

FREE

The Villager

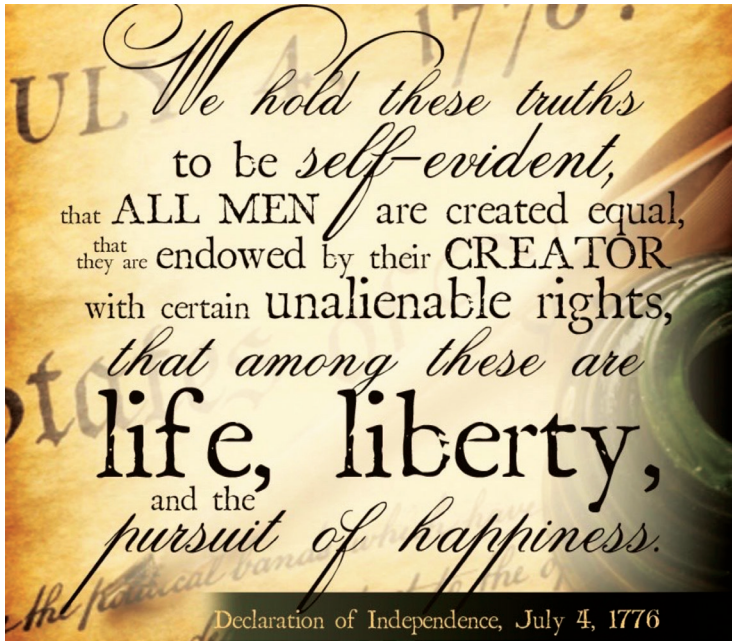
EL LICOTTVILLE • CHAUTAUQUA

Area Events

- PUBLIC SKATE AT NORTHWEST ARENA**
Sunday, January 12 • 130pm
Jamestown NY
- MOVIES AT THE REG - MOANA 2**
Friday, January 25,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY
- CHAUTAQUA STRIDERS WINTER 5K**
Friday January 18, Celoron, NY
- MOVIES AT THE REG - ANORA**
Sunday, January 22,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY
- MOVIES AT THE REG - BABYGIRL**
Friday, January 31,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY
- MONTHLY FAT BIKE RIDES**
Friday, March 14
Allegany State Park, Salamanca, NY
- PUBLIC SKATE AT NORTHWEST ARENA**
Saturday, January 18 • 130pm
Jamestown NY
- HOLIDAY VALLEY'S INTENSE MILK RAIL JAM**
Saturday, February 22 • 6pm
Ellicottville, NY
- JAYHAWKS HOCKEY AT NORTHWEST ARENA**
Monday, January 24 • 7pm
Jamestown, NY
- SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP**
Wednesday, January 22
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park
- ART AFTER 5 AT RTPI**
Friday, January 24,
RTPI. Jamestown, NY
- GRILLED CHEESE BAR @ MERRITT WINERY**
Friday, February 17
Forestville, NY
- HOLIDAY VALLEY'S YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC**
Monday, February 24
Holiday Valley, 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
• log on to
www.thevillagerny.com & click
"General Submissions" tab
• call (716) 699-2058
• or email
info@thevillagerny.com

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. The Baptist Minister Who Changed the World



From the American Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Our Founding Fathers also had a dream. Let's all pay homage to those words as we celebrate this undeniably great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Story, "MLK" Pg. 2.)

Rediscovering BFLO: Winterval at Riverworks Annual Aspire Fundraiser for Adaptive Sports



Showcasing an individual participating in activities using adaptive equipment from Greater Buffalo Adaptive Sports.

BY KATE BARTLETT

Winterval returns to Riverworks in Buffalo for its 5th year to benefit Aspire of Western New York on Thursday, January 23 from 5:30-8:30pm. This annual event is a family-friendly all-

inclusive celebration of Winter including ice skating, curling, hot chocolate and more. Tickets include activities, dinner and unlimited non-alcoholic beverages with cash

SEE "ASPIRE I" PG. 11

Winter Blues Weekend Spotlight: Porcelain Train

Duo Share American Rock for Over 30 Years



Porcelain Train has been playing the Ellicottville area stages for many years with their unique Americana rock sound. This husband-and-wife duo have been creating music together for over 30 years, and as the band Porcelain Train for about 15 years. They'll be taking the stage for Winter Blues Festival this weekend January 18th and 19th at 2pm at The Gin Mill. (See story, "MUSIC" Pg. 6.) (Full weekend schedule, Pg. 5.)

Lucky Day Homestead

Preserving History on a Property w/Good Fortune



Lucky Day Homestead located on Roszyk Hill in West Valley was so named for the abundance of four-leaf clovers that adorn the property. When you take the opportunity to visit and partake in one of the many classes or events that will transport you back in time, you too will consider yourself lucky indeed. (See story "LUCKY", page 6.)

Sneak Peek Inside this Edition...

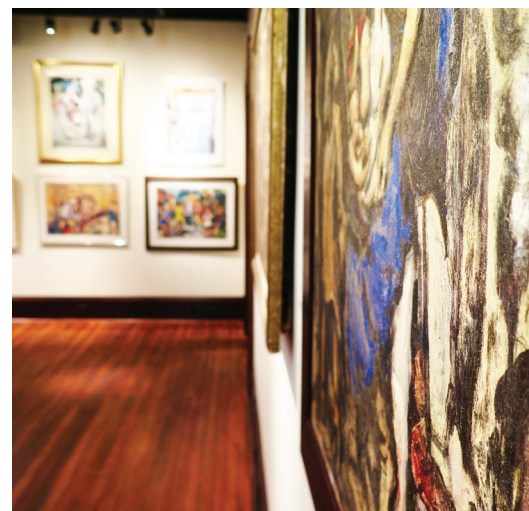
Griffis Sculpture Park Seeks Submissions Send in Your Photos at the Park ... Pg. 5



Villaggio Fundraiser for EVL Little Eagles Spaghetti Dinner Surpassed Expectations Pg. 3

Online Submissions Accepted
www.thevillagerny.com or email info@thevillagerny.com

Member Show at Olmsted Gallery Springville CFA Exhibit through Feb. 22



The Harold L. Olmsted Gallery is located at the Springville Center for the Arts at 37 North Buffalo Street, Springville, NY.

BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

The exhibit now at the beautiful Olmsted Gallery in Springville, the Member Show, features the artwork of members of the Springville Center for the Arts. The members whose art is in the show are: Bob Adler, Barbara Arnstein, Veronica Benes, Judson Brown, Dan Bryce, Dana Crandall, Tracy DelValle, Charlotte Dudley, Rich Federowicz, Barbara Fox, Robin Frey, Stacy Gertis, Jon Horton, Charles Houseman. Marcy Kamery Stacey LeChevet,

SEE "ARTS" PAGE 4

E-Ville Historical Museum

Preserving & Sharing History of Region



"This tiny museum in our beautiful village is full of history."
Post & Photo/ Ellicottville Mayor, John Burrell
BY JEFF MARTIN, THE VILLAGER

The Ellicottville Historical Museum, located at 2 Washington Street in Ellicottville, New York, continues to serve as a cornerstone for preserving and sharing the rich history of the region. Operated by the Ellicottville Historical Society, the museum is open from June through September on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm, with free admission.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:
New Exhibits:

The museum has recently expanded its collection to include artifacts and exhibits that highlight

SEE "MUSEUM" PAGE 11

Villaggio Fundraiser Success

Benefits Ellicottville Little Eagles Programs



Nick Petillo, co-owner of Villaggio (in middle), surrounded by the boys and girls of ECS Little Eagles youth football and cheerleading teams during their spaghetti fundraiser last Saturday. They surmounted their goal of \$1000 and raised a total of \$1,650 for the youth programs.

