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The Villager

EL LICOTTVILLE • CHAUTAUQUA

Area Events

CHEAP SKATE AT NORTHWEST ARENA
Friday, January 3 • 2pm
Jamestown NY

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER LESSONS
Friday, January 3 •
Holiday Valley, Ellicottville, NY

JAMESTOWN JACKALS BASKETBALL
January 5 • 2pm • Jamestown, NY

SLEIGH RIDES AT CHAUTAUQUA
Friday January 4
Chautauqua Institution

PUBLIC SKATE AT NORTHWEST ARENA
Thursday, January 5 • 1:30pm
Jamestown NY

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP
Saturday, January 8
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

"A REAL PAIN"
Wednesday, January 8
Reg Lenna, Jamestown, NY

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP
Wednesday, January 15
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

MOVIES AT THE REG - HERE
Sunday, January 15,
Reg Lena, Jamestown, NY

MONTHLY FAT BIKE RIDES
Friday, January 17
Allegany State Park, Salamanca, NY

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP
Wednesday, January 22
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

GRILLED CHEESE BAR @ MERRITT WINERY
Friday, February 17
Forestville, NY

WINTER BLUES WEEKEND
Friday, January 17-19 • All day
Ellicottville, NY

WINTER FESTIVAL
January 25 • All day
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House
Bemus Point, NY

WINTER MUSIC JAM
February 22-23 • All day
Ellicottville, NY

To advertise your events
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• or email
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Community Accomplishments

Looking Back on the Successes of 2024



This year's Ellicottville Winter Blues Weekend will take place January 17-19, 2025 extending the party into the New Year.

BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

Winter itself, with the annual solstice promising a return of the light, is the time we look for and appreciate light and the reflections it creates. At the end of each year, it is good to reflect on what has been but also to

look to the light revealing what is to come. With that in mind, let's review some of the events that have taken place in 2024, always keeping an eye on the present and the future, and the excitement for

SEE "NEW YEAR" PG. 6

Chautauqua Institution 2025

Peek at Upcoming Season at Learning Center



BY DARLENE BRACE

Last year, Chautauqua Institution celebrated its 150th year anniversary. Throughout the year, attendees enjoyed many special programs and events that took place, which featured a rich array of cultural, educational, and artistic experiences. Now,

they are preparing for the upcoming 2025 season, including a captivating lineup of programs and events that will be featured at Chautauqua this summer.

When you're looking to explore the events planned for the 2025 season, visit

SEE "CHQ." PG. 7

Peak Heat Saunas Delivered to You

Mobile Sauna Co. Celebrates 1 Year in EVL



Peak Heat mobile saunas are available for day, weekend and week-long rentals, equipped with everything needed for an elevated group experience including robes, sauna hats, essential oils, a cold plunge tub and small deck.

BY KATE BARTLETT

Peak Heat Saunas will be celebrating their one-year anniversary in Ellicottville this

January. This mobile sauna company offers an 8-person Finnish wood-burning sauna and cold plunge experience complete with everything needed for a sauna session, delivered right to your driveway.

Two-time Olympian Tricia Mangan founded Peak Heat with her brothers, William and Peter, and they began rentals in January 2024. She was inspired to bring this wellness trend to the area after experiencing the vibrant sauna culture in Europe. As a life-long skier and member of the US Ski team, Tricia discovered how saunas bring people together while offering profound health benefits. "Saunas are a staple at so many European ski destinations," explains Tricia. "They create this amazing

SEE "SAUNA" PG. 5

Mill Street Sports Pub

Miracle on Mill Street in Ellicottville



The Mill St. Sports Pub promises to take the legacy Finnerty instituted and keep the fire alive as one of the great places in Ellicottville to enjoy the Buffalo Bills on their march to the top this year and many years to come.

BY CHAD NEAL

Ellicottville was blessed almost a decade ago with the presence of a new business owner and mega Bills fan. Billy Finnerty who opened up Finnerty's Tap Room at 5 East Washington St. at the end of

2016 and the place was a hit. After some ups and downs with life and business he has returned to the same spot now owned by Brenda Smith and Audrey Snow called Mill St. Sports Pub. The Villager got in touch with

SEE "FINNERTY" PG. 6

Sneak Peek

Inside this Edition...

HoliMont's Report on the Resort

The Origin of National Ski Patrol ... Pg. 4



HoliMont Patrollers give Minnie Dole a big thumbs up.

Steelbound's New Sales & Marketing Mgr.

Introducing Navi King Pg. 3

Online Submissions Accepted

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Wonder Moss

Artwork of Former Springville Resident



BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

For those who wish they could spend more time outdoors, Robin Frey's business, Wonder Moss, brings the feeling of relaxation found in woodland spaces indoors to them. The artist and owner, a former Springville resident whose business is headquartered in Buffalo, and is now also in a Studio Space on Main Street in Springville, crafts maintenance-free moss wall art and decor for homes and businesses that feature various types of tranquil green elements. Wonder Moss is one of the first businesses to make preserved moss wall art widely accessible in the Western New York area. Its free, in-person design consultations provide clients with the opportunity to explore hands-on, unique moss varieties, colors, and textures for the creation of one-of-a-kind pieces. The

SEE "MOSS" PAGE 7

Volunteer Spotlight: CASA of CHQ. Co.

Court Appointed Advocates for Children



While the volunteer base remains strong, there's still a significant need for more support, specifically male volunteers.



BY JEFF MARTIN
THE VILLAGER

Since its founding in 2003, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Chautauqua County has been a big believer in children.

Volunteers are tasked with assessing the needs of children in foster care and advocating for their best interests. They collaborate with attorneys, caseworkers, family members and other professionals to ensure children are receiving the proper services, whether that's helping them stay with their families or facilitating their move into a permanent home. For older youth aging out of the foster system, volunteers assist in the transition to independent living.

As 2025 begins, the organization is seeing demand for its services, and the need for volunteers continues to grow.

Kathy Park, executive director of CASA of

SEE "CASA" PAGE 11



Publisher's Word

"Make New Friends & Keep the Old; Resolutions and Transitions"



to have the opportunity to dream so big, so I suggest you go ahead and do it!

Remember there's no such thing as bad weather, just different kinds of good weather! Get out this weekend, and remember to thank your lucky stars you're in a 'very cool' place to be... and when you are, snap a shot and send it over to us ino@thevillagerny.com, we would love to show all the positive energy in town.

Happy New Year and count your blessed resolutions, we are fortunate indeed I love the quote which tells us "winter friends are friends forever" – it seems so appropriate here in the village, doesn't it?

It takes a long time to grow an old friend, and this bond we have between Ellicottville and Canada has been around since the late fifties and early sixties. Friends forever – it seems

Until next week, enjoy the read! – Jeanine Caprino Zimmer

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Day Trippin': Bflo Botanical Gardens

Explore Tropical and Desert Landscapes in South Buffalo



Opened in 1900, the gardens' historic glass conservatory remains one of the region's architectural gems and attractions. Designed by celebrated landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted—who also designed Central Park and other Buffalo parks—the conservatory houses a collection of plant life from across the globe.

