

**FREE**

# The Villager

EL LICOTTVILLE • CHAUTAUQUA

## Area Events

**MOVIES AT THE REG - NICKEL BOYS**  
Friday, February 12,  
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

**PUBLIC SKATE AT FREDONIA ARENA**  
Saturday, February 8 • 130pm  
SUNY Fredonia NY

**MOVIES AT THE REG - WICKED**  
Sunday, February 14,  
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

**CHAUTAUQUA STRIDERS WINTER 5K**  
Friday February 22, Celoron, NY

**MOVIES AT THE REG - WICKED**  
Friday, February 14,  
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

**MONTHLY FAT BIKE RIDES**  
Friday, March 14  
Allegany State Park, Salamanca, NY

**CHQ STRIDERS WINTER 5K SERIES**  
Saturday, February 15 • 10am  
Jamestown NY

**HOLIDAY VALLEY'S PENGUIN PADDLE**  
Friday, February 22 • 2pm  
Ellicottville, NY

**SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ALLEGANY STATE PARK**  
Wednesday, February 12  
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

**ART AFTER 5 AT RTPI**  
Friday, February 28,  
RTPI. Jamestown, NY

**MERRITT TRAIN RIDE**  
Saturday, February 15  
Gowanda, NY

**HOLIDAY VALLEY'S YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC**  
Monday, February 24  
Holiday Valley, Ellicottville, NY

**HOLIDAY VALLEY'S INTENSE MILK RAIL JAM**  
Saturday, February 15  
1pm @ Holiday Valley

**DUELING PIANOS**  
February 21 • 10pm  
EBC Little Valley, NY

To advertise your events  
• log on to [www.thevillagerny.com](http://www.thevillagerny.com) and click "General Submissions" tab  
• call (716) 699-2058  
• or email [info@thevillagerny.com](mailto:info@thevillagerny.com)

## Remembering Mulligan's in Buffalo Legendary Brick Bar with Deep Roots In Ellicottville



BY KATE BARTLETT

Mulligan's Brick Bar on Allen Street in Buffalo will always be remembered as a unique, classic Allentown dive bar with a strong community. Recently, the bar was tragically lost in a fire, deemed completely unsalvageable. It was a great loss to the Buffalo community, and the bar also has strong ties to the

Ellicottville region. Many Ellicottville connections can be made to Mulligan's, especially that of Michael Militello, Kevin and Ben Kell. Upon returning home from Vietnam in 1969, Kevin and Michael decided to buy Mulligan's bar from the Briandi family. "I was in

SEE "MULLIGAN'S" PG. 6

## Ellicottville Winter Music Jam Over 15 Performers in 3 Days - Feb. 21-23, 2025



Jennifer Westwood & the Handsome Devils last Music Jam at Balloon's Restaurant and Bar. Photo/Jon Elder

Three days of indoor live music in all the hot spots, complementing the list of outdoor fun! Whether you are here to ski/snowboard, snow tube, or explore our village shops and restaurants (or all of the above!), there's no denying that

Ellicottville creates a vibe that makes anyone visiting want to return ... again and again. If you've already experienced our slice of snow Heaven this winter, that return trip for you is just around the corner! If you

SEE "MUSIC JAM" PG. 3

## The Guest House by EBC

New Vacation Rental in the Heart of Ellicottville



BY KATE BARTLETT

Peter Kreinheder, owner and founder of Ellicottville Brewing Company, recently entered the rental property business with his first vacation rental in the heart of the village of Ellicottville. This spacious, newly renovated

property is located directly behind EBC offers the perfect blend of modern luxury and eclectic charm. Jamestown native Taylor Scott, owner and founder of Lynx Property Management,

SEE "GUEST HOUSE" PG. 7

## ARANAR - Affordable Luxury

\$10.5M Landscape Hotel and Villas in Ellicottville



BY DAVE PARKER

Ellicottville Native Aims to Bring Affordable Luxury to Hometown with "Landscape Hotel". Jake Creeley, a 2002 Ellicottville Central graduate and owner of Creeley Construction, is looking to bring a unique lodging experience to his hometown

with the proposed Aranar Landscape Hotel and Villas. Located on the former Fitzpatrick family homesite on Route 242, the property boasts stunning views of HoliMont, the Village of Ellicottville, and westward sunsets. Creeley's vision for

SEE "ARANAR" PG. 7

## Sneak Peek Inside this Edition...

**Buddy Guy Performs at Seneca Niagara**  
Tickets Go on Sale This Friday, Feb. 7 ... Pg. 11



Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino announced that it will welcome a true legend for a night of electrifying Blues and timeless songs. Buddy Guy, one of the most influential guitarists of all time, will bring his Damn Right Encore tour to the Seneca Niagara Event Center on Friday, June 6 at 8pm.

Mark Your Calendar: **Valentine's Day, February 14**  
Dedicated Day to Express Your Appreciation ... Pg. 8

**Online Submissions Accepted**  
[www.thevillagerny.com](http://www.thevillagerny.com) or email [info@thevillagerny.com](mailto:info@thevillagerny.com)

## Fredonia Opera House Renovations Updating and Historically Preserving



The Fredonia Opera House just celebrated its 30th year since the restoration, and has been operating year-round since November 1994, presenting around 105 performances annually. In order to best meet the needs of the community, it became necessary to replace the small, uncomfortable seats. Once the seats were removed and the more than 3,300 screw holes in the floor were filled, Chautauqua Flooring began the process of sanding and refinishing the floors. (SEE STORY "OPERA", PG. 6)

## West Main Mercantile Falconer Store Showcases Area Businesses



Danielle and Angelo Marra opened West Main Mercantile in August of 2024, with three goals in mind. First, they wanted to encourage community engagement and support, which is a big part of their mission. Secondly, they wanted to support other small local businesses, providing a space where they could sell their goods. Lastly, they wanted to offer a place with nutritious, affordable meals in Falconer. Currently West Main Mercantile has inventory from about 30 local businesses. (SEE STORY "MERCANTILE", PG. 11)



# Publisher's Word

*"It Takes a Village..."*



This is a photo of me at Mulligan's Brick Bar in 2003 when I had an artifact magazine. The photo was taken by long-time friend Scott O'Connor while he was bartending that day. (You will read more about him and from him in the cover story this week on Mulligan's.) Mulligan's was one of my many stomping grounds in college in Buffalo that will forever be in our hearts. Thank you to you and your crew, you have touched many lives!!! Photo/Scott O'Connor, 2003, black & white film negative.

Every city is made up of small towns and many towns have a small village... I, as well as many of you, was lucky enough to grow up in WNY (well most of the time, we had a 3-year jaunt to Tallmadge, OH, when I was in middle school but as you well know, we are one in the same with the kindheartedness of Ohio!). I went to college at the University at Buffalo. I lived in downtown Buffalo. Allentown is a village in the city. Recently, Allentown has seen two of its landmarks burn to the ground, both were dear to my heart and to those with whom I shared the village streets. Lately, it seems every time you turn your head there is one story after

another that leaves you in shock. I understand that and we don't ignore that. We leave the hard news to the daily newspapers, but this one hit close and I want to take a moment to say, "Buffalo Strong", the City of Good Neighbors, comprised by towns and villages is a strong and enduring force. We will rebuild, grow and never forget. To all of those that these tragedies have touched, we know you believe Buffalo strong. P.S. Valentine's Day is coming soon! Remember the ones you love! Read a little history on the holiday on page 8. I personally love flowers; they can be delivered to 17 Washington Street, Ellicottville, NY 14731.

