandemic."

For more information, follow Finnerty's Tap Room on Facebook or visit them on the web at [finnertystaproom.com](http://finnertystaproom.com).

## THE STATION BISTRO

cont. from page 09

in Ellicottville's restaurant scene. Throughout the years, she has worked at or managed several restaurants, including Ellicottville Brewing Company, Silver Fox Steakhouse, Adventure Bound on the fly, Lola's and more. Now, Tingue is proud to own the Station, which is the first restaurant in West Valley in 25 years.

She and Chef Skowronski are excited about seeing familiar and new faces again. A great night to stop by is Wednesday, as the Station is hosting cruise-in nights and live music every Wednesday through September. "We invite folks to come, enjoy our outdoor dining and fresh punch from our gardens," said Tingue. "Troy has been making street tacos and pulled pork sliders; people can eat, snack and enjoy the cars!" Cruise-in nights have been well attended, and Tingue says it's been a fun socially-distanced experience for all.

"Folks have expressed to me daily how excited they are that we're doing things that they feel comfortable and safe with," said Tingue. "We were only a year open, so it was, emotionally, a really difficult time to be closed. To have people back in and see their faces is absolutely wonderful. We are loving it!"

Check out the Ashford Station Bistro and Lucky Day Homestead on Facebook, where menus, photos and updates are posted regularly. The Station, located at 5386 Depot St. in West Valley, is open from 11:00am-8:00pm Wednesday and Thursday, and from 11:00am-9:00pm on Friday and Saturday. Those interested in off-premise catering can call the Station at 716-942-3040 or email Emily at [ashfordstationbistro@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordstationbistro@gmail.com).



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## EMPLOYMENT

**GOLF CART ASSISTANT.** The Holiday Valley Golf Shop is in need of 2 to 3 cart people to assist with customer service. The employee will be transporting golf carts, carrying golf bags, and doing various jobs at the driving range. Previous golf knowledge is good but not necessary. This full or part-time position is open through the end of October. Apply online at www.holidayvalley.com or by contacting Customer Service at 716-699-2345.

**ELLCOTTVILLE COFFEE COMPANY** is looking for an admin asst/bookkeeper. 20 hours per week. Could grow into full-time position. Strong organizational skills a must. Please contact John Rounds for a confidential discussion, 970-376-2725.

**GADO GADO** 26 Monroe St. in downtown Ellicottville is looking for someone to join our team! Person must be available to work weekends. Please send email inquiry to gadogado98@hotmail.com.

**RENTAL AGENT FOR HOLIDAY VALLEY RENTAL MANAGEMENT.** A Rental Agent helps match guests' lodging and recreation requests to a Holiday Valley rental lodging property that fits their requirements. They also process reservations and cancellations and interface with rental property owners. Job requirements include strong computer skills, communication skills and a positive attitude. Accounting and hospitality experience is a plus. Apply online at holidayvalley.com

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN

## Ellicottville Gazebo Series

Free entertainment each Thursday, sponsored by CCSE Federal Credit Union

The Ellicottville Gazebo Series, presented by the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by CCSE Federal Credit Union, features free entertainment each Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00pm at the Gazebo in front of Village Hall. The partnership with CCSE Federal Credit Union has allowed the Chamber to bring first class regional entertainment to town for many years.

On deck for July 30th is Rock Angel, a dynamic rock-n-roll band out of Buffalo, NY featuring Maureen Gambino on lead vocals. Maureen delivers a powerful voice, pulling from music styles including rock, blues, funk and a bit of jazz from well known artists we can all relate to, including Led Zeppelin, Joan Jet, Pretenders, Bad Company, Blondie, Guns 'n Roses, The Who, Janis Joplin and more.

The 2020 Gazebo Series will wrap up its season with Second Act (classic rock) Aug. 6th, and Ellicottville's favorite party band, The Party Squad (classic rock/pop) Aug. 13th.

When attending the Ellicottville Gazebo Series, please remember to social distance, use a face covering, and use the hand sanitizer provided. Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on, as the Village benches are not available at this time. Picnic baskets and refreshments are welcome on the gazebo lawn area only. For more information about the Gazebo Series, call the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce at 716-699-5046 or visit ellicottvillenow.com.