KATE BARTLETT

On Saturday, January 8th, Villaggio held a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Ellicottville Little Eagles youth football and cheerleading program. The event was a huge success, surpassing their goal of \$1,000, raising a total of \$1,650. This money will go directly to these youth programs, and cover the new sleds the coaches seek for football.

Stacy Van Buren, President of Ellicottville Little Eagles, reached out to Andrea Austin, General Manager at Villaggio, about hosting a fundraiser for the Little Eagles, and suggested a spaghetti dinner. "Nick (Petillo, owner and founder of Villaggio) and I were more than excited to help out with this," says Andrea. "Community is

what it is all about. It's what makes our job fun."

Andera and Nick reached out to their local vendors for donations of food and services and received a generous response. Sysco donated food and Ferguson printing, located in Salamanca, donated their services to print all event tickets. Travis Happoldt graciously accepted the invitation to play Live Grungy Country Music at the event.

The evening was a huge success, not only raising substantial funds for the Little Eagles, but in gathering the community in celebration. "It was a fun, light-hearted evening," says Andrea. "We love supporting our community, and it was fun gathering the families together. It was definitely a highlight of our month."

Their idea for the fundraiser was to keep it simple and family-

friendly. "The simplicity and popularity of pasta dishes can attract more participants, making it easier to reach financial goals for a cause. Pasta is a universally loved dish, appealing to families and individuals of all ages." Villaggio also offered a take-out option, making it convenient for families who couldn't stay.

This was the first year of the spaghetti dinner, and everyone involved is pleased with the success. "We're so happy with the turnout, the ease of the event, and most importantly, the kids and families had a fun evening together," says Stacy. "This is such a short time in our lives; kids grow up so fast. We want to make an impact in the community and these programs help our kids."

For more information on Ellicottville Little Eagles, follow on Instagram and Facebook.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ellen Frank, Town Historian

Preserving Ellicottville's History for Future Generations



Ellen Frank, Gretchen Plough (a volunteer) and Stephanie Hicks a visitor to the museum this summer.

BY JEFF MARTIN
THE VILLAGER

Ellen Frank, a lifelong resident of Ellicottville, has been appointed as the new Town Historian, bringing with her a deep commitment to preserving the town's rich heritage. With 33 years of experience as an elementary school teacher in Salamanca and nine years as Vice President of the Ellicottville Historical Society, Frank has been instrumental in organizing events that engage the community with local history, including historical walking tours and ghost walks that have drawn hundreds of participants.

In her new role, Frank oversees the Ellicottville Historical Society Museum, located in a historic 1853 building at 2 Washington Street. The museum operates from June through September, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm, and relies heavily on volunteers to staff the building during these hours. In 2024, the museum welcomed 1,338 visitors from 25 states and eight countries, highlighting its role as a

cultural hub in Ellicottville.

Frank emphasizes the importance of volunteerism in maintaining the museum's operations and programs.

"It takes a certain person to want to volunteer their time," she noted, encouraging community members to participate.

In 2024, the museum had 18 active volunteers, a relatively high number but still not quite enough to fully support the museum's expanding programming.

Volunteerism plays a vital role in small communities across the United States, fostering social cohesion and enhancing local services. According to the Almanor Foundation, volunteers are essential in supporting community infrastructure, particularly in rural areas where they contribute significantly to social services and cultural preservation. This type of engagement not only helps sustain operations like the Ellicottville Historical Society but also strengthens the social fabric of the community.

Frank has also witnessed significant changes in the village over her 50 years living there.

To address space constraints in the museum's historic building, Frank is seeking climate-controlled storage solutions for the society's growing collection of artifacts. The 1853 structure, while charming, offers limited room for preserving delicate historical items properly. Additionally, Frank continues to lead historical walking tours and ghost walks, providing residents and visitors with immersive experiences into Ellicottville's past.

Historical societies like the Ellicottville Historical Society play a crucial role in preserving local heritage, acting as stewards of artifacts, documents,

and stories of historical significance.

Beyond static displays, historical societies often engage in architectural preservation, genealogy research, educational outreach, and events that connect the public to their local history, according to information by the Historical Society of Baltimore County.

Frank, who is paid in her role as historian but volunteers her time with extra activities like guided tours, believes that expanding volunteerism and historical education is essential for the society's continued success. Involving younger generations can be especially impactful, as seen in programs where students conduct oral history projects, helping both to document local stories and teach students about their community's roots.

As the 2025 season approaches, Frank remains committed to increasing public participation and preserving Ellicottville's unique historical legacy. Monthly meetings at the Ellicottville Memorial Library feature guest speakers on various historical topics, providing further opportunities for education and community engagement.

Frank's efforts echo a national trend of renewed civic engagement, reminding communities that the preservation of history relies on the dedication of those willing to share and protect it for future generations.

If you have volunteer you believe deserves the spotlight, please nominate them. It's easy! Simply log on to www.thevillager.com and click "General Submissions": in the topic reference "Volunteer". We look forward to hearing from you and highlighting our heroes.



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HoliMont's Report on the Resort

Ski Instructor Made Historic Ascent of Mt. Everest

BY DAN BALKIN



Like two great athletes on the same team, Peter Habeler (right) and Reinhold Messner inspired and challenged each other to achieve peak performance. They went to Nepal to attempt what had never been done in the history of the world: Climb Mt. Everest without the use of oxygen tanks and descend safely back to base camp. They are picture here at the Everest Base Camp. The two persevered, and they summited. At the peak, they naturally felt euphoria and a sense of accomplishment. The mountain men returned safely and made their way into history: First climbers to scale Mt. Everest without oxygen. Why? As Peter would say: "Because it's there."

The Air India pilot's voice awoke him from the restless, twilight sleep passengers experience during flights spanning continents. The announcement said they were now cruising at 29,000 feet. He immediately thought, "29,000 feet – the height of the mountain I will soon be climbing." Today, although still very perilous to ascend and descend, Mt. Everest is an adventurer's tourist trap. This, however, was 1978, a time when the world's highest peak was solely the domain of elite and serious climbers. Who was this man? His name is Peter Habeler. He is now 82 years old, still fit and handsome, and lives in Mayrhofen, Austria. Mayrhofen is a skiing destination and one of the villages that punctuates the scenic Zillertal Valley. At the end of the valley is "Hintertux," a renowned glacier. Hintertux is open for skiing about 360 days a year. Ironically, it only closes a handful of days in the dead of winter when glacial wind gusts shut down the high-altitude lifts! Peter Habeler started climbing mountains at six years old. Even his strict grammar schoolteachers, knowing that the towering mountain peaks in their native valley were his playground, would smile and indulge him if he fell asleep at his desk.