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**Happy Birthday**  
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Rita Wolf... February 15th • Cassandra Marie Hawkins... February 16th  
Mary Vahl... February 17th • Laurie Dux... February 17th  
Anna Solar... February 18th • Stacy McCarragher... February 18th  
Stacy McCarragher... February 18th • Luan Bobinchuck... February 18th  
Scott Campbell... February 19th • Laura Kohler... February 20th

Email us your birthday greetings: info@thevillagerny.com

## Celebration and Renewal of the Bathers

### Reviving the Spirit of Griffis Sculpture Park



The Ashford Hollow Foundation would like to share an exciting project at Griffis Sculpture Park and to request your support in helping us restore a cherished piece of our history.

Griffis Sculpture Park is a unique and inspiring outdoor art space, where nature and art harmoniously coexist. Since its inception, the park has been a sanctuary for creativity, reflection, and community engagement. Our collection includes a diverse array of sculptures that captivate visitors and enhance their appreciation of both art and the natural world.

One of the most beloved features of the park is the "Bathers" sculptures, originally placed in the pond in 1970. These sculptures, created by the talented artist Larry Griffis Jr., hold a special place in the hearts of our visitors and are an iconic part of the park's heritage.

Over the years, due to environmental factors and necessary maintenance, the sculptures were removed from the pond. We are now embarking on a mission to return the "Bathers" sculptures to their original home in the pond, where they can once again enchant visitors and serve as a testament to the enduring beauty of art in nature. This restoration project is not just about placing sculptures in water; it is about preserving our history, celebrating our artistic legacy, and enhancing the visitor experience for generations to come.

To make this vision a reality, we need your help. The costs associated with the restoration, including conservation of the sculptures, site preparation, and ongoing maintenance, are significant. We are seeking donations from generous supporters like you to fund this important project.

Your contribution will directly support:

- Sculpture Conservation:** Professional restoration to ensure the sculptures are preserved and protected from environmental damage.
- Site Preparation:** Necessary modifications to the pond and surrounding area to safely and securely install the sculptures.
- Ongoing Maintenance:** Regular upkeep to ensure the sculptures remain in pristine condition for all visitors to enjoy.

We invite you to become a part of this meaningful project by making a donation to Griffis Sculpture Park. Your support will not only bring the "Bathers" sculptures back to life but also enhance the cultural and natural beauty of our beloved park.

You can make a donation online: <https://griffissculpturepark.org/the-bathers>

**Sponsorship Levels:**

- \$10,000 Plaque on Bench Around Pond
- \$5,000 Name Plate at Entrance of Pond and Bathers Area
- \$1,000 Prominent Signage at Unveiling Celebration

**Fundraising Goal**  
\$70,000

Raised \$47,000

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MOVIES AT THE REG - NICKEL BOYS: FEBRUARY 12, 2025: JAMESTOWN, NY



# Volunteer Spotlight: St. Susan's Center

Offering Meals & Support to those in Need in Jamestown



**Generous JBC Building Donation Fuels Collaboration to Combat Hunger & Homelessness in Jamestown, NY.** (Pictured: David Conklin, past President of Jamestown Business College; Sharon Hamilton, President of UCAN City Mission Board or Directors; Cherie Rowland, Director, St. Susan Center, and several UCAN/St. Susan Center Board Members gather to celebrate the historic building donation aimed at expanding vital services to combat homelessness in Jamestown, NY. Image by Melissa Paterniti.)

into the JBC campus, St. Susan Center is embracing a broader vision, one that goes beyond meals. The new space will allow for greater collaboration with local organizations, strengthening the safety net for the city's most vulnerable residents.

"Our goal is to create a welcoming environment where people not only receive meals but also gain a renewed sense of self-worth," Rowland explained. "Community is built at the table, and when we come together, we create something far greater than just a meal."

As St. Susan Center enters this new chapter, its commitment remains unwavering: to provide food, fellowship, and respect to all who seek its services. Thanks to the continued support of the Jamestown community, its reach will only expand in the years ahead.

The center serves meals Monday through Friday from 11am-3pm, with doors closing at 2:45pm, and on Saturdays from 12pm-2pm. Guests receive a well-balanced meal, including a hot entrée, fresh produce, and a snack to take home. But beyond sustenance, St. Susan Center fosters a sense of belonging, offering a space where individuals can find encouragement and support.

Community involvement plays a crucial role in sustaining the center's mission. Recent efforts like the 12th Annual Holiday Haul, which raised over \$11,000 and collected 6,700 pounds of food, highlight the generosity that fuels its operations.

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time," noted Rowland, echoing the words of Elizabeth Andrews. "They just have the heart."

As the center prepares to celebrate its 41st anniversary, its role as a beacon of hope remains as strong as ever. With the backing of dedicated volunteers and generous community members, St. Susan Center will continue to serve as a lifeline for those in need.

For those looking to get involved or contribute, more information is available at [stsusancenter.org](http://stsusancenter.org) or by calling (716) 664-2253.

For more detailed information on food pantries in our area please log on to [www.thevillagermy.com](http://www.thevillagermy.com) and read Jeff Martin's article *"Food Pantries Becoming More Vital, How the Pandemic Drove Up Use of Fundamental Help"*

Jamestown Business College (JBC) campus. A capital campaign launched in November 2024 aims to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art hub for community support.

Over the years, St. Susan Center has served more than 2.5 million meals, a testament to its enduring impact. The move to the Gateway Center greatly improved its capacity, offering a larger kitchen and dining space. Now, with the acquisition of JBC's campus, the center is poised to enhance its services even further, ensuring that no one in Jamestown faces hunger alone.

At the heart of the center's mission are its dedicated volunteers, including retired educator Sandy Hooven. With a background in early childhood education and home economics, Hooven has spent years mentoring new volunteers and ensuring food is prepared safely.

"Sandy has observed that many first-time visitors arrive with apprehension," said Cherie Rowland, Director of St. Susan Center. "But as soon as they experience the warmth here, that hesitation fades. It's about making everyone feel welcome."

Each month, 74 volunteers dedicate more than 500 hours to the center, handling everything from food preparation and cleaning to donation pickups and board service. But their most meaningful contribution is often something as simple as a kind word or a friendly smile—reminders that no one is alone in their struggles.

With the expansion

BY JEFF MARTIN  
THE VILLAGER

For more than four decades, St. Susan Center has stood as a vital resource in Jamestown, offering meals and support to those in need. What started as an ambitious vision by local clergy has since become a cornerstone of the community, providing nourishment, dignity, and fellowship to thousands.

The center's origins trace back to a shared desire among Southern Chautauqua clergy to establish a place where individuals could find both food and companionship. Limited funding initially stalled the effort, but the tragic passing of Susan Tornebene, a young woman from downstate New York, provided an unexpected catalyst. After being cared for at WCA Hospital following a car accident, her family was moved by the compassion they received from the Jamestown community. In response, they made a donation in her honor, leading to the creation of St. Susan Center, which opened on February 1, 1984.

Initially housed at St. James Catholic School, the center operated rent-free for over 20 years. When the school was sold in 2006, St. Susan Center found a new home at the Gateway Center, thanks to the generosity of local businessman Gary Lynn, who provided the space for just \$1 per year. The organization has now embarked on its most ambitious expansion yet, acquiring the former



Last Music Jam @ Madigan's  
Photo/Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce

## Music Jam

CONT. FROM COVER

have yet to discover all the fun in our town, buckle up ... there's a lively weekend coming up that will give you the full experience!

With 15+ performers on deck covering a variety of genres, it will prove to be

a good challenge trying to check them all out. Read more about it including interviews with the bands and a full line up in the upcoming weeks of The Villager! We look forward to seeing you there!