BY JEFF MARTIN
THE VILLAGER

When the snow is falling and the icy wind is blowing, you could do far worse with your time than stand beneath a palm tree. Or immerse yourself among ferns. Maybe witness carnivorous plants chow down on a housefly. Kneel down and follow the graceful, random patterns of koi. In the winter than a trip to the Buffalo and Erie Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue. Located in South Buffalo, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens offers an escape from the oftentimes cold and hostile winter weather, providing visitors with a rare opportunity to explore tropical and desert landscapes while surrounded by exotic plants. Opened in 1900, the gardens' historic glass conservatory remains one of the region's architectural gems and attractions. Designed by celebrated landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted—who also designed Central Park and other Buffalo parks—the conservatory houses a collection of plant life from across the globe. Towering palms located in the dome are some of the oldest palms in the state. To the immediate right of the dome, visitors can walk through lush rainforest environments with waterfalls and koi-filled ponds. There's the desert room, highlighting succulents that bloom in unexpected colors. For those looking to stay a little longer, the gardens offer a variety of events throughout the year, including flower festivals, plant exhibits, and art shows. Outside, the gardens are not sprawling but they do have just the right amount of visual accent, with distinct areas including a rose garden, a native plants garden, and a seasonal discovery garden designed specifically for children. The latter features a pond, sandbox, and butterfly-attracting flowers that allow kids to learn about nature through play. For members, there are classes throughout the year. Perhaps you like growing orchids or learning the basics of gardening. Check the garden's website for more information. The facility is currently undergoing an exciting expansion project. This ambitious project includes over 14,000 square feet of renovated space and more than 16,000 square feet of new construction. A new, accessible visitor entrance will be relocated to improve accessibility, and the addition of state-of-the-art classrooms, modern event spaces, and an expanded gift shop will provide new opportunities for education and community engagement. This expansion project is a collaboration between the Botanical Gardens, Erie County, Wendel Companies, and Turner Construction. An informational session was held on October 23, allowing the public to learn more about the project and provide feedback. While the expansion project will be significant, the gardens will remain open throughout construction. The project is expected to begin in the spring and be finished in 2027. The Botanical Gardens is open daily from 10am-4pm (with some holidays excluded) and offers a variety of ticket prices: \$16.50 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, \$9 for children ages 3-12, and free admission for children under 2. Visitors will find plenty of free parking in a designated lot or along the South Park ring road.

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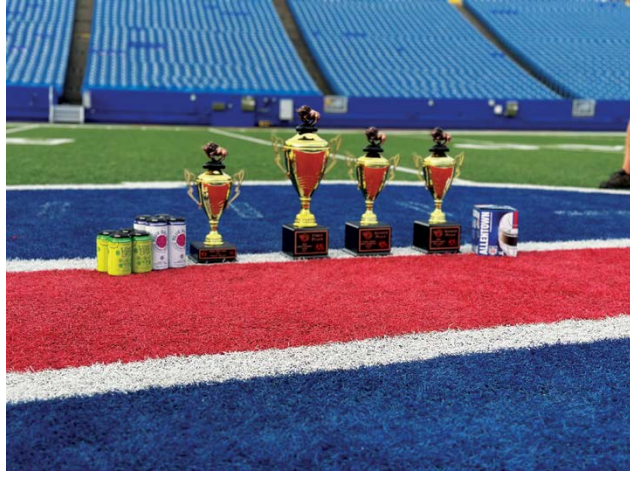
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Be a Part of the Art!

Introducing Navi Kang

Steelbound's New Sales & Marketing Manager



By KATE BARTLETT

Steelbound has consistently dominated at Buffalo's National WingFest, collecting three awards in both previous years, and this year set a new record with four prestigious awards: First Place for Best Craft Brewery Wing, Second Place for Best Sriracha Wing with their Flying Goose Wing, Second Place for Best Creative Sweet Wing Sauce, and Third Place for Best Dry Rub.

built its reputation on craft beers and award-winning wings, their spirits program has achieved exceptional recognition as well. Most notably, they earned the top prize for Best Cocktail at the American Distilling Institute Awards, one of the most prestigious accolades in the liquor industry. The company has also earned a Best in Class at the Los Angeles Invitational and a Double Gold for their Bourbon, demonstrating their commitment to excellence across all beverage categories.

Under Navi's leadership, Steelbound is fostering innovative partnerships across various industries. "We believe in the power of community and creative collaboration," Navi explains. "Our upcoming partnerships extend beyond the brewing industry to include local food producers, artists, event organizers, and other businesses. These collaborations aren't just about creating new products - they're about building stronger community connections and offering unique experiences to our customers."

"I've learned that success comes from seeing opportunities others might miss," Navi notes. "That's exactly what we're doing at Steelbound - while others focus solely on the saturated craft beer market, we're strategically expanding our award-winning spirits program while maintaining our championship reputation for both beverages and wings."

The brand's expansion particularly energizes Navi. "We're not just running restaurants - we're building a hospitality brand that delivers exceptional experiences through our spirits, craft beers, and award-winning food. Having recently opened our Williamsville location and now launching our fourth location in Las Vegas this week, we're proving that our concept resonates across diverse markets. This is just the beginning of what Steelbound can achieve."

Looking toward 2025, Navi envisions continued growth and innovation. "What makes me most excited about Steelbound's future is our ability to consistently raise the bar. Whether it's our nationally recognized wings, craft beer selection, or our decorated spirits program, we've shown we can deliver excellence across every aspect of our business."

According to Navi, the Steelbound brand represents more than just great food and drinks - it's about creating memorable experiences. "When you see how our customers respond to our championship wings, how they embrace our award-winning spirits alongside our craft beers, and how each location develops its own unique community connection - it's clear we've built something that has tremendous potential. We're looking forward to an incredible year in 2025."



Having recently opened our Williamsville location and now launching their fourth location in Las Vegas this week, they are proving their concept resonates across diverse markets.

CHQ Chamber Appointment

New Director of Membership Development



since 2018. CHQ Chamber President and CEO Daniel Heitzenrater noted, "We are delighted to have Bob join our team in this role. He brings a strong professional background in sales and marketing to the position, as well as a background in community building. As a small business owner, Bob is already a strong advocate for local business. His skills align closely with the mission of the CHQ Chamber to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County."

Director of Membership Development is a new title for the CHQ Chamber staff, with a focus on leading membership recruitment and retention, as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Prior to his own experience as a small business owner, Mr. Lingle was a communications consultant with a focus on brand development, messaging and social media marketing. He was also a store manager for Follett Higher Education Group at Canisius College and Medaille College where he demonstrated a history of increasing sales and reducing expenses.

The CHQ Chamber is pleased to announce the addition of Bob Lingle to the team as the new Director of Membership Development, starting January 2, 2025. Mr. Lingle has owned and operated Good Neighbor Bookstore in Lakewood



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HoliMont's Report on the Resort

The Origin of National Ski Patrol:
Mountain Mishaps Mobilized Ski Patrol Visionaries



HoliMont Patrollers give Minnie Dole a big thumbs up.

By DAN BALKIN

Minnie was in a fix – a bad fix. He had a painful broken leg near the summit of a big mountain ski slope, the daylight was waning, and he was shivering from the cold. It was 1936, and The National Ski Patrol did not yet exist. Five years earlier, in 1931, Minnie was one of the 71 charter members of the ASCNY – Alpine Ski Club of New York. In winter, these ski enthusiasts would spill out of New York's sky-scratching buildings and motor toward the snowy and gravelly roads of New England to find ski mountains. The ASCNY produced a newsletter for its members edited by a writer who gave himself the fanciful moniker "The Baron Dunski." To his friends, he was known as "The Baron" or "Minnie". Nicknames aside, he was born on April 18, 1899 in Massachusetts and named Charles Minot Dole. One of the nicknames, however, did stick – because he is now commonly known as Minnie Dole, the founder of the National Ski Patrol.

There are bigger ski mountains, but Stowe VT is enchanting. In 1931, Roland Palmado, president of the ASCNY, wrote a letter to the Postmaster in Stowe VT asking if they would welcome skiers (lifts were not installed at Stowe until 1940 – this was the era of mainly hiking up and skiing down). The letter had been passed along from the Postmaster to the Secretary of the Stowe Civic Club, and he wrote back saying Stowe had facilities where the skiers could be accommodated and a great ski mountain. It clicked – ASCNY members regularly journeyed from NYC to Stowe, and the locals enjoyed hosting them.

