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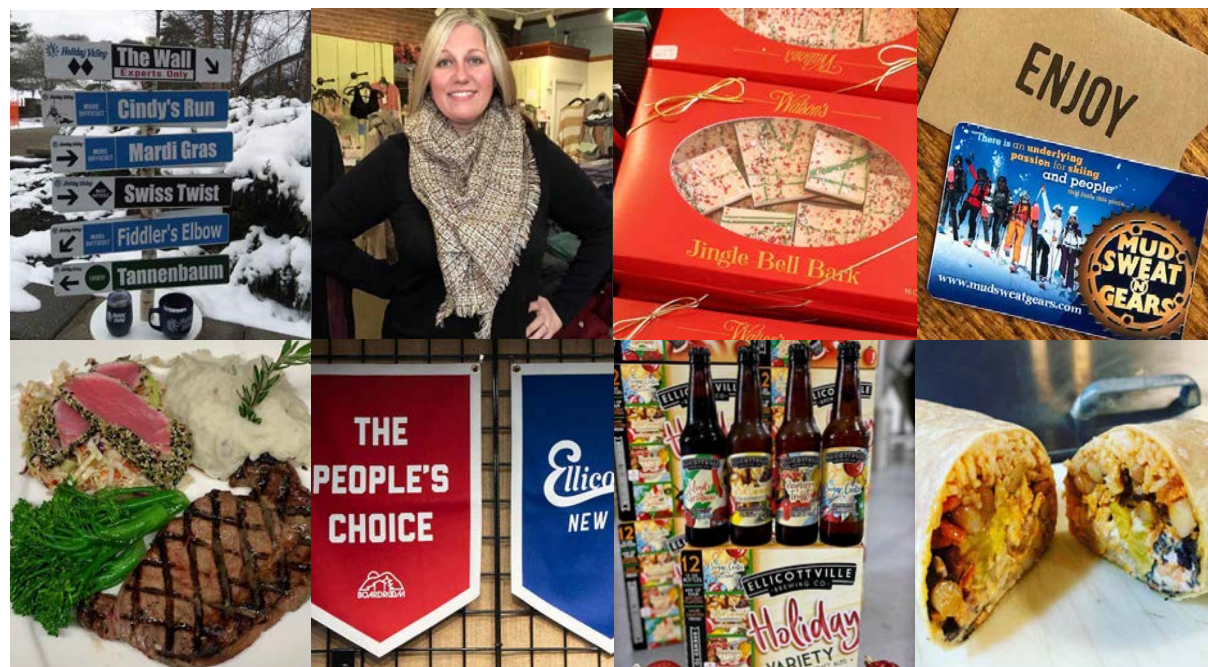
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Support Small Business: #SHOPLOCAL

This Holiday Season, Shop & Dine at Independently Owned Businesses ... They are Depending on Us



BY SPENCER TIMKEY

As each day of the pandemic passes, the beating heart of America — small business — beats a little weaker. Since the pandemic began, almost 100,000 American small businesses have closed. Permanently. If this number — where each represents someone that poured their heart and soul and courage into chasing the American dream — doesn't break your heart, check your pulse. Small business owners have been backed into a corner, following rules from a government that has abandoned them in their most dire time of need. This holiday season, our small businesses are depending on us. A dollar spent locally is a dollar earned locally, and that isn't cheap talk. When you shop and spend at a local business, you help keep the cycle going.

... page 03

Irish Christmas Auction Items on Display at Local Shops & Restaurants

In keeping with tradition, the Rotary Club of Ellicottville is continuing Bob McCarthy's Irish Christmas fundraiser. Similar to years past, handcrafted items are paired with fabulous baked goods from local donors, however, this year, the event will run a little different. "We will combine the best of silent/live and online auctions," the Rotary Club explained. "We have over 20 auction pieces that are on display at participating restaurants and businesses in the village. You can place your bid in-person, or view and bid online. It all culminates in an FB Live Auction set for Dec 18th."

... page 04

Festival of Lights: Christmas Displays from the Safety of Your Car

This holiday season is different. Creativity mixed with "different" sparked the creation of a holiday season of safe, family-friendly activities for all to enjoy in the nearby Allegheny National Forest Region. The McKean County Fairgrounds has been turned into a winter wonderland of light displays which may be viewed from the safety of your own vehicle as you drive through the fairground. Other festive activities planned for the month of December include a Backwards Christmas Parade (also enjoyed from your car) and an Old-Fashioned Christmas in downtown Bradford ... page 10

Inside the Classroom: Blessing Bags

Ellicottville Students Assemble Holiday Care Packages to Donate to The Genesis House of Olean

