

ellicottvilleNOW

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FREE

Make Your Plans NOW to Welcome In 2025

Celebrate Locally with a Number of Festive Year-Ending Events, Indoors and On-Snow



@holidayvalley

By JESSICA SCHULTZ

I think we all deserve to take a day and celebrate making it through another long (yet fun!) year. There are quite a few ways to enjoy your New Year's Eve locally. Let's start planning!

Of course, one of the best ways to welcome the next turn of the wheel is at Holiday Valley's NYE Celebration on December 31st. It starts off with a family-friendly party inside the Main Lodge at 8:00pm, then heads outdoors for the Groomer's Parade on Cindy's Run, followed by the iconic Torchlight Parade. Skiers and snowboarders are invited to take part, making their way down Cindy's and traversing to the bottom with torches in-hand, provided by the resort. The final countdown of 2024 will feature a fireworks show at 11:45pm and lasting until midnight.

The Ellicottville Distillery is bolting into the New Year by inviting everyone out on Dec. 31st for their annual 5k and Liquor Mile (yeah, I said liquor). And if you're heading into the new year with health and adventure in mind, WNYM-BA is inviting everyone to gather at Allegany State Park for their "New Gear's Eve" Bike Ride.

... page 03

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: BECOME YOUR BEST SELF

The new year is upon us, and with it comes all those resolutions. When we think of New Years Resolutions, we naturally reflect on how we can better ourselves and contemplate changes to make that happen. If you're looking for a little assistance on where to start, we're here to help. We've compiled a list of local health and fitness opportunities to kick-start your 2025...

If getting in shape is on your to-do, it might be worth paying a visit to Core Performance Fitness & Training. Start slow with a Deep Stretching Class and work your way up to TRX training.

Maybe you want to focus more on self care this coming year. Our many salons and spas have everything from massages, facials, and manis/pedis to keep you looking and feeling your absolute best. And don't forget about the kiddos!

... page 07

MAYOR HIGHLIGHTS SEGMENT ON WKBW; GIVES PRAISE TO VILLAGE CREWS

A special evening occurred for the Village of Ellicottville as they hosted a Public Hearing in addition to their regularly scheduled Board meeting earlier this month. The topics discussed included Cannabis Dispensary Zoning, Sewer Rate Increase, and the Short-term Rental Permit Fee increase. It was also shared that the news station WKBW aired a promotion highlighting Ellicottville, NY and all agreed that it was very well received. Ellicottville Mayor John Burrell also gave high praise for the Department of Public Works (DPW), recognizing them for all their hard work in keeping the sidewalks clear and safe during recent winter storms. They have had a very busy start to this season, and it has certainly not gone unnoticed ... page 11

TOWN REFLECTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS; PREPARES FOR NEW YEAR

The Town Board of Ellicottville gathered for their last meeting of 2024 last week. Following the busy Short-term Rental Public Hearing of November, this month's agenda reflected on updating current project plans and finalizing reports to prepare for the new year. Highlights include: A bid was made for the Town Hall Door project and is currently being reviewed. The hope is to replace the front door with one that matches the character of the 1829 Washington Street building. Over in the police department, it was announced that a new officer has been hired. Find more meeting notes inside ... page 11

instaNOW

Check out some of our featured InstaNOW photos! Want to see yours? Share your photos on IG, tag us and use #evlnow! Find the grid on page 15.



College Daze Returning to Holiday Valley

Resort Expands Partnership with Red Bull to Grow Event Offerings



By PATRICK FERRINO

Only a few days into the new year, Holiday Valley will see its first event of 2025 with College Daze - and it's a big one. For just \$239, college students can book a room at The Inn at Holiday Valley with all of their friends, 3 days and 2 nights of lift tickets, special gifts, food and beverage tastings, hosted parties, live DJ sets, and much more. The event runs from January 5-7th.

"This is such a fun event. Between the hard work that our staff does to make this happen and the dynamic that our Red Bull partnership brings to the event, the energy throughout the resort during College Daze is incredible," said Dash Hegeman, Marketing Director at Holiday Valley. Find more details on this and other HV events inside.