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# HoliMont and Bode Miller Mingled

HoliMont Spotlight: **Greatness Coming Face to Face with Greatness**



**Bode Miller, even among elite World Cup racers, was known for his daring and athleticism on a race course.**

**By DAN BALKIN**

Sometimes greatness comes face to face with greatness. Such is our tale involving alpine ski racing legend Bode Miller and HoliMont. Why is Bode great? Six Olympic medals; World Cup Champion in 2005 and 2008; 33 World Cup victories; the only skier ever to have five or more victories in each alpine racing discipline. He met a man from HoliMont named Mike Holden – who is now in the presence of God – and a former HoliMont instructor and a U.S. Ski Team coach. As a child, Mike was evacuated from London during Hitler’s WWII bombing blitz. He later earned a PHD in Aerospace Engineering and emigrated to the USA. How bright was Mike? He was sometimes asked to give the keynote address at Rocket Scientist conventions. One winter Saturday, before the era of cellphones, a call came from NASA to the Snowsports office at HoliMont. Due to some concern, they were frantically looking for Mike because they wanted his opinion about whether the Space Shuttle could be safely launched. Summoned off the slopes, Mike had an extended conversation with NASA officials in our Snowsports office and the Space Shuttle safely launched later that day.

Bode had a full-time gig, and Mike had a part-time gig – skiing. Mike was devoted to aerospace engineering, but in the winter, he was often on the slopes. He lived in a suburb of Buffalo and worked for a firm, that among other things, devised hypersonic missiles for the U.S. military. At his office, there was a wind tunnel built in the 50s that was now obsolete – sort of. Mike got permission from the company CEO to retrofit the wind tunnel (at his own expense) with equipment that could determine the aerodynamic drag Downhill ski racers encountered. That is how he earned his stripes to be named as a coach for the U.S. Ski Team. For decades, U.S. Ski Team legends such as Barbara Cochran, Bill Johnson, and Ted Ligety, among others, flocked to Buffalo to work with Mike in the wind tunnel. Then the call came. HoliMont instructor Ward Wilson had a close friendship with Mike. Mike contacted Ward to tell him Bode Miller was flying into Buffalo in a few days, and he could drop by and meet him. Thrills don’t captivate us every day, and Ward jumped at

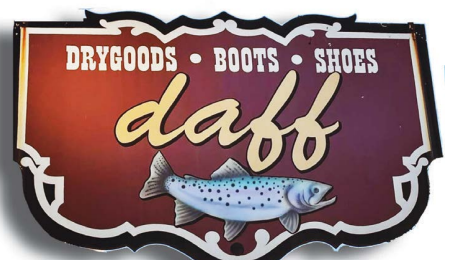
this opportunity. Ward said that inside the wind tunnel, a pair of Downhill skis with adjustable bindings were affixed to the floor. The Ski Team members would bring everything else they would use on race day. Bode entered the wind tunnel and clicked into the skis. Mike wore a microphone that was hooked up to the earbuds that Bode was wearing under his helmet. Mike, being brilliant, devised instruments to calculate the aerodynamic drag a Downhill racer encountered in their “tuck” position. The wind tunnel could be revved up to make the racers encounter wind speeds of up to 80mph, the approximate maximum speed a Downhill ski racer can achieve. Mike would then instruct the racers to make minor adjustments to their hand position, where they were placing their ski poles, moving their arms slightly in or out etc., until they had perfected a tuck that minimized their aerodynamic drag. Bode was in place, and Mike showed Ward how to operate the controls that slowly increased the wind to 80mph. Bode was now under the full force of the wind. At that precise moment, a colleague of Mike’s entered the room housing the wind tunnel and started frantically motioning for Mike to follow him. Maybe another urgent call from the government? Mike left the room and Ward watched for about fifteen seconds as Bode was straining under the 80mph wind with no words from Mike.

Suddenly, Bode tilted his head toward Ward with a quizzical look. Ward shrugged his shoulders and extended his hands outward in body language to express “I don’t know where he went either!” Fortunately, Mike soon returned, and this time the session went on without a glitch. Afterwards, Mike, Bode, and Ward went out to lunch. Intrigued, I asked Ward if Bode ate a health-conscious meal? Ward said Bode enjoyed a cheeseburger, fries, and Coca Cola. Life is good.



**Great Holi Friends: Mike Holden (left) was the aerospace engineer behind the U.S Ski Team wind tunnel training in Buffalo. Ward Wilson (right) was invited to the wind tunnel the day renowned racer Bode Miller visited.**

## Your Ellicottville Adventure Starts Here...



**Cheers to  
♥ Month!**

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**GREG ZEIS**  
February 16

**GRACE LOUGEN**  
February 23

**CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY at VILLAGGIO!**

**Friday, February 14** ♥ 5pm-10pm  
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## Women 2 Women Project Mud Sweat Gears x Blizzard/Tecnica

February 20-21 marks the 4th annual Mud Sweat Gears x Blizzard/Tecnica Women 2 Women Project inspirational women’s weekend at HoliMont. Formerly known as Powder to Prosecco Women’s weekend, this empowering weekend gathers likeminded females to connect in the camaraderie of skiing. Guests are invited to meet and connect with representatives from Blizzard/Tecnica Women 2 Women Project including Marketing Director and ski enthusiast Leslie Baker Brown.

For more information visit their Facebook Page, purchase tickets on Event Brite or call the store at (716) 699-8300. Event limited to 50 women.





# Red Bull Rail Jam at Holiday Valley

Party this Saturday, February 8 from 6-8pm



The energy will be high for this Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>'s Fiddler's Elbow Rail Jam from 6-8pm, thanks to our friends at Red Bull. Free to enter...all you need is a signed waiver. Come hang out, listen to a great mix of music, and show your friends your skills. A signed (by a parent if under the age of 18) Acknowledgement of Risk (AOR) must be turned in order to participate.

## Art at Ellicottville Memorial Library

Abstract Paintings by Amanda Hulbert through March '25



*to find the feeling they need in the shapes that playfully emerge and flow from one another."*

Amanda's paintings are abstract and unusual; colors and shapes mingle and flow. She loves to experiment, and uses several different techniques and tools when painting. Each piece is a unique creation of color and pattern.

Amanda always enjoyed making art from the time she was a child. Life had her take a break for a while, but she has been able to return to art even while working a demanding job in higher education. She discovered pour paintings, and has been creating them for several years. Her decision to focus on abstract art freed her from the pressure of perfectionism, and allowed her to just enjoy the colors and spontaneity of this art form.

Says Amanda of her current exhibit: *"Abstract paint pouring, with its planned spontaneity, mirrors the life's unpredictable dance, where carefully orchestrated moments flow seamlessly into the unexpected to create a beautiful tapestry. I express myself using acrylic paint and additives applied directly to the canvas to provide an escape from the busyness of life. Each piece is meant to be interpreted by the viewer;*

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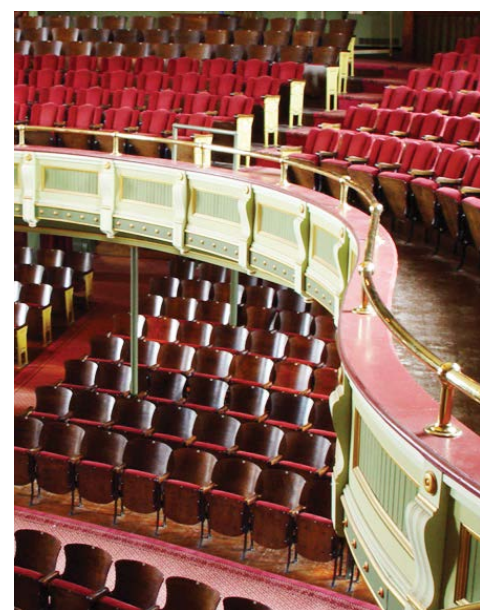
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The removal of the existing seats took two days and was done very methodically. First, the seat bottoms and backs are removed and stacked in piles, leaving the stands like soldiers in a row awaiting removal.

## Opera

### STORY FROM COVER

By KATE BARTLETT

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is currently undergoing necessary renovations in order to create more comfortable seating and refresh the theatre's appearance. These updates will take place over a 6-week time span, with the anticipated reopening date for an event on March 1, 2025. All renovations have taken historic preservation into consideration, maintaining the time period during which the theatre was built.