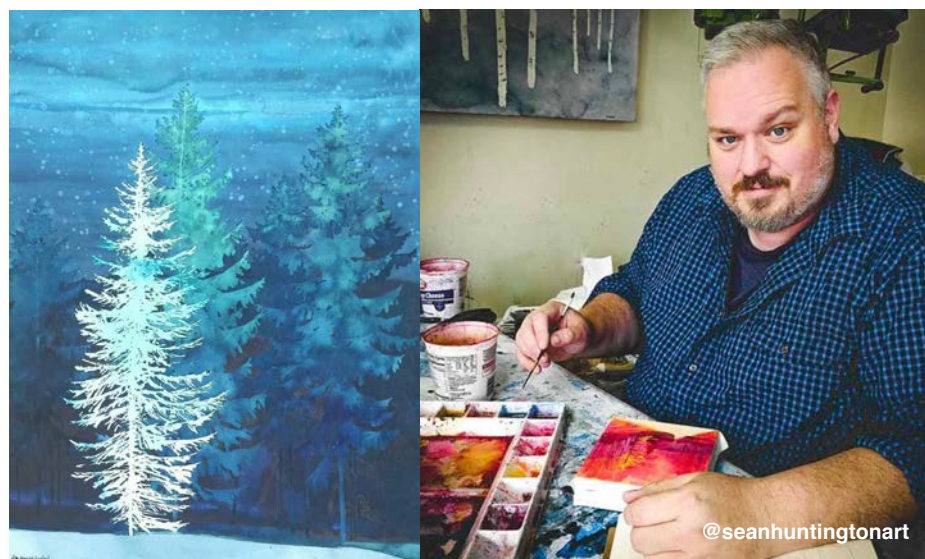
BY MARY HEYL

Genesis: it's the origin or creation of something new. Now that the end of 2020 is nearly here, "genesis" - a new beginning - takes on an entirely different meaning, for we are all figuring out a new way of living, communicating, and learning amidst a global pandemic. For Kristin Rocco, a special education teacher at Ellicottville Central School, COVID-19 has been the catalyst for a brand new learning experience for her students, one that also gives others in the greater community a fresh start. "When COVID hit, it threw a wrench in many of our life skills activities that we do. I was struggling to figure out how we can provide authentic work and vocational skills for my students in a safe way."

... page 04



photo courtesy Kristin Rocco, Ellicottville Central School



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25 DAYS OF MINIS: SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISTS

By Trevor Brachmann ... The Christmas season is here, and so is your opportunity to find a special and unique gift for the art lover in your life. Welcome to "25 Days of Minis", an online gallery of affordable artworks from 45 talented artists. We reached out to one of this year's participants, Sean Huntington, to hear more about the initiative and what to expect ... page 07

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YOU Must Be the Difference.

As each day of the pandemic passes, the beating heart of America — small business — beats a little weaker.

There is no corporate bailout slush fund, no backdoor Wall Street political connection to stay afloat. Washington leadership squabbles, concerned more with pointing fingers than helping the people they claim to serve. Nationwide, cases surge and lockdowns return, each representing one of the metaphoric Four Horsemen depending on your point of view. Vaccines — and with them, a prayer to end this madness — lie just beyond the horizon, yet still too far to counteract the crippling effects COVID has wrought upon us.

Since the pandemic began, almost 100,000 American small businesses have closed. Permanently. If this number — where each represents someone that poured their heart and soul and courage into chasing the American dream — doesn't break your heart, check your pulse.

Our community — every community — relies on small business. Entrepreneurs cut our hair, pour our drinks, sell us our ski and snowboard equipment and print our local papers. They create jobs. They represent the very best of free market capitalism. Without them, we will crumble.

I understand how easy Amazon is. One-click shopping, instant search results and two-day shipping sends us down a rabbit hole of online shopping. But Amazon's Jeff Bezos is currently on track to become the world's first trillionaire (with a T) by 2026. Amazon will also rake in \$0.42 of every dollar spent this holiday season. Let these numbers sink in. Bezos, and Amazon, represent the very worst of free market capitalism.

This isn't a diatribe about online shopping platforms. This is a plea. Small business owners have been backed into a corner, following rules from a government that has abandoned them in their most dire time of need.

This holiday season, our small businesses are depending on us. A dollar spent locally is a dollar earned locally, and that isn't cheap talk. When you shop and spend at a local business, you help keep the cycle going.

Shopping at big box stores is easy, but shopping at small businesses is critical. You might need to drive to a store for curbside pickup. You might need to search a little harder for that thing you want. You might even need to pick up the phone and speak to someone, which is something humans still do from time to time. Who knows? You might even be the difference.

A graduate of St. Bonaventure University, Spencer Timkey is an Ellicottville native who works at The Boardroom Snowboard Shop. An ardent supporter of small business, he writes on retail, lifestyle and local business.

ELLICOTTVILLE GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce has started a new gift card program allowing you to purchase \$25.00 Gift Certificates to your favorite local businesses for only \$20.00 each! Not only are you saving money, but you are also helping our community and the friends you have made here. Log onto www.ellicottvillenyc.com to view participating businesses and purchase gift cards for all your friends and family this holiday season. #shoplocal #supportsmallbusiness

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THE GIFT OF GIVING

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Bid on handcrafted items and help the Rotary raise spirits this holiday season



SUBMITTED BY ROTARY CLUB OF ELLICOTTVILLE

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY - Bob McCarthy's Irish Christmas, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellicottville, is normally held as a live event at Ellicottville Brewing Company in late November/early December. "It is an honor to continue this tradition for Bob, who touched so many in our community," says the Rotary Club. "We know it will never be the same since his passing, but the dedication Bob showed to this event and the program it benefits inspires us to continue with this 'Magic' event."

It was McCarthy who said, "I love doing Irish Christmas, which is a night of Irish magic. I don't know how the magic gets there, but it just does. That's the beauty of it!" Well this year we need a little more of that magic to help guide our way.

"We decided it does not make sense to do the traditional live event," states the Rotary Club. "However, we want to keep the spirit alive for 2020 as we continue to support two critical programs, Santa's Workshop & the Sheriffs Santa Program. This is especially important in light of the challenging circumstances for most families in need this year, so we have re-imagined Bob's Irish Christmas with a unique approach."

In keeping with tradition, the Rotary will auction off McCarthy and McCarthy-like pieces paired with fabulous baked goods from local donors, however, this year it will run a little different. "We will combine the best of silent/live and online auctions," the Rotary Club explained. "This year's donations have been awesome! We have over 20 auction pieces that will be on display at participating restaurants and businesses in the Village."

Bidding and winning an item will be simple: You will have three ways to bid:

1. You will be able to view and bid on each item displayed at any one of the locations using the bid sheet.
2. You can view any or all pieces at the Rotary's online auction site: Brookslefeberauctions.com or ellicottvillerotary.com
3. Be part of the final online auction on Friday, December 18th at 7:00pm.

All guests who have experienced the frenzied bidding at the live event in past years know this is the favorite part of Irish Christmas. The Rotary Club of Ellicottville will do their very best to duplicate the excitement with a Facebook Live auction at 7:00pm on Friday, December 18th. Auctioneer Brooks Lefebber will be conducting a Facebook Live and online auction at his website. All items will open with the highest bid recorded in the business location and the winning bidder will take home the piece.