Five years later, in 1936, the early season conditions at Stowe's Mt. Mansfield were not ideal. It had been

In 1938, the National Ski Patrol was founded in Stowe VT when the president of the National Ski Association asked the leader of Stowe's Ski Patrol - Minnie Dole - to form a national patrol. This winter will mark the 87th anniversary of our Guardian Angels of the slopes. At HoliMont, and ski areas far and wide, we can thank Minnie Dole for inspiring generations of selfless patrollers to be at the service of skiers in need.

unseasonably warm and wet, and the conditions were soft, gooey, and sticky. Minnie Dole had fallen the previous day and was soldiering on with his ski holiday despite a tender ankle. With his wife Jane Dole and another couple, they hiked up a ski trail known as Toll Road. Shortly after starting the descent, Minnie's sore ankle gave out in the mushy snow and he fell, breaking his leg. His male friend stayed with Minnie, who, despite having a reputation as a courageous soul, was quaking from the cold and the waves of pain from his ankle and leg. The wives, knowing that time was of the essence, skied down in search of help. There was no organized Ski Patrol in 1936, but two Stowe locals, in fading daylight and lugging a sheet of roofing tin, climbed back up the mountain with the wives. One end of the roofing tin had been bent upwards to create a makeshift toboggan, and because many hours had now passed, they also brought kerosene lanterns to help guide them down in the darkness.

The injury was severe, and Minnie spent many months convalescing. That same winter, with Minnie hobbling on crutches, a good friend and fellow member of the ASCNY informed Minnie he was entering a ski race in the

Berkshire Mountains of MA. Minnie had some reservations as his friend was not an accomplished skier. In the race, before the era of safety netting, Minnie's friend veered out of the course, hit a tree, and died the next day. Dole's serious injury, and the tragic fate of this racer prompted the President of the Alpine Ski Club of New York to ask Dole if he would chair a committee on ski safety.

At first, the committee received severe blowback from various New England ski clubs, claiming the committee were "spoilsports, sissies, and frighteners of mothers." Undeterred, Minnie Dole persisted and published his findings. Notably, he recommended that "ski patrols" be formed to aid injured skiers. In 1938, the National Ski Patrol was founded in Stowe VT when the president of the National Ski Association asked the leader of Stowe's Ski Patrol - Minnie Dole - to form a national patrol. This winter will mark the 87th anniversary of our Guardian Angels of the slopes. At HoliMont, and ski areas far and wide, we can thank Minnie Dole for inspiring generations of selfless patrollers to be at the service of skiers in need.

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CONT. FROM COVER

social atmosphere while delivering incredible health and wellness benefits, which I'm excited to bring to Ellicottville." Peak Heat mobile saunas are available for day, weekend and week-long rentals, equipped with everything needed for an elevated group experience including robes, sauna hats, essential oils, a cold plunge tub and small deck. "Our favorite way to use it is a 20-minute sauna session followed by an invigorating cold plunge, then back to the warmth of the sauna to repeat," says Tricia. "With good music playing and eucalyptus essential oil filling the air, it's truly my favorite post-skiing activity."

According to Tricia, the alternating hot-cold cycle provides an exhilarating experience and triggers a cascade of physiological responses that helps reduce inflammation, boost circulation, and release endorphins making it perfect for post-exercise recovery or simply unwinding with friends. "The intense temperature contrasts create this natural euphoria that's even better when shared with friends," explains



The company offers luxury sauna rentals delivered to your residence in Ellicottville New York this winter.

Tricia. "Everyone's recovering together, laughing and having fun as they challenge themselves to brave the cold plunge before rushing back to the warmth of the sauna."

Saunas are both a sanctuary for health and a space for connection. "Extensive research has shown that consistent sauna use strengthens cardiovascular health, boosts metabolism, enhances respiratory function, and supports both physical and mental wellbeing," explains Tricia.

Over the past year, Peak Heat has delivered their mobile sauna to various residences and businesses in the Ellicottville area. "It's been incredible to see how different groups use the space," says Tricia. "Whether it's families bonding, athletes

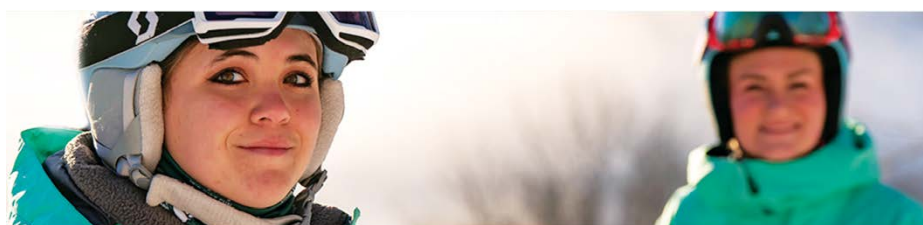
recovering together, or colleagues building connections during corporate retreats, the sauna creates this unique shared experience that people really enjoy during the long winter months."

Looking forward to 2025, Tricia aims to make the sauna experience accessible to more groups. Peak Heat is planning partnerships with HoliMont for events throughout the season and upgrading their amenities to enhance the immersive group experience.

For more information and booking visit peakheatsaunas.com, follow on Instagram @peakheatsaunas and HoliMont events, and read The Villager for upcoming opportunities to experience Peak Heat Saunas.

Canadian Friendship Week

Holiday Valley Offers Our Canadian Neighbors 30% Off



Friends North of the Border, are invited to join Holiday Valley for Canadian Friendship Week from Monday, January 6 - Friday, January 10, 2025 and enjoy 30% off lift tickets and equipment rentals. It's the perfect opportunity to hit the slopes, gear up, and make memories with friends and family.

This limited-time promotion applies to full-priced lift tickets and rentals, making it easy to plan a winter adventure without breaking the bank. Please note that discounts do not apply to previously discounted items.

Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the thrill of skiing or snowboarding at unbeatable rates. Canadian Friendship Week is your ticket to winter fun!

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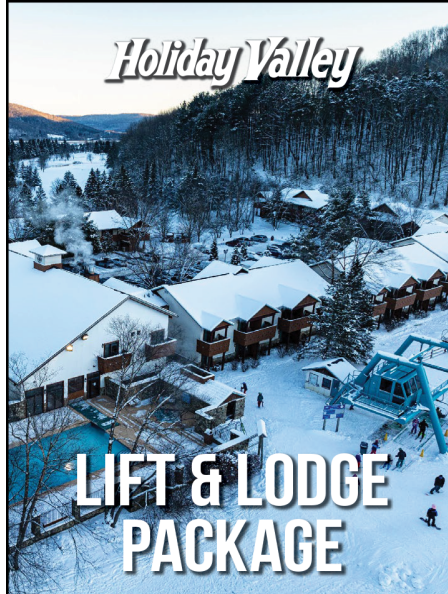
www.thevillager.com and click "General Submissions" tab or email info@thevillager.com

Winter Blues Weekend

Ellicottville Hosts Great Blues Bands Jan. 19-21, 2025

ELLCOTTVILLE - Nothing complements a great day on the ski slopes than an evening of live music, and that's just what Ellicottville's Winter Blues Weekend is guaranteed to deliver. With over 20 bands scheduled in all the downtown hot spots, visitors can expect a full line-up of high-energy, soulful performances come the weekend of January 17-19, 2025.

Produced by the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce, the music kicks off Friday evening and continues through Sunday afternoon, making it a weekend you won't want to miss.



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THINGS TO CHECK OUT

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Billy Finnerty pictured with Brenda Smith co-owner of the new Mill St. Pub.

Finnerty

STORY FROM COVER

Finnerty and asked him about the few years from when he opened and had to close, his return, and the in-betweens as well.