Rick Davis is the current Executive Director for the Fredonia Opera House and has been involved with the theatre for 19 years. He describes the building as historically significant and a cultural gem in the area. The Opera House is located in the Fredonia Village Hall, comprising about half of the building, opening

originally in 1891. It fell into disrepair and was at risk of being demolished in the early 1980s. At this time, it was known as The Winter Garden Theatre. Thankfully, the building was saved through the help of a grassroots effort in the community.

The Fredonia Preservation Society was formed in 1985 and raised funds to help restore the theatre. The group embarked on a fundraising campaign, and raised over \$1.2 million, a very significant amount at this time, but still not quite enough. Through the hard work and dedication of the society and tens of thousands of community volunteer hours, the theatre was slowly renovated over the course of 9 years.

The Fredonia Opera House just celebrated its 30th year since the restoration, and has been operating year-round since November 1994, presenting around 105 performances annually. In order to best meet the needs of the community, it became necessary to replace the small, uncomfortable seats. "The most complaints I heard were about the seats,"

says Rick. The seats were originally installed in the 1920's and are 15-18 inches wide. By comparison, seats installed today in most facilities are 20-24 inches in width. All 444 seats will be replaced with wider, fully upholstered seats. The new seating layout will also include greater distance between rows, where possible, to increase patron leg room. As part of the project, the floors will be refinished and painted, filling penetrations from existing seats after their removal.

Since the theatre will be closed during seat upgrades, the board decided to complete additional renovations at this time. "We opted to replace our 30+ year old main stage curtain with a new one that offers motorized control of opening and closing," says Rick. The theatre will also undergo construction for a dedicated area for wheelchair and companion seating. One complete row will be eliminated to allow for more leg room between rows. "The new seats will retain a historic look and

SEE "OPERA", PG. 10

### CONT. FROM COVER

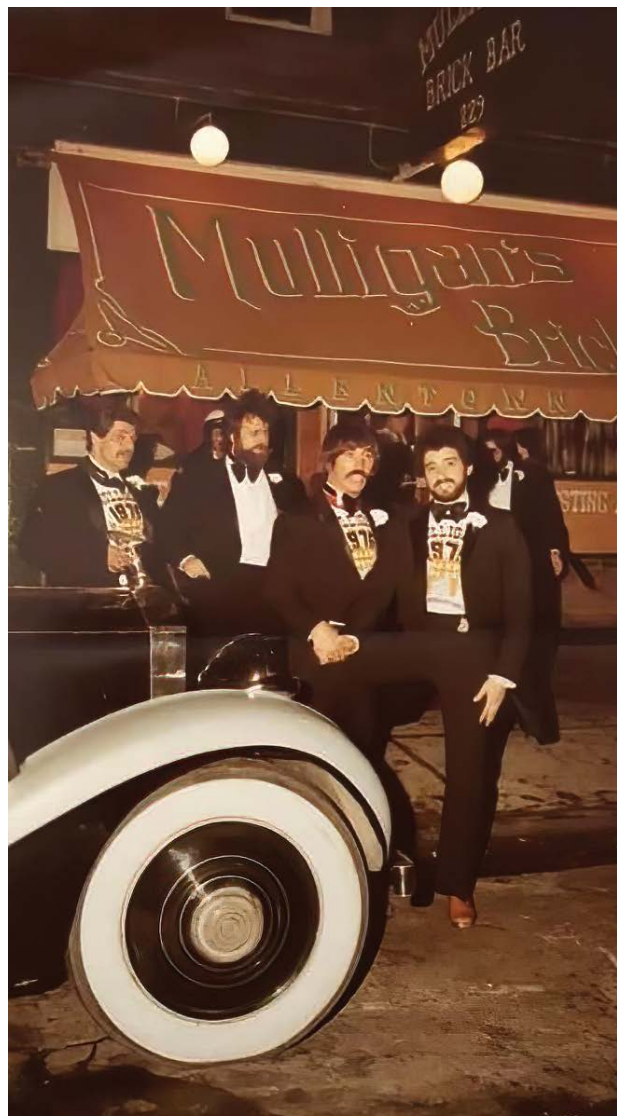
Business School at the University of Buffalo, looking to see what to do next," recalls Mike. "We'd always enjoyed entertaining and decided to make it happen." Ben joined the team when he returned home from serving in the Marines in March 1968 on St Patrick's Day.

Mulligan's opened in January 1970, 55 years ago. Kevin and Michael hired bartenders from all over the Buffalo area. "We built a great depth of talent in our bartenders," recalls Michael. "We hired people from all over the area, not realizing this was the key to success. We had bartenders from North Buffalo, South Buffalo and the West Side. We had hippies, college students, ironworkers and Native Americans as our patrons. It was an eclectic group of people and it was great."

St. Patrick's Day was Mulligan's first major celebration, and the bar had a line wrapped around the block for the entire day. "We made t-shirts for the occasion that read Allentown USA," recalls Michael. "We had a line to get in 7-days a week for several years after; Mondays were our most popular night as we hosted a bartenders and bar owners' night."

Kevin & Michael went on to open Mulligan's Café and Nightclub on Hertel Avenue in North Buffalo, and Mulligan's Sunset Bay Beach Club in Irving on the shores of Lake Erie. "The 70's were an interesting time in Buffalo," recalls Michael. "We're proud to have created a safe space where people could gather together and have a good time."

Kevin, Michael and Ben



Pictured, left to right: Joe Mantione, Phil Digeaseri, Kevin Kell and Mike Militello, (Ben Kell is behind Mike's head) celebrating 1975 anniversary party in custom t-shirts with tuxedos.

spent a great deal of time in Ellicottville. "Kevin had a passion for Ellicottville," recalls Michael. "We made friends with the Pitillo family, who welcomed us to the area with open arms. Michael & Joan Pitillo made us feel like family. Today we still consider the Pitillos our family and we are very proud of the success of their youngest Nick." They discovered Poverty Hill Ski Resort in the 70's thanks to Mike Pitillo and absolutely fell in love with the property. "We acquired Poverty Hill in 1972 and has been home to the Kell family ever since. Ellicottville gave us a home away from the craziness of our growing

bar & restaurant business. We enjoyed bringing the Buffalo Bills and Sabres to the Ellicottville area over the years. We are so incredibly grateful for the support from the Ellicottville area throughout the years," says Michael. "We're thankful to the entire town of Ellicottville."

Former Ellicottville resident Scott O'Connor worked at Mulligan's as a daytime bartender for 5 years, between 2005-2010. Scott also worked at Madigan's (owned by Kevin & Grace Kell along with their sons Connor and Shane) in

"MULLIGAN'S", PG. 10

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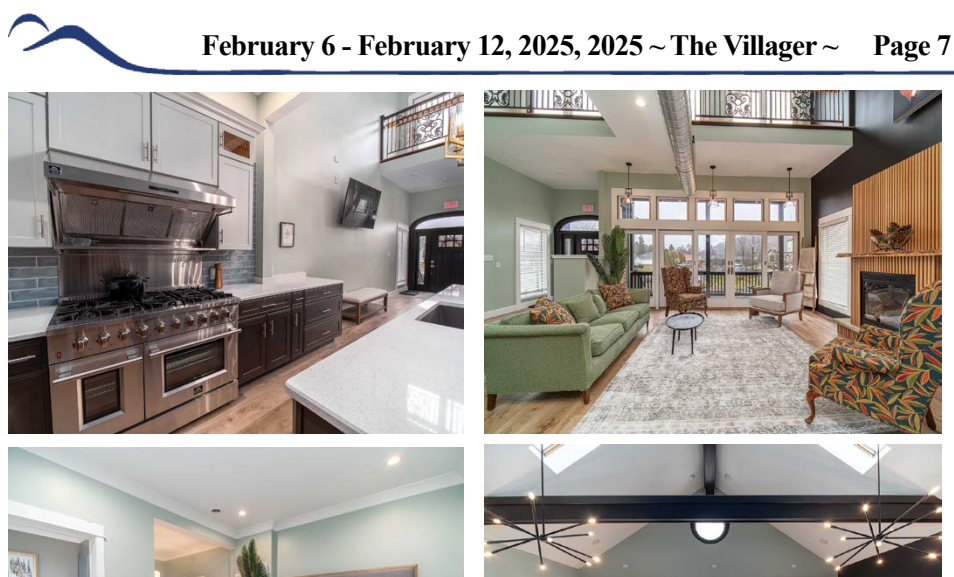
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The Aranar Landscape Hotel and Villas will be an adults-only retreat featuring 30 1,000-square-foot units designed for a maximum of two people. Each unit will include a private hot tub, sauna, two-sided fireplace, and expansive windows to maximize the scenic views.