As a young man, Peter Habeler earned the title "State-Examined" ski instructor in Austria. It is the most prestigious ski instructor certification in the world. There are many daunting skiing tests one must pass to be invited to take the certification program. If one makes the cut, it involves living for three months at the "Bundes-Sport-Heim" (National Sports Home). The on slope and classroom instruction is peerless and even includes staying overnight in a high altitude, hand dug snow cave (a possible survival skill in the vast mountains). Brrr! Skiing, however, was Peter's side gig – climbing the world's biggest mountains was his passion.

If one was in the Alps in the late 20th Century, it was not unusual to see ads featuring another famous climber named Reinhold Messner (Mountaineers are celebrities in the Alps). Messner is from Northern Italy, which was part of Austria until after WWI, hence his Germanic name. Like two great athletes on the same team, they

inspired and challenged each other to achieve peak performance. On that Air India flight, they were on their way to Nepal to attempt what had never been done in the history of the world: Climb Mt. Everest without the use of oxygen tanks and descend safely back to base camp. In the 1920s, famous British mountaineers George Mallory and Sandy Irvine were drawn to Mt. Everest. They also ascended without the use of oxygen and were last seen trudging toward the peak before a mist enveloped them. No one knows if they summited (it would have been the first summit of Everest), but they both perished mysteriously on the mountain as they never came down. Before this fateful event, a reporter asked Mallory why he wanted to climb Everest. In perhaps the three most beautiful words ever uttered, he said "Because it's there."

Some MDs who were experts in how a human brain and body function at ultra-high altitudes thought that Habeler and Messner were on a suicide mission by attempting to scale and descend from the summit of Mt. Everest without supplemental oxygen.

They knew the risks and accepted the challenge. After days of climbing ever upward through a series of high-altitude camps, near the summit of Mt. Everest, Peter Habeler began to experience severe difficulty breathing and a numbness in his hands. He said his entire body felt like a single lung desperately gasping for wisps of air. But he and Reinhold Messner persevered, and they summited. At the peak, they naturally felt euphoria and a sense of accomplishment. Mt. Everest, however, is not Disneyland. It is arguably more dangerous to descend than ascend, especially when your brain and body are starved of oxygen at 29,000 feet. They did not linger long on the summit; survival demanded descending quickly into a more oxygen rich environment. The mountain men returned safely and made their way into history: First climbers to scale Mt. Everest without oxygen. Why? "Because it's there."

Footnote: This author and HoliMont instructor worked under Peter Habeler as a ski instructor in Austria.

Arts

CONT. FROM COVER

Christina Ludwig, Kathy McDonnell, Cindy Mead, Catherine Merlino, John Merlino, Bruce Morrell, Rich Myers, Ina Randall, Paulette Rozwood, Karen Sienk, Denise Steiner, Mark Wagner, Joseph Ward, Michael Weishan and Judy Wright.

Tracy DelValle's painting, "Snowy Owl Protector" won First Prize at the 66th Annual Allentown Art Festival in 2023. It was awarded a blue ribbon by the Allentown Village Society of Buffalo, NY. Barbara Fox contributed "Chickadee Perch". Her work has been published in five editions of the watercolor publication "Splash: the Best of Watercolor". From 2007 to 2020, 23 of her designs were minted by the United States Mint as coins and medals. Charlotte Dudley contributed an intricate

quilt, entitled "Round in Circles". Dan Bryce's painting depicts rooftops in Chicago realistically except for a building in the background that appears wavy in order to evoke the heat in that area. Robin Frey's wall arrangement of moss, ferns and fungi evokes a feeling of forest serenity. Several different paintings evoke the stark beauty of winter.

One of Stacey LeChevet's two paintings depicts an interesting assortment of shells and starfish. Paulette Rozwood painted surging waves. One of Judy Wright's two contributions is a pleasant portrait of musician Pete Seeger, which was autographed by him! I took my photo, "The Face of Nature", at a stream with a stone barrier in front of it because of its beauty, and only noticed the face formed by shadows later when I looked over my images. I then brought out the colors of the water in the background until they looked like brushstrokes. The Harold L. Olmsted



"The Face of Nature" by Barbara Arnstein

Gallery is located at 37 North Buffalo Street in Springville, NY. The gallery hours are Wednesdays from 10am-5pm, Thursdays from 10am-7pm, Fridays from 10am-5pm, and Saturdays from 10am-2pm. The show began January 8th, 2025 and will run until February 22nd, 2025. The reception will be held on January 31st between 6:30-8pm. For more information, call (716) 592-9038.

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College Daze 2025 Success

College Students Celebrate Winter Break at Holiday Valley



Photos/Holiday Valley

Every year at the beginning of January Holiday Valley rolls out the good times for their friends on college break. The guests are treated to great parties, tastings, games, gifts and discounted tickets and lodging. It's always guaranteed a good time. This year's event took place Sunday, January 5 - Tuesday, January 7, sponsored by Red Bull, Intense Milk and Fireball Whisky and was noted as the best one to date.

Online Submissions Accepted

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

Sculpture Park Seeks Submissions

Send in Your Best Images at the Park

Say "Cheese"

We need your help!!!

Griffis Sculpture Park is actively seeking fresh images for the Griffis Sculpture Park social media channels. If you have some photos of a visit to the park - and don't mind sharing them - they could be used in the upcoming year promotions. You'll even get photo credit. Bonus points, if the photos have people in them. Extra bonus points, if you have old photos from the park. Please send images to their Facebook messenger or send them to volunteer Doug Sitler at dsitler@gmail.com.

FRIDAY APRÉS LIVE MUSIC

This winter, Edna's at the Tamarack Club will have live music on Friday evenings from 4-7PM. Stop by for a great meal and listen to some fun tunes. It's the perfect way to kick off your weekend.

[Learn more at holidayvalley.com/events](http://holidayvalley.com/events)

THINGS TO CHECK OUT

EDNA'S AT THE TAMARACK WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRIX FIXE MENU

The perfect mid-week date night. Dine with fantastic views of the slopes this winter. For only \$70, you get a pizza appetizer, choice of two fantastic entrees, and dessert!

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January 17-19

WINTER BLUES WEEKEND

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

ellicottvilleny.com

2025

ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

FRIDAY, January 17th

4pm Jamie Smith of Porcelain Bus Drivers @ Edna's at The Tamarack Club

7pm Dustin Francis Acoustic @ Cygaro Cigar Club & Lounge

8pm 2 Guys Drinkin' Blues @ Gin Mill

10pm Pat & Own Duo @ Balloon Restaurant

10pm DJ Jay Lyfe @ Balloons Restaurant

SATURDAY, January 18th

2pm Porcelain Train @ Gin Mill

4pm Ron LoCurto of Big City Horns @ T-Bar in Holiday Valley Lodge

5:30pm Diggin Roots Band @ Madigans

6:30pm Pat Harrington Trio @ Balloons Restaurant

7pm SON @ Villaggio

8pm Iron Eyes Experience-Butch Maybe @ Mill Street Sports Pub

8:30pm Maria Aurigema Band @ Gin Mill

10pm DJ Andre the Giant Redhead @ Balloons Restaurant

10pm Pat & Owen Duo @ Balloons Restaurant

SUNDAY, January 19th

1pm Pat & Owen Duo @ Balloons Restaurant @ Edna's at The Tamarack Club

2pm Porcelain Train @ Gin Mill (See Cover Story)

5:30pm Dave Miller & Grace Stumberg @ Villaggio

7pm 2 Guys Drinkin' Beer @ Gin Mill

9pm Karaoke @ Madigans

ACCURATE AS OF 1/16/25



They adopted the name Porcelain Train as they felt it encompassed the beautifully fragile Americana journey of life. Porcelain Train plays a variety of their original songs along with crowd favorites with their own twist. They frequent the Ellicottville area, as well as Buffalo area, Batavia, Rochester, Syracuse, the Finger Lakes, as well as traveling the Midwest in Michigan and Indiana each summer. For more information visit porcelaintrain.com, follow on Facebook, and listen to their music on most streaming platforms. See Porcelain Train live at their free performance during Winter Blues Weekend in Ellicottville on Saturday and Sunday, January 18th and 19th at 2pm at The Gin Mill. Follow The Villager events calendar online for other upcoming performances.