... page 04



VILLAGGIO TO HOST FUNDRAISER FOR ELLICOTTVILLE FOOTBALL

The Ellicottville Little Eagles football players and cheerleaders currently number about 100. The Little Eagles Board is responsible for recruiting players and cheerleaders, outfitting them (except for shoes), equipping them (pads, helmets, etc.), providing concessions, insuring them, and paying necessary organizational fees. In other words, it may take a village to fill a team of young players, but it takes a conscientious board with a good amount of money to safely put those youngsters on the field, properly equipped. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser to help alleviate these costs is being organized, and you're invited ... page 04

Happy New Year!

The Ellicottville Team wants to send a special Thank You to all our clients, friends, and families who have made 2024 another year to remember!



David Blanchard
Associate RE Broker
716 474.7024 Cell
EllicottvilleDave@gmail.com



Brooke Szaicher
RE Salesperson
716 244.7752 Cell
EllicottvilleBrooke@gmail.com



Jennifer Courtney
RE Salesperson
716 998.1126 Cell
EllicottvilleJen@gmail.com



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Furnished 3 bedroom, 1 bath Town-home backing up to the Village Park. Great rental Potential. Walk to all things Ellicottville. Asking **\$249,900**
Listing Agent: David Blanchard

SHORT WALK TO THE VILLAGE



6-8 MCKINLEY DRIVE
2 prime building lots being sold as one. Holiday Valley slope views. Duplex plans approved and in place. Walk to everything Ellicottville. Asking **\$219,000**
Listing Agent: David Blanchard

PRIME BUILDING LOT



21 PARKSIDE DRIVE
Enjoy all the perks of Village living on this .32 Acre lot. Holimont slope views and directly across from Village Park, Dog Park & Skate Park. Asking **\$209,900**
Listing Agent: Brooke Szaicher

6 BEAUTIFUL ACRES W/ VIEWS



5192 ROUT 242 E
Charming 3 Bdrm, 1 bath home with a large Barn. Stone surround Fireplace. Only 5 mins to Ellicottville, Panoramic views and more! Asking **\$199,900**
Listing Agent: Brooke Szaicher

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13 SUNDANCE ROAD
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PRIME LOCATION W/VIEWS



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OFFICE
9 W. Washington St.
PO Box 1077
Ellicottville, NY 14731
716-699-9816
info@ellicottvillenow.com

ADVERTISING SALES ASSOCIATES
Brenda Perks
Direct: 716-244-7573
brenda@ellicottvillenow.com
Evan Evans
Direct: 716-464-0134
evane716@aol.com

PUBLISHER / EDITOR,
LEAD DESIGNER
Brenda Perks,
DesignPerks of Ellicottville
designperks@gmail.com
brenda@ellicottvillenow.com

ASSISTANT DESIGNER,
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Meaghan Lucarelli
meaghan@ellicottvillenow.com

COMMUNICATIONS,
CONTENT COORDINATOR
Jessica Schultz
jessica@ellicottvillenow.com

TEAM WRITERS / PHOTOGRAPHERS
Mary Weiser
Colleen Evans
Carol Fisher-Linn
Patrick Ferrino
Kim Duke
Indrek Kongats
Melanie Hulick
Rich Ruffola
Ashley Baron
Matt Branahay

DISTRIBUTION
Evan Evans (Manager)
Kelly Loverdi

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brenda@ellicottvillenow.com

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Publisher's PICK

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

From Torchlight Parades to Bike Rides to Cocktail 5Ks, You've Got Options



BY JESSICA SCHULTZ

I think we all deserve to take a day and celebrate making it through another long year. There have been trials and tribulations, so I'd say a good time is exactly what we all need. Where can we go? What can we do? There are quite a few ways to enjoy your New Year's Eve locally. Let's start planning!

RING IN THE NEW YEAR ON-SNOW

Of course, one of the best ways to welcome the next turn of the wheel is at the annual Holiday Valley NYE Celebration on December 31st. It starts off with a family-friendly party inside Holiday Valley's Main Lodge at 8:00pm, then heads outdoors for the Groomer's Parade at 11:15pm on Cindy's Run, followed by the iconic Torchlight Parade (which is a spectacle to see!) at 11:30pm. Skiers and snowboarders are invited to come make their way down Cindy's, traversing to the bottom with torches in-hand, provided by the resort. (For details on how to participate, go to holidayvalley.com.) The final countdown of 2024 will feature a fireworks show at 11:45pm and lasting until midnight.