**ARANAR**  
CONT. FROM COVER

the “Landscape Hotel” stems from a personal experience. Celebrating his 10th wedding anniversary at a Canandaigua Lake resort, he and his wife spent over \$2,200 for just two nights, finding the shared areas overcrowded and additional amenities like spa treatments prohibitively expensive. This sparked an idea: to create an affordable yet luxurious, self-service resort/short-term stay hybrid in Ellicottville.

“I wanted to bring an option to Ellicottville that provides a high-end experience without the exorbitant price tag,” Creeley explained.

Creeley and his company validated their concept with a single luxury short-term rental property, which has been consistently booked since opening, validating their concept. This success fueled their ambition to develop the larger “Landscape Hotel.”

The Aranar Landscape Hotel and Villas will be an adults-only retreat featuring 30 1,000-square-foot units designed for a maximum of two people. Each unit will include a private hot tub, sauna, two-sided fireplace, and expansive windows to maximize the scenic views. A 4,500-square-foot lounge will house a self-service spa with a hydro massage chair, cryotherapy chair, and therapy pod. The lounge will also be available for group events and provide a space for guests to spend time together.

Creeley is also focusing on creating curated packages for couples and groups celebrating special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries. He’s committed to partnering with local businesses, acting as the general contractor for the project, and will be utilizing local firms and craftspeople for the construction. He is also pursuing partnerships with Ellicottville restaurants and the local winery to provide guests with a complete and seamless experience. “We want to integrate with the existing Ellicottville business community and

provide our guests the best of what the area has to offer,” Creeley said.

Construction is slated to begin in April with the project being fast-tracked for completion by the end of 2025. The team plans to share video updates of the construction progress on their website. Creeley Construction has applied to the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for tax incentives, including sales tax, mortgage tax, and real property tax breaks for the \$10.5 million project. The IDA is currently reviewing that application and considering the project’s potential economic benefits and impact on the community.

Creeley expressed his sincere appreciation for the support he has received thus far. “We’ve been incredibly grateful for the support from the Town of Mansfield, the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency, and interest from local businesses,” he said.

For the latest updates on the Aranar Landscape Hotel and Villas project, including construction progress and future booking information, please visit <https://aranar.com/>.

**Guest House**  
CONT. FROM COVER

is partnering with Peter on marketing and management of the property. Taylor founded this company with the inspiration to merge her two passions of marketing and technology with her experience growing up in the hospitality industry. “I aim to help my clients create an experience rather than just an overnight stay,” says Taylor.

A self-dubbed tech guru, Taylor developed a customized app which can be used by guests staying at The Guest House by EBC. “This app merges all my favorite components and creates different layers in order to offer guests the best experience.” The App offers guests a comprehensive guide of the area with suggestions by locals, like a concierge in your pocket. It also allows the capability to purchase local merchandise, food and even book excursions. “It really elevates the experience,” says Taylor. “This makes it easy to

browse local offerings and gives suggestions by local experts. It is easy to browse and book all from the comfort of your couch.”

The Guest House by EBC opened January 1 and has already hosted a variety of satisfied guests. This newly renovated spacious property offers over 3,000 square feet including 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms along with a full-size commercial kitchen, dining area and wrap around deck. Bathrooms are designed with modern amenities including waterfall showers. Taylor describes the style as rustic chic; a lodge feel with modern décor and restoration hardware. The vaulted ceilings accent the windows, bringing in natural light with plenty of space to accommodate various types of guests.

“There’s space for just about everything here,” says Taylor. “The Guest House by EBC can easily accommodate couples, families, or groups of friends looking for a weekend getaway. There’s enough space to have privacy while still staying together. At the location in the village is unmatched.”

Peter remarks that he created The Guest House to accommodate guests visiting EBC as well as out of town restaurant operators and beer wholesale customers who serve and distribute EBC brands across 6 states. “EBC is a place of hospitality and entertaining people. Moving into accommodations seems natural,” says Peter.

In the future, Peter hopes to offer additional experiences at the property, such as cooking classes or a personal chef experience in the commercial kitchen, or yoga classes in the large living space.

To enhance the boutique-like stay, The Guest House by EBC has unique local merchandise for sale in the property itself, including beer by EBC, slippers and pajamas from GI Threads, and Ellicottville sweatshirts and lounge wear. “If interested, guests can simply pay on the App, or we add certain items onto their stay.”

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

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## Chautauqua County Events

BY DARLENE BRACE

According to Punxsutawney Phil, there will be 6 more weeks of winter as he saw his shadow on February 2nd. But don't let that stop you from going out and about to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.

**Thursday, February 6 - Brazil Lounge** in downtown Jamestown will be starting its **Winter Trivia League**, and it will continue every Thursday for five more weeks. Gather up your team and be ready to show what you know. You and your team may be the big winners.

**Rock Church** in Lakewood will be hosting a **Johnny W. concert**. Johnny will be performing rock music along with an offbeat comedy show starting at 7pm.

There will be an **Open Mic Jam Session** at the **Wine Cellar** in downtown Jamestown. Come ready to perform your musical talent or just watch the show. Either way, it promises to be an entertaining evening.

**Friday, February 7 - Movies at the Reg** continue this Friday night with **A Complete Unknown**. This movie features the true story behind the rise of **Bob Dylan** who was a singer-songwriter in the 1960s. Timothy Chalamet stars as Bob Dylan. You can get your tickets at the box office or online at reglenna.com up until two hours before the show.

**Saturday, February 8th - Group Ther-Happy** in Lakewood welcomes back **Lenny and the Landshark** starting at 8pm. This talented duo has eclectic music sets, playing many of the crowd's favorite tunes. Come and

have a great meal from Group's delicious menu while listening to these talented musicians.

In **Bemus Point**, there is going to be an **80's night fundraiser** taking place at the **VFW 557** located at 4498 Dutch Hollow Road. DJ Porkchop will be playing all of your favorite 80s hits from 7pm-10pm. There will be drink specials, giveaways, and prizes for the best 80s costumes. The proceeds go to a disabled veteran's retreat called Healing for Heros. So, get your best 80s look together, dance the night away, and join in the fun while supporting a worthy cause.

**Wicked Warrens** Jamestown will be welcoming **Darkwater Duo** to their stage at 9pm. Enjoy listening to amazing music while having some delicious food from Wicked's menu.

Just one block away from Wicked Warrens Jamestown is **Shawbucks**, which will be hosting **Akoostikly Challenged** starting at 10pm. These two venues are only a block away from each other, so you can enjoy both bands by popping back and forth if you choose to. It's sure to be a fun night.

**Sweet Jane Band** is an acoustic trio that will be playing at **MJ's Tavern** in Randolph starting at 8pm. They play a fun mix of rock and roll hits that is sure to please the crowd.