Music

CONT. FROM COVER

BY KATE BARTLETT

Porcelain Train is currently comprised of Ralph and Tamala Fonda as the core duo, with an occasional full band or trio with Buffalo Music Hall of Fame member Marty Peters on electric guitar and Mike Vealea on bass. Ralph plays drums and sings vocals; Tamala is a singer/songwriter and plays guitar. The band has released 2 albums (Same Ride and Crossing Rivers) and is working on their third, with a newly released single, Nobody's Lovechild. Their music can be streamed on Spotify, Apple Music and Reverb Nation.

Originally from Michigan, Tamala grew up in a musical household,

as her mother was a music teacher who taught her piano and voice. She studied music in college in Oklahoma, where she began to deepen her appreciation for singing. "I always loved music and art from a very young age," recalls Tamala. "In college I really began songwriting and singing which was helping me express some tragic things in my life". I also continued playing piano and guitar and really exploring different facets of music."

Ralph grew up in Syracuse, and he describes his family as musically inclined. "My four sisters, my brother and I all enjoyed music," explains Ralph. "We'd casually sing for fun, and my brother, Harvey, was the first to learn guitar." Ralph always had a knack for drumming. "I was always banging on something," laughs Ralph. He began playing with his

brother, Harvey, and also with his sister, Robin. "We always had fun playing together, and we still do." Harvey Fonda has become a well-known artist in the Syracuse area.

Ralph and Tamala met at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in the music department. "We traveled over 20,000 miles on this musical recruitment team together," recalls Ralph. "We bonded over our love for music, among other things."

Over the years, Ralph and Tamala were inspired by several of their musical friends, including Dave Miller, of Miller and the Other Sinners, and Sam Tambe. "We began playing coffee shops together," says Tamala. "We learned a lot while we played and were inspired by each other." After playing several coffee

"MUSIC", Pg. 10



Emily Theresa bought her family barn, pictured right in 1940 and has poured her heart and soul into it. You can say, it is giving her the same in return.

Lucky

STORY FROM COVER

BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

Emily Theresa brings generations of family dreams to reality in West Valley, NY and you are invited to be a part of the magic.

Here's your chance for a living history lesson ... wander around the acres of Lucky Day Homestead on Roszyk Hill in West Valley (so named for all the four-leaf clovers easily found there), listen to the stories told by Emily Theresa Tingué and one can be transported to another time. At 43, this young woman only knows how to move forward, inviting us to come with her, back into another time. The time when her great-grandfather, Charles Gerwitz came home from serving in The Great War, in 1920, a year before the four-year war ended, and bought the 150 acre homestead on Roszyk Hill Road from a land company. Working with buildings that

were first built in 1847 (pre-Civil War), he immediately built on to both the home and the barn. He and his wife worked and raised ten children off that land. All the boys then served in the military except for Charles II, Emily's grandfather, who married Agnes and kept the farm going during WWII years. Agnes, at 93 continues to live uphill from the original farm, staying close to family. Fast forward to the 1980's and on when young Emily and her newly divorced mom and family spent much time on that family property. "My grandparents were really my second set of parents," says Emily. "I grew up being part of that farming family ... caring for animals, collecting eggs, learning about planting and harvesting crops, running free through the fields and creek, collecting flowers, frogs and crayfish, learning about baking from aunts, mom and grandma, learning about woodworking from grampa" - basically she learned old-world skills about living off the land first-hand, on this pre-Civil War farm.

The child grew up. Her proximity to Ellicottville landed her jobs in various establishments in the late nineties. Eventually, as a single mom she continued working in Ellicottville but disliked the fact that she had to be away from her children. She had to find a better way to be able to be more hands' on and present.

Harking back to her historic roots (four generations) as the eldest daughter of the eldest daughter of dairy farmers, she boldly took a plunge back into her family roots. Fifteen years ago, Emily bought the family property from her uncle. A lot of juggling went on but eventually, she hit her stride and was able to quit outside employment to begin working for herself and her family - on the family farm.

The property is a wonder to behold. Not because it boasts pricey, ornate buildings, but because it has an aura - a feeling of how special that

"LUCKY", Pg. 11

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Local Chautauqua Lawyer Appointed January 1, 2025

By Darlene Brace

becoming a lawyer in the future to use his talking skills for something good. This may have planted the seed for the career path Peter would later take.



He graduated from high school in 1994 and was seventh in his class. He enrolled at the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) that fall, but was uncertain of what degree he wanted to pursue. He discovered how much he enjoyed political science and philosophy classes. After freshman year at UB, he decided to pursue a career in law. He studied hard and was very successful. He graduated from UB in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a magna cum laude honor.

After his years at UB, he attended the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. Even though it was a lot of hard work, he loved law school there. He worked nights at a bakery while attending law school. In his third year, he spent time in a family law clinic where he gained real-life experience representing people in real

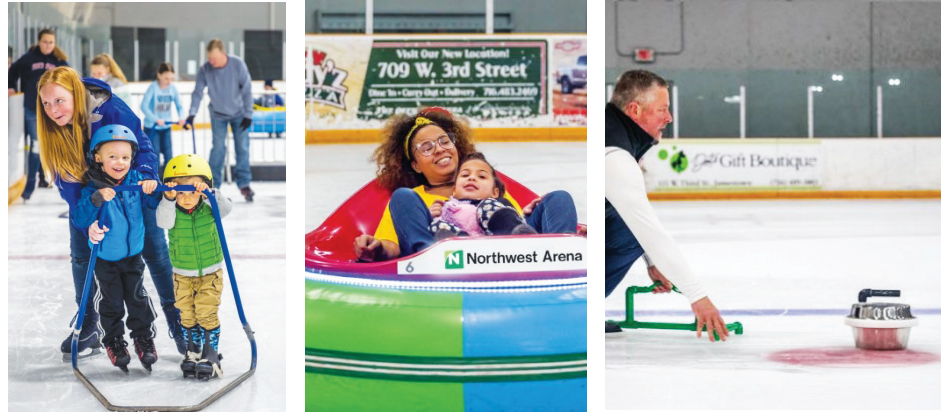
cases. He gained great experience there, and it gave him a strong sense of the importance of family law.