Finnerty's opened the day after Christmas in 2016, like Mill St. Sports Pub which opened this past week. "Was a slow climb learning the building," Finnerty recalled when asked about the introduction of the new restaurant in the village, "but more importantly learning the present vibe of Ellicottville."

Finnerty went on to exclaim, "The people who live in Ellicottville are some of the most beautiful souls in the world, earning their trust and support quickly became my goal. Our opening coincided with the hiring of Sean McDermott and this amazing run the Bills have been on. The Bills unite everyone, Democrats and Republicans, old

and young, and the sense of community it brings is something I've always strived for. From my days at JP Fitzgerald's in Hamburg that started on June 17, 1994 (OJ White Bronco chase) until now, I've had 30 years of hope to see what would happen if we climbed the summit together! As a Bills fan, I KNOW THIS IS THE YEAR!"

Things weren't going the way he hoped after Covid and other things impacting him, so Finnerty had to make some choices. "I made the mistake back in 2021, even considering the sale of Finnerty's, without turning over every stone for myself, one that I quickly came to regret and ended with us not selling our name to the purchaser. The business that we worked so hard on establishing quickly collapsed under this person's leadership and a dark cloud settled over the building."

Yet, while all this was happening, there was still a glimmer of hope. Her name was Brenda Smith. She did everything she could do

to keep it afloat and keep people employed under these horrible conditions. Well finally, the business ended without almost anyone knowing," he said.

After his reluctant departure from Ellicottville to pursue possible new endeavors, Finnerty said he kept in touch with Brenda and Audrey when he "caught wind of their plan to revive that building and to bring the good vibes back to Mill Street! Working with the building owner, who has been amazing with all his help and resources, they have performed a Miracle on Mill Street."

The opening of Mill St. Sports Pub is making a definite impact and is being talked about in the local circles around town and making a lot of people happy, including the visitors who came to fall in love with the vibe of Finnerty's. Since the reopening of the restaurant and bar, a satisfaction has arisen. Finnerty capped

"FINNERTY", Pg. 11



New Year

STORY FROM COVER

what is to come.

The beginning of a new year in Ellicottville always begins with an ending. The Torchlight Parade on New Year's Eve at Holiday Valley celebrates the past and ushers in the future with light and enthusiasm. That enthusiasm extends throughout the year beginning with the annual Winter Blues Weekend where over 20 bands entertained us in 2024.

Always supporting community growth, the Cattaraugus County IDA in January revealed a few projects it supported: The Lincoln Boutique Motel previously known as Cadillac Jack's offers a new, updated, and unique lodging and restaurant option (Pour Taproom); Allegany Crossing (former Kmart Plaza) where Turbo Machinery leased 15,000 square feet of space with plans to employ 20 within 3 years; and The Woods at Bear Creek in Machias, a



Year at a Glimpse: (Clockwise) - We had our chance to catch a glimpse of the total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. • The Tri County Arts Council flocked homes and businesses in Olean with pink flamingoes to raise funds to support the kids arts programming. www.tricountyartscouncil.org/flocked. • Holiday Valley successfully introduced its first UppenOvr event supporting Roswell Park in an event that connected Holiday Valley and HoliMont. • The Mardi Gras parade again featured the HV Ski Patrolters who generously show up to collect between \$3500 to \$5000 and 80 or more cases of food for the Ellicottville Food Pantry. • New businesses opened with names like Fredonia's Whiz-n-Smash (peanut butter by Dawn Murphy) and we were introduced to funky and cool 2Che scissors invented by Chautauqua County prodigy, Kourtney Shuman.

733 acre camp off Route to Ellicottville. Get 16 with renovations this! They deliver. For and upgrades have been more information visit worked on all year, with Peakheatsaunas.com or call (716) 472-4804. (See water, concert venue, full story in this week's glamping, a trail system, paper.)

EBC Little Valley hosted its first Galentine's Day Brunch with my time Olympian Tricia Mangan and her brothers brought portable saunas

"NEW YEAR", Pg. 10

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The 2025 season kicks off with award-winning jazz singer Diana Krall, who will be performing on June 28th at 8:15pm in the Amphitheater. Krall is known for her sultry voice and unique jazz style. The theme for week two (June 28-July 5) will be Comedy Now: A Week Curated with Lewis Black, in partnership with the National Comedy Center. Lewis Black will be the headliner. He is known as the "King of Rants," as his routines often escalate into rants about controversial topics.

CHQ.

CONT, FROM COVER

chq.org. Here, you will find a comprehensive schedule, with tickets already available for some events. This season offers an exciting array of events ranging from the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, guest lecturers, concerts, and much more. Additional events will be announced in the coming weeks. Each week's lectures revolve around a theme, which can be found at 2025.chq.org.

album *This Dream of You*. Her performance will certainly give the audience an unforgettable evening that keeps fans returning for more. Tickets for this concert are already available.

The theme for week two (June 28-July 5) will be Comedy Now: A Week Curated with Lewis Black, in partnership with the National Comedy Center. Lewis Black will be the headliner. He is known as the "King of Rants," as his routines often escalate into rants about controversial topics. He will be joined on Monday, June 30th, at 10:45am by Peter Docter and Kelsey Mann, who are the directors he worked with when he did voices for the animated *Inside Out* movies. The three of them will be having a lively and candid conversation about the art of comedy and its various forms.

Later in the week, Lewis will treat the audience to an interactive audience comedy rant titled *"The Rant is Due,"* which will take place on July 2nd at 8:15pm in the

Amphitheater. Tickets are already available for both Lewis Black events as well.

Also, during week two, the Fourth of July celebration at Chautauqua Institution will feature the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra's Annual Independence Day Concert. This patriotic concert will be conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz and features vocalist Capathia Jenkins. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this holiday tradition that will begin at 8pm in the Amphitheater.

During week seven (August 2-9), the Institution welcomes award-winning author and poet Kwame Alexander, who is currently Chautauqua Institution's Director of Literacy in Arts and Writer in Residence. On August 4, at 10:45am, Alexander will be joining world-renowned LaVar Burton on the Amphitheater stage. Burton is best known for hosting and

SEE "CHQ" PG. 11



In the spring of 2025, multiple moss walls and decor pieces from Wonder Moss will be featured at the highly anticipated Designer House Showcase hosted by the Junior League of Buffalo. creating a breathtaking blend of art and nature. This event, running from April 26th to May 18th, 2025, offers the public an exclusive chance to explore the finished show house and witness the transformative power of biophilic design. "Visitors will see how Wonder Moss is redefining the connection between nature and design", said Robin.

Moss

CONT, FROM COVER

varieties she uses include lichen moss, mood moss and pillow moss.

Following the principles of biophilic design, Robin creates pieces that help reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance well-being, introducing a fresh perspective to residential and commercial interiors. "I am thrilled to bring something entirely new to the Western New York area", she commented. "Making a positive impact on people's lives is so rewarding."

"I use real moss, ferns and other botanical items that are sustainably harvested and preserved," she said. "I use local natural elements when I can, and source what I can't from my North American suppliers. I enjoy collecting driftwood from the shores of Lake Erie, and mosses, polypore mushrooms, tree bark, and branches from our forests."

"I create everything from small decor pieces for homes to large scale custom moss walls for

commercial applications, including moss logo signs," she continued. "Hotels, restaurants and retail businesses find moss walls beneficial, not only for the ambiance and the low maintenance, but also for the sound dampening qualities."

Wonder Moss has some exciting projects in the coming months that will showcase Robin's artistry and commitment to biophilic design. This January, Wonder Moss will be installing two moss walls at a prominent downtown Buffalo hotel, adding a touch of natural elegance to its modern interiors. These vibrant works of art will both create a calming, inviting atmosphere for guests, and provide a showcase for biophilic design in hospitality spaces. Robin's Wonder Moss works will also be on display at the Springville Center for the Arts' Olmsted Gallery during the Member Show, that will run from January 8th - February 22nd.

