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The Villager

EL LICOTTVILLE • CHAUTAUQUA

Area Events

CHOSEN TREASURES MONTH
April, 2023
Lake Erie Wine Trail

TRIVIA NIGHT
Thursday, April 20 • 7pm
Pearl City Hops, Jamestown

LUNAFEST
Thursday, April 20 • 7:30pm
JCC Scharmann Thtr., Jamestown

FRIENDS OF GOOD MUSIC
Friday, April 21 • 7:30pm
Regina Quick Center, St. Bonaventure

JEFF FOXWORTHY
Saturday, April 22 • 8pm
Seneca Resort, Salamanca

WEEKLY BIRD WALKS
Wednesday, April 26 • 9am
RTPI, Jamestown

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, April 28 • 11am
Nannen Arboretum, Ellicottville

ACE FREHLEY
Saturday, April 29 • 7pm
Reg Lenna, Jamestown

COFFEE & CHOCOLATE FEST
Saturday, April 29 • 11am
Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer

WINEMAKERS DINNER
Saturday, April 29 • 7pm
Johnson Estates, Westfield

SPRING FLING 2023
May 4 & 5 • 7pm
Lakeshore Ctr for Arts, Westfield

YWCA 5K RUN/WALK
Saturday, May 6 • 10am
YWCA Lake Lodge, Lakewoods

KIDS FISHING CLINIC
Saturday, May 6 • 10am
Johnson Estates, Westfield

NY DUATHLON SERIES
Saturday, May 6 • 9am
Randolph

MURDER MYSTERY TRAIN
Saturday, May 6 • 4pm
Gowanda Depot, Gowanda

FINDLEY LAKE CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, May 6, 2023
Fire Hall, Findley Lake

TRIPLE D RODEO
Friday, May 19 • 6:30pm
Triple D Ranch, Napoli

SPRING THING CARNIVAL
Saturday, May 27, 2023
The Camp at Findley, Clymer

www.thevillagerny.com

April: National Volunteer Month

Paying Tribute to Unwavering Contributions



Ellicottville has a long history of volunteering, as have many of our nearby communities in Cattaraugus, Erie, and Chautauqua counties. When thinking of volunteers, one can't help but think of our energetic Alley Katz (above) who keep our village blooming and beautiful. The Rotarians, The Bares Foundation, and the Bobby McCarthy Foundation quietly and generously spread good works all year long as well. Holiday Valley and HoliMont enjoy the benefits of volunteers on their slopes. (See "VOLUNTEER," Page 9.)

3rd Annual Hilltap Event, July 22

Holiday Valley & 42 North Brewing Co. Host



You are invited to take a chair lift for an adventure-filled Saturday for the whole family to enjoy. Be in line at 12 noon for the first lift up, spend the whole day atop the beautiful Spruce Lake that overlooks Holiday Valley. Tickets can be purchased on the Hilltap Festival website: \$40 (pre-sale), \$45 (day-of-event), \$50 if transporting a bike on the lift, and children under 10 are free. The ticket includes the ride up to Spruce Lake, adventures, vendor experiences and of course live music. (See "HILLTAP" Page 5.)

Snowmakers' Ball 4/20/23

Thank the Crew that Keeps the Winter Party Going



The party at Villaggio in Ellicottville starts at 5pm and goes on until 9pm. All are welcome and admission is free.

BY CHAD NEAL

Well, it's that time of year where "all the fake snow is put back into storage" and the folks that help carpet the hills with the slippery substance can take a rest. But before they can take it too easy, the town wants

to show their appreciation by throwing the annual epic party called the Snowmakers Ball! Beginning before it gets cold, these hard-working snowmakers prep the pipes and gauges and schematics

SEE "SNOW" PAGE 10

Bemus Point-Stow Ferry

The Icon Resumes Service Memorial Day Weekend



The Bemus Point-Stow Ferry operates Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, all summer long, until the weekend of the Bemus Point Fall Festival. It makes the 935-foot journey between the two villages in about seven minutes. On a busy Saturday, they may run the ferry 50 or 60 times.

BY PATRICIA MEASER

Every year on Memorial Day Weekend, the Bemus Point-Stow Ferry resumes service for the summer, carrying cars and passengers across the narrowest

point of Chautauqua Lake. The ferry has operated annually since 1811, except for a break from 2018 to 2021 for repairs. It's a well-recognized sight on

SEE "FERRY" PAGE 15

GRAND OPENING OF ELLICOTTVILLE SKATE PARK: JUNE 30, 2023!!

Sneak Peek

Inside this Issue...

128-Space Parking Lot Planned in E'VL
Ellicottville Residents Voice Concerns Page 8



AKS Sign Designs & Marketing

Spotlight on Lakewood Historic District Business



Some of the jobs that AKS has done include: A vinyl sign for a work trailer; a large metal sign the Borsari Foods building (above); and multiple signs and car wraps for Shults Auto in Olean. AKS has clients nationwide, but Alex says she is proudest of the jobs she has done for local clients. (See "AKS", Page 7.)

Liberty Mutual Returns to Area

Introducing New Company "Comparion"

BY VICTORIA PAVLOCK



Nichole Goodman, Comparion/Liberty Mutual agent, took her position around two years ago, assisting and protecting existing clients along with taking on new ones.

Liberty Mutual has recently introduced Comparion agency within 2022, and has shifted into having a broker mentality with well over fourteen carriers such as Travelers, Progressive, Hagerty and more. The company also brings in new carriers often. This major change within Liberty Mutual has given the company a competitive edge and has made the company able to offer existing and new

SEE "INSURANCE" PAGE 12

5/13/23
12:00pm-8:00pm

UNCLE BEN'S REMEDY

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Publisher's Word

"Whether the Weather..."



April has been full of foolery, hasn't it? Unpredictable weather, great events re-emerging, and today as I write this, the sky is bursting with sunshine that I do believe is here to stay! Bemus Point has announced the opening of a new season as all of Chautauqua County is opening up its windows. We had a lot of great events just this past weekend and there are many in store for the weeks to come, which you will read about in these pages. If you have an event or business, you would like our readers to know about, please don't hesitate to reach me directly: info@thevillager.com - we are always happy to spread the good word. *Until next week, enjoy the read, Jeanine Caprino Zimmer*

WRITERS WANTED: info@thevillager.com

"Views of The Villager" Photo Contest!

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Happy Birthday

Cindy Oak Goodin... April 21st • Amy Boroweik... April 23rd • Derrik Gassman... April 23rd • John Centi... April 25th • Ken Zatyko... April 26th • Lisa Mendell... April 29th • Don Paul... April 29th • Alice Wallace... April 30th • Anjanette Nicolazzo... April 30th • Patti Crist... May 1st • Susan Melaragno... May 2nd • Wayne Weaver... May 5th • Julie Sengal... May 6th • Dean Whitcomb... May 6th • Shad Nowicki... May 7th • Julie Stanton... May 7th • Greg Fitzpatrick... May 7th • Mo Porter's Chuck... May 8th • Brian Erikson... May 9th • Julie Anderson... May 10th • Linda Meister... May 13th • Michelle Harrington... May 14th • Al Wager... May 15th • Patti Christ... May 1st • Susan Melaragno... May 2nd • Wayne Weaver... May 5th • Julie Sengal... May 6th • Patti Christ... May 1st • Susan Melaragno... May 2nd

Email us your birthday greetings: info@thevillager.com

Ellicottville Summer Music Festival

"The Players" Headline Saturday, July 1

The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce this years Summer Music Festival Saturday performance- "The Players" featuring Grammy awarded & top former members of Chicago and Earth, Wind, & Fire. Enjoy a live performance with legendary members: Bill Champlin (Two-timed grammy winner; member of Chicago for 28 years) Keith Howland (Former guitarist of Chicago), Jeff Coffey (Former lead vocalist of Chicago), Gordon Campbell (Former drummer of Earth, Wind & Fire) with an opening act of Barracuda, a Heart tribute band! Sunday you can expect the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra followed by our annual fireworks display!

www.thevillager.com - 716-699-2058

EBC Giving Back to Community

McCarthy's Celtic Red on Sale for McCarthy Foundation

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, Dan Minner, brew master at Ellicottville Brewing Company has brought back a limited-edition of McCarthy's Celtic Red. This great brew was created to honor the "Voice of Ellicottville" Bob McCarthy. As EBC has done for a number of years, they will donate a \$1 for every pint sold to the Bob McCarthy Foundation's Family Support. This McCarthy's Celtic Red is a delicious Red Ale that will only be available at select establishments in Ellicottville for a short period of time. Make sure you ask for EBC's McCarthy's Celtic Red to support the Bob McCarthy Foundation while you enjoy a great beer.

McCarthy's

CELTIC RED

Basics of the Christian Faith

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in EVL

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Ellicottville will be offering the internationally successful Alpha program on Mondays starting April 17th at 6:30. This 11-week series has been attended by millions across the globe that offers an open dialog on the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha is a place to connect with people on the challenging topics of faith in a friendly group environment. In a world that is becoming increasingly disconnected and virtual, this program provides an opportunity to reconnect with others, share your perspectives, and learn. Each week, the attendees will share a meal, have a topic to discuss around life and faith, and dialog with the group. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

Carson Waterman: A Retrospective

Seneca Iroquois Hosts Renowned Artist

Salamanca – The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum announced it will host a career-spanning retrospective showcase by distinguished Seneca artist and “national treasure of the Seneca Nation,” Carson Waterman opening in May. The show, “Carson Waterman: A Retrospective,” will be a celebration of Waterman’s life, work, and profound impact on the representation of Seneca identity and visual culture over the past several decades.

The exhibit will feature a wide selection of Waterman’s works, including output from his time as a student at the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, harrowing sketches from his tour in Vietnam, where he served as a combat artist, and numerous examples of his painting that feature his iconic bold and colorful style, among dozens of other pieces.