While he was attending law school, he would come home to Jamestown for breaks and summer vacations. While home on these breaks, he spent time as an intern at a Jamestown law firm called Fessenden Laumer & DeAngelo. While doing this internship, he got to know the lawyers and "got his foot in the door." He was told that there was a job there when he graduated if he wanted it.

Peter graduated from law school with a Juris Doctorate Degree in May of 2001. At this point, he was not yet a lawyer until he took the bar exam and met some other requirements. Peter continued working as an intern until he took the bar exam and was sworn in. Once sworn in, he was officially hired as a lawyer at Fessenden Laumer & DeAngelo in 2002. Peter continued to work there for the next twelve years as a general practice lawyer where he got to experience all aspects of law. He

Aspire "On Ice" at Northwest Arena

An Evening of Fun & Fundraising for Adaptive Sports



The Aspire "On Ice" community event welcomes the public and returns for the second time at the Northwest Arena. This exciting event aims to bring families and friends together for an evening filled with fun winter festivities. In fact, a similar event has been successfully held in Buffalo for the past six years. The popularity of the Buffalo event (story on cover this week) inspired the organizers to expand the celebration to Jamestown, where it was introduced last year.

By Darlene Brace

It's the middle of winter, and maybe you are looking for some fun indoor activities to enjoy with your family and friends. If so, please consider participating in Aspire's "On Ice" fundraising event that is taking place at the Northwest Arena on January 25th from 6-9pm. With an "On Ice" ticket, your admittance will include three hours of fun activities including ice skating, bumper car rides, and curling. Ice skates are included, but are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Your admission ticket will also include unlimited non-alcoholic drinks, coffee, and access to the tasty hot chocolate bar, all perfect for warming up during the event.

The Aspire "On Ice" community event welcomes the public and returns for the second time at the Northwest Arena. This exciting event aims to bring families and friends together for an evening filled with fun winter festivities. In fact, a similar

event has been successfully held in Buffalo for the past six years. The popularity of the Buffalo event (story on cover this week) inspired the organizers to expand the celebration to Jamestown, where it was introduced last year. The response from participants and attendees in Jamestown last year confirmed that the event was well-received, leading to the decision to host it again this year.

Aspire of Western New York is an agency that works with children and adults who have developmental disabilities, and it was created over seventy-five years ago. It was initially called the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western New York. It was founded in 1947 when a woman named Mary Moss learned that her son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. With the support of her community and friends, she helped establish this organization. Over the years, the name and the mission have evolved, and it became Aspire of Western New York in March of 2003. Most of the locations that house Aspire's facilities

were in the Buffalo area, but in 2005 an Aspire Administration Building opened on Fairmount Avenue in Lakewood, New York.

At Aspire, the mission is to provide services for both children and adults with developmental disabilities. They believe that everyone has the right to reach their full potential and live as independently as possible. Aspire's staff develop individualized programs for those with developmental disabilities, which may include educational, vocational, and residential services, as well as coordination of other services to ensure a comprehensive approach. This makes Aspire of WNY one of the leading agencies in this field and a valuable resource for people with disabilities in our community.

Aspire hopes to increase awareness of its mission, and it raises some of its funding through community events like the "On Ice" fundraiser,

See "ASPIRE II" Pg. 11



Peter with his wife Lindsey and three children.

See "JUDGE" Pg. 10

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BROADWAY *in Brief*

Musical #23: "Mamma Mia", Part I

By BARBARA ARNSTEIN

She doesn't tell her mother about this decision. They all accept her invitation! Won't Mom be surprised! Mamma Mia! The three men arrive on the Greek island where Sophie's grown up, at the same time as two old friends of Donna's that she invited to her daughter's wedding. The plot proceeds throughout her reunions with all of them, a bachelorette party and the day of the wedding.

A brief history of ABBA: In 1968, Agnetha met Bjorn. They married in 1971. A year later, ABBA was born. Anni-Frid and Benny met in 1969, and married in 1978. In 1974 the foursome won the Eurovision Song Contest with a performance of "Waterloo". ABBA disbanded in 1982. Agnetha and Bjorn divorced in 1979, and Anni-Frid and Benny divorced in 1981. In 2005, "Waterloo" was declared to be the best song in the competition's history. In 2022, "ABBA Voyage", featuring hologram-like versions of the performers as they appeared in 1979, opened in London. "Voyage" was created a few years ago when they were filmed with 160 cameras as they performed a 22-song set, and then the performance was combined with digital "de-aging" and choreography performed by body doubles.

ABBA songs have

been tremendously popular for decades because of their catchy tunes and universal appeal. The songs in "Mamma Mia" range from exuberant to poignant. The title song, "Mamma Mia" includes the lyrics, "Mamma Mia, here I go again!/My, my, how can I resist you?/Mamma Mia, does it show again?/Just how much I missed you?". "Slipping Through My Fingers" expresses the thoughts of Sophie's mother as she helps her daughter prepare for her wedding. Remembering how she felt when her daughter was a little girl, she thinks, "Do I really see what's in her mind?/Each time I think I'm close to knowing,/she keeps on growing.". In "I Have a Dream", the lyrics include the inspiring words, "I have a dream, a fantasy/to help me through reality./ If you see the wonder of a fairy tale, you can take the future, even if you fail.". In 2008, "Mamma Mia: The Movie" was released, starring Meryl Streep, Christine Baranski and Julie Walters, and it became the highest-grossing movie in the UK that year. Ten years later, "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again", a sequel (that's really a prequel) was released. There's so much to say about both the movies that I'm going to say it next week.

Making the Most of the Long Weekend Ahead

By DARLENE BRACE

With Martin Luther King Day on Monday, many of you have a long weekend. Maybe you want to go out and about to relax and listen to some live music with family and friends. Read on to see what's happening in Chautauqua County this weekend.

Thursday January 16th – **The Busti Tap House** welcomes back **Oldfish** to perform from 6pm-8pm. Enjoy a great meal while they captivate you with their one-of-a-kind performance. You may want to make a reservation ahead of time as they get pretty busy when they have great live music. Next week is the **Tap House's one-year anniversary**, so keep your eyes out for details on that in next week's issue.

It's **Trivia Night** at the **Southern Tier Brewing Company**. Gather your team, put your heads together, and see if you can answer the trivia questions correctly. If you do, maybe you and your team will be the big winners and win a great prize.

Friday January 17th – It's **Karaoke Night** at **Shawbucks** in downtown Jamestown. DJ Giulia will be the host, and he will be playing the tunes starting at 9pm. Karaoke Night is always a blast, so come and check it out and maybe you will dare to choose your favorite song to sing. Either way, it's sure to be a fun night.

Infinity Visual and Performing Arts will be having its first student recital of 2025. There will be a variety of performances ranging from solo performers, bands,

instrumentalists, dancers, and more. The recital is free, open to the public, and starts at 7pm.

Popular WNY band **Ion Sky** will be performing at the **Dom Polski Club** in Dunkirk. Ion Sky plays an energetic mix of pop and rock music. This event is open to the public and starts at 7pm.

Saturday January 18th – In Fredonia, **64 on the Rocks** welcomes back **Midnight Recovery** to entertain you as you enjoy a great meal and beverages. The band will be rocking the village as they jam, playing their classic rock and country music.

The Cooler Bar and Grill in Sherman is excited to welcome **Michael Arrons** to perform at 7pm. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this talented musician.