In the spring of 2025, multiple moss walls and decor pieces from Wonder Moss will be featured at the highly



Founder, Robin Frey started Wonder Moss out of a deep desire to share the transformative power of nature that has inspired and empowered her throughout her life. Through her work, she aims to help others connect with nature in new and meaningful ways, creating spaces where harmony between humanity and the natural world can flourish.

anticipated Designer House Showcase hosted by the Junior League of Buffalo. creating a breathtaking blend of art and nature. This event, running from April 26th to May 18th, 2025, offers the public an exclusive chance to explore the finished

SEE "MOSS" PG. 11



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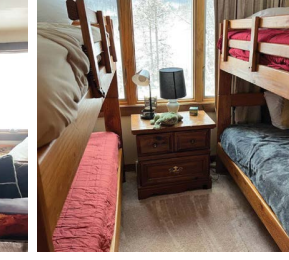

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Ring in the New Year with You Friends in Style

BY DARLENE BRACE

The Christmas and New Year's holidays have come and gone, and now we are entering the new year. With many people thinking of resolutions, maybe one of yours is to have less stress and to go out and have more fun. Here, you can find what's happening in Chautauqua County to show you where some of the fun events are taking place.

Thursday January 2nd – There will be an **Open Jam Session at the Wine Cellar** in downtown Jamestown. You can perform alone or with a group and join the fun or just show up as a spectator. Either way, it will be a fun night, hosted by Shamus and Lacey of Old Fish, and it will start at 10pm.

There will be an **Open Mic Night at Lake Shore Center for the Arts** in Westfield starting at 7:30pm. All types of talent are invited including musicians, poets, comedians, or any other talent you want to share.

It's **Trivia Night at Group Ther-Happy** in the Village of Lakewood, starting at 7pm. Get your team together and have fun playing trivia while enjoying some delicious food from their great menu. Maybe you and your team will be the big winners.

Friday, January 3- In Cherry Creek, the **Another Round Bar and Grill** will welcome back **Ion Sky** (unplugged) to perform. They will be playing the acoustic versions of their pop and rock set list that is

sure to entertain the crowd starting at 7pm.

In downtown Jamestown, **Shawbucks** will be having another **Karaoke Night**. **DJ Giulia** will be playing the tunes starting at 9pm. You can sign up to sing your favorite song or just hang out and watch the show. Either way, Karaoke Night is always entertaining.

The Cooler Bar and Grill in Sherman will be taking a small break from live music this weekend. For entertainment, **DJ Ron** will be spinning the tunes starting at 8pm. You and your friends can enjoy your favorite beverages while requesting to hear your favorite songs.

Saturday January 4 - Afraid of Human will be performing at **MJ's Tavern** in Randolph starting at 9pm. This talented band will play their renditions of your favorite hard rock music as well as some of their energetic original tunes.

In Fredonia, **64 on the Rocks** will be hosting Western New York's ultimate party band, **Model Citizen**. Model Citizen is a high-energy band that will get you moving to the beat and maybe even get you up dancing the night away. Come and enjoy a delicious meal while listening to this great band starting at 8pm.

The River Bar inside the **Seneca Allegheny Casino** has a fun lineup of entertainment this weekend. On Friday night, **Dark Horse Run** will get the bar rocking with their country and rock music. Then, on Saturday night, a multi-instrumental party

band, **Uptown Groove**, will get everyone up dancing to a variety of music, including Motown, funk, R&B, disco, pop, and rock music. The music starts at 7pm each night.

Peek n' Peak Resort in Clymer has a busy weekend of entertainment. Now that the ski season is upon us, you can unwind after skiing with a nice meal and enjoy listening to the music. On Friday night, **DJ Felix** will be playing the tunes starting at 9:30pm in Bistro 210. Then on Saturday, there will be live music at 6:30pm in the Sports Bar with **Michael Aarons** followed by **Hard Luck Story** back in the Bistro 210 at 9:30pm. It's sure to be a fun weekend at Peek n' Peak.

The **Good Time Saloon** in Jamestown welcomes back **Lenny and the Landshark**. They play an eclectic set list spanning generations and genres of music. Come and listen to this talented duo starting at 8pm. Then on Saturday night, it's **Karaoke Night**, starting at 9pm. Pick out a song to sing and sing your heart out to entertain the crowd, or just watch as a spectator. Either way, it promises to be another fun night at the Good Time Saloon.

Now that it's the toughest part of winter in Western New York, some people like to bunker down and stay inside on these winter nights. But, if you still are looking for something to do to go out and about, look at next week's issue to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.

BROADWAY in Briefs

Musical #21: "Man of La Mancha" Part II

BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

Last week, in Part One, I introduced the novel on which the musical "Man of La Mancha" is based, "The Ingenious Gentleman of La Mancha", by Miguel Cervantes, completed in 1615, the reason behind my first-ever two-part "Broadway in Brief" column, because there's so much to say about it. When one hundred authors from over fifty countries were asked to select what they thought were the best and most important books in world literature, it got fifty percent more votes than any other! Why? To give just one of the many reasons, it is considered the first modern novel, because it was the first narrative to have chapters and a developing plot, and it inspired the book often called "the great American novel", Mark Twain's "Huck Finn".

"La Mancha" is about the misadventures of a man who renames himself Don Quixote (pronounced Key-ho-tay), and rides through villages in Spain, with a helpful neighbor, Sancho Panza, convinced he's a knight on a quest to perform heroic deeds. "Huck Finn" is about the misadventures of two men

who travel together through the South (on a raft) and meet two men who pretend they are royalty. See the resemblance? Mark Twain's novel, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" owes even more to its plot, because it's about a man (from the time Twain wrote it, which was in 1889) who supposedly travels back in time to the days of King Arthur and becomes a knight. In "Mancha", the main character sees windmills and thinks they're giants, while in "Yankee", the main character's girlfriend imagines that some pigs are actually princesses, ogres and castles. Moving on from Cervantes' influence on the nineteenth century: in the twentieth, John Steinbeck wrote "Travels With Charley", a fictionalized version of his travels in a camper named after Don Quixote's horse, Rocinante (with a poodle named Charley).

An example of Cervantes' influence on the twenty-first century is that Kelsey Grammer, the star of "Cheers" and "Frasier", chose to play Don Quixote in a semi-staged concert production in London.

Why has Cervantes' character had such an influence through the centuries since he was

created? And what does he have to impart to people approaching 2025? He's all about the power of believing and the imagination. But when is fantasy truly valued in everyday reality, you ask? A perfect example of this is: what happened at an auction that took place just weeks ago. Up for bidding was a pair of used shoes. Eighty-five years old. But the bidding leaped up quickly, and when the dust cleared, they had been sold for twenty-eight million dollars. Not including the auction fee of four and a half million. Used shoes! Not made of gold or anything like that! So why were they so valued? Because they represented a fantasy. They were the shoes worn by Dorothy in the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz", the red-sequined shoes known as "the ruby slippers". The one she's told at the end to click together three times, while repeating "There's no place like home", to get home. I will bet you that when the buyer got them, he or she put them on and tried clicking them. Just to see. To sum up what Don Quixote has to say to 2025: Believe in anything, but believe it with all your heart! With at least "twenty-eight million dollars' worth of believing"!

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By, MOUTH SAY TONGUE

The sound booth providing the juice so you can really cut loose on the two dance floors from 10-2am.

Madigans joins the party with Dj Jett from 9-2am playin some crunk so you can shake your in the window on Washington. Or, you can get toasty sitting by the wood stove.