As in previous years, each auction item will be accompanied by a fabulous baked pie, cake or dessert, homemade by Ellicottville's best bakers. Those desserts will be represented by a photo and to ensure that they are provided fresh on auction day for the winning bidder. So remember to view the fabulous offerings displayed at the individual locations and online from November 27th through December 18th. A list of all these auction items is published on the two websites listed above so you can peruse at your leisure. Each location will have a list of participating restaurants or retail outlets, along with a little surprise for patrons.

"We guarantee you will love the unique handcrafted auction pieces, so make sure you check them out!" For additional details, look for posters displayed in storefront windows throughout the village, or call Rotary member Greg Cappelli at 716-474-7832.

"The Rotary Club's Family Support for Ellicottville thanks all for supporting this local tradition to help make Christmas a little nicer for those in need."

BLESSINGS IN A BAG

Ellicottville students assemble care packages to donate to the Genesis House



BY MARY HEYL

Genesis: it's the origin or creation of something new. Now that the end of 2020 is nearly here, "genesis" - a new beginning - takes on an entirely different meaning, for we are all figuring out a new way of living, communicating, and even learning amidst a global pandemic. For Kristin Rocco, a special education teacher at Ellicottville Central School, COVID-19 has been the catalyst for a brand new learning experience for her students, one that also gives others in the greater community a fresh start.

"When COVID hit, it threw a wrench in many of our life skills activities that we do," Rocco explained. "I was struggling to figure out how we can provide authentic work and vocational skills for my students in a safe way while following all of the new COVID-19 mandates."

Rocco, who teaches the only self-contained middle/high school classroom in the district, incorporates service learning each year with her students. During a typical school year, her students work in the cafeteria in various capacities and run a coffee cart, in addition to their academic work. Last year's community service project involved collecting, organizing, and shelving donations for the Great Valley food pantry.

"Due to the restrictive nature of COVID-19, we can't do any of these things," Rocco explained. "It's hard for my students to understand why we're not doing the things that we usually did, but we talk about the fact that there are lots of precautions about COVID-19."

Although most of the district follows a hybrid learning model, Rocco's students come to school every day, and she was determined to find a meaningful service-learning project for them to participate in this year. Rocco said this year, she and her students have asked district faculty and staff for donations of hygiene products, such as shampoo, soap, and personal care items for "Blessing Bags" to donate to the Genesis House of Olean. The Genesis House provides safe, temporary housing for children, single adults and families, along with nutritious meals, opportunities for medical care, and connections to outside agencies.

"These bags can easily be handed out to clients to help provide what they need during their stay," Rocco said. "Putting the bags together has helped my students practice a lot of skills, such as sorting, reading labels, and many different executive functioning and vocational skills that we don't always recognize the importance of being practiced." Each bag has a tag that states what students should put inside. "They read them like a menu and fill them with what is needed and check the items off," Rocco added.

So far, Rocco has already dropped off 30 bags to the Genesis House, and she plans to continue the project with her students throughout the school year. "I'm so glad that we were able to do this," she said. "Overall, it's a great opportunity for my students to learn about giving back and talk about those who may be in a position of need this year. I'm really passionate about giving my students hands-on, meaningful activities. This is something that students in my program can carry with them into adulthood."

The response from the Genesis House has been enthusiastic! "The staff there is very thankful," Rocco noted. "I'm sure they've had an influx of need this year, and I'm sure they'll see that continue."

Rocco is accepting donations from the community for the blessing bags. While there are restrictions on visitors coming to the school, Rocco is happy to coordinate drop-offs for donations. Those who are interested in donating personal hygiene items can email her at krocco@ecsny.org.



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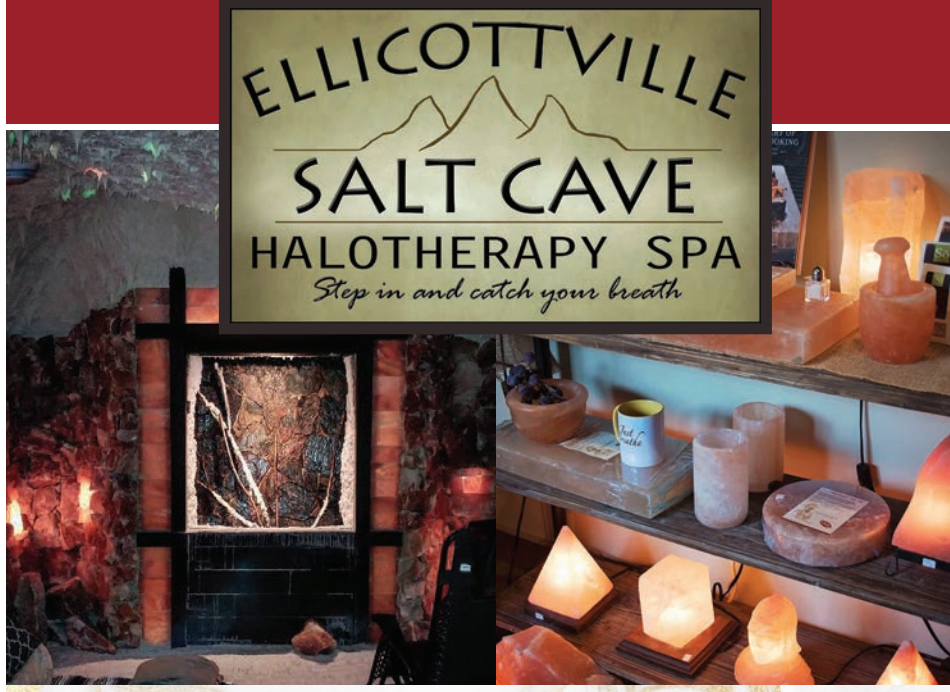
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HOLIDAY CHEER

SANTA KLAHN'S

A local favorite returns, providing families with 'the perfect tree' experience



BY PANOS ARGITIS

Welcome to December. Before the anxiety over completing the gift-list settles in, getting a hold of a Blue Spruce or a Balsam Fir is the first order of business. Fortunately, this holiday season, the infamous Santa Klahn's Christmas Tree Farm is welcoming back residents of Western New York following a two-year absence.