Shawbucks in downtown Jamestown will tempt you to the dance floor as **Backlog** performs starting at 10pm. They play their versions of many generations of rock music that is sure to please the crowd.

A Strange Kind of Sunshine will perform at **MJ's Tavern** in Randolph starting at 8pm. They are a rocking party band singing old and new songs that will get you moving to the beat and maybe up on the dance floor.

Big Inlet Brewing has a fun weekend of entertainment planned. On Friday night, Big Inlet welcomes back singer/songwriter **Daniel Cecil**. He will play some originals as well as a few selected cover tunes starting at 6pm. Then on Saturday, local musical legend **Bill Ward** will perform some of your old favorites as

well as a few newer tunes. He always puts on a great show.

Peek n' Peak Resort in Clymer has a busy weekend of entertainment. You can enjoy a nice meal while listening to the great music. On Friday night, **DJ Tito** will be playing the tunes starting at 9:30pm in **Bistro 210**. On Saturday, **Dunn (unplugged)** will perform in the Sports Bar, and **Tiny Music** will play in the **Bistro 210** at 9:30pm. Then, on Sunday **Brown Dog Acoustic** will play in the Sports Bar at 6:30pm, and at 9:30pm **Echo 23** will play in **Bistro 210**.

The River Bar inside the **Seneca Allegheny Casino** has a fun lineup of entertainment this weekend. On Friday night, the **Iron Eyes Experience** will get you moving to the beat with their classic rock and blues music. Then, on Saturday night, **Patti Parks** will entertain the crowd with her soulful blues music. The music starts at 7pm each night.

Get warmed up this weekend at **Merritt Estate Winery** in Forestville. They are having a **Gourmet Grilled Cheese Bar** Friday-Sunday from 11am-6pm. Along with your grilled cheese, they will have a variety of gourmet soups available to dine in or for to-go orders. The bar will still be open for wine tasting and to purchase wine.

What a fun mix of entertainment there was this weekend. There will be lots of live music to entertain you next weekend too, so stay tuned to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.

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What's Shakin' in EVL

Whether Outside or In, Live Music is Always Available

By, MOUTHSAYTONGUE

bump, bump in the window on Washington.

roots/folk/blues covers and originals.

Think I'll walk on down into the town and look around for that wonderful sound they sometimes call the blues. It's Blues Week-end so let's see who's playing where.

SATURDAY
This Gin Mill is first up with Porcelain Train from 2-5pm. This duo plays folk/roots/blues/rick/country covers and originals. Maria Aurigema takes the stage from 8-12am. This Buffalo native plays blues/rock originals and covers and has shared the stage with some of the blues top acts. If you like craft cocktails try the Carriage House Sidebar for some high-end spirits.

The Gin Mill's pregame is hosted by the return of Porcelain Train from 2-5pm. Sip on some of their famous Bloody Mary's and have some wings.

THURSDAY
We start our weekend on Thursday at Balloons for Trivia Night which is also Burger and Brew Night, from 4-10pm \$15 gets any burger and any domestic beer plus house made chips. Trivia starts at 7 pm and there's cash prizes for 1st-3rd place.

Madigans is back with The Diggins Roots Band from 5:30-8:30pm. This band plays a roots/blues/funk/rock set of originals and covers and are a jam band. Dj Delta blows up the sound booth from 9-2am layin down some crunk so you can shake your junk till the wee hours.

Villaggio hosts its weekly AYCE Pasta Night and Prime Rib Special from 4pm till the end of the game. Pizza and wing specials with drink specials and the musical guests are the exceedingly talented Grace Stumberg and Michael Miller from 4pm till game time. These singer/songwriters play everything very well.

The Gin Mill hosts The Chillbillys, Thursday from 8-11pm. This very popular husband and wife act plays a rock/pop/folk/country/blues set of covers and originals featuring some slick guitar work and sweet vocal harmonies. Try some of the 37 beers that are always on tap.

Balloons returns with The Pat Harrington Trio from 6:30-10pm. These guys play a blues/rock/country/roots set of covers and originals that are danceable. Then Pat and Owen will walk to the back bar and play a duo set from 10-1am. Dj Andre the Giant Redhead will provide the juice so you can really cut loose from 20-2

MONDAY
Monday is Strings and Wings from 4-10pm. 50 cent wings and a fine selection of craft beers to wash em down which makes for a locals favorite. This week's musical guest is Dave McGarry from 6-9pm. This Bradford native plays a rock/ pop/alt/country set of covers.

FRIDAY
Balloons is back with The Love Underground from 6:30-10pm. This band plays a rock/soul/funk/pop set of covers. The back bar will host Pat and Owen who make their first of four appearances from 10-1am. Di Lyfe will rock the sound booth layin down the sauce so you can shake if like a boss on the two dance floors.

Villaggio is a player with SON from 7-10pm. This act plays a blues/pop/r&b/jazz set of covers and originals to accompany some of the finest Italian fare in the southern tier.

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

We return to The Gin Mill for Two Guys Drinking Beer from 8-12am. Terry and Ron play a rock/pop/folk/country/blues set of covers for your dancing and listening pleasure. Check out the latest kitchen in town open till 9pm sun-wed and 10pm thurs-sat. Open for breakfast 9-11:30am sat-sun.

The Mill St Sports Pub hosts Iron Eyes Experience from 8-12am. This trio plays a blues/rock set of covers and originals that are heavy on the Hendrix influence. This is also a great location for any sports event.

TUESDAY
The Gin Mill hosts The Hick Ups, Tuesday from 7-10pm. This collection of local musicians from various bands have been jamming together for over 10 years. The play an eclectic set of bluegrass / folk/country/Americana style covers.

Madigans joins the party with Dj Kage from 9-2am layin down the thump, thump so you can

SUNDAY
Balloons makes a rare Sunday appearance with an encore performance of Pat and Owen from 1-4pm. Get ready for some Bills football as you listen to some

We end the seven-day weekend as we have for the last 40 years at The Gin Mill for Wing, Wednesday from 7-10pm. Brian Rick is the musical host. Brian plays a rock/pop/folk/country set of covers. Obviously, anything that's been going on for these many years is a local's favorite.

Beat on the Street:

"What do You Think Your Retirement Will Entail?"

BY CHAD NEAL



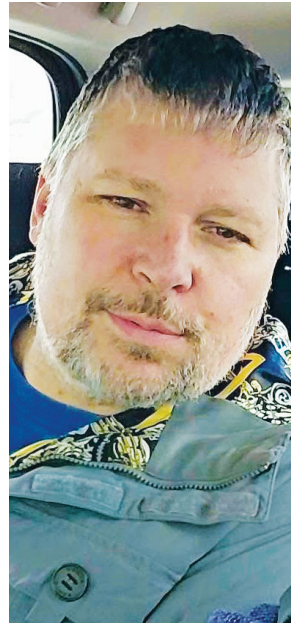
Work. Something most of us have to do in order to be a part of the economic society we were all born in to. We strive for the American dream, to get rich in order not to toil. Retirement is a goal as well, though we don't want to get old. It seems we work most of our lives to have a short retirement before we expire, but it is still a goal. There will be many who can't have the dream retirement, but those who planned have a nest egg to support them during the relaxation period of life. The dream is real though, to have the freedom and funds to enjoy life without having to worry about where the next paycheck may be coming from - not worrying about the alarm clock or making the boss happy. What do you think your retirement will entail?