“Carson’s contributions to the Seneca Nation and the representation of our people, culture, and history can’t be overstated,” said Caleb Abrams, Seneca-Iroquois National Museum Board of Trustees member. “Bringing together this collection of works, many of which have never been displayed publicly, has been a true labor of love for the planning committee and we can’t wait to share this incredible showcase with the public.”

Throughout his career, Waterman established himself as one of the premier visual artists of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, whose territories span what is now known as New York State and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. His original works, which include paintings, murals, illustrations, and more, have been displayed in numerous museums, galleries, and cultural centers including the Institute of American



Indian Art (Santa Fe, NM), the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC), Trickster Cultural Center (Schaumburg, IL), Iroquois Museum (Howes Cave, NY), and K Art (Buffalo, NY), among many others. Public examples of his work are visible at the Allegany River Rest Area (Allegany, NY), Buffalo Metro Rail (Buffalo, NY), and inside the Seneca Nation’s resorts and casinos. He has also been commissioned to create original works by various corporations and organizations including the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Buffalo Sabres, Seneca Gaming Corporation, and the City of Salamanca.

Waterman was also an influential force behind the establishment of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum which first opened in 1977 in Salamanca, on the Seneca Nation’s Allegany Territory. In 2018, the museum relocated to the new Onohsagwe:de’ Cultural Center. The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum has an extensive collection of Seneca and Haudenosaunee material culture items, historical

artifacts, and art work, both permanent and rotating exhibits that change throughout the year, and a state-of-the-art center gallery that hosts special exhibits. The museum is a popular destination for tourists, educational outings, and those interested in history.

Educational programs, including lectures, cultural presentations, plays for children, concerts and other events can be held in the museum’s amphitheater, which can accommodate up to 600 people. Adjacent to the amphitheater, there is a replica longhouse - construction of which was completed earlier this year. Longhouses are large wooden structures that traditionally served as family housing centers and ceremonial gathering places for the Haudenosaunee. An official dedication ceremony for the new longhouse will coincide with the May 27 opening of the Waterman showcase. “Carson Waterman: A Retrospective” will open May 27, 2023 and run through April 2024. For more information, visit senecamuseum.org.



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Public Notice: Hydrant Flushing

Town/Village of Ellicottville

Please be aware that the Town of Ellicottville will start flushing fire hydrants beginning the 1st week of April and continue for several weeks. Be prepared to expect discoloration of water and pressure changes. Please call the Town Water Department at 716-560-8920 with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Coffee & Chocolate Festival

Peek'n Peak Resort Hosts Two Sessions April 29

Join local coffee shops, gourmet roasters, artisan chocolatiers, bakeries, wineries and more. Explore additional exhibitors and their products and purchase items to take home. There are limited tickets available to ensure all attendees have the opportunity to sample items from exhibitors. The list of exhibiting businesses will be announced shortly and will be updated frequently. There are two General Admission sessions available: Session 1, 11am-2pm and Session 2, 3-6pm

**** VIP ticket (\$50) includes everything in the General Admission ticket PLUS the following:**

- Early entrance to the festival
- Access to our exclusive VIP area on the deck, complete with a s'mores bar and fire pits
- VIP parking section
- Automatic entry into a drawing for an overnight stay at Peek'n Peak Resort with a \$50 food voucher
- An exclusive swag bag with samples and vouchers from many different businesses.

Purchase tickets on Eventbrite. Tickets are non-refundable. Exhibitors are subject to change.



Attend the Coffee & Chocolate Festival at Peek'n Peak Resort and indulge in coffee, chocolate and more while supporting The Kids of Love Foundation (@kidsoflove)!

The Coffee & Chocolate Festival at Peek'n Peak Resort is a celebration of all things coffee and chocolate related... and then some! Festival attendees will sample a variety of coffee roasts and styles, along with a multitude of decadent chocolate-themed sweets from local and surrounding area businesses. What better way to treat yourself and spend a Spring day?

Prendergast Board Meeting

The Prendergast Library's next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th at 5:15pm in the library's Fireplace Room. Board meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend virtually, email reference@prendergastlibrary.org for access.



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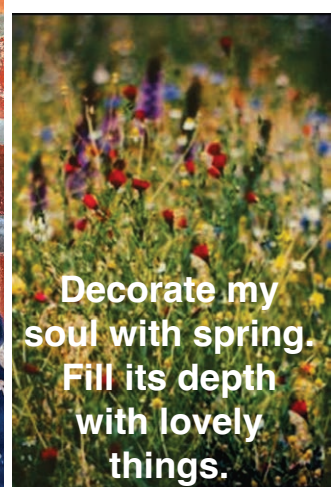
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ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK

EVL Village Life: View from My Porch A Trip to the DMV Can Be Surprisingly Pleasant



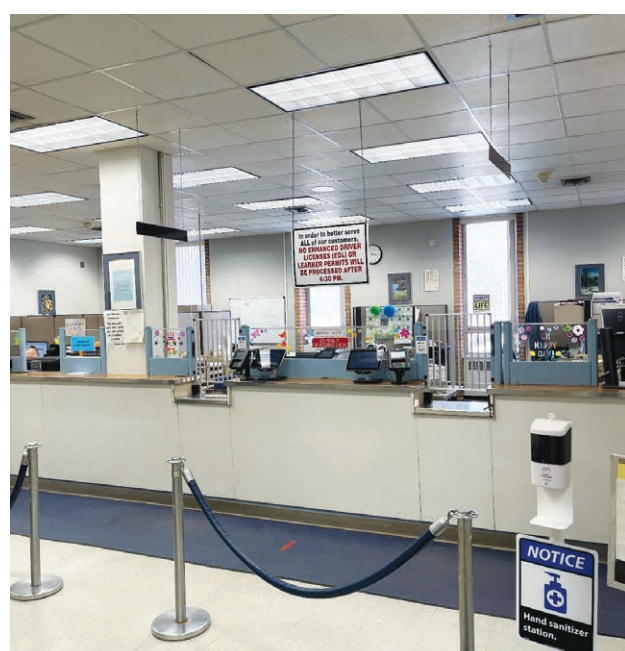
By GARY MALICKI

So, we've been in EVL for a while now and it occurred to us that it was high time to be totally legal and update our address with the Department of Motor Vehicles. That would make our driver's licenses and auto registration up-to-date. The decision was made to make the dreaded trip to the DMV. Why do I use that word? I guess it's because, in my personal experience, I have actually felt the sensation of getting older as I have stood in endless lines there. Remember, we came from a highly populated area. Then when you do get to someone at the window you don't know if you'll be handled by a friendly person or some specimen who got up on the wrong side of the bed.

But, which one to go to? Olean or Little Valley? An easy decision was made with a drive right down the street then on to the picturesque Rt. 242 to our destination. In about 30 minutes we landed in Little Valley and, mentally, prepared to wait in line.

Pardon me if I digress a bit but when we first came to our new address we were informed that we would need to rent a PO Box to get our mail. My initial response was, "REALLY"? A good friend at the time actually said, "Yep, you're really in Mayberry now". Truth be told, I now thoroughly enjoy my daily village walk to the post office as it has become an endearing ritual. I've noticed that there are a great many people who go there on a daily basis to retrieve their mail. I wonder if anyone notices the repeated simple gesture of holding the door open for the next person. It's just one of those charming village things that I experience almost every single day.

Anyway, back to our story: with filled-out forms in hand we entered the huge Cattaraugus County Center. We were greeted by no



This moment reminded me of that famous scene in the movie "Field of Dreams" when the by-gone-era baseball player looks out at the baseball field and asks Kevin Costner if this is heaven and he says, "No, it's Iowa". I was surprisingly hit with the realization this previously dreaded errand was going to be so easy and pleasurable.

less than three Sheriff's Deputies as the courthouse is located in the same building. They were super friendly and guided us through the metal detector procedure. Would you believe that the permanent metal stent strategically planted inside of my body set off the alarm? Funny but not...no, actually funny. I explained and they let me go. They pointed to where we needed to be which was right across the room.

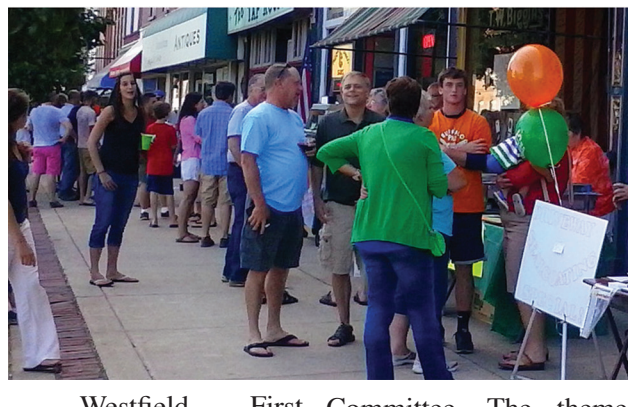
We got ourselves worked up that we would have to wait in a long line based on the past and were happily shocked that we were able to walk right up to an available agent. Even better, the clerk was efficient and friendly. It

might be the first time I ever saw a DMV employee with a genuine smile on their face.

This moment reminded me of that famous scene in the movie "Field of Dreams" when the by-gone-era baseball player looks out at the baseball field and asks Kevin Costner if this is heaven and he says, "No, it's Iowa". I was surprisingly hit with the realization this previously dreaded errand was going to be so easy and pleasurable. So in the spirit of that movie, I thought to myself that maybe this is heaven...no, it's Little Valley...no, it's just another happy chapter in our Ellicottville Village Life.