**Big Inlet Brewing** welcomes back **Oliver Burdo**, as he returns to perform acoustic style originals as well as some covers. His music style has been influenced by blues and Indie folk music, and it starts at 530pm.

The River Bar in the **Seneca Allegheny Casino** is having a fun weekend of live music this week. On Friday night, the popular WNY band **Black Widow** will be performing. They play a versatile fun mix of rock, pop, and country covers that will tempt you to the dance floor. On Saturday night, come listen to **Paleface** as these talented musicians entertain the crowd. On both nights, the bands play from 7pm-11pm.

**Sunday, February 9th** - If you are looking for someplace fun to go out and enjoy **Super Bowl Sunday**, head over to **Wicked Warrens** in downtown Jamestown. They will be having food and fun activities all afternoon before the game as well as celebrating **National Pizza Day**. They have eight TV's and a giant projector to show all the game action. There will be buy-one-get-one free pizzas, delicious party munchies, themed cocktails, and 5\$ drafts all day long. You can join the biggest fan costume contest, and the winner will be announced and awarded a prize at 7pm.

If you're looking for a smaller, more intimate setting for Super Bowl Sunday, head on over to the **Busti Tap House**. **Tyler McClain** will be performing before the game starting at 3pm. Come enjoy the music and some delicious food before and during the game.

Next weekend it will be **Valentine's Day weekend** and there will be plenty of fun things to do to celebrate the holiday with your sweetheart. Check out next week's issue to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.

## Mark Your Calendar: Valentine's Day, February 14

### Dedicated Day to Express Your Appreciation



The first printed cards adorned with paper flowers or frill on record date from 1797, but by the mid 19th century, an enterprising young 20-year-old, **Esther Howland**, whose family owned a stationery store thought she could do better by offering hand-made cards much like she had seen made in England. Covered with adornments and lace she created these cards and sold them for seventy-five cents (now \$100.) Price seemed inconsequential as she was swamped with orders and had to hire help to fill them all. Her business eventually became the successful **New England Valentine Company**. "Named the **"Mother of the American Valentine"** in a newspaper after her death in 1904, Howland's enduring claim to fame lies not only in having produced the first elaborate, handcrafted valentines in the United States, but also in having popularized Valentine's Day cards across the country.

BY, CAROL FISHER-LINN

Another Valentine Day to celebrate. How excited are you about this day?

It's a funny thing about Valentine's Day in my family. It's a big deal because my folks started the extra-specialness of the day by getting married near Valentine's Day February 12, 1934. When I got married, I had to settle for February 13 and finally, my daughter and her husband hit the jackpot on the actual date in 1997. Will there be another generation coming up? Time will tell. Regardless, the day has a lot of significance to us, although it turns out that a Harris poll recently found that only 1% of Americans think of Valentine's Day as a BIG deal. I wonder if it would mean more if we got the day off? I suppose if it falls on a weekday, as it does this year, (Friday), that still gives the five-day-a-week, nine-to-

fivers, the evening for a cozy, candlelit dinner for two (even if it is take-out) and the whole weekend to play and have fun together. Win-Win!

We know the festivities go back to ancient Rome when they celebrated a three-day feast/orgy called **Lupercalia**. No candlelit dinners here, just naked drunks who sacrificed goats, skinned them and then slapped passing ladies legs with the bloody hides. Now, the Pope (Gelasius) needed to put a stop to this pagan debauchery but knew he couldn't just take their "fun" away. He cancelled **Lupercalia** but **St. Valentine's Day** replaced it. You see, there was one (or maybe two) Mr. Valentine's at that time in history who were proponents of love, even to the point of losing their lives, thus becoming saints. But, regardless, celebrating dead saints was better than **Lupercalia**!

Remember hand picking the sweetest card out of

ten or twenty of those cute paper cutout cards that mom bought for you to give out at school when you were a youngster? It's been 70 years that kiddoes have been giving, making, cutting, pasting, glittering, sweet hearts and clumsy verses to make greeting cards for friends and family. Can you remember taking yours home to mom, a trail of glitter following you? It's nice to see that kids are still doing this in schools and going steps further to take cards to people in nursing and retirement homes and making thousands to send to vets near and far. Still time to do it if schools want to run with it.

The first printed cards adorned with paper flowers or frill on record date from 1797, but by the mid 19th century, an enterprising young 20-year-old, **Esther Howland**, whose family owned a stationery store thought she could do better

"VALENTINE" Pg. 10

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By, MOUTH SAY TONGUE

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It's been, by far, the best start to the ski season since I moved here 13 years ago but one thing that's always been great is the music scene so let's see who's playing where?

Mill St Sports Pub is a player with Fritz the Kat from 8-11pm. Fritz plays covers from the 30's till today and tells some jokes that's all part of a zany show. This is a great place to watch all sporting events, lots of flat screens.

**THURSDAY**  
Our seven-day weekend starts on Thursday at Balloons with Burger, Brews and Trivia from 4-10pm. \$15 gets your choice of any burger and any domestic beer plus house made chips. Trivia starts at 7pm and there's cash prizes for 3rd-1st place.

Last but not least Madigans keeps the party going with Dj Persia putting the funk in the trunk do you can shake your junk in the window on Washington from 9-2am.

The Gin Mill's Thursday entertainment features Kody and Herren from 8-11pm. This duo plays a country/bluegrass/folk/rock set of covers and originals. Try some of the 37 beers that are always on tap.

**SATURDAY**  
The Gin Mill is the early bird with the return of Kody and Herren from 2-5pm. Grab a late lunch or early dinner or just do some day drinking. Wasted Whiskey takes the stage from 8-12am. This band plays pushes the limit between country and rock. If you like craft cocktails try the Carriage House Sidebar for some high-end spirits.

**FRIDAY**  
Edna's at the Tamarack kicks things off with Leroy and Loretta from 4-7pm. This act plays acoustic folk and rock originals and covers. Enjoy a meal and drinks at the base of the slopes.

Up at The Valley Jay McDonnell will perform at the T-Bar from 4-7pm. Jay plays singer/songwriter/ acoustic and yacht rock covers.

Balloons is back with Second Hand News from 6:30-10pm. This band plays acoustic rock covers like Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty etc.. The back bar will host Conner Brien from 10-1am. Conner plays rock covers from the 80's till today. Dj Kage will provide the juice so you can really cut loose on the two dance floors.

We're back at Balloons for Welcome Distraction from 6:30-10pm. This Buffalo band plays a rock/r&b/pop/country set of covers. The back bar welcomes Melissa Sauers from 10-1pm. Melissa plays a rock /pop/folk set and you'll hear some Dixieland if she breaks out her clarinet. Dj KT Stylez will provide the thumpin for the bumpin from 10-2am.

The Gin Mill hosts Two Guys Drinking Beer from 8-12am. These Evl vets play a rock/pop/blues/country set of covers that you'll know the words to. Try the late

Madigans is back and so is Dj Persia from 9-2am laying down the sauce so you can dance like a boss all night. Check out the dart board or two pool

tables for some competition.

**SUNDAY**  
The Gin Mill returns with The Chillbillys from 2-5pm. Get your game face on with some great music and you might want to try the Bloody Mary's.

Villaggio hosts its weekly AYCE Pasta and Prime Rib Special. Made to order pasta with the toppings of your choice or succulent prime cooked the way you like it. Because of the Super Bowl music will return the following week. Watch the big game on the BIG screen.

**MONDAY**  
Monday is Strings and Wings at Balloons from 4-10pm. 50 cent wings and a fine selection of craft beers to wash em down with. This week's musical guests are The Chillbillys from 6-9pm. This husband-and-wife act plays a rock/ pop/country/blues set of covers and originals.

The Gin Mill's Monday musical host is Michael David from 7-10pm. Michael plays a country/rock/bluegrass/grunge set of covers. Don't forget those 37 beers on tap.