Lilly I.- A cottage on top of a hill, overlooking the small homesteading community my friends and I have built. Somewhere beautiful!



Jessica G.- Fishing, boating, gardening, bird watching, camping, travel. Slow living. Savoring it all.



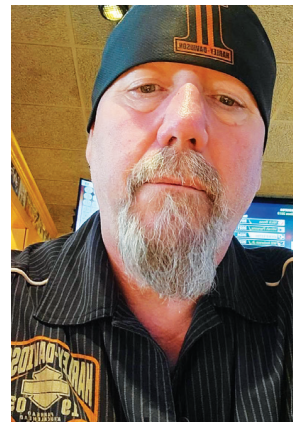
Larry S.- Just enjoying the freedom to do what I want with my time.



Kevin R.- Now that I finally figured it out after 5 years of being retired.. finally learned how to relax and no longer rush... enjoying every minute!



Chris C.- What is this... Retirement...you speak of?



Dan L.- A lot of motorcycle riding.

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Music

CONT. FROM PG. 6

shops and side gigs, Tamala and Ralph decided to make a name for themselves.

They adopted the name Porcelain Train as they felt it encompassed the beautifully fragile Americana journey of life. "My son helped us come up with a few names, we had a few friends vote, and viola, we became Porcelain Train."

Porcelain Train plays a variety of their original songs along with crowd favorites with their own twist. They frequent the Ellicottville area, as well as Buffalo area, Batavia, Rochester, Syracuse, the Finger Lakes, as well as traveling the Midwest in Michigan and Indiana each summer.

Their music has evolved

over the years, as they've become more confident in their sound and ability to play live performances together. "Our sound has thickened," describes Tamala. "We started simple and acoustic, but we've developed so much over the past two decades, individually and together." Ralph has adapted to singing vocals while playing drums and has explored various methods of percussion. "We've gained the ability to make our duo sound like a full band," describes Ralph. "Our sound has depth."

Tamala finds inspiration in her songwriting. "I remember writing songs in the early years, how unsure I felt singing the words on stage. It's incredible to look back on how far we've come and I'm so grateful our music has been so well received. It's almost surreal to watch the song go from words on a page, to coming

alive through our music, reaching the crowds ears. It's euphoric; there's nothing else like it." Ralph and Tamala have fun creating music together and find it therapeutic. "I've always loved music and performing," says Tamala. "It's so special to be able to make music with my husband; to bring the songs I've written to life on stage with him. We're lucky to share this special bond together."

For more information visit porcelaintrain.com, follow on Facebook, and listen to their music on most streaming platforms. See Porcelain Train live at their free Winter Blues Weekend in Ellicottville on Saturday and Sunday, January 18th and 19th at 2pm at The Gin Mill. Follow The Villager events calendar online for other upcoming performances.

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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:

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

MLK

CONT. FROM PG. 2

where white armed attackers, unprovoked, killed 38 residents and burned more than 35 blocks of homes and businesses, rendering unrecoverable one of the wealthiest black neighborhoods in the US at the time, known as "Black Wall Street."

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a 26-year-old Baptist minister at the cusp of his career as a civil rights leader when Emmett Till was brutally murdered in rural Mississippi on Aug. 28, 1955. Like most Americans, King was appalled by the news that Till, a Northern Black teenager visiting relatives in the Deep South, was killed by two white men who accused him of making blatant advances on a white woman at work in a grocery store." (Valencia County News Bulletin, May 2018-Look for Emmett Till - Wikipedia.) He was 14.

Is it any wonder that this peace-loving human being, who along with others like him, must have been stretched beyond all human endurance ... yet, he still had the hope and audacity to have a dream? The Till murder had an enormous impact on Dr. King and the civil rights movement. Did he seek vengeance and retribution? He believed that wasn't the answer even though hundreds of lynchings of blacks took place in the south for all the years of his life. Both "morally and practically" committed to nonviolence, King believed that "the Christian doctrine of love operating through the Gandhian method of nonviolence was one of the most potent weapons available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom" (King, Stride, 79; Papers 5:422).

In March 2022, 67 years after the death of Emmett Till, The Emmett Till Antilynching Act, which makes lynching a federal hate crime, was enacted. Here's the sad news - Two hundred (200!) anti-lynching laws had been proposed before this act finally became law. What a sad testament to American democracy.

From the American Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Our Founding Fathers also had a dream. Let's all pay homage to those words as we celebrate this undeniably great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Online Submissions Accepted

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Be a Part of the Art!



On January 1st, 2025, Peter Johnson was sworn in as the new Chautauqua County Family Court Judge. This ceremony took place at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown. He was sworn in by his friend and predecessor Hon. Jeffrey A. Piazza. They were joined by about one hundred attendees including friends, family, coworkers, and other local officials. The ceremony was followed by a reception for the new judge and his guests.

Judge

CONT. FROM PG. 7

represented clients from all walks of life, including custody cases, divorces, criminal cases, and more. Peter earned a reputation as a smart lawyer who was willing to stick up for his client's interests.

Then in November of 2014, his career took another new direction. A fellow lawyer and friend, Jeffrey Piazza, was elected the new Chautauqua County Family Court Judge. Prior to taking the bench, he asked Peter to become his new court attorney, which Peter served as from 2015 to 2024.

In 2012, he met his wife, Lindsey, who happened to be his neighbor living a few houses away down the street. They were married in 2015, and they stay busy raising their youngest three children, Lillian, Julia, and Henry. They have a dog named Teddy, and in Peter's spare time, he likes to take Ted for long walks.

As a way of giving back to the community, Peter has served voluntarily as Chautauqua County High School Mock Trial coordinator for the last nine years, which is sponsored by the NY State Bar Association. High school students from across the county participate in mock trials, which allow them to experience what being an attorney is all about.

Now fast forward to January 2024. Judge Piazza announced that he decided it was time to retire. Upon learning this news, Peter jumped at the opportunity to run for judge. Peter won the general election in November decisively. "I am humbled and honored to have been chosen by the voters of our county to serve them in their courtroom." Judge Johnson presided over his first case as a judge on January 13, 2025. Congratulations to the new county Family Court Judge, Peter Johnson!

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Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE, NEW YORK - Notice is hereby given that a Republican Party caucus for making nomination of candidates for Village Officers in the Village of Ellicottville, will be held on January 27th, 2025, at 7PM at the Town/Village Hall located at 1 W. Washington Street, Ellicottville, New York 14731 -2nd Floor. Candidates are to be nominated by said caucus for the offices of: Trustee, 4 Year Term • Trustee, 4 Year Term • Republican Committee Person
-Amy Hayward, Village Clerk

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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.

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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

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 online: www.thevillager.com "Submit Materials"**

Museum

CONT. FROM COVER

the area's diverse history, including items related to the Seneca Nation and the region's role in the Civil War. These additions provide visitors with a more comprehensive understanding of Ellicottville's past.

Special Events:

The Ellicottville Historical Society has been hosting a series of "Fright Walks" during the fall season. These events offer guided tours that explore the village's haunted history, providing an engaging experience for both residents and visitors. The walks are scheduled on select Friday evenings in September and October.