First Fridays Begin May 5

Family Fun and Entertainment in Westfield, NY



Westfield – First Fridays are back this year in Westfield! Starting Friday, May 5, this street fair event will be held in downtown Westfield, organized by the Westfield-Barcelona Community Chamber

Committee. The theme for this season-opener is Cinco de Mayo! First Friday runs from 5-8pm and is fun for the whole family, with businesses staying open, vendors offering food and more, and entertainment. If you

want to be a vendor or a sponsor, you can easily sign up online through our web calendar at www.chautauquachamber.org or for more information contact Community Chamber Coordinator Staunzie Grady at sgrady@hqchamber.org or at (716) 484-1101 ext. 300. The May 5 First Friday is sponsored by AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital and the Small Business Development Center. Additional First Fridays for 2023 will be held on June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, and on October 6.



Holiday Valley Spotlight



Hilltap

STORY FROM COVER

BY ABIGALE KRIENHEDER

The annual 42 North Hilltap festival is back for a third year at Holiday Valley on Saturday, July 22. The festival will be held atop Spruce Lake for a full day of music, food, beer, and adventure.

This year's Hilltap event is going to be epic! It's all thanks to the amazing efforts of not just 42 North Brewing Company and Holiday Valley, but also a slew of local businesses that really came together to make this shindig a reality. So, get ready to party, because you definitely won't want to miss out on all the fun and excitement that this year's Hilltap event has in store!

Throughout the afternoon and into the night, local bands will be making you tap your feet and sing along to their tunes.

Kody and Herren are a multi-instrumentalist duo from Springville, New York. Their unique harmonies are inspired by roots music featuring sounds from the classic guitar, violin, harmonic, mandolin, and more. They will kick off the day with some good ol' tunes at 1pm at the stage atop Spruce Lake.

Local Buffalo, New York band, **Ten Cent Howl** will take the stage at 3pm bringing some rock n' roll, rockabilly, bluegrass vibes to the audience. Their unique americana sound is beloved in Western New York and impossible not to tap your foot to the beat.

Get ready to rock your socks off with **The Probables** at the end of the night. The rhythm-driven, folkcana/roots rock band jumped into the music world in 2016 in Jamestown, New York. They've expanded their unique blend of Americana, folk, contemporary, bluegrass, and rock music to create a sound that is both energetic and soulful.

Let's talk food! By the end of the night, you'll be stuffed after munching on Fat Bob's Smokehouse BBQ and Villaggio's

Italian cuisine. Fat Bob's, located in Buffalo, is a staple in the Western New York community. Their award-winning barbecue is an all-time favorite.

Villaggio is local to Ellicottville, New York and right down the road from Holiday Valley. The Italian restaurant blends traditional cuisine with a fun pub-type flare for a dining experience everyone can enjoy.

Make sure to hydrate during the hot summer day with a nice cold beer from 42 North Brewing. The 20-barrel production brewery is located in East Aurora, New York. Their Tap Trekker Mobile Taproom will be on top of the mountain with a variety of brews to choose from. They have a diverse mix of artisan ales and lagers for every craft beer enthusiast. They will be pouring draft beers all day long so be sure to grab a pint (water and lemonade will also be available).

After a pint and a snack, head over to any one of the adventure activities or demos. Beer and axe throwing...what could go wrong? Hatchets and Hops will be at the event challenging anyone to throw a bullseye.

There will also be paddleboarding including SUP demos, Holiday Valley E-Bike demos, and Bike demos by Freewheel to engage any outdoor activity enthusiasts.

So, hop on the chair lift for an adventure-filled Saturday for the whole family to enjoy. Be in line at 12 noon for the first lift up, spend the whole day atop the beautiful Spruce Lake that overlooks Holiday Valley, but make sure not to miss the last ride down at 9pm or you'll be sleeping in the woods.

Tickets can be purchased on the Hilltap Festival website: \$40 (pre-sale), \$45 (day-of-event), \$50 if transporting a bike on the lift, and children under 10 are free. The ticket includes the ride up to Spruce Lake, adventures, vendor experiences and of course live music. If you want to bring your fluffy pals, no worries, but all dogs must stay on a leash and cannot ride on the chairlift, so be prepared for the hike up the mountain.

The next event at Holiday Valley you can catch 42 North Brewing Company is at the EA2EVL Fondo, September 30, 2023. This non-competitive charity bike ride covers 42 miles from East Aurora to Ellicottville, all to raise funds for the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail (ECRT). The ECRT is a 27-mile rail trail that spans from Orchard Park to Ashford, NY and the funds raised from this event will go towards continuing to build and improve this amazing trail for all to enjoy. Pedal for a good cause and enjoy a cold beer after.



Kody and Herren are a multi-instrumentalist duo from Springville, New York. Their unique harmonies are inspired by roots music featuring sounds from the classic guitar, violin, harmonic, mandolin, and more. They will kick off the day with some good ol' tunes at 1pm at the stage atop Spruce Lake.


Bonnie Raitt Tickets Going Fast


Chautauqua Institution, Saturday, June 24

CHAUTAUQUA - Congratulations to Bonnie Raitt, winner of the Song of the Year award for "Just Like That" at last week's Grammys! The legendary musician and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee will return to the Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater to open the 2023 season on Saturday, June 24. Only a few tickets remain, we will be sold out soon! Call our ticketing office directly to purchase yours today: 716-357-6250.


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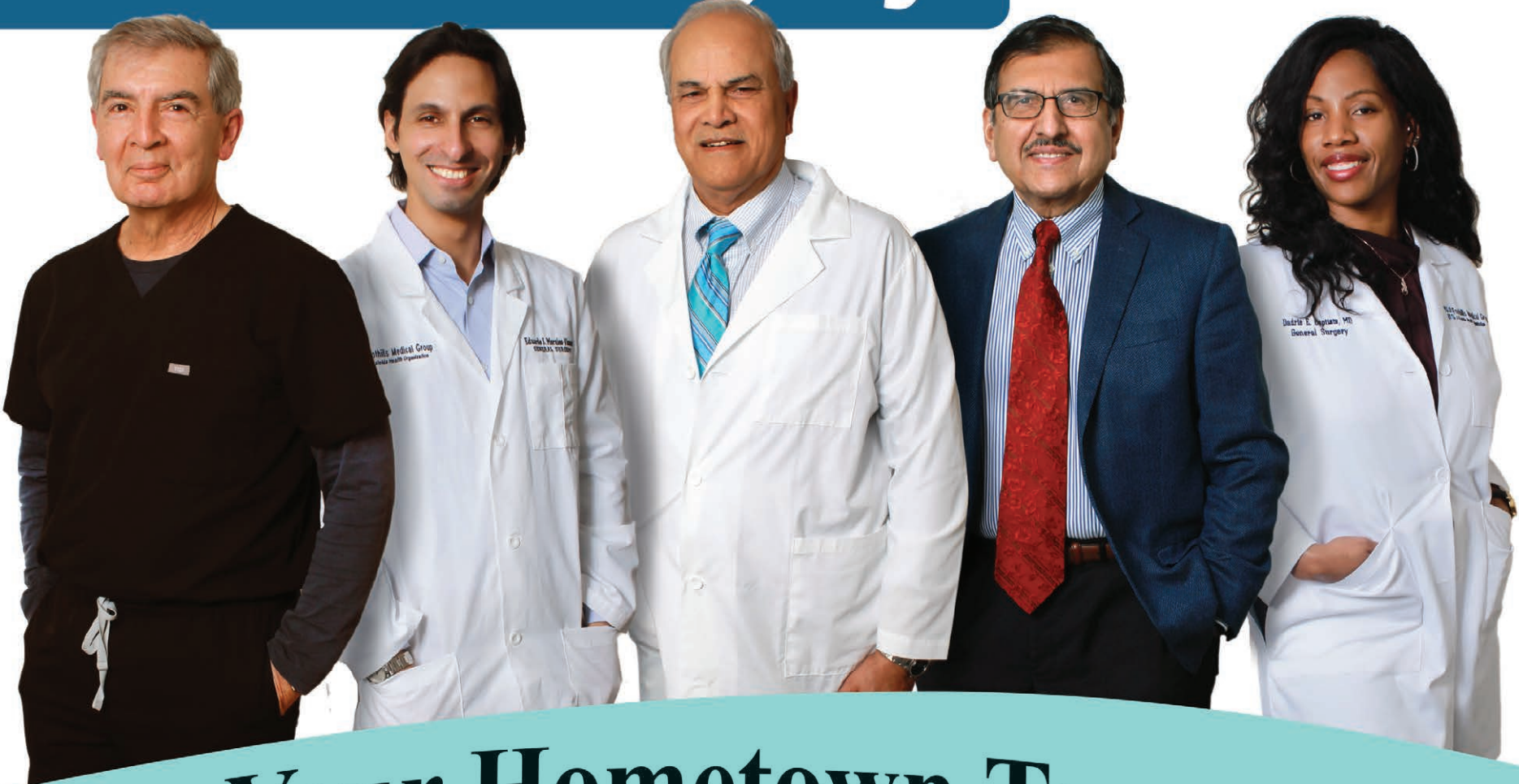


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First StrOlean Coming in June

GOACC Annual Event in Downtown Olean



Olean – Greater Olean Portville and Westons Mills Area Chamber of Commerce held its first Olean.

Commerce held its first Olean. Those that have brick ever StrOlean August 2017. This new event was defined as an event to be held in downtown Olean; event goers were able to saunter, amble, wander, walk North Union Street; and able to enjoy food, music, fine arts, classic cars and fun for all ages.

Friday, June 2nd will be the first of two StrOleans planned for 2023. Applications are now available for retail, food and event vendors. They can be found online at www.oleanny.com, at the Chamber office or by calling 716-372-4433.

“GOACC is encouraging all to participate – whether in Allegany, Olean or Portville. We gather all the participants information and promote it as one event with many locations. For example, Good Times and Fusion on Main sent in hours, music entertainment and specials for our past StrOlean and we included them in our guide and in our promotional materials,” reported Meme K. Yanetsko, GOACC COO.