Santa Klahn's has served as the main destination for several generations of tree-getters. Located just a few minutes' drive from downtown Ellicottville, the farm stopped the process of planting Christmas trees a couple years back. Owners Reggie and Mary Klahn had decided to take a small break from the business, as their son and co-owner Jesse returned back to New York.

"We were certain we weren't going to keep planting, but Jesse came back and wanted to start planting again," Mary said. "We are glad to be back now and it feels great to open!"

After missing some of the past Christmas seasons, Santa Klahn's re-opened its doors to families and local residents on November 27th. Lines of parked cars formed outside the farm, as hundreds of trees began to be cut from their roots in preparation for the holiday. Upon its return to business, the farm is also offering a selection of handmade fir wreaths created by Jesse's wife, Morgan.

Santa Klahn's has played a main role in the community's holiday festivities for years on end. While its location and variety of Christmas trees attract several visitors to its farm, the magic of how it brings families together is perhaps its biggest draw. Parents, children and loved ones can enjoy the activity of cutting a Fraser Fir or Blue Spruce together, which is a lot more special than buying a tree off the shelf and grabbing the receipt on your way out. The Klahn family has created a space where finding and cutting the perfect Christmas tree is just as fun as decorating it.

As the trees at Santa Klahn's continue to be cut and driven off by families alike, the Klahn family is preparing for a busy December of visitors.

"We do this because we get to see everyone be happy; it's the most fun part about it," Mary said. "We are planning to expand on the fun by having Christmas 'cut-outs' and more activities in future seasons!"

The Santa Klahn farm houses a great variety of Christmas trees, and the reward for driving away with the best one is having the perfect living room centerpiece. Fir and Blue Spruce trees are arguably two of the most popular choices among tree-shoppers this season. While they both share characteristics, Blue Spruce trees offer a silver color tone, which commonly makes for a great addition to a winter-inspired living space. Both types can be found at Santa Klahn's, with Blue Spruce trees priced at \$5 per foot, and Fir trees priced at \$7 per foot. Morgan's original fir wreaths can also be purchased for \$20 each.

Despite the safety restrictions placed on some of this season's festivities, the Santa Klahn family hopes that the community it serves continues to enjoy Christmas.

"We want families to enjoy themselves here," Mary said. "We are hoping everyone celebrates the holiday safely and has fun doing so."

Santa Klahn's is open from 12:00-5:00pm on weekdays and from 9:00am-5:00pm on weekends. The farm can be reached by phone at 716-450-4312, and is also offering delivery of trees upon request.

25 DAYS OF MINIS

Local painter Sean Huntington one of 45 artists participating in holiday gallery



BY TREVOR BRACHMANN

The Christmas season is here, and so is your opportunity to find a special and unique gift for the art lover in your life. Welcome to "25 Days of Minis", an online gallery of affordable artworks from 45 talented artists. We reached out to one of this year's participants, Sean Huntington, to hear more about the initiative and what to expect.

"It started as a few friends who had met on the art festival circuit, where every year before Christmas we would share each other's works on facebook," says Huntington. "More recently it has been refined into this beautifully presented online show. 45 of us artists this year! It's great for your artistic development, it's a great affordable way to get new collectors interested, and it's very fun. Each artist releases a small original piece every day, and it's first come, first serve - which can be really exciting! Think advent calendar with fun art instead of disgustingly cheap chocolate. All the artwork in the show is under \$500, under 12x12 inches, and original."

"25 Days of Minis" is a great place to look for the perfect gift for that special someone, the eclectic folks, or to just support a small business and add some color and unique flavor to your own walls. In Sean's words, "Art enriches and enhances your life. Original art in your home makes such a statement, and it's a way to show your individuality."

Huntington's work is recognizable and well matched in the Ellicottville aesthetic. He specializes in beautiful woodland scenes featuring local evergreens, hardwoods and aspen in striking scenes that allude to the season - Monochromatic blues to evoke winter scenes, or bright Yellows and reds of our stunning fall flora. "My work is a mixture of my obsessive interest in nature and my inborn need to create art. The texture of lichens on tree bark, the way branches curve and mingle among one another, the repetition of line in a grove of aspen or spruce; these are some of the things that fill my mind and come out in my paintings. The woods are home to me, and in this sense my work is autobiographical."

Working in traditional and gouache watercolors, often on large canvases, he employs techniques to add great contrast to individual trees in his paintings. The brightly colored negative trees' shapes are first painted on as a latex resin in order to mask the area, similar to the batik cloth dyeing technique. After creating several layers of trees with watercolor and latex, the latex is peeled off to reveal the lighter colors beneath. His paintings are finished with a protective coating, and is framed in either copper or aluminum, harmonizing with the colors of the piece, yet giving it a bit of a modern and industrial feel that clashes with the natural content.

Raised in Derrick City, Pennsylvania near the Allegheny National Forest, Sean is inspired by what he grew up observing and appreciating. Being surrounded by woodlands in those early years gave Sean an intense interest in the natural world. When asked why he focuses on natural woodland scenes he replied, "My childhood was spent in the middle of acres of woodland under an 85-foot white oak tree. I spent every day in the woods and developed a deep love of biology that comes out in my work." He added in good humor, "Plus it was a small town, all the women that would have posed nude for me were related."

Nowadays when he's not traveling to one of the many art shows he presents at around the country, you can find him painting at his private studio in Olean.

To see one of his stunning larger pieces, all one has to do is go up to the 2nd floor of Holiday Valley's Main chalet. A brightly colored group of 3 canvases painted together of a grove of spruce in strong red, orange and yellows, it really pops and shows how his work could be a warm welcome to any home or business.