SATURDAY

The Gin Mill is the early bird with Brian Rick from 2-5pm. Try their famous Bloody Mary's while you enjoy a late lunch or early dinner. The Dakota Brothers take the second shift from 8-12am. This band plays classic, modern country and rock. If you like craft cocktails try the Carriage House Sidebar for some high-end spirits.

Back at The Valley The T-Bar hosts Jay McDonnell from 4-7pm. Jay plays acoustic rock covers ranging from CSNY to Tom Petty. Have some cocktails and listen to some music with your ski boots on.

We return to Balloons for Bear the Bronze from 6:30-10pm. This band plays alt music from the 90-2000's. The back bar will host Melissa Sauers from 10-1am. Melissa plays a rock/pop/folk/dixie-land set of covers. Dj Kage will provide the thumpin for the bumpin from 10-2am.

Madigans is a player with Dj Kage layin down the sauce so you can do the floss from 9-2am. Check out the dart board and pool tables for you bar room athletes.

SUNDAY

We're back at The Gin Mill for Meet the Bacons from 4-7pm. This duo plays an americana/folk/rock set of covers and originals. Get your post-game buzz on after the Bills clinch the #2 seed in the playoffs.

Villaggio hosts its weekly AYCE Pasta Night and

Prime Rib Special from 12:30 till 9pm. Watch the Bills victory on the big screen and enjoy food and drink specials. The post-game will be hosted by David Miller and Grace Stumberg from 5:30-8:30pm. This will be a special music event since both these artists are extremely talented songwriters, musicians and vocalists.

MONDAY

Monday is Strings and Wings at Balloons from 4-10pm. 50 cent wings and a nice selection of craft beers to wash em down with. This week's musical hosts are The Groove Bros from 6-9pm. These fellas play an r&b/blues/pop/soul set of covers.

The Gin Mill's Monday residency is hosted by Red Gray from 7-10. Red plays classic and new country and classic and southern rock covers and originals. Don't forget those 37 bets on tap.

TUESDAY

Tuesday The Gin Mill will host The Hick Ups from 7-10pm. This pick-up band of local musicians, who have been jamming together for 11 years, plays an eclectic set of bluegrass/folk/country covers.

Villaggio is hosting a fundraiser for the Ellicottville Little Eagles Youth Football Program., Wednesday from 5:30-8pm. It's a spaghetti dinner with music provided by Travis Hapoldt. Travis has been labeled grungy country, I think he's a country Leon Redbone. Come out and support a great cause.

WEDNESDAY

Of course, Wing, Wednesday means The Gin Mill from 7-10pm, \$1 wings and Brian Rick singing and strumming. Brian plays a rock/pop/folk/country set of covers. It's a 40 year tradition and locals favorite.

Beat on the Street:

"How Far Can You Trace Back Your Ancestry??"

BY CHAD NEAL



We all come from somewhere and our ancestors come from some time... back. Lineage is a big deal for a lot of people as it gives them an idea of the history of the DNA they are. Tracing back just a single branch on one's family tree has so many stories to tell. We all have so many great great grandparents and knowing the story of one of them can be fascinating, let alone a few of them. It is fun to see the past and how it has affected the way we are now, be it status, wealth, intelligence, looks, disease. Just researching where any of our forefathers have been is a time well spent as the story of their lives can give meaning to ours. A certain new pride can be found by finding out your great grandfather did something heroic. A realization of why a standing in the community is assumed can be uncovered. All of this stuff happened and now here we are. How far back can you trace your ancestry?



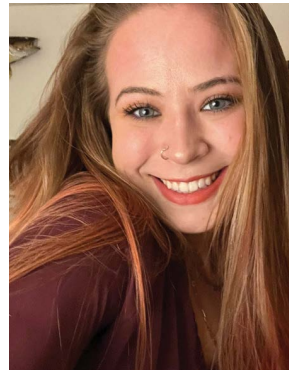
Carolynn B.- To Richard Warren on the Mayflower. He would be my many greats grandfather.



Twan-About 4 generations to my Nanna's family in Balinrobe, County Mayo, Ireland.



Nick P.- Early 1800s in Sicily. Really cool to meet long lost cousins from the home land!



Lilly I.- On my moms side, I'm related to a French princess from Nova Scotia, and we also have a coat of arms, though I'd have to ask my grandma for more details on that!



Dawn W.- I am proud to have traced my maternal line back to Antje Sybes who died in Driesum, Netherlands in 1708. I am the 12th generation to carry the very same maternal DNA as she did. Antje gave birth to a daughter, Leentje, in 1678 for which my mother Helen bears her Americanized namesake.



Tracy C.- 1630, My {great+} grandparents Richard and Hannah Gore, original settlers in the Boston area. Their son, my {great+} grandfather Samuel Gore, rode with Paul Antje Sybes who died in Revere during his infamous ride warning of the British. My other {great +} grandfather, Obadiah Gore, befriended Native Americans who taught him how to use anthracite (coal) as a fuel, which he passed on to the settlers.

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Birthday Parties



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Please help us collect non-perishable food items for the Great Valley - Ellicottville food pantries. This helps serve many families within our community. Thank you for all your help!

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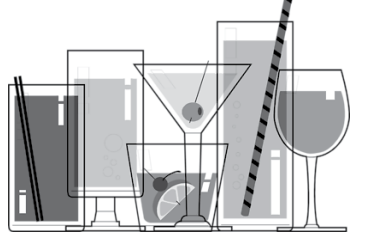
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The Villager

EL LICOTTVILLE • CHAUTAUQUA

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★★ Sudoku Challenge ★★

This Week's Difficulty Level:
★★★★☆

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:

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

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

TO HAIR REVOLUTION



One of the new businesses opened was the funky and cool pro2Che scissors invented by Chautauqua County prodigy, Kourtney Shuman.

New Year

CONT. FROM PG. 6

Florists. The ladies loved it so much, it is coming again on 2/2/25. We also learned about the annual Doors Open – Jamestown, where residents are incentivized to go to local attractions and business by offering free admission to greater Jamestown area attractions, prizes, restaurant specials, and more. Local communities, take note.

We joined our American and Canadian friends hoping to catch a glimpse of the total Solar Eclipse on April 8th. Who knows, by August 12, 2026, when it happens near us again, it might still be considered over the "New United States" since it will travel across Greenland. Haha.

The Tri County Arts Council flocked homes and businesses in Olean with pink flamingoes to raise funds to support the kids arts programming. www.tricountyartscouncil.org/flocked.

The Ellicottville Historical Society put out a call for safe storage of documents and artifacts. Ideas, or building to donate? Call Dawn Westfall 716-790-0304.

Winter's freeze welcomed Celeron's annual Fire and Ice festival, Mayville held their Winter Festival, Holiday Valley successfully introduced its first Uppenovr event supporting Roswell Park, HoliMont celebrated local contractors, HoliMont sponsored Leslie Baker Brown and her Women 2 Women Project, and the Ski Club of Lockport at HoliMont hosted Ski 4 A Cure. Whew – so many of these support good causes. Mardi gras parade again welcomed Punxsutawney Phil to share the fun while the HV Ski Patrollers generously showed up where they generally collect between \$3500 to \$5000 and 80 or more cases of food for the Ellicottville Food Pantry.

The Bob McCarthy Foundation partnered with Interfaith Caregivers of Olean establishing a Senior Help program in Ellicottville including transportation, medical equipment here in the village, and support for hearing and sight impaired. 585-376-4488 or call Greg Capelli 716-474-7832.

The all-inclusive Ellicottville Playground kicked off their fundraising, opening the door for organizations and locals to help fund this very deserving cause. Inner-city kids got a chance to ski at HoliMont during their Ski With Me Program. Holiday Valley hosted an International snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom event. Good people are everywhere. We found more jobs (Indeed or ZipRecruiter) at the new Great Lakes Cheese Plant in Franklinville and we cheered for the new lighted Ellicottville village parking lot which boasts 4 EV stations!