Although the name StrOlean, the Chamber’s market area includes Allegany, Hinsdale, StrOlean. Past StrOleans

have seen a wide range of activities from tire flipping competitions to roller derby demos; to carnival games and children’s crafts; fun runs, music entertainment, yoga classes outside and more.

“GOACC is encouraging business, non-profits and school groups to start now and plan to participate in one or all StrOleans. For example, an organization or school group could host a 5K Run / Walk during any edition,” added Mrs. Blovsky. The most successful StrOlean to date was the first one held in 2017. Mrs. Yanetsko continued, “That year, StrOlean was held in conjunction with Gus Macker in August. We had more than 82 participants for StrOlean.” This will be the first one since then, that StrOlean is opening for Macker. “In 2018, we thought that separating StrOlean and Macker would give the merchants two separate weekends of sales – it didn’t happen,” she added.

GOACC officials are banking on the two events together to bring in great numbers. Those interested in participating as a retail or food vendor or as an event organizer, GOACC encourages information to be turned into the office as soon as you have it set for proper promotion and planning, as well as no duplication of events. For more information or registration forms, please call GOACC at 716-372-4433 or email events@oleanny.com.

AKS has clients nationwide, but Alex says she is proudest of the jobs she has done for local clients. “I love seeing the results of our work around town,” she adds. (14 Main will be above the See-Zurh House in Bemus Point, NY.)

AKS STORY FROM COVER BY PATRICIA MEASER

Anyone who owns a business realizes the importance of marketing. Not only does a business need advertising, but also the right kind of advertising, to promote brand recognition. Many business owners need signs on their building or around town, and need a sign maker who understands that not just any sign will do. Enter AKS Sign Designs and Marketing, the subject of our next business spotlight from the Lakewood Historic District.

Alex Sullivan opened AKS in 2018. Alex wanted to work for herself, and with a background in sign production, marketing and sales already, she knew this would be the perfect fit. “Being self-employed definitely has its ups and downs, but it’s nice to be able to pick what to work on, and to use my experience to help others.”

AKS offers a variety of products and services to match your needs. You can get signs made of different materials, large enough to attach to a building or small enough to hang in your window. You can order electric signs, too. Anything from

banners to business cards to custom embroidered clothing and swag is available. Need help designing a logo? Alex and her team can help with that. Need a marketing or branding strategy? They can help with that, too. “No project is too big or too small,” says Alex. “We are passionate about helping others define their brand.”

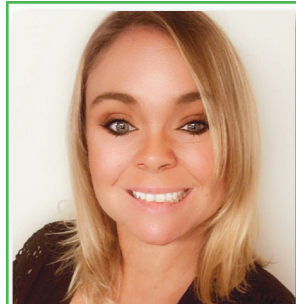
Some of the jobs that AKS has done include: A vinyl sign for a work trailer; a large metal sign the Borsari Foods building; and multiple signs and car wraps for Shults Auto in Olean. AKS has clients nationwide, but Alex says she is proudest of the jobs she has done for local clients. “I love seeing the results of our work around town,” she adds.

Alex says she is able to accomplish all this with a small team of three designers and two installers. For large projects, she hires other local experts when needed. “Networking and creating relationships with businesses in the community is important to me,” Alex states. For example, for the Shults Auto project, she hired Moonlight Electric from Jamestown to help with wiring, and hired several local welders to install a 400-lb. sign. Other jobs may require lifts or bucket trucks, which she can also outsource. For out-of-state jobs, she has contacts with similar businesses

in those states who can provide installation services for her. And, when they have a job in western New York that needs to be installed, she is able to reciprocate. Even though AKS was still a relatively young business when COVID lockdown started, Alex says they were still able to thrive, partly because a lot of their work is down outside, and partly because they continued to get a steady stream of clients. Surprisingly, many new businesses started during the pandemic and needed AKS services. “Since we started, I have seen about 15 new businesses open on the main drag here, and at least 10 more on Fairmount Avenue.” She also credits part of her success to her location in the Lakewood Historic District. “We get a lot of foot traffic here, and people see our sign and call us.”

Asked where she sees her business in another 5 years, Alex answers, “Hopefully we will continue on the same path we are on. I love the work we do here, the size of the business, and I like being a local who helps locals. I’ve found my niche.”

For more information on AKS Sign Designs and Marketing, you can visit their webpage at www.akssigndesigns.com, or follow them on Instagram or Facebook.



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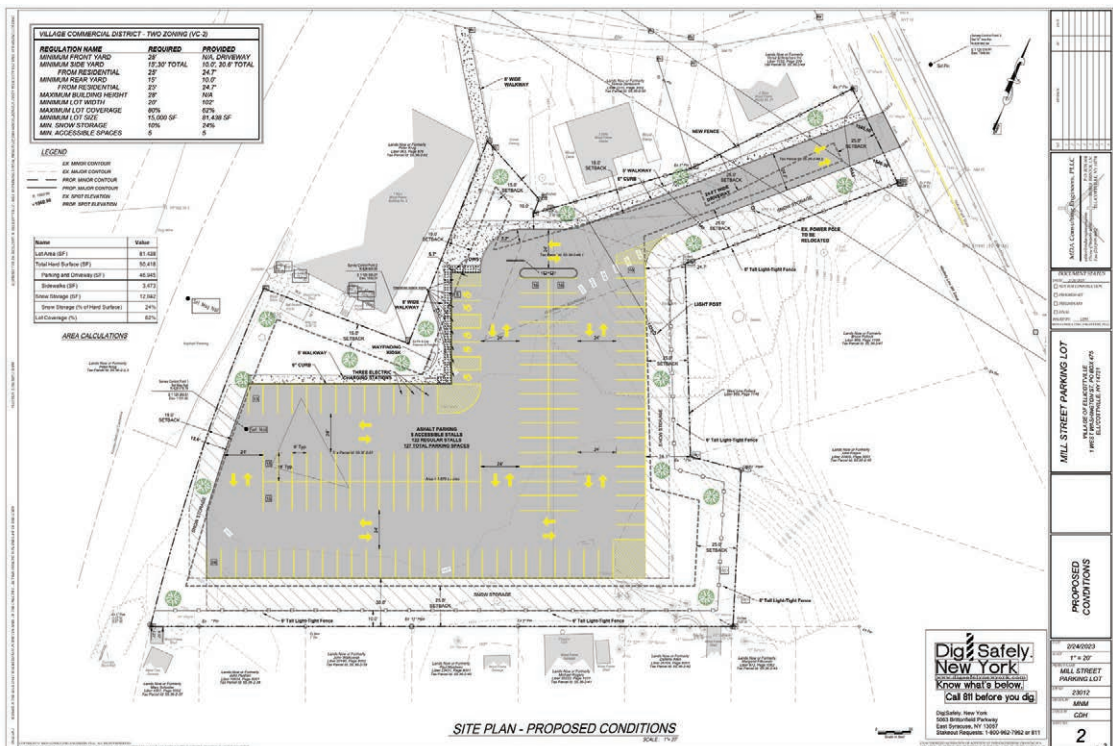


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128-Space Parking Lot Planned to Replace Neighborhood Green Space

Ellicottville Residents Voice Concerns



Legend: North (top) is Martha, East (right) Mill, South (bottom) Rockwell, West (left) butts up against another lot(s). 1.87 acres total for the lot.

Mill Street where the proposed new entrance/exit with sidewalk to the new parking lot location will be.

By Dave Parker

For nearly fifty years, Village homeowners along Mill, Martha, and Rockwell Streets have enjoyed a large green space in their backyards. Wildflowers, rabbits, deer, and neighborhood activities all contributed to a cherished communal space in what was once the location of several drying sheds for wooden shoe lasts produced by Fitzpatrick and Weller. A large fire in the early 1970s destroyed the drying sheds and eventually, the lot transitioned to a private owner who kept the property undeveloped. It was in the last year that a convergence of events happened where Cattaraugus County offered to assist the Village of Ellicottville in funding a public improvement project and the property

owner decided to sell the vacant property on Mill St. thus setting in motion a plan by the Village to construct a public parking lot to address the regular issue of parking during the many Village events. The Village was able to purchase the vacant Mill St. property in 2022 for \$340,000 and budgeted nearly \$1 million for the parking lot construction. All of this was made possible by a grant from Cattaraugus County that fully reimbursed the Village for the land purchase and will compensate 80% of the cost of the parking lot construction. Plans are now in the final stages for a 128-space parking lot after the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the requested variances following the public hearing on April 4th. Over a dozen attendees were at the public hearing and

offered up concerns and questions. Teresa Zenkovich is one of the most impacted homeowners with two properties bordering the new parking lot. "They'll be putting the entry to the parking lot between my house at 21 Mill St. and my neighbor's house at 25 Mill St. And then they'll be running the pedestrian walkway right by the bedroom window at my other property at 6 Martha St. The noise of people coming back from the bars to the rentals is already a concern but funneling them right by my window is frightening," said Ms. Zenkovich. "Ellicottville has been my family's home away from home and the green space that will be removed for the parking lot is an important part of the charm of the Village. I really

Mayor Burrell provided insights for this article on the approach to funding the parking lot maintenance. Initially, parking will remain at no cost throughout the Village but there are plans to evaluate the feasibility of implementing fees for street parking to be paid at kiosks or on phone-based applications. Per the Mayor, this approach has succeeded in other resort towns like Lake Placid and is widely used in other local towns. "Our goal for the parking lot is to keep that at no cost but use the funds from the in-demand street parking to offset the cost," noted the Mayor. Mayor Burrell also addressed the usage of the property as a parking lot noting that the sale of the property could have been made to a developer who could have constructed apartments, a long-term care facility, or other commercial uses that would not have benefited the community nor addressed the Village parking issue. "The Village has been very fortunate to have the County's support for funding the property purchase and development. While there are ideas to have a parking lot located elsewhere, there just was no property available at a reasonable distance that was for sale."