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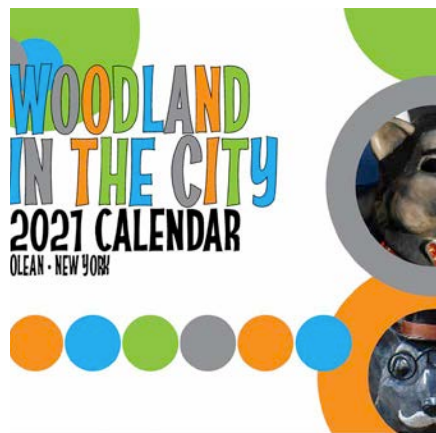
The Boardroom has teamed up with Buffalo staple Oxford Pennant to create these camp flags to showcase how proud we are of where we live, the work we do and the motto we live by. Camp flags make great Christmas gifts and are perfect for your home! Available in-store and online at www.boardsandpowder.com.



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17 Washington St. • EVL
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Shop these outdoor mugs for your winter warm-up. The right size for coffee or hot cocoa. You'll also love the selection of boots, puff blankets, Scout bags, pom pom hats, Brighton accessories and more available at Daff. Plenty of great stocking stuffer ideas too, including ornaments perfectly depicting EVL plaid or Ski camo.



2021 SQUIRREL CALENDAR

Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce
301 N. Union St. • Olean, NY
716.372.4433

Woodland in the City and GOACC have created the 14th edition of the Woodland in the City Squirrel Calendar for 2021! The calendar features local families who turned in photos with their relatives appearing with the squirrels throughout Olean. This edition showcases National Squirrel Day, National Squirrel Awareness Month, and many 'nuts' days – peanut, almond, etc. Find them at the GOACC office or online at shop.oleanny.com



HOLIDAY VARIETY PACK

Ellicottville Brewing Company
28 Monroe St. • EVL
716.699.2537

Introducing the newest craft variety pack for the 2020 Holiday season! Celebrate the holidays with these delightful adult treats – all brewed with rich, season-inspired ingredients, offering four distinct holiday dessert ale recipes. Some of the flavor highlights found inside include gooey raspberry, locally-made chocolate, locally-roasted coffee, caramel, ginger, fig and creamy pastry. They're all so delicious, it's hard to pick a favorite. Now available through the season.



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11 Martha St. • EVL
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A UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

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716.699.9121

She Shed, He Shed is a boutique that caters to men and women alike full of unique, fun items for gifting and spoiling yourself. You'll find cosmetics, one-of-a-kind gloves, locally made jewelry, cute clothes, men's grooming supplies and even cigars! Come discover gifts for just about anyone on your list (get something for yourself while you're there, too). It's full of tons of surprises that you'll just have to stop in and see for yourself!



TRAIL SIGNS

Holiday Valley Mountain Shops
6557 Holiday Valley Rd. • EVL
716.699.2345

Next time you're skiing or riding at Holiday Valley, take a memory of the resort home with you! Stop into the HV Mountain Shops and browse their selection of Trail Signs - from Cindy's Run to The Wall AND more! Real trail names, real signs that will look really great on the walls of your chalet. There's one Mountain Shop located at the base of the Main Lodge, and the other inside Yodeler Lodge.



LET'S BUILD A SKATEPARK!

SK8EVL Commemorative Brick Campaign
Ellicottville, NY
sk8evl.com

Did you know? Ellicottville is the recipient of a matching grant from The Skatepark Project/Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation! The SK8EVL committee is raising money to build a permanent concrete skatepark which will be located in Ellicottville's Village Park. Purchase a commemorative brick and be a part of the Ellicottville Skatepark! Order forms are available at the Ellicottville Library, or place your order online via the link at sk8evl.com



WILLY GOAT 2021 CALENDARS

Available at PaNDaGOAT Media and The BioDome Project
716.359.0577

The first round of Willow's 2021 calendars are in and are now available to pick up at PaNDaGOAT Media in Ellicottville and the BioDome Project in Jamestown! New adventure photos, new quotes, same awesome Willy! Proceeds will be donated to Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS), as a thank you for all their amazing work and efforts to help neglected and homeless animals in our area. Shipping available; contact the number above.



HIMALAYAN BATH SALTS

Ellicottville Salt Cave
32 W. Washington St. • EVL
716.699.2068

Need a break this winter season? Relax in a nice, hot bath filled with Pink Himalayan Salt. Add your favorite scented aromatherapy oil for an added bath bonus! Pink Himalayan Salt contains 84 trace minerals and have anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties. It also decreases inflammation and hydrates the skin, leaving it silky and smooth. Unscented, lavender, or eucalyptus scented bath salts are available in 1/2lb - 2lb bags in-store or online.



FARM KITCHEN CANDLES

Gado Gado
26 Monroe St. • EVL
716.699.2128

Farm Kitchen Candle Co. was our vision brought to life and we fell in love with creating luxury, eco-friendly, top quality 100% soy wax candles. The soy wax creates clean burning candles free of toxins, carcinogens, petroleum & pollutants. Our candles are made using only premium grade fragrances & essential oils. We believe that candles are one of life's little luxuries that should be celebrated and enjoyed every day!



GT'S SYNERGY KOMBUCHA

Nature's Remedy
26 Monroe St. • EVL
716.699.4372

A warm welcome to the flavors of fall and winter with GT's Synergy Living in Gratitude Kombucha. It is a fermented probiotic tea with crisp Pink Lady apple, fresh pressed carrot and turmeric, and aromatic cider spices. Its flavor is a delicious blend of fall tastes reminiscent of an apple cider but packed with added health benefits. If the delicious ingredients don't draw you in, Kombucha is also filled with billions of gut-healthy probiotics.



BLANKET SCARVES

Ava Grace Fashions
24 Washington St. • EVL
716.699.1105

A scarf is a quick and easy way to change up any outfit. It can dress it up or turn your outfit more casual. Blanket scarves can be worn in so many different ways, they will be the most versatile thing you've ever owned! Try wearing it as a shawl, poncho or cover up when you're feeling a little chilly. Choose from a variety of different colors and patterns to suit your style or mood. This scarf is a must-have accessory to get you through the winter.