Kudos! The Ellicottville Bake Shop opened, and Cygaro Cigar Club provided a membership-based establishment to enjoy a drink and premium cigar. Guess what? There is now a Purple Doorknob 2 in Buffalo!

Summer brought out Ellicottville's Hometown Heroes flags (Thank you to all wo served). Artscape Jamestown, through the Chautauqua Art Gallery, treated the public to both indoor and outdoor art exhibitions. Springville welcomed a new antique shop - Rusty Bones Southtown Antiques, previously Route 219 Antiques. Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce happily welcomed the statue of chemist and astronaut, Tracy Caldwell Dyson for display on the Gazebo lawn, celebrating the accomplishments women have made in Ellicottville and worldwide. (Note: the majority of business owners or co-owners in Evl are women.) Adding to the list of women are the Anzivino ladies who opened Anzivino's Sweets and Boutique in the former Tee Bar location on Washington Street. Ellicottville also welcomed Good Vibe CBD & Wellness owner Jeannine "J-9" Gicewicz who offers a combination of massage therapy and CBD products.

Summer brought more events than we can count, starting with the beautiful floral displays throughout the village by our all-volunteer Alley Katz (we are so blessed!), to the Ellicottville Gazebo Series, the HillTap at Holiday Valley, Jamestown's Scandinavian Folk Festival, artists at Bemus Point, the opening of Farmer's Markets throughout the area, the debut of Bower's Bryant Hill's Good Vibes Farm and Produce, Fourth of July celebrations, The Ellicottville Summer Festival Queen Tribute Show, Ellicottville's Jazz and Blues Fest, Bob Newhart at Jamestown's National Comedy Center, County fairs, and the annual Taste of Ellicottville.

Fall gave us Labor Day celebrations, Art Trails in Chautauqua County Arts and Crafts shows, Becky Szpaicher got a hole-in-one on Hole 5, Elvis was in the room as part of Ellicottville's Rock N'Roll weekend, Jamestown held its annual Celtic Festival and Ellicottville held its 7th annual Lacrosse Festival. New businesses opened with names like Fredonia's Whiz-n-Smash (peanut butter by Dawn Murphy) and we were introduced to funky and cool 2Che scissors invented by Chautauqua county prodigy, Kourtney Shuman.

Fall festivals abounded, spooky ghost walks resumed with Ellen Frank of the Historical Society of Ellicottville, nightlights came back to Griffis Sculpture Park, RocketCup

Coffee Company in Cattaraugus launched another location, and Bigfoot was sighted at the Bigfoot Park Golf in Ellicottville on Robbins Road. Evl Subway vacated and turned into Green Room Sports Lounge. Ellicottville Rotary Club held a successful fundraising Chili Cookoff event at Madigan's, bike rides, golf tournaments, 5K footraces and a turkey trot took place throughout the year. We celebrated beer and wine and learned about their story, we read the Cattaraugus County Department of Aging RSVProgram still needs volunteers (Call Ellen Herner-716-373-8032 if you can help). We met Alicia Ekstrom who curates custom gift baskets through U-Picknic of Chautauqua County. Christmas celebrations took place throughout the counties with Santa, his elves and in some places, holiday markets, lighting ceremonies and horse rides. An event that would do well to catch on in more communities was the first annual Children's Business Fair in Mayville. www.childrensbusinessfair.org/

In Ellicottville, FTP (formerly Finnerty's Tap Room) closed (alas!) and new owners Brenda Smith and Audrey Snow reopened (yea!) and welcomed back Billy Finnerty himself (see full story in this week's edition) Mill Street Sports Pub at the location. Irishness was alive and well in Ellicottville at the Bob McCarthy Irish Christmas celebration and fundraiser. Historic Fredonia's Landmark White Inn was newly renovated and reopened. Santa, elves, angels, the Holy Family and stable animals once again strolled the streets of Ellicottville (since 1987). And, no surprise, but delighted anyway, Travelmag.com ranked Ellicottville as one of the topmost charming towns in NYS, thanks in part to the efforts of Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Brian McFadden. Brian is retiring and is passing the torch to Barbara Pump, who will take the reins as of January 1, 2025. Congratulations to Brian for a long and successful run (25 years) and to Barb for a well-deserved promotion.

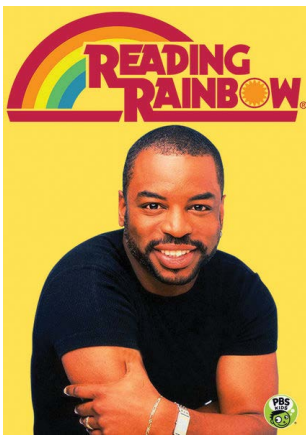
Finally, a glorious snowfall early December provided the snow base for an easy opening for the 24-25 ski season in Ellicottville. Which brings us right back to the ski hills to begin a new year. After all, no season is an ending – it just opens into the new and unknown possibilities of tomorrow. Focus on the pluses of this past year, roll with the negatives, and look forward to only the best for the coming year. Happy New Year one and all.

CHQ.

CONT. FROM PG. 7

has been thriving for over 150 years and continues to bring quality entertainment and cultural events. Beyond seasonal programming, the Institution continues to grow through the Boundless Campaign. This campaign seeks to raise funds for necessary renovations, enables the continuation of quality programs, and hopes to ensure sustainability for many years to come. Those interested in supporting this campaign can contribute at giving.chq.org/boundless or call 716-357-6404.

As Chautauqua Institution embarks on the 2025 season, you can be sure that there will be quality programs that foster education, culture, and entertainment for the community. Keep an eye on the website for events that you will be interested in, so you don't miss the opportunity to be part of the entertaining and dynamic 2025 season at Chautauqua Institution.



During week seven (August 2-9), the Institution welcomes award-winning author and poet Kwame Alexander, who is currently Chautauqua Institution's Director of Literacy in Arts and Writer in Residence. On August 4, at 10:45am, Alexander will be joining world-renowned LaVar Burton on the Amphitheater stage. Burton is best known for hosting and producing Reading Rainbow, which featured storytelling for children. Together, they will explore conversations about the power of storytelling and the importance of literacy.

producing *Reading Rainbow*, which featured storytelling for children. Together, they will explore conversations about the power of storytelling and the importance of literacy.

These highlights are a glimpse of the fantastic lineup of events that the 2025 Chautauqua Institution season has to offer. The season will include a variety of concerts, lectures, and summer programs, that promise to have something for everyone. There will be more events added between now and the beginning of the season. Visit chq.org to explore updates on the many events that will be included for this season, and to purchase tickets, go to tickets.chq.org.

Chautauqua Institution

Finnerty

CONT. FROM PG. 6

The Villager interview asserting, "They offered me a chance to come back to a town I love! It was an offer I couldn't refuse! I'm also enjoying focusing on the community and customer relations as well as bartending Fridays and Sundays! And of course, all Bills Games! I'm going to do everything in my power to make them successful while maintaining my amazing life at home with my beautiful wife Beth and two pups Maltipoo Martini "Milano" and St. Bernard "Betty". I look forward to bringing the pups to Ellicottville for some amazing times as they both have arrived on the scene since we left in 2021."

This news will make many fans of Billy's excited and the narrative of the business has seemed to come full circle. The Mill St. Sports Pub promises to take the legacy Finnerty instituted



"So if you would have told me this vibe would have a chance to happen again! I would have said you're smoking some great stuff! Miracles do happen! The world corrects itself! Good triumphs over Evil! And I can't wait to see all of your lovely faces at the Mill St Sports Pub! Go Bills!"
- Billy Finnerty

and keep the fire alive as one of the great places in town to enjoy the Buffalo Bills on their march to the top this year and many years to come. Stop in and see Billy when you have a chance and enjoy the new/ old atmosphere of the place.