SEE "PARKING", PAGE 14



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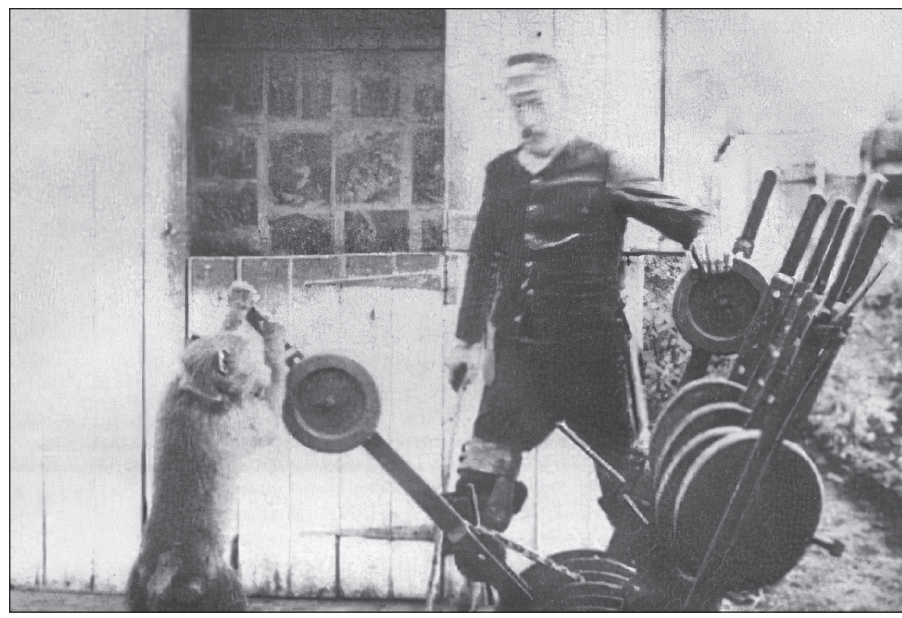
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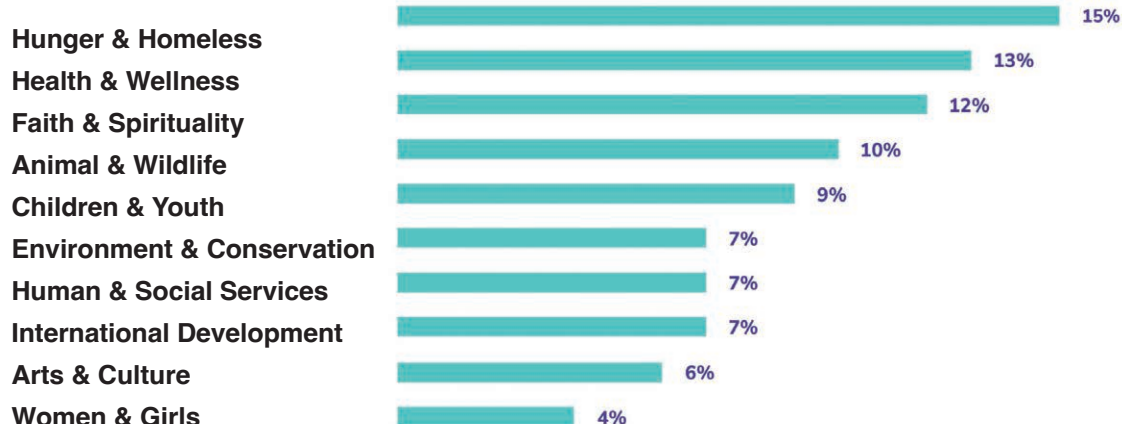
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April: National Volunteer Month Paying Tribute to Unwavering Contributions



Top Causes for Volunteering



Chart, teamstage.io. Sources: CNN, Funraise, Independent Sector, Init Live, Philanthropy News Digest, Sterling Volunteers, Trvst

Volunteer

STORY FROM COVER

BY CAROL FISHER LINN

Volunteering is a generous and often joyful act - a way of demonstrating what volunteers stand for and consider valuable. National Volunteer Month celebrates and honors the impact volunteers have on our lives and encourages active volunteerism in generations to come.

National Volunteer Month is an extension to an already-established holiday-week, first held in 1943 in Canada. The

week was dedicated to paying tribute to the unwavering contributions of women during World War II who would collect supplies and help the wounded soldiers. When the war ended, recognitions slowed but re-emerged in the U.S. in 1974, and by 1990 Volunteerism Month was made official worldwide. (nationaltoday.com)

One in four Americans volunteer. Women are more likely than men to volunteer, with most between ages 35-44. Baby Boomers are more likely to volunteer than any other generation. People in their early 20s are least likely to volunteer - only 18.8% do so. Over 1 billion people worldwide

volunteer with the effect of their labor being equal to over 109 million full-time workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and AmeriCorps data, volunteer time in the states is currently valued at \$28.54 per hour. Volunteers contribute nearly \$200 billion in value to U.S. communities. 35.97% of the time spent volunteering is dedicated to fundraising while 34.22% of volunteering activity goes to collecting, prepping, or distributing food. About 30.3% of Americans volunteer spending on average 52 hours a year volunteering. Utah has the highest number of volunteers - Florida has the lowest.

Are you unemployed?

Volunteer because you are more likely to be hired than a non-volunteer. Volunteers who've been unemployed are 27% more likely to find work. Resume statistics indicate that 91% of recruiters value soft skills as much as hard skills, and volunteering is an excellent way to develop soft skills in a real-world environment. Volunteers and other community members report a litany of other benefits. These include fostering a stronger sense of unity, involving marginalized people in community projects, and improving overall physical and mental health. (teamstage.io)

Ellicottville has a long

history of volunteering, as have many of our nearby communities in Cattaraugus, Erie, and Chautauqua counties. When thinking of volunteers, one can't help but think of our energetic Alley Katz who keep our village blooming and beautiful. The Rotarians, The Bares Foundation, and the Bobby McCarthy Foundation quietly and generously spread good works all year long as well. Holiday Valley and HoliMont enjoy the benefits of volunteers on their slopes. The Historical Society is run mostly by volunteers as is the Ellicottville Arboretum. How would the village manage without the volunteers for the Mardi Gras Parade, Summer Fest, and the many events in town that keep the community on visitors' radar? And don't forget the extra hours given by tutors and teachers, the people involved in Project Christmas, school productions and sports programs (example: the current field lighting project).

It is humbling to realize that most of the people we call when we dial 911, who are there in a heartbeat to put out a fire or save a building or a life, are volunteers. Think about that for a minute. When the call comes in, they drop what they are doing to answer that call - it could be yours, or mine (again). Community volunteers. You are too many to mention (and too humble to even recognize) but thank you!

Wondering where you

might volunteer? Here are a few suggestions: drive seniors, physically or visually impaired or those with no transportation to medical appointments; deliver meals on wheels; nonprofits depend almost 100% on volunteers; offer to be a senior or shut-in visitor/helper; be blood drive helpers, blood donors, living organ donors, healthcare helpers; volunteer for hospice and food pantries; clean up your parks, plant community gardens, visit or help with crafts at nursing homes, senior facilities, hospitals, libraries; volunteer in churches, museums, prisons, animal shelters. Neighbors can assist with eldercare, childcare, meals, errands, yardwork, etc. Contact AARP for more suggestions and opportunities in your location.

Meanwhile, say thank you to those who give so much of themselves. Maybe it's time we had a volunteer appreciation party. (Of course, we'd need volunteers to volunteer to help!) There is so much negative on social media - share your positive volunteer stories/photos using the hashtag #NationalVolunteersMonth. Show recognition, again through SM, or send a handwritten note saying "Thank You" or a small gift of appreciation. Whether you host an appreciation event or say thank you - take time to let those who are the backbone of so many organizations that they are appreciated.

ALLEY KATZ HELP WANTED! We are in need of a water person, someone to water our flower barrels, hanging baskets and garden beds. It's a paid position! Must be available Monday through Friday mornings from May 30th until mid October. Start time between 7-7:30am. The entire watering process takes about 3 hours. Direct Message Alley Katz of Ellicottville Inc. on Facebook for more information. Please serious requests only.

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Experience in social media and Microsoft office products is a must, as is a great personality. You will be part of a community culture that attracts over 1.5 million visitors annually and grows in leaps and bounds. The successful applicant requires a good knowledge of Ellicottville and the surrounding region and be comfortable in communicating with a large membership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON A CAREER WITH THE ELLICOTTVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW JUST DROP US AN EMAIL AT: INFO@ELLICOTTVILLE.NY.COM or Call 716 699-5046



Snow

CONT. FROM COVER

of the hills so they can make sure all of the manmade precipitation they pump through the system at Holiday Valley and HoliMont lies on the slopes just right. The evolution has made it a little easier on the grunts out there as the systems can be manipulated from a phone if need be. In the past they'd have to run hoses and move the machines manually. Not to say they don't work their butts off, even though the art of making snow has become much easier within the past few decades. They get out there and dig in the snow and fix leaks and work on the machinery that you hear whirring on those quiet winter nights in the distance, and much more.

Without the snowmakers out there, Ellicottville wouldn't be able to prosper as it does in the winter. The snow on the slopes is what draws the visitors in the winter. So, in order to show their gratitude, which they most definitely deserve, a large feast and benefit will be held at Villaggio on Thursday April 20th (4/20). Snacks and dishes from just about every joint in town will be served to the general public while the cash bar will be pouring cheer. Live entertainment as well as basket raffles, a 50/50 and a caricature artist will be on hand drawing cartoons for everyone who wants one, free of charge - but tip the guy!