THURSDAY DATE NIGHT

Silver Fox Steakhouse
23 Hughey Alley • EVL
716.699.4672

Thursday is Date Night at the Silver Fox, where two can dine for \$46 (tax and gratuity not included). Begin with a large house salad to share along with two glasses of wine, followed by a shared appetizer and a shared entree. Finish with a delightful dessert to share. View the Date Night menu on the Silver Fox's website: thesilverfoxrestaurant.com



MSG GIFT CARDS

Mud, Sweat n' Gears
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716.699.8300

Don't stress over finding the perfect gift. A Mud, Sweat n' Gears gift card is the answer. Purchase a Mud, Sweat n' Gears gift card December 4th-13th, and we'll add an additional 20%! You'll be a hero. They'll be stoked. Everybody wins! Gift cards can be purchased in-store or over the phone. Redeemable at both Ellicottville and East Aurora locations.



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JINGLE BELL BARK

Watson's Chocolates
27 Washington St. • EVL
716.699.2805

What could be more festive than alternate layers of minty dark and creamy white chocolate garnished with pieces of peppermint candy cane and latticed with a holiday-colored chocolate string? Jingle Bell Bark is a top seller at Watson's during the holiday season. A truly unique confection for your candy dish, or the perfect compliment to gift to your loved ones. Other seasonal favorites include Gourmet Nut Brittle and Chocolate Christmas Minikins.



SAMPLER PACKS

Winery of Ellicottville
14 Monroe St. • EVL
716.699.1055

Can't decide on just one wine? Grab a sampler pack! Included are three wines for a discounted price. Perfect for gift giving! Choose from the Autumn Sweet Edition or the Autumn Dry Edition. The Sweet Pack includes a bottle of Spice, Spice Baby, Blood Orange Hard Cider and 2019 Riesling. The Dry Pack includes a bottle of Village White, Marquette and 2019 Grüner Veltliner. Gift wrapping is also available for a small fee.



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TRAVEL

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Awe-inspiring Christmas displays from the safety and comfort of your car



By LINDA DEVLIN, ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS BUREAU

This holiday season is different. Creativity mixed with “different” sparked the creation of a holiday season of safe, family-friendly activities for all to enjoy in the nearby Allegheny National Forest Region of Pennsylvania.

2020 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: The McKean County Fairgrounds has been turned into a winter wonderland of light displays which may be viewed from the safety of your own vehicle as you drive through the fairground. The Festival of Lights is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during December beginning with the weekends of Dec 4-6th and Dec. 11-13th, with the displays open from 5:00-9:00pm nightly. Additional days are added beginning Friday, Dec. 18th and running each day through Wednesday, Dec. 23rd. The hours remain the same for viewing, 5:00-9:00pm, with the last car being admitted 15 minutes before closing time. Pets are allowed if they remain in your vehicle.

The cost is \$10 per vehicle, and \$25 per bus. The Festival of Lights is located at 7172 Route 46 South, Smethport, PA 16749. For additional information call 814-598-0884.

BACKWARDS CHRISTMAS PARADE: A new, fun, safe way of viewing a parade! The parade floats are stationary, and people drive by in their vehicles to view them. The theme of this year’s parade is ‘Christmas in the Movies’. The parade floats will line up along Chestnut Street Extension in Bradford, ending at the Zippo/Case Museum with a wave from Santa as you drive by. The parade will be on display Friday, Dec. 4th from 5:30-6:30pm.

Bradford’s Main Street will be twinkling with white lights and holiday decorations. A wide variety of family owned shops and restaurants will be open for post-parade dining and shopping.

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS: Step back in time as you enjoy the “Hallmark Like Town” atmosphere of the National Historic District of Downtown Bradford, Pennsylvania. The 11th Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas event will run from 10:00am-3:00pm on Saturday, December 12th. Dickens Carolers will be on-hand in full costume, strolling along the street and adding their holiday music to the festivities.

Shops will be offering special holiday discounts, and restaurants will be available to pop into for a hot cup of coffee or cocoa. For additional information check out www.bradfordpa.org

KINZUA BRIDGE STATE PARK IN WHITE: The Kinzua Sky Walk is considered “One of the Top 10 Most Scenic Skywalks in the World.” Located in the Kinzua Bridge State Park, it is open daily from 8:00am to dusk. Admission is free!

The views during the winter are amazing! The stark, massive steel structures of the skywalk are outlined against the white backdrop of the snow-covered Kinzua Gorge. The Knox & Kane Rail Trail, at the park, is a 3.8-mile linear trail open for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or winter mountain biking. The Kinzua Bride State Park Visitors Center’s displays are currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Kinzua Sky Walk is located at 296 Viaduct Road, Mt. Jewett, PA. For additional info check out www.visitANF.com/kinzua-sky-walk or call 814-778-5467.

In Pennsylvania, masks are required as is six-foot social distancing. For additional information on accommodations suitable for “Stay Vacations” along with trail, event, and other regional information, check out www.visitANF.com or call the ANF Visitors Bureau at 800-473-9370.