**WEDNESDAY**  
For the last 40+ years we've ended the seven-day weekend at The Gin Mill for Wing, Wednesday from 7-10pm. For 40 of the years Joe Wagner was the host, well there's a new kid in town and his name is Brian Rick. Brian's been holding down the fort admirably. He plays a folk/rock/pop/country set of covers.

We hope you're enjoying this magnificent skiing and that you return often but wherever you are PLEASE, ALWAYS SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!!!!

Beat on the Street:

"What always stayed the same in the House You Grew up in?"

By CHAD NEAL

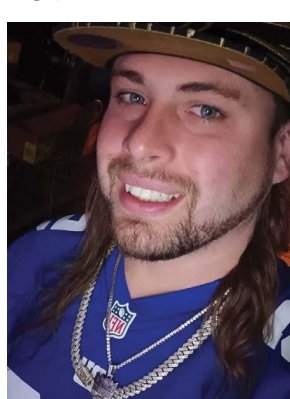
Once I moved out from my folks' place I lived temporarily in many different places and I noticed that things change a lot if you don't stay in one spot long. Then when I bought my first house and planned to live there indefinitely I noticed some things I put in place that I foresaw not moving them for years to come. And by the time I did reluctantly move out they were in that same place. Then it occurred to me that so many things stayed put in the house I grew up in. Knick knacks that stayed on certain shelves, and especially things in rooms that weren't used much like the cellar never moved. The cobwebs really proved the point on some things. We settle in a place and forget the decor we plant as it is just that, decoration. The same goes for many things, they go unnoticed until they're moved and even then sometimes they stay forgotten. What always stayed the same in the house you grew up in?



Corey N.- A painting my mom did.

Stephanie K.- The front door jingle bells and the view!

Carrie L.- The cookie jar - still full anytime I visit!



This black leather arm chair from the 1800s that was in a pullman rail car in a sleeping room. Still sits in the livingroom.

Lisa I.- Phone number and giving apples for Halloween.

Dempsey R.- Same bathroom for the kids to this day. Top to Bottom. Gonna be sad when/if my mom remodels it.

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So We Can Update Our Files for Next Year!



# Mulligan's

CONT. FROM PG. 6

Ellicottville as a bartender and bouncer, and has many ties to the area.

He describes Mulligan's as a classic Allentown dive bar. "It was a great group of people," recalls Scott. "We were a tight-knit group of co-workers who'd do anything for each other. Our bar regulars were like family too; we were a like-minded group of people who enjoyed hanging out in a no frills, laid-back atmosphere."

The Mulligan's fire on January 5 follows in the shadows of another great loss to the Allentown community: The Old Pink, which was located next-door to Mulligan's and was also lost to a fire in June 2024. "The loss of these bars is devastating to the community," remarks Scott. "They were the two best dive bars ever with a great community of people. Sadly, there's nowhere for these people to go now. There's just nowhere like Mulligan's or The Old Pink."

Scott recalls many memorable times at Mulligan's, many of which he comments "are hard to put into words. It was such a unique place; there's nowhere quite like Allentown." He remembers the annual day-long St. Patrick's Day celebrations with pipers and authentic Irishmen stumbling into the bar after the parade. "The bar



Mulligans was also on site at the Buffalo Auto Show this past weekend, February 1, for an appreciation night. Guests had the opportunity to meet bar owners and secure a brick from the bar for a small donation to charity.

was filled to the max by 12:30 in the afternoon," recalls Scott. "We were packed until 4am each and every year."

Nietzsche's, a nearby Allentown bar, held a two-day fundraising event in January to support the displaced Mulligan's employees. The event, called Concert for a Cause, featured live music, gift card raffles and memories shared by the community. "These events were the real deal," says Scott. "It was great to bring everyone together one last time, and raise funds. The power of this community is incredible."

Mulligan's was also on site at the Buffalo Auto Show this past weekend, February 1, for an appreciation night. Guests had the opportunity to meet bar owners and secure a brick from the bar for a small donation to charity.

"The recent coordinators of The Buffalo Auto Show reached out and wanted to show their support for Mulligan's," explains Michael. "We saw the public's interest in bricks from the bar, so we decided to run an organized event signing the bricks. "We signed over a hundred bricks that night sales of which are donated to Ronald McDonald house. "It was an incredible evening. It was great to get the group together after all these years."

The loss of Mulligan's and The Old Pink were devastating to the Allentown community, but may serve as a reminder to patron your favorite neighborhood establishment. Find your place, find your people and support them, and appreciate the simple moments.

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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:**

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

## Opera

CONT. FROM PG. 6

feel, but will afford modern comforts expected of today's patrons," says Rick.

"We had hoped to use our original decorative cast iron ends on the aisle seats throughout the theatre; but that would require significant retrofitting for them to work with the new seats' mounting mechanisms," explains Rick. "We are therefore purchasing new cast ends that somewhat resemble the existing ones. They will be painted using the existing colors to pay tribute to the theatre's history."

Rick describes how these upgrades are important in maintaining the building.



For more information visit fredopera.org, visit the Opera House located at 9 Church Street in Fredonia, email: operahouse@fredopera.org, or call (716) 679-1891.

"The 1891 Fredonia Opera House is a cultural gem in the area. Our community members are invested in maintaining this building. These renovations will help

provide modern amenities, while maintaining the historical significance of the building, offering an elevated experience to our guests."

## Guest House

CONT. FROM PG. 7

says Taylor. "It's a great way to support our areas many local businesses, while giving guests a taste of what the shops have in store."

The Guest House by EBC is the first of Peter's

rental opportunities in the area. He is looking forward to acquiring more properties and offering an elevated rental experience to guests and locals alike. His next project is a boutique hotel experience with spa amenities in the former Fatty Beer location on the 219. "This project is going to be stunning," says Taylor. "There's really

nothing like it in the area. It's location is perfect; a bit quieter just on the outskirts, yet still within walking distance to the village of Ellicottville. For more information and to view full property details, search The Guest House by EBC on VRBO, Air B&B and booking.com, or email ebcguesthouse.com.

## Valentine

CONT. FROM PG. 8

by offering hand-made cards much like she had seen made in England. Covered with adornments and lace she created these cards and sold them for seventy-five cents (now \$100.) Price seemed inconsequential as she was swamped with orders and had to hire help to fill them all. Her business eventually became the successful New England Valentine Company. "Named the "Valentine" in a newspaper after her death in 1904, Howland's enduring claim to fame lies not only in

having produced the first elaborate, handcrafted valentines in the United States, but also in having popularized Valentine's Day cards across the country. Today's multi-billion dollar greeting card industry is heavily indebted to the creativity, work ethic, and business acumen of Esther Howland. (blogsloc.com) Don't you love an unstoppable woman with an idea?

Esther's cards were boxed to preserve them, but then a guy by the name of Cadbury came up with the idea of putting Valentine's Day candy in heart shaped boxes in 1861. I can still remember my dad going to the local

drugstore to buy mom a boxed, 8x10 padded and scented Valentine's card and a heart-shaped box of chocolates to give to his Valentine sweetheart. I couldn't wait for the candy to be gone so mom would give me the box to store treasures in. Say what you will, Valentine's Day is still a pretty special holiday where we can spend a few bucks, take a little time and just be with the ones we love for a day or two. And, please, remember mom or gram, wherever she is this Valentine's Day. Send flowers, a card, but most importantly, make a phone call. It will be the best gift ever!

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# Classified

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE** - The County of Cattaraugus Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") has scheduled and will conduct a special board meeting (the "Meeting") on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 9:00 am, at 9 East Washington Street, Ellicottville, New York, during which the Agency will consider the application of Alle-Catt Wind Energy LLC.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Agency will conduct the Meeting with video conferencing (see information below) pursuant to and in accordance with the New York Open Meetings Law whereby one Agency Board member will participate in said Meeting from the lobby of the following location: The Chateau Elan, 100 Rue Charlemagne, Braselton, Georgia 30517. The public shall have the right to attend the Meeting at both locations noted above.