Educational Programs:

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Ellicottville Memorial Library. These meetings feature guest speakers and presentations on various historical topics, fostering community engagement and education.

For 2025, meeting dates



are available on the August 6, Sept. 3 and Oct. 1.

Historical Walking Tours:

The museum offers historical walking tours around the village, where participants can learn about the founding fathers and their homes. These tours are scheduled on select dates during the summer months and provide an in-depth look at the village's architectural and cultural heritage.

Membership and Donations:

The Historical Society encourages community involvement through membership and donations. Forms

Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce website, allowing individuals to contribute to the preservation and promotion of the village's history.

For the most current information on exhibits, events, and programs, visitors are encouraged to contact the museum directly or visit the Ellicottville Historical Society's Facebook page.

The museum's dedicated staff and volunteers are committed to providing an enriching experience for all who are interested in exploring the history of Ellicottville.

Lucky

CONT. FROM PG. 6

land, the restored buildings, and the history are. She had help. She hired her favorite uncle, Roger Tingue, to brainstorm (sometimes sketching hurriedly on a napkin before an idea or architectural concept evaporated). An avid learner, she was able to quickly master any tools she did not already know how to handle and together they began restoring the buildings. The house has so many interesting, natural details, but the barn remains the major project. It stands as a big income source where she can host weddings, reunions and seasonal events that are open to the public by reservation. History is preserved. Much of the exterior wood was brought inside for use for trim and walls of the restroom and office space. Anything that could be reused was put back into the barn.

Another vision was a

Farm to Table restaurant in her hometown which made perfect sense until Covid hit and she couldn't keep it staffed. Undeterred she continued focusing on The Homestead, including an Airbnb, with plans for three more cottages along the tree line in the next three years. A look at her Facebook page and the seemingly continual activity she creates makes one wonder how this living dynamo is not frenzied and stressed. To the contrary, she was able to create the perfect balance for herself and her children by being self-sufficient. She is super organized (she prioritizes!), and truly has times for morning walks with a steaming cuppa and her dog, hunting, giving vent to her artistic side (which, true to character, is multi-faceted), teaching diverse classes on bread baking, foraging and using wild herbs, etc., refining the bucolic atmosphere surrounding The Homestead, and drinking in the beauty of life, one sunset, one trophy buck, one chock full larder of canned produce, one



"15 years ago I bought this little spot and called him (her uncle) with a bucket of spackle in hand... After 3 building remodels and a restaurant reconstruction... we became quite the team. RIP Uncle Roger... there are no words to thank you for how you have changed my life, and the lives of others." -Emily Theresa

delighted visitor at a time. This short article does not do justice to the Homestead or the woman who runs it. Plan to visit and buy a pie or artisan cheese or meat, etc., in her cozy shop next to the house. 716-353-0193. Tell her Carol sent you.



The outdoor ice arena at Riverworks in downtown Buffalo is a massive waterfront complex for skating, hockey, curling & concerts with dining, bars & concessions. It is located at 359 Ganson St, Buffalo, NY 14203. They can be reached by calling (716) 342-2292, or visit their website: buffaloriverworks.com

Aspire I

CONT. FROM COVER

bar available.

Winterval was started 5 years ago as an alternative winter event to Aspire of WNY's annual Ski in the Valley at Holiday Valley. "We were looking for something that would be more inclusive to the populations we serve," says Shana Kuras, Events Coordinator for Aspire. "Not all of the people we support can ski, so we decided to do an ice-skating event with adaptive equipment so anyone can participate."

The event has been a hit since its inception, not only raising funds to support Aspire of WNY, but in celebration of the winter season itself. Tickets include 2 hours of ice skating, curling, full dinner buffet, unlimited non-alcoholic beverages, including coffee and hot chocolate and cash bar available. There's also a basket raffle with great

prizes including a Dawson Knox signed helmet. "Riverworks is such a great venue," says Shana. "There's so much to do here. Even if you're not out on the ice, it's fun to people watch and hang out."

Greater Buffalo Adaptive Sports will provide adaptive equipment so individuals of all abilities can participate. "It's important to us that this event be inclusive," says Shana. "It's great to see guests of all ages and abilities have fun on the ice together."

The event is open to the public with ticket proceeds to benefit Aspire of WNY, serving programs that directly support the community. Aspire has been serving Western New York for over 75 years supporting people of all intellectual and developmental disabilities in all aspects of life from school-age through adult with services including schooling, residential, respite, day services and more. They operate under the mission "we believe children and adults with developmental disabilities

have the right to realize their full potential and live as independently as possible."

Aspire of WNY hosts a similar event, On Ice, at the Northwest Arena in Jamestown the following Saturday, January 25 from 6-9pm (you can read about that in this edition as well). This event is similar to Winterval as it includes 2 hours of ice skating (with skate rental), curling, dinner, and unlimited non-alcoholic drinks, but it also includes ice bumper cars.

Shana describes the event as a fun, laid-back family-friendly celebration of the winter season. "It's a great evening of winter fun for a great cause. We invite everyone to come out and participate in this community celebration!"

For more information visit aspirewny.org/Winterval or email skuras@aspirewny.org. Tickets are \$35/adult, \$20 ages 5-10 (under 5 free) and available online until January 22. Tickets will be available at the door at \$40/adult at Riverworks located at 253 Ganson Street in Buffalo.



The Northwest Arena is a multi-purpose arena in Jamestown, New York. It hosts local sporting events and concerts. It is located at 319 W 3rd St and can be reached by calling (716) 484-2624 or visit their website: northwestarena.com.

Aspire II

CONT. FROM PG. 7

which supports its initiatives. For more information about Aspire and its services, visit aspirewny.org. On the website, you will also see that there is a similar event scheduled at Buffalo Iron Works on January 23rd. Be sure to check the website for updates on this event and future activities and events as well.

Shana Kuras is Aspire's Special Events and Employee Engagement

Coordinator, and she is excited about this event returning to the Northwest Arena for a second year. Shana stated, "Aspire of Western New York's 'On Ice' event is a celebration of community, inclusion, and the opportunity to support a meaningful cause. It's also a fantastic way for families to enjoy an affordable, fun night out. It will include exciting activities like ice skating, curling, ice bumper cars, and that tasty hot chocolate bar, all while making a positive impact in the local community."

If you and your family are searching for an enjoyable and entertaining way to

spend an evening together, be sure to mark January 25th on your calendars. They invite you to join Aspire at the Northwest Arena for their "On Ice" event. As you attend, you'll not only have a chance to enjoy the activities, but you'll also be part of a community effort to raise funds for a meaningful cause. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with your neighbors, make new friends, and show support for a charity that is making a difference.

So, gather your family and friends, lace up your skates, and come share in a night of fun and community spirit.

Aspire of Western New York is an agency that works with children and adults who have developmental disabilities, and it was created over seventy-five years ago. It was initially called the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western New York. It was founded in 1947 when a woman named Mary Moss learned that her son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. With the support of her community and friends, she helped establish this organization. Over the years, the name and the mission have evolved, and it became Aspire of Western New York in March of 2003. Most of the locations that house Aspire's facilities were in the Buffalo area, but in 2005 an Aspire Administration Building opened on Fairmount Avenue in Lakewood, NY.

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