Holiday Valley Marketing Director Dash Hegeman stated, "People visit Holiday Valley to make amazing memories, and New Year's is a perfect way to make memories that you can talk about for years to come. Come to the Main Lodge on New Year's Eve and say goodbye to 2024 with us. A live DJ will be spinning tunes and there will be some tasty food and drink specials for you to enjoy. We're looking forward to ringing in the new year in style and hope that you can join us in the celebration!"

HIT THE TRAILS TO WELCOME 2025

Ellicottville Distillery is bolting into the New Year by inviting everyone out to 5462 Robbins Road at 11:00am on Dec. 31st for their annual 5k and Liquor Mile. (Yeah, I said liquor.) The run begins at noon; opt for both the 5k and the liquor mile or one or the other - it's totally up to you! For the liquor run portion, which is a mile long, you'll receive a mini cocktail - made with the amazing spirits created at the Distillery - at each quarter-mile. There will be live music from 5:00-8:00pm and the owners are working on securing a food truck on-site to feed your hunger pangs. The evening will end with a wonderful fireworks display at 8:00pm. For more information call 716-801-0086.

It seems like a lot of people are heading into the new year with health and adventure in mind. The Western New York Mountain Biking Association is inviting everyone to gather at Allegany State Park (Salamanca, NY) on Dec. 31st at 6:00pm for their "New Gear's Eve" Bike Ride. The ride officially sets off at 6:30pm from Camp Allegany. Invite your friends and family to enjoy one last bike ride of 2024. (Don't worry, this isn't a timed ride and no one gets left behind.) Following the ride, a social will take place in the mess hall at Camp Allegany (BYOS - bring your own snacks). If you have any questions you can call the Environmental Education Department at 716-379-6939.



CELEBRATE CLOSER TO HOME

If ending your year in the woods or on the road isn't your thing, that's alright. There are plenty of great spots in Ellicottville to hit up for New Year's Eve. Just a few prime examples: Villaggio, Madigan's, Balloons Restaurant & Nightclub, Edna's at the Tamarack Club, EBC, and Steelbound Brewery & Distillery are just a few of our local hot spots. Ellicottville is filled with great places to get your party on to shake off 2024.

If you're feeling like a homebody, you could head down to the Winery of Ellicottville or E-Ville Spirits & Wines earlier in the day and grab some excellent flavors for your NYE toasting. There's always the option of snagging a couple delicious pizza pies from Monroe Street Brick and Brew or Dina's, so you can make sure any guests (and yourself, of course) are comfortably stuffed to start 2025. So, whether at home, in town, or out hitting the trail, there is something local for everyone. And no matter how or where you choose to celebrate your New Year's Eve, just make sure you have the greatest time!

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18 Sno-Way
10 Four Wheel Dr.
6166 Route 219 S. • 14 Alpine Meadows
5915 Snowpine Village #B202 • 12 Van Buren Place
166 Wildflower • 306 Deer Crossing Rd. • 6741 Upper Rd.
1025 Hardy Corners • 8324 Route 16 • 2268 Cemetery Hill Rd.
3 Maple Ave.
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17 Rockwell Ave.
31 W. Washington St. • 32 E. Washington St.
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LOCAL

ON DECK AT HOLIDAY VALLEY

Resort Excited to Bring Back High-Vibing Events Heading Into the New Year



Accomplished skier and ski coach Lisa Ballard will return to Holiday Valley in February to host another anticipated "Your Turn" women's ski clinic.

By PATRICK FERRINO

Holiday Valley has been open for about three and a half weeks at this point, and the reviews are in... we have another fantastic season on our hands. With great weather thus far and hard work from the Holiday Valley staff, it's been a stellar kickoff to the season. The best part? This is just the beginning!

Dash Hegeman, Holiday Valley's Director of Marketing, is very excited to head into the new year, being the heart of the season. Thanks to a great beginning, there is a lot to be hopeful for moving forward. "The vibes are very high right now and we are looking forward to continuing that momentum into the coming months," he said.