The party starts at 5pm and goes on until

9pm. All are welcome and admission is free. Villaggio and most of the restaurants in town will serve a buffet of great food and J.P. O'Connell will be slinging tasty cocktails and probably shots - if you know any of the snowmakers, you know most of them love shots, especially after a shift on that cold hill- and the rest of the staff will be working too, to make the evening another one to remember. Prizes and baskets filled with great items will be taken home by lucky attendees and the entertainment will be memorable.

Caricature artist Eric Jones will be set up making drawings of all who want to see their cartoon face on paper. An alumnus of Alfred University, Jones is a very talented artist who sculpts and carves as well as having won Food Network's "Outrageous Pumpkin" carving contest in their 2022 competition. The audio entertainment that evening will be Tim Britt, who will be playing from 5:30pm-8:30pm,

filling the atmosphere with some funky sounds. Britt is a singer, guitarist and songwriter from Utica, NY who delves into modern/ alternative and folk music. Above all, just getting to know the snowmakers is quite entertaining. They love to answer questions like, "Where do you store the snow at the end of the season?" and they have good tales to tell, too.

An evening during "mud season" at Villaggio, where everyone definitely be having a good time. And as Andrea Austin, General Manager at Villaggio told *The Villager*, "At previous Snowmakers Balls a lot of people would show up, but I think many thought it was for snowmakers only. I would like a good turnout and to let everyone know that all are welcome!" She also wanted to say, "Thank you to the mountain crews from both Holiday Valley and HoliMont for one of the best seasons yet, especially with how little snow we had!"



Madigan's Receives Facelift

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Patio deck construction underway at iconic Ellicottville hotspot. More to come in next couple weeks!

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Dr. Woloszyn grew up in Poland where he graduated from the Medical University of Gdansk in 2002. He completed his internal medicine residency at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, New York. He has been proudly practicing since 2011 as part of Jamestown Area Medical Associates. Dr. Woloszyn is currently affiliated with Olean General Hospital.

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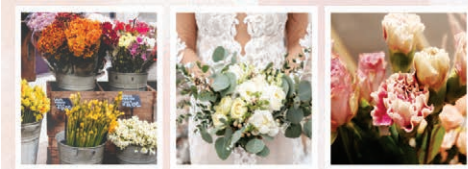
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Insurance

CONT. FROM COVER

clients more coverage and better rates with a pallet of carriers. Home, auto, life, pet, and commercial insurance along with annuities are all offered by Comparion, a Liberty Mutual owned establishment. Their services also include insurance for items like your boat, classic car, camper, etc. Nichole Goodman, Comparion/ Liberty Mutual agent, took her position around two years ago, assisting and protecting existing clients along with taking on new ones. The previous local agent served Chautauqua County, Cattaraugus County, Ellicottville, etc., for over forty years, and when retired, left a five-year void of a local Liberty Mutual representative within the area. Luckily, Ms. Goodman has been able to cover the footpath. "Policy reviews are important to have at whatever phase you are in with your insurance journey. They do not take long and have no obligation attached". Goodman states these words in a recent interview in hopes to inform the community about policy reviews and taking the right steps towards efficient insurance. A policy review consists of taking a look at your insurance portfolio and your coverage that

you have in place. Do you know what your coverage is? This is a question that your local Comparion agent will be able to answer for you. The ultimate goal at Comparion, the Liberty Mutual owned company, is not only to provide excellent customer service but also ensure that their customers are provided with a level of protection that meets their needs. The objective is for the agent to shop all carriers, for the clientele to find their best fit.

Comparion has no targeted audience and is readily available to help everyone with their insurance needs. "With a pallet of carriers, we can help anyone" - Nichole Goodman, agent. The company has high hopes to give back to the local community through their services, and at a growing pace. Comparion- Liberty Mutual has future plans to expand their team within the local area and are currently searching for real estate to open an office so that more in person contact with clients and agents can transpire.

The local agent for the returning company, Nichole Goodman, gave some incredible insight on what to expect in the future and why we should all care about receiving good quality insurance. The agent explained how her perception of insurance has been changed indefinitely by getting into the business. Before joining the industry, she had no idea how

important and crucial policy review is along with being aware of what policies you are taking on. Goodman and the agency feel that making a sale isn't nearly as important as educating people on their coverage. Not only is the company strong on making their clients aware of what they are paying for, they are also strong on keeping steady moral values. "Truly, I feel the moral compass of Liberty Mutual exemplifies the model that every company should. I never have found a company, in my experience, that has found such importance in work-life balance. They have such a strong focus on family, community, and giving back". This statement alone from local Nichole Goodman is enough to urge anyone to look into Comparion and what it has to offer.

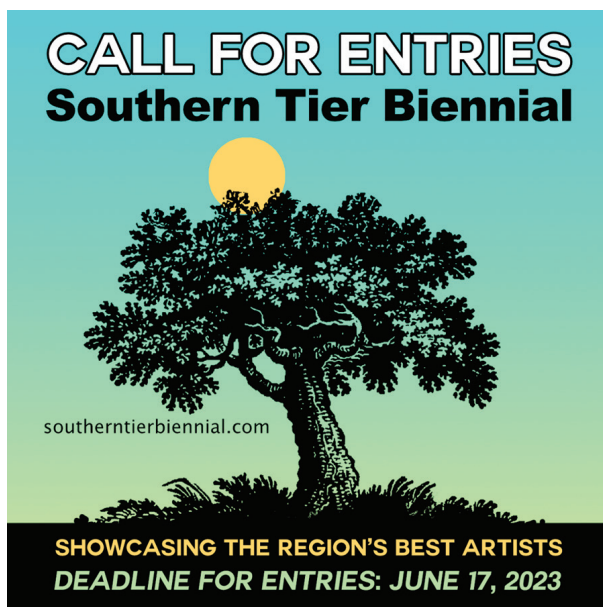
We can all agree that sometimes the bill comes, and we just pay it. Staying informed on the functions of our coverage rather than just paying our bill needs to become the new norm. This way, we can all know that we are getting the most efficient coverage for as little payment as possible. In difficult times, you can count on Comparion to take one thing off of your plate. So next time you are looking to receive a quote for your insurance, or an entire new policy, your local Comparion agent is one phone call away (716) 730-4904 or visit libertymutual.com!

Art Submissions Requested

Olean – Accepted works will be exhibited September 17 through November 4 in the stunning Peg Bothner Gallery at the Tri-County Arts Council in Olean.

"The Southern Tier Biennial was founded in 2003 with a bequest by Olean native, philanthropist, and art lover F. Donald Kenney, managed through the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation, to create an opportunity for regional artists to exhibit in a professional gallery and be seen by jurors that can help further an artist's career," said Sean Huntington, STB Exhibition coordinator. "Every two years, the Southern Tier Biennial gives us a glimpse into the wonderful creative talent that this region has to offer. It's truly an incredible show. I encourage every visual artist, including those working in craft media, to apply."

In addition to the opportunity to show their work, accepted artists have the chance to win



one of five awards totaling \$5,250 - \$3,000 to the Best of Show winner (\$1,000 cash and \$2,000 stipend towards a solo show in Fall 2024 at the TCAC); a \$750 Juror's Choice Award; and \$500 for three Honorable Mention winners.

Each biennial is juried by new jurors, this year's jurors are Andrea Alvarez, PhD, assistant curator at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly the Albright-Knox Art Gallery) in Buffalo;

Judy Barie, director of the Chautauqua Visual Arts Galleries in the Chautauqua Institution; and Tullis Johnson, curator and manager of exhibitions and collections at the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo.

The deadline for entering the Southern Tier Biennial is June 17. For full information and the online application, visit southerntierbiennial.com/.

Seneca Museum Hosts Juried Art Show

Seneca Iroquois National Museum Hosts March 25

Salamanca, NY – The Seneca Iroquois National Museum is hosting a juried Spring Art Show on March, 25th 2023. There will be paintings, drawings, 2D mixed media, 3D fine art, basketry, beadwork, and traditional arts!

For more information on this event please visit the Seneca Museum website or call (716) 945-1760. This event will be held at: Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center at 82 West Hetzel Street in Salamanca, NY.

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Whether Outside or In, Live Music is Always Available

By MOUTH SAY TONGUE

down the groove so you can bust a move on the two dance floors from 10-2am.

We return to The Gin Mill for Mo Porter from 8-12am. These long time Evl veterans play a rock/pop set of covers. If you like craft cocktails venture into the Carriage House Sidebar for some high end spirits.

Madigans joins the party with Dj SI from 9-1am providing the thumpin for the bumpin. Play stump the bartender with some off those umbrella cocktails.

SATURDAY

The Gin Mill is first up with Meet the Bacons from 2-5pm. They play a country/folk/pop/rock set of covers to accompany your late lunch or early dinner. West takes over the night shift from 8-12am. This band plays a rock/pop/blues set of covers for dancing.

Balloons returns with Damn the Weatherman from 6:30-10pm. I've never heard this band but their f/b page says they play 80's rock so think dance music. Dj Bad Weekend will follow with some crunk so you can shake your junk in the window till 2am.

Madigans brings back Dj SI from 9-1am puttin down the sauce so you can do the floss all night. For some competition try the

foosball and pool tables. SUNDAY

Villaggio hosts its weekly AYCE Pasta and Prime Rib Night from 5-9pm. This weeks musical host will be Evl's own Tui Osborne from 5:30-8:30pm. Tui plays a reggae/ska/pop set of covers while you dine on the southern tiers best Italian cuisine.

Monday is Strings and Wings Night at Balloons from 4-10pm. For the month of April the wings are 25 cents each and this weeks musical guest is the very talented Tina Williams from 6-9pm. Tina plays a rock/pop/alt/indie set of covers and originals.

Tuesday The Gin Mill hosts Red Gray from 7-10pm. Red plays an outlaw country/classic country/ classic rock/southern rock set of covers and originals.