CASA

CONT. FROM COVER

Chautauqua County, said the program is still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the implementation of the Family First Act which caused a decline in the number of children entering care. While the volunteer base remains strong, there's still a significant need for more support, specifically male volunteers. CASA, Park said, is making a concerted effort to focus on attracting those male volunteers.

In 2024, CASA served 48 children with the help of 28 volunteers, ranging in age from 21 to 73. Many are retired teachers or college students studying social services. After completing 30 hours of training, volunteers are asked to dedicate at least eight hours a month, spending quality time with the child, talking with family, caregivers, teachers, therapists' other important adults involved with the child and presenting to the courts information and concerns. Park explained that the average length of time

a child is supported by a CASA volunteer is about three years.

"Our volunteers make a real impact," she said. "They're often the only consistent adult in a child's life, and that stability is key."

While CASA operates across New York State, the Chautauqua County chapter remains focused on its local community. Volunteers undergo background checks and complete training based on a curriculum created by the National CASA Association.

Park highlighted the need for more male volunteers.

"We don't have enough male role models, and we've seen how important

they can be for the children we work with."

With over 100 children currently in foster care in Chautauqua County, the number continues to rise. The opioid epidemic at one time contributed to more children entering the system and a growing number of youth aging out without finding permanent homes.

CASA is also seeking financial donations to support its work. Contributions can be made through the organization's website or by mailing checks to CASA of Chautauqua Co. at 2 Academy Street, Suite 5, Mayville, NY 14757.

Visit the website at <https://www.chautauquacasa.com>

connection between nature and design", said Robin.

To learn more or to book a free custom design consultation, visit www.wondermossart.com, email wondermossart@gmail.com, or call/text Robin at (716) 330-9202.

Existing artwork can be viewed and purchased at the Wonder Moss Studio which is open on special days and by appointment. The studio is located in The Lab (a project of the Springville Center for the Arts), at 67 E Main Street in Springville, NY.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF MANSFIELD PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the Town of Mansfield Planning Board has scheduled a Public Hearing Pursuant to the Mansfield Zoning Law, Article XIV, Section 14.3 (D) (3). Brian & Tim Ulinger request Planning Board approval for a Special Use Permit for Wedding Pavillion at 7139 Jersey Hollow Rd. Said Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Mansfield Town Hall, in Eddyville, NY. - *Margaret Puszcz, Planning Board Chair*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Local Law, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Park Side Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731 on the 14 day of January, 2025 at 5:30 P.M., to hear all interested parties regarding an application by Kathleen Mulligan for Historic District Review at 2 Elk Street (SBL 55.035-1-15) to construct a driveway. Further information is available for review at the Engineering Department, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Village website at www.ellicottvillegov.com. Persons wishing to do so may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Village of Ellicottville Planning Board, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 475, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to greg.keyser@evlengineering.com.

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT TAKE NOTICE, that I Robyn George, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Ellicottville, County of Cattaraugus and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Ellicottville for the year 2025, and that I will attend at the Ellicottville Town Hall, 1 W. Washington Street, in the said Town of Ellicottville, from January 2nd, 2025 to March 31st, 2025, 9:00am to 4pm, on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on the said roll.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2025, without charge or interest. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of 1% for each additional month thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant to law on the 1st day of April, 2025. Dated: December 30, 2024, Robyn A. George - Collector of Taxes, Town of Ellicottville

FOR RENT

HOME FOR RENT ACROSS FROM HOLIDAY VALLEY: 407 Deer Crossing, Ellicottville, NY..... \$800/night. Accommodates up to 8 guests for the ski season. Living room and fireplace overlooking wonderful view of the slopes. 2 full bath, 3 bedrooms, laundry, full kitchen, parking, short walk to village. Contact: meganbyers4903@outlook.com. (SEE AD, PAGE 7.)

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

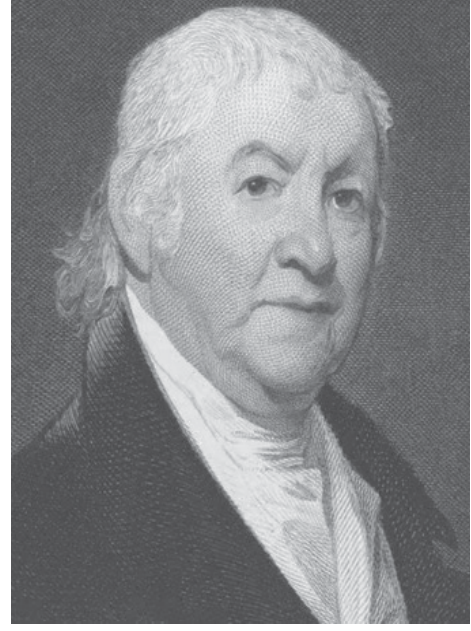
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HELP WANTED

ELLICOTTVILLE BAKE SHOP opened in Spring 2024 and has quickly become a local favorite, known for its fresh, delicious offerings and welcoming atmosphere. As we continue to grow and expand operations, we are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to join our team. If you have a passion for baking, customer service, or food service, we'd love to hear from you! Full-time and part-time positions at competitive pay are available. Flexibility to work varied shifts, including mornings, weekends, and holidays, as required. Send resume to hr@ellicottvillebakeshop.com

Born in January



Paul Revere: January 1, 1735
Birthplace: Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Walter's World

Photo Picks From "The Rittman Show"



Hollywood Squares Panelests 1974

Scenes From E-Ville: Last Weekend Happy Faces Strolled the Streets in Merriment



Photos/Jon Elder

Produced by **The Villager**
 ELICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK

Ellicottville's 2025 Phone Directory

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• Canadian Friendship Week, Jan. 6-10 • Winter Blues Wknd, Jan. 17-19 • Winter Music Jam, Feb. 22-23 •



Wknd, Sept. 19-21 • Fall Fest, Oct. 11-12 • Beer & Wine Fest, Nov. 28 - 30 • X-Mas Stroll, Dec. 13
 Mardi Gras & Winter Carnival, March 8-9 • Happy Half & Ski, TBA • Summer Music Fest, July 4-6 • Jazz & Blues Wknd, July 25-27 • Taste of Ellicottville Aug. 9-10 • Rock 'N' Roll Wknd, Sept. 12-14 • LaCrosse

• Business & Residential Listings • Addresses • PO Boxes • Cell Phone #
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The Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) has been facilitating economic growth to the area for over 55 years. Authorized and empowered by the State of New York, the organization aims to "retain, promote and assist business development thereby advancing job opportunities and economic welfare to the people of Cattaraugus County."

2024 Projects Included:

- The Lincoln Boutique Motel \$1,850,000
- Turbo Machining LLC \$1,019,000
- Great Lakes Cheese Modification \$97,000,000
- Win-Sum Ski Corp. \$304,000
- Kless Boys Development, LLC \$6,500,000
- Olean Centre Mall \$40,229,315
- Edelweiss Dairy LLC \$32,500,000
- Holiday Valley \$2,459,120
- MJ Painting Contractor Corp. \$1,733,500
- North Park LLC/North Park Innovation Group, Inc. \$770,000
- QSKI, LLC \$2,000,000
- Field of Dreams \$9,810,000
- The Sports Locker, Inc. \$200,000
- Jamestown Macadam, Inc. \$2,500,000

The Cattaraugus County IDA offers assistance in the forms of incentives including tax abatements, low interest loans, and bond financing. Those who are interested in investing in the growth of the area are encouraged to contact the Cattaraugus County IDA to see what forms of assistance may be available. Additionally, economic growth enhances the opportunities for job creation and retention, ultimately investing in the overall growth of the area.