## BBQ for CF

Chicken dinners in Salamanca to raise funds for Bradley Poole and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

A drive-through BBQ in honor of Bradley Poole, who ran 266 miles earlier this month to raise money and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis, will take place on Sunday, Aug. 2nd from 11:00am-2:00pm in the empty lot next to McDonald's, Salamanca, NY. Some tables will be set up for those who want to stay and chat, per social distancing guidelines. Dinners are \$12 each and will include a 1/2 chicken cooked onsite by The Legacy Restaurant, salt potatoes, macaroni salad, and dessert. All proceeds will be given to Brad to use towards the CF Foundation. For additional details, search the event on The Legacy Restaurant's Facebook page.

## SKATEPARK

cont. from page 09



also have t-shirts available, and information about the skatepark project for those wanting to learn more.

Chicken dinners will be offered on a first-come first served basis. Cash and credit card, PayPal and Venmo accepted. The public is reminded that masks are required when social distancing cannot be maintained; this includes approaching the vendor to purchase dinners.

Learn more about the Ellicottville Skatepark Project at sk8evl.com. Or better yet, let your sense of smell lead you to dinner-made-easy on Aug. 8th and talk with advocates first-hand.

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careyannwelch: The soul that sees beauty may sometimes walk alone ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe #evlnow



rickmack6150: Happy Birthday, America #happy4thofjuly #evlnow #holidayvalley



chrisperks\_716: Been building MB trails @holimont Not a bad office out here. #mountainbike #evlnow



ellicottvillenow: It's a great weekend to spend up in the trees. #skyhigh #holidayvalley #evlnow #getoutside #adventurepark #summer



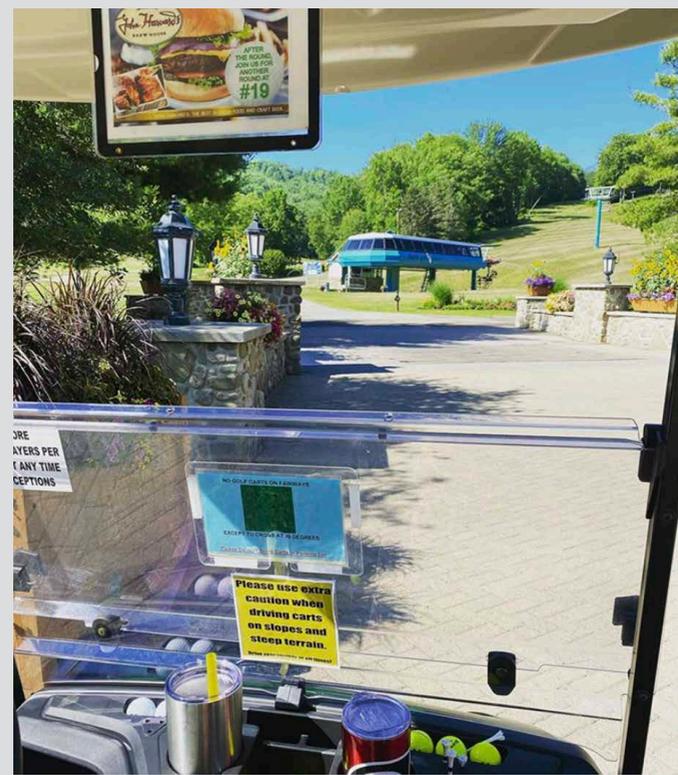
robert\_kuechle: Today's hike in the woods #evlnowedin



ryderroxadventures: There was a little adventure bear roaming around the woods. #littlerockcity #adventurebaby #evlnow @emountains



rickmack6150: #fireworks @holidayvalley #evlnow



andrea.solar.716: I spy a snowflake less than six months away #evlnow #holidayvalley #myhappyplace



teampritchard: playing under the moon at @balloons\_evl #evlnow

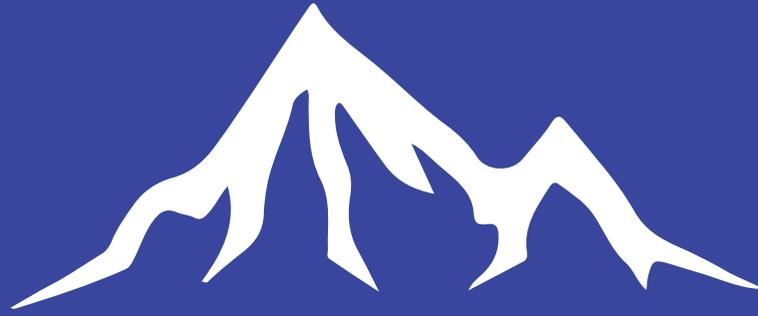


shannonlshepherd: #crayfish #pinehollowretreat #evlnow



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