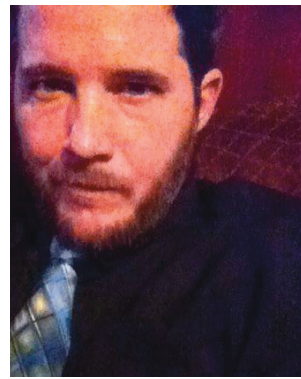
For the last 39 years The Gin Mill has hosted Joe Wagner and Company, Wing, Wednesday from 8-12am. Joe plays a folk/country rock:blues/roots set of covers you can sing along to while you eat some \$1 wings and take \$1 off all domestics.

If you had a good time in our village tell your family and friends and come back often but wherever you are PLEASE, ALWAYS SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!!!!!!!

Beat on the Street

"What Do You Look Forward To at Springtime?"

By CHAD NEAL



The wonderful aromas of life anew, growing forth after the cold death of winter - makes for a nostalgic sensation. The warmth blanketing the air around us comforts a body, making it known that once again we shall enjoy the out of doors without the cumbersome clothing we must adorn with the winter months. Although Ellicottville gained a new industry with snow and cold, the warmer months draw plenty to our little burg as well. The spring equinox is the precursor to those wonderful summer memories we make. And it is this time of year that we start realizing the fact we will make similar memories this summer. It starts with a glow that comes from the anticipation of the good times to be had. What do you look forward to at Springtime?



Betty C.- Leeks, spring ephemerals, first kayaking of the year, first time going outside in a t-shirt without the air hurting, the ridiculous sounds of frisky turkeys.



Dennis B.- Shorts and t-shirts! Not taking 20 minutes getting dressed to go outside and play!



Elaine N.- More daylight, bright colors outdoors and opening doors and windows. More time outdoors walking,hikes and just soaking in the beautiful sights and sounds of spring!



Jared H.- Camping, fires, and disc golf!



Jack A.- The start of outdoor concerts, festivals and events!!!!



Dan L.- Getting the Harley out.

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The Villager is looking for your story ideas. What's new in your neighborhood? Is there a business you'd like to see us feature or an event that would be great to highlight; we'd like to know. If your idea is chosen, we will place it in our next edition and be sure to credit you with bringing it to our attention. Be a part of the art! Submit your ideas to info@thevillagerny.com or jessica@thevillagerny.com or call 716-699-2058. Good Luck!!

Villager Photo Contest

The Villager is looking for your great photos. Snap a few pics of your family, friends or yourself enjoying reading The Villager wherever you are and send it in. We will place it in our next edition and be sure to credit you . email info@thevillagerny.com or call 716-699-2058. Can't wait to see what you send in!!

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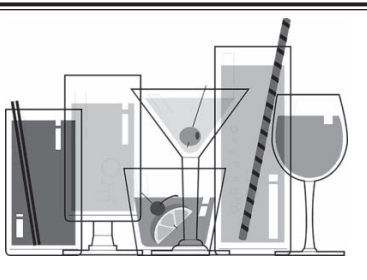
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★ ★ Sudoku Challenge ★ ★

This Week's Difficulty Level:
★★★★☆

9	7		3				2	1
5						7		
	3			8			4	6
							3	
		1						9
2			6		4	7		
4				2			8	7
		9	1	7		6		
	6	7					1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, place a number into each box so that each row across, each column down, and each small 9 box square within the larger diagram (there are 9 of these) will contain every number from 1 through 9. In other words, no number will appear more than once in any row, column, or smaller 9 box square. Working with the numbers already given as a guide, complete each diagram with the missing numbers that will lead to the correct solution....**Good luck!**

Last Week's Puzzle:

2	1	4	7	9	3	6	5	8
6	3	8	2	5	1	4	9	7
5	7	9	8	6	4	3	2	1
4	2	3	9	1	6	8	7	5
8	5	7	3	4	2	9	1	6
1	9	6	5	8	7	2	3	4
7	4	2	1	3	8	5	6	9
3	6	5	4	7	9	1	8	2
9	8	1	6	2	5	7	4	3

Parking

CONT. FROM PG 8

feel this is just benefiting the business owners and transferring the parking issues experienced on the other side of Washington St. to our neighborhood," remarked Ms. Zenkovich.

Darlene Allen, a long-time resident and local business owner, lives on Rockwell Ave. As a holistic healthcare practitioner, the green space that brought the flora and fauna to her backsteps provided a vital connection to nature. "I'm deeply concerned about the environmental impact of the parking lot, particularly with the vehicle emissions and runoff created by the paved area into the nearby Great Valley Creek," stated Ms. Allen. "I understand there is a need to address the parking issues but just don't see how this is the best way to solve it with so many other options that could be looked into," she noted. Ms. Allen is hoping to get more information on the environmental assessments done for the project and plans for addressing stormwater drainage.

Village Mayor John Burrell was deeply appreciative of public comments and questions provided at the Zoning Board public hearing and encourages homeowners to bring these insights to the Planning Board public hearing on Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 pm. "The Zoning Board's public hearing was focused on the variances that needed their approval and most of the great input from the public needs to be discussed with the Planning Board at their upcoming meeting. The Planning Board can address aspects of the parking lot such as fencing, drainage, lighting, and other topics that were expressed by the attendees," noted the Mayor.

Michael Calabrese of Mill St. offered his input that the parking issues are generally only a concern for a few festival weekends and the parking lot planned for his neighborhood is short-sighted and not adding long-term value. "My take is that the parking lot is not a good long-term play for the Village with many visitors and employees wanting to park near the shops and restaurants. Not many people will want to make that walk in freezing weather," remarked Mr. Calabrese. "There are so many other options for that property like a park or trails that would benefit the community much more than a parking lot that's only going to be utilized part of the time."


Teresa Zenkovich reflected Mr. Calabrese's remarks, "There are so many other ways to address the Village's parking concerns and the presentation of options considered and why this course of action was chosen was not explained by the Village officials at the recent public hearing. Also, I don't see how the purchase of this land and construction of the parking lot while offering free parking is not going to be a financial burden shouldered by us residents."

Mayor Burrell provided insights for this article on the approach to funding the parking lot maintenance. Initially, parking will remain at no cost throughout the Village but there are plans to evaluate the feasibility of implementing fees for street parking to be paid at kiosks or on phone-based applications. Per the Mayor, this approach has succeeded in other resort towns like Lake Placid and is widely used in other local towns. "Our goal for the parking lot is to keep that at no cost but use the funds from the in-demand street parking to offset the cost," noted the Mayor. Mayor Burrell also addressed the usage of the property as a parking lot noting that the sale of the property could have been made to a developer who could have constructed apartments, a long-term care facility, or other commercial uses that would not have benefited the community nor addressed the Village parking issue. "The Village has been very fortunate to have the County's support for funding the property purchase and development. While there are ideas to have a parking lot located elsewhere, there just was no property available at a reasonable distance that was for sale."

Residents and homeowners are encouraged to attend the Village Planning Board public hearing regarding the Mill St. parking lot scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 pm. For more information on the proposed parking lot and Village Planning topics, please visit their website at <https://www.ellicottville.gov/village-planning-board-meetings.html>.

Half Marathon, 5K & Beer Mile

Holiday Valley, May 13, 2023



Ellicottville – At Holiday Valley, we want to help put the FUN into running. Sometimes it is not just about the distance, it is how you get there. We want our participants to enjoy their run so there will be a few surprises out on course that will make you smile. And don't forget about our awesome finisher's medals and super soft race shirts.

The starts and finishes of both the Half Marathon & 5k are at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY. You could not ask for a nicer venue for a running race! Make sure to bring your smiles to run the miles!

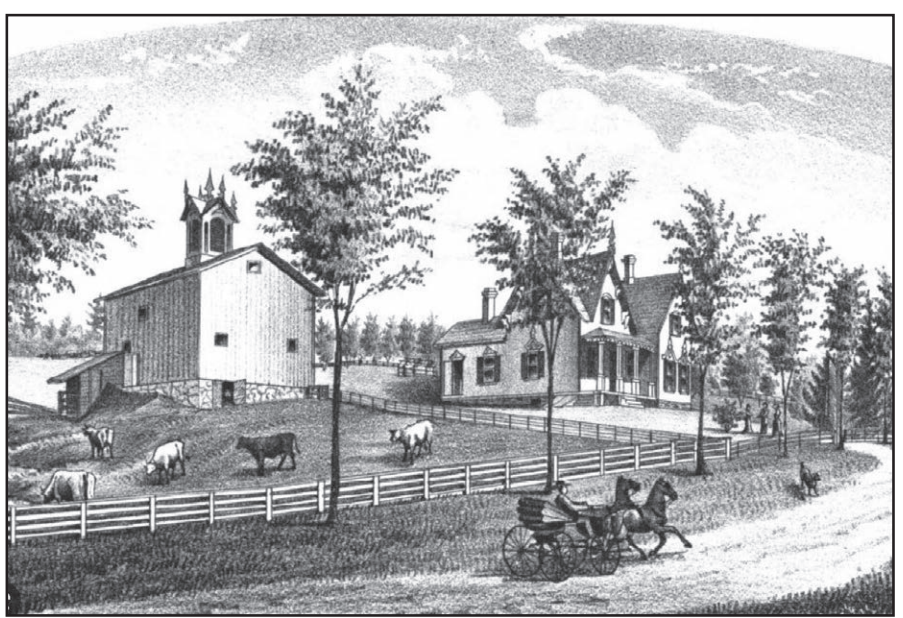
So what are you waiting for? Sign up today!! For more information about the race or the Southern Tier Brewing Mile, happyhalf.com.

Tell Us About It!!

Nominate your favorite small business owner. (One entry per person please) and if your recommendation is chosen, we will feature that small business owner in a special feature article on the cover of our publication. All nominations can be made via e-mail to info@thevillager.com or by calling into the office at 716-699-2058. Vote and support your favorite businesses today!!