February 3, 2025, Thomas Buffamante, Chairman  
 Topic: County of Cattaraugus IDA Special Board Meeting  
 Time: Feb 7, 2025 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941120783?pwd=THEkDHkdzr6TNgtWlZsrFFmAnI22u.1>  
 Meeting ID: 889 4112 0783  
 Passcode: 112738

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** the Next Mansfield Town Board Meeting Is changed to February 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting Will be held at the Mansfield Town Hall in Eddyville, 7691 Toad Hollow Road, Little Valley. By Order of the Town Board, Betty Jane Horning, Town 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](mailto:meganbyers4903@outlook.com).

**APARTMENT FOR RENT:** 2 bed apt in village on Elizabeth \$1300.00/mo utilities inc. Washer/Dryer & off street parking 716-432-8882.

**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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**THE PUB IN GREAT VALLEY IS LOOKING FOR BAR HELP** if interested please call or text (text preferable) (716) 863-5498 for an interview.

## FOR SALE

**COUNTRYSIDE CONSTRUCTION** - 26 Park Square, Franklinville, NY 14737 telephone: 585-403-3100. Bring this ad for 10% off in-store purchase! We have lights, live edge, vanity top, interior doors, hobby wood and more! Seniors and Military schedule your project now and receive 10% off labor costs! ID required New Builds, Pole Barns, Decks, Remodels, and much more!

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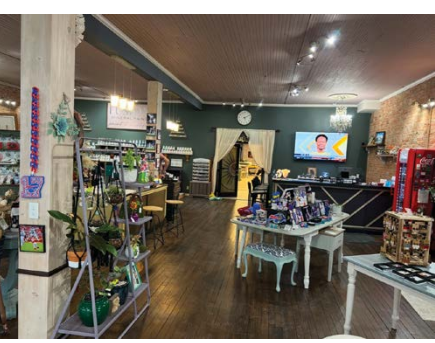


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## From Bryan's Brain



Mongolian Girl has a Laugh with Her Camel  
 Photo/Han Chengli 2003



## Mercantile

### STORY FROM COVER

BY DARLENE BRACE

West Main Mercantile, located at 17/19 West Main Street in Falconer, is a retail store owned by Danielle and Angelo Marra. Their store showcases a variety of products from local businesses and entrepreneurs. It promotes the concept of shopping local, which invites you to discover the unique treasures our area has to offer. The Marras are dedicated to giving back to the community by providing a venue for community engagement that supports the growth and revitalization of Falconer.

Before the idea of the mercantile came to be, the Marras had been busy raising four children, and Angelo worked in the area in grocery distribution. Danielle worked as an interior painter and designer, helping others transform their homes during renovations. In 2017, she founded "Pop of Color" to continue her passion for design. She briefly collaborated with realtor Jerod Zahn to enhance some of his listed houses' marketability until the Covid pandemic hit, which caused a reduced demand for her services. In response, she began painting and redesigning old furniture, giving new life to solid wood pieces from Jamestown's historic local manufacturers. Initially, she worked from her garage and later expanded to a small warehouse.

In 2017 and 2018, two fires left a block in the village quite barren, and

the village had plans to tear down the remaining building, which was once Blue Fin Pet Shop. After that shop closed, the Marras wanted to buy the building and fought to save it. They bought it in the fall of 2022 despite some challenges and delays.

Now after two years of delays and renovations, the building was ready. The building, constructed in the early 1900s, features a blend of historic charm and modern Art Deco elements. It is classy, comfortable, and cozy, with exposed brick walls and hardwood floors. Danielle's flare at décor gave her the ability to create a unique and inviting space for the community.

Danielle and Angelo opened West Main Mercantile in August of 2024, with three goals in mind. First, they wanted to encourage community engagement and support, which is a big part of their mission. Secondly, they wanted to support other small local businesses, providing a space where they could sell their goods. Lastly, they wanted to offer a place with nutritious, affordable meals in Falconer.

Currently West Main Mercantile has inventory from about 30 local businesses. One of the top sellers is Go To Meals, owned by Deon Gayton. After closing its Lakewood location, loyal customers have followed them to Falconer. This partnership increases foot traffic for the mercantile while meeting the demand for healthy, inexpensive meals. Go To Meals offers pre-packaged homemade options, priced under \$8, including chicken and rice, Buffalo meatballs with cauliflower hash, a Big Mack Bowl, cauliflower crust pizza, breakfast

bowls, and more. You can purchase meals to go or microwave them there on-site.

In the mercantile, you can also find a variety of other local products, including syrups, candy, jams, and popcorn, as well as plants, handcrafted jewelry, soaps, candles, furniture, wood crafts, and Fusion Paints. There are specialty items from Whizz n' Smash, Grape Discovery, Peterson Candy, Chautauqua Soap, Crown Street Roasting Coffee, and a selection of Buffalo Bills merchandise. This is a sample of the items as there are too many to list, so the Marras would like to encourage you to stop in and see for yourself.

The mercantile has been very successful since opening in August. Angelo decided to sell his business in grocery distribution so he could work alongside his wife full-time, especially since there is more that the Marras would like to do at the mercantile. Eventually, Danielle would like to teach classes including painting furniture and signs, DIY crafts, and maybe even invite others to host their own classes and events.

For more information and updates on upcoming classes, you can visit their website at 1719westmain.com or stop by to see everything there. Danielle and Angelo hope to strengthen the community through their mercantile, inviting you to explore local products and support local small businesses. Community support is crucial for revitalizing and fostering growth in the village of Falconer. The Marras feel that they and West Main Mercantile are making a positive impact on the community by helping others succeed in their small business ventures.

## Buddy Guy Live at Seneca Niagara

Friday, June 6 Event - Tickets on Sale February 7



and fellow guitar legends, Guy has amassed countless honors and accolades for his remarkable contributions to music, including seven Grammy Awards, 37 Blues Music Awards, the Presidential National Medal of Arts, and Kennedy Center Honors. At 88 years old, Buddy Guy remains a vital connection to the rich history of the Blues and is dedicated to preserving its legacy for future generations. Tickets on sale Friday, February 7 at Noon! Tickets start at \$45.

Tickets may be purchased online at [SenecaAlleganyCasino.com](http://SenecaAlleganyCasino.com) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). Tickets may also be purchased in person at The Garden Nook inside Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino or The Logo Shop inside Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino. A secure link, sent by either e-mail or text, allows guests to save tickets to their phone or mobile device.

Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino is located just minutes from the world-famous Niagara Falls in Western New York, near the Canadian border. The property is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino announced that it will welcome a true legend for a night of electrifying Blues and timeless songs. Buddy Guy, one of the most influential guitarists of all time, will bring his Damn Right Encore tour to the Seneca Niagara Event Center on Friday, June 6 at 8pm. Tickets go on sale Friday, February 7 at Noon.

Buddy Guy, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, has spent his life shaping the evolution

of electric Blues music, leaving an indelible mark on music history in the process. His innovative style has influenced legendary rock icons like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, among many others. Born in Louisiana in the 1930s, Guy moved to Chicago in his twenties, where he revolutionized guitar playing with groundbreaking recordings. In addition to the incredible influence he has had on generations of musicians

## Online Submissions Accepted

[www.thevillagerny.com](http://www.thevillagerny.com) hit tab "General Submissions" or email [info@thevillagerny.com](mailto:info@thevillagerny.com)

Be a Part of the Art!



# Views from Ellicottville: Annual Contractor's Day at HoliMont Last Friday



Photos/!Jon Elder

# SENECA SPOTLIGHT

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