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

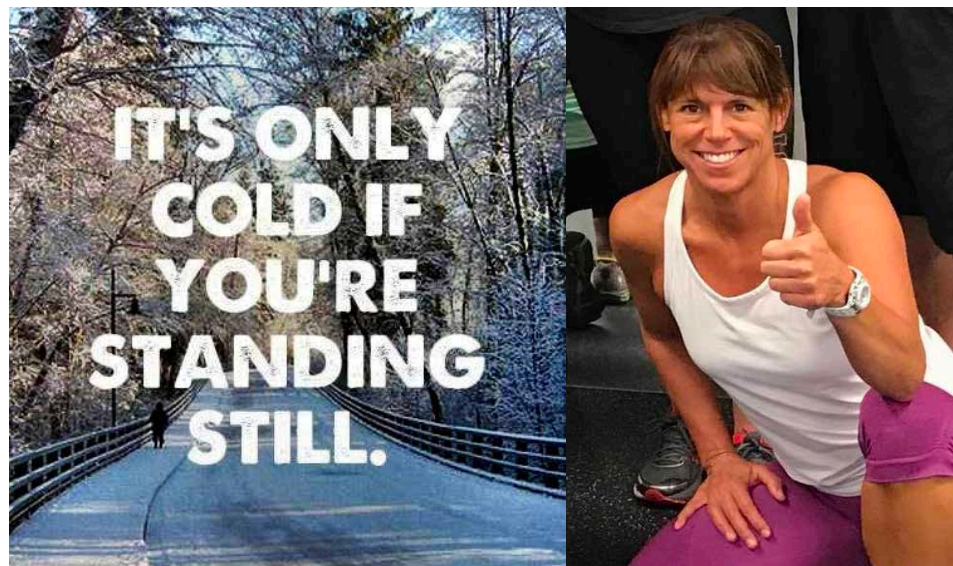
With winter on our doorstep, daylight savings time turning day to night by 4:30pm, and the continuing effects of Covid-19, staying motivated to do anything more than curl up on the couch can be a real struggle. However, research has shown time and again that regular exercise strengthens your immune system so it can fight off bacterial and viral infections. This becomes particularly important in cooler months when colds and flu rear their ugly heads. When you exercise and get your blood pumping, immune cells circulate through your body more quickly, helping them seek and destroy infections. But this boost only lasts for a few hours, so exercise needs to be regular for long-term effects.

If you're used to exercising after work or in the evening, try to make adjustments and work out in the morning. At the end of the day, you're more likely to opt out of exercising if you're tired and stuck in traffic because of bad weather. Exercising in the morning gets your workout out of the way so you can relax at night.

As winter weather approaches, there is a wide array of fun activities to do that can involve the whole family. Try a new winter sport like ice skating, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing or even sledding. Taking up a new activity that has an expiration date can be motivating because in a couple months, your opportunity will have melted away. Spend an afternoon running through the snow and play, like you used to when you were young. Incorporating a new activity in your life is beneficial for you and your family.

An exercise DVD makes it easier to exercise at any time, any season. Research some DVDs online and find the type of exercise you would like to do at home. If you have limited space, try a yoga or pilates DVD because it involves a lot of mat work, which is great for apartment living. If you have more space, try a full body workout that incorporates strength training and plyometrics. Find what type of workout works for you, in the space that you have available. Many libraries carry exercise DVDs that you can rent out, so call your local library and see what they have available.

And finally, we all know that sunshine seems like a limited commodity during the winter months, so when you see it, enjoy it! There's a reason it's called the sunshine vitamin. While there are a limited number of foods that can provide your body with vitamin D, the easiest source is from exposure of bare skin to sunlight.



During summer, a short exposure of 10-15 minutes is plenty, but in winter, sunshine can be harder to come by, especially if you are snuggled up indoors. So that's why it's VERY important to get outside and get moving and smile at the sun! Sunshine makes strong bones and keeps your immune system strong. It can also boost positivity and help prevent high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer.

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

SALE OF NECKLACES AND MASK GAITERS TO HELP PROVIDE TOYS FOR KIDS

Bring a donation to GOACC, get a 'Family Four Pack'

OLEAN, NY - Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce is selling Family Four Packs for the holidays! Bring a donation of a toy valued at \$10 or more to the Chamber office (301 N. Union St., Olean, NY) and receive your pack. The four pack includes four sets of holiday bulb necklaces and four holiday squirrel mask gaiters.

"We had purchased them for the participants in the parade this year – lit necklaces and gaiters for visibility as well as social distancing," reported Meme K. Yanetsko, GOACC COO. "When we realized that the parade would not go on, we thought it would be a great idea to 'sell' these four packs for a donation of a toy for our local Toys for Tots."

The gaiter was purchased through Ambroselli Partners, GOACC member, and are dye sublimation of the Santa Squirrel with the parade name and Olean displayed. The gaiters are made of soft, lightweight, breathable 100% polyester fabric and have a weave pattern through them for better protection versus normal cloth.

How to purchase a family four pack: Stop in the Chamber office at 301 N. Union St., Olean with your toy donation for each pack 'purchased.' You can also call the Chamber at 716-372-4433 for curbside delivery to your car. Or you can go online to the Chamber's shop site: shop.oleanny.com – however, you will actually purchase them for \$10/pack plus shipping and the Chamber will use the \$10 donation to purchase a toy in your family's name.

Kip Morrow, local rep for the Toys for Tots Program stated, "With the economic challenges of 2020, we're certain that more families than ever before will need our help. Your donations today will bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to the area's less fortunate children. Past years, our army of volunteers do the magic sorting and filling about 1,600 bags of toys."

The Toys for Tots campaign has many toy barrel boxes throughout the immediate area: Olean Public Library, Hall of Fame Barbershop, GOACC office, most discount and retail outlets, and the Cattaraugus County centers. Mr. Morrow added, "Everything donated here - toys, cash, etc. - stays here. Donate Local, Stays Local, Help Local."

GOACC's normal hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm. Extended hours of 9:00am-8:00pm will happen on Tuesday, December 15th and Wednesday, December 16th. For more information or questions, call GOACC 716-372-4433 or email info@oleanny.com.

NEW ORTHOPEDIC OFFICE OPENS IN ELLICOTTVILLE

Evening and Weekend Hours available for Sports Injuries

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY - Holiday Valley announced that UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine (UBMDOSM) will open an office in the Ellicottville Medical Center at 6133 Rt. 219 South, Ellicottville. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 5th at 10:00am at the Medical Center and the office will be open to patients starting on Friday, December 11th, or possibly before if the ski season starts earlier. Hours are: Thursdays 5:00-9:00pm, Fridays/Saturdays 10:00am-10:00pm, and Sundays 10:00am-9:00pm.

UBMDOSM will provide a wide range of coverage for a majority of orthopaedic injuries and also care for lacerations and concussions. Their extensive outreach program with the ski patrol and their relationships with the area hospitals will help them merge their expertise to provide the best care possible to the community. Diagnostic equipment including an X-ray machine will be on site.