Retro Images

Photo Picks From CATT and CHQ Counties



*Residence of Marvin S Botsford
Otto NY - Cattaraugus County Circa 1900*

Ferry

CONT. FROM COVER

the lake, with four pilot towers and two US flags – the current one with 50 stars, and the version from 1811. Multiple generations of families have enjoyed traveling on the ferry over the years, making this iconic boat a historic treasure for both residents of and visitors to Chautauqua County.

The ferry was the only shortcut for traffic across the lake until the I-86 bridge was completed in 1982. When ferry service originally started, it was to provide quick access to landowners who had farm land on both sides of the lake, saving them from a 23-mile trip. Back in 1811, such a trip would have taken 4-5 days! However, the ferry ride was only a few minutes. This made it suddenly popular with travelers from all across the county. What started as a small raft pulled hand-over-hand across a rope, became a larger barge that could carry livestock, and then later was replaced by the cable-guided paddlewheel boat we see today. It is one of the few remaining cable-guided ferries remaining in the United States.

After the bridge was built, the county, which owned the ferry at the time, discussed scrapping the boat. Supporters of the ferry who recognized its historical significance convinced the county to keep it running. Eventually, however, the county was unable to maintain the ferry. In 2007, a local group called the Sea Lion Project, which had extensive experience in maintaining and piloting historical boats, purchased the ferry and continued its operation. Local resident John Cheney, a member of the group, was the visionary behind the purchase.

“Our family has a lot

of good memories around the ferry,” said Martha Anderson, John’s daughter and a current co-president of the Sea Lion Project. “So, my dad was very passionate about keeping it going.” Martha has continued the tradition of making the ferry part her family’s summer experience, by taking her children and now her grandson on rides.

Jay Kuntz, Martha’s co-president, agrees that the ferry is about making memories. Whether it’s the spectacular sunset viewed from the middle of the lake, or a marriage proposal on the ride (they see a lot of those), or a family outing to get ice cream, there is always something that makes the ride special. One of his favorite memories involves an occurrence with a mother and daughter when he was manning the boat one day. The mother promised the young girl that they would go see the ferry. However, the girl was upset when they arrived because she thought she was going to see a magical fairy, not a floating ferry. The story ended happily enough after the confusion was cleared up. But it got Jay thinking about how to continue to promote the ferry to children.

The result was that he and friend Chris Flanders co-wrote a children’s book titled, “The Fairy on the Ferry.” A book-signing event is scheduled for June 11th at the Stow landing. The mother and daughter from the story will be there, along with a photographer, several ballerinas, and a “ferry” godmother. Proceeds from the book will go toward ongoing maintenance and bills related to the boat.

The Bemus Point-Stow Ferry operates Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, all summer long, until the weekend of the Bemus Point Fall Festival. It makes the 935-foot journey between the two villages in about seven minutes. On a busy Saturday, they may run the ferry 50 or 60 times.

During the ride, “ambassadors” chat with patrons about their personal history with the boat, making it a very friendly experience. There is no charge, but donations are gladly accepted.

When asked whether they had any plans to operate routinely during the week, Jay responded, “We would love to, but we don’t have enough people to do that right now. The ferry is staffed by volunteers, who all have families and jobs outside of this.” He added that it takes a certain skill set to pilot the ferry, and requires that the pilots obtain a Joint Pilot and Engineer License from New York State.

The ferry is run occasionally for special events when possible. They have hosted BOCES life skills events, fourth grade history class outings, family reunions and corporate scavenger hunts. Jay and Martha note that the Sea Lion Project has tremendous support from the county, and from the towns of Ellery and North Harmony, which maintain the boat landings.

“And we absolutely could not do any of this without all of our volunteers,” says Jay. “Not only volunteers to run the ferry, but also the volunteers that donate time and materials to keep the boat going.” When the diesel engine had to be replaced, Cummins donated one, along with the manpower for annual maintenance. Other volunteers donated a recharger for the battery, so they can provide more rides. Volunteers maintain the electric winches. The list goes on and on.

“The ferry is part of the fabric of the county,” Jay says. “We are grateful to have so many people who want to keep the history of the ferry alive. Once you lose a piece of history, you can’t get it back.” For more information, you can find them on Facebook or visit the www.thebemuspointstowferry.com.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PLANNING BOARD, TOWN OF ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held Monday April 24, 2023, at approximately 6pm at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input and comments on: Zoning Permit 2022-092 – a revised application by New Leaf Energy for a Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review to allow the construction of a 5 MW Community Solar Energy System. The project is proposed for property in the Town of Ellicottville located at 6902 Simmons Road. Tax map parcel 47.004-1-10.10.

Plans for this project are on file and available for review at the Engineering Department Office in the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Town website at www.ellicottvillegov.com.

The Planning Board will take statements at the public hearing from all persons interested in the project. Persons wishing to do so, may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Town of Ellicottville Planning Board, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 600, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to greg.keyser@evlengineering.com

NOTICE OF FORMATION: Alterity Regenerative Ranching, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/16/2023. Office: Cattaraugus County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Alterity Regenerative Ranching, LLC, PO Box 295, Portville, NY 14770. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND VALUATION DATA: PURSUANT TO SECTION 501 OF THE NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW, notice is hereby given that the assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel that will appear on the tentative assessment roll for the Town of Ellicottville, County of Cattaraugus, which will be filed on or before 05/01/2023. The information may be reviewed by appointment in the Assessor’s office at 28 Parkside Dr., Ellicottville, NY 14731. By Appointment Only, on April 19 and April 21, between 1pm and 3pm.

ANNUAL MEETING of the Maples Cemetery Association: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Mansfield Town Hall, 7691 Toad Hollow Road, Eddyville, NY. All deed holders are encouraged to attend.

SERVICES/BUSINESSES

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

Experience in social media and Microsoft office products is a must, as is a great personality. You will be part of a community culture that attracts over 1.5 million visitors annually and grows in leaps and bounds. The successful applicant requires a good knowledge of Ellicottville and the surrounding region and be comfortable in communicating with a large membership.

For more information on a career with the Ellicottville Chamber Of Commerce or to schedule an interview just drop us an email at info@ellicottvilleny.com or call 716-699-5046

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- THE SILVER FOX STEAKHOUSE is looking for experienced **Kitchen Staff**. Mail resume to P.O. Box 146, Ellicottville, NY 14731 or email silverfoxeville@aol.com

HELPWANTED: THE SEE ZURH HOUSE & 14 MAIN UPSTAIRS is currently looking for candidates in all positions. Anyone interested in working at The SEE ZURH HOUSE should send resume with contact information to our email: theszhbpt@gmail.com.

Place Your Classified: info@thevillagerny.com

Submit Your Stories to The Villager

The Villager is looking for your story ideas. What’s new in your neighborhood? Is there a business you’d like to see us feature or an event that would be great to highlight; we’d like to know. If your idea is chosen, we will place it in our next edition and be sure to credit you with bringing it to our attention. Be a part of the art! Submit your ideas to info@thevillagerny.com or call 716-699-2058.

Help Wanted: Creative Manager

ELLICOTTVILLE: Strong organizational skills a must as well as ability to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office and Adobe Suite. Email info@thevillagerny.com or call 716-699-2058.

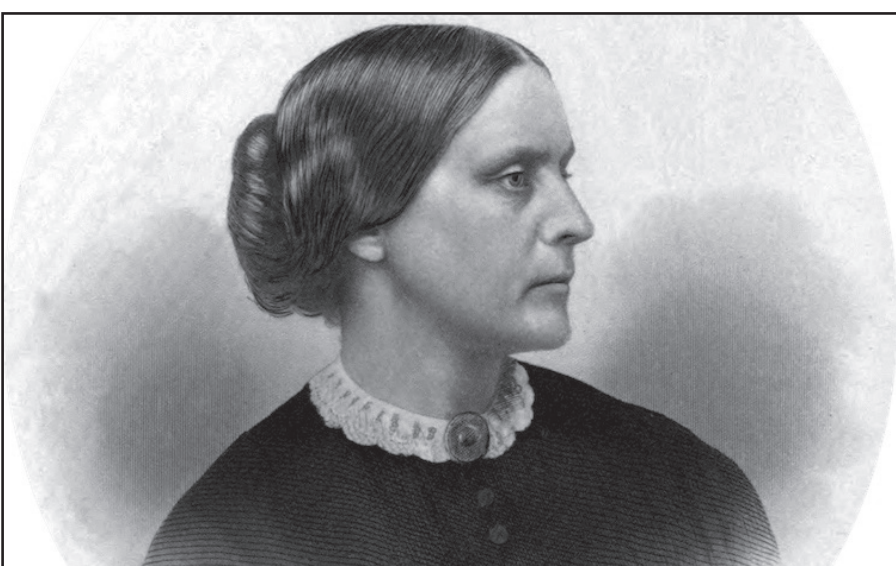
SALES: The Villager Newspaper is looking for Sales Representatives in Chautauqua & Cattaraugus Counties. Hours are flexible.

Email: info@thevillagerny.com

Call: 716-699-2058.

Womens History Images

Photos of Women in History



Susan Brownell Anthony - Key leader of the women’s suffrage movement in the U.S.

At age 17, she collected around 400,000 signatures in support of the abolition of slavery, and she continued to fight for equality of all kinds throughout her life

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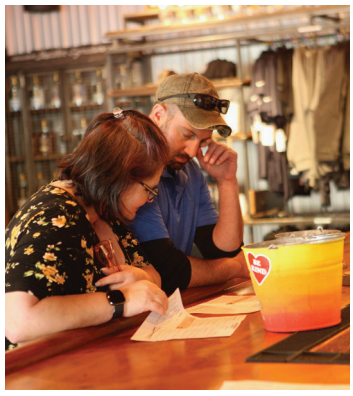
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Views From Lakewood NY: Spring Fun Has Begun @ the Southern Tier Campus!



Photos by Jon Elder



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