UBMDOSM, a member of UBMD Physicians' Group, is an academic orthopaedic group that offers complete care of all orthopaedic and musculoskeletal problems for children, adults and seniors. The group is affiliated with Kaleida Health, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), Catholic Health System, and Niagara Falls Memorial, and staffs Buffalo General Hospital, ECMC and Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo. In addition, they are the team doctors for the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bandits, UB Bulls, Buffalo State Bengals, Niagara Purple Eagles, ECC Kats, NCCC Thunderwolves, and Rochester Americans. They are committed to excellence and hold the values of compassion, innovation, collaboration with their staff and patients. The Ellicottville office is an additional location to provide care to the WNY Community, specifically, but not limited to those who have suffered from a ski injury. They will refer within their group of over 40 physicians that cover all the orthopaedic sub-specialties. If a patient in Ellicottville needs surgery or further care, they will be able to quickly get a follow-up appointment with an UBMDOSM physician for follow-up care.

When asked why they chose to open an office here, they noted that several UBMD-OSM physicians have homes in the area and have fallen in love with Ellicottville and the people in the community. They will be able to take care of sports injuries that happen while on the slopes, biking, hiking, playing a sport or doing everyday tasks. To reach the Ellicottville office, call 716-204-3200 or email contact@ubortho.com.

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AVAILABLE FOR WINTER SEASON ONLY: The infamous A-Frame Suite on the Telemark/SlopeSide Bar & BBQ corner. Sleeps 2, easy walk to Sunrise chairlift. \$3,600 for season includes WiFi, cable and trash removal. Call Janet at 716-969-3946.

AVAILABLE FOR WINTER SEASON: TWO Bedroom Suite above SlopeSide Bar & BBQ, directly across the street from the Sunrise Chair. Remodeled last season. Sleeps 4 comfortably. Includes cable, WiFi and trash removal. Fantastic view! Call Janet at 716-969-3946.

SEASONAL RENTAL: 1 mile from Holiday Valley. Fully furnished 4 bdrm / 2 bath + garage. Gas stove in LR. Laundry. Sleeps 6-10. Recently remodeled. Photos available. Call 814-229-4219.

EMPLOYMENT

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FULL-TIME CLEANERS NEEDED

Ellicottville Central School is now hiring cleaners. These positions are Full-Time (40 hours/week).

In addition to a competitive salary, this position has many other benefits:

- Paid holidays each year
- Paid sick days
- Paid Personal days
- Paid Vacation time
- New York State Retirement System
- Health Insurance

New York State Education Department Fingerprint Clearance Required.

Applications are available on the district website at www.ellicottvillecentral.com or by phoning 716-699-2368 (ext. 1300) between the hours of 7:30am-3:30pm. Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent and application to:

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

EMPLOYMENT

GET YOUR ZEN ON AT THE ELLICOTTVILLE SALT CAVE: Licensed Massage Therapist needed for the upcoming busy season. Many perks to working in a great relaxing, therapeutic atmosphere! Full time/part time, some weekends. Stop in at Ellicottville Salt Cave, 32 W. Washington Street or email your resume to Tracy at evlsaltsense@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN EARNING SOME EXTRA CASH AND FREE SKI TICKETS OR A SEASON'S PASS? This year, Holiday Valley is hiring Lodge Attendants to monitor and control capacity and COVID protocols in our lodges. Shifts available on weekends and holidays. Starting wage is \$13.50/hour. Apply online at <https://www.holidayvalley.com/jobs> or contact Bob Piede (bpiede@holidayvalley.com) with questions.

ELLICOTTVILLE LIBRARY: We are currently accepting applications for a part-time Library Assistant. Candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree or an Associate's Degree with equivalent experience. Contact the Library at 716-699-2842 or stop in, 6499 Maples Road, for an application form and for further details regarding necessary qualifications.



SERVICES

ROVER MAKEOVERS: Professional pet grooming. Owned and operated locally by mother and daughter, Teresa Mercer and Calla Wagner. Call 716-699-8345 for an appointment. 16 Elizabeth St., Ellicottville. "YOUR DOG IS OUR DOG." Pet collars and other accessories available for sale. Please wear a mask when entering.

MARTENS CLEANING SERVICE. Local, professional carpet cleaning, deep cleans, construction clean-up, grout and tile cleaning, residential and business cleaning. Call Christina Martens, 585-435-7158.

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE: Natural gas ventless fireplace. Offer price \$400. For more information or if interested, call 716-699-5275.

BLOOD DRIVE

A community Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, December 11th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 6360 Route 242, Ellicottville from 1:00-6:00pm in the church's Community Room. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment.

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baroness_abcinema: We're ready! Just waiting on mother nature @holidayvalley #mediacrew #wearyourmask #evlnow



thepurpledoorknob: Hello December! Get those gifts! #sockgifts #evlnow #ellicottvilleny



team_pritchard: @holidayvalley snow. #evlnow #teampritchard #erateamvp #vacationhome



daffevl: Let it Snow. #shopearily #shopsmallbusiness #evlnow



thecitygarage: Rolling into Dec. #winterweather @ellicottvillenow



robert_kuechle: Last of the fall colors. @HoliMont #evlnow #hike



Itvwhenavydude: My least favorite job every year ... but the result is always worth it #christmas2020 #evlnow



ch_crofty: I love clouds & coffee breaks #relaxedrealtor #evlnow



tclauss27: Winter is coming! #skitheeast @holidayvalley #evlnow



ellicottvillenow: Ellicottville's Ski Tree lighting ceremony ... Enjoy the view. #skitree #ellicottvilleny #evlnow #happyholidays #christmastime



begoniahillartstudio: Rise & shine Small Business Saturday!



sk8evl: Raising money for a skatepark #katyscafe #evlnow



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Cathleen Pritchard & Melanie Pritchard
Associate Real Estate Brokers
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