Dash went on to discuss how much fun wintertime can be if you just take a different approach. The cold weather doesn't automatically mean you must find where it's warm. "Winters in WNY don't have to be something that people dread. In fact, I'd argue that people should look forward to them because you can get outside and have an amazing time on the slopes making memories with your family and friends," he added.

COLLEGE DAZE



Only a few days into the new year, Holiday Valley will see its first event of 2025 with College Daze - and it's a big one. For just \$239, college students can book a room at The Inn at Holiday Valley with all of their friends, 3 days and 2 nights of lift tickets, special gifts, food and beverage tastings, hosted parties, live DJ sets, and much more. The event runs from January 5-7th.

"This is such a fun event. Between the hard work that our staff does to make this happen and the dynamic that our Red Bull partnership brings to the event, the energy throughout the resort during College Daze is incredible," said Dash. This is year 7 of College Daze and Dash is hoping to take it to new heights this year. "We are expanding our partnership with Red Bull this year. There will be three DJs throughout the course of the event, which is an increase from the one that we normally have. The main party will be up at the Yodeler Sundeck. Red Bull is bringing a branded vehicle that will be there to add to the vibes. We're also looking to partner with some local bars in town for some after-parties for the 21+ students."

"YOUR TURN"

Another returning event that's popular amongst the lady shredders is the Your Turn Women's Ski Clinic, a women's exclusive ski school taught by Lisa Ballard, an accomplished snowsports athlete, commentator, writer, and overall powerhouse and trailblazer in women's athletics. Holiday Valley is receiving the clinic once again this season from February 24-25th.

"\$379 gets you instruction with Lisa Ballard, breakfast, lunch, one night of dinner, and a happy hour," Dash shared. "Demo equipment, lectures, and video analysis too. The price doesn't include lift tickets but those can be purchased the day of the event at the lift ticket window for a discounted promotional price."

Dash thinks that holding this space every year for women to collaborate and improve their skiing together is so important because snowsports needs to be inclusive for everyone. That mentality alone has even helped Dash in his own career. "I've been lucky

"Events at Holiday Valley" continued page 14

SPAGHETTI FOR OUR YOUTH

Villaggio to Host Ellicottville Little Eagles Fundraiser Dinner



By CAROL FISHER-LINN

Too many years ago to count (late '70s), I remember selling hot dogs in front of what was then known as the Ellicottville Inn (now Ellicottville Inn Condos) during Fall Festival. It was one of those years when the snow fell early and we stood ankle deep in the cold stuff doing what we had to do to make money for our Little League football players. I was just a Little League mom, but we all did our share to raise funds for our kids to play.

Today, The Ellicottville Little Eagles players and cheerleaders number about 100. The Little Eagles Board is responsible for recruiting players and cheerleaders, outfitting them (except for shoes), equipping them (pads, helmets, etc.), providing concessions, insuring them, and paying necessary organizational fees. In other words, it may take a village to fill a team of young players, but it takes a conscientious board with a good amount of money to safely put those youngsters on the field, properly equipped.



Thanks to the generosity of Nick Pitillo at Villaggio Restaurant, a pasta dinner fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, January 8th from 5:30-8:00pm. Dinner includes pasta, salad, roll, soda or water for adults \$15, kids \$10 and little ones under two are free. Take-outs will be available and there is a cash bar. You can try your luck at the 50/50 raffle and the DeWalt Drill door prize and bid on silent auction items. Bring lots of cash! Popular entertainer, Travis Happoldt, will be onboard to entertain with live music. Board members and some LL parents have tickets for presale, or you may go to the Ellicottville Little Eagles Facebook page, or just walk in the night of the event. Everyone is welcome.

Kaysie Griffith, Board Secretary tells us this: "Nick has been gracious enough to donate the use of the building, all the fundraiser food, and staff to help maximize profits. Nick has always been so very supportive of the Ellicottville Little Eagles and we can't thank him enough."

It is the hope that this event will increase awareness of the Little League and what it does for our local kids. If a parent is interested in having their children be involved, they are invited to come to the event and find out more about the league. According to Griffith, it costs less for our kids to come onboard than it does for most other leagues. Check them out and involve your young ones in a lifetime sport. There are three age groups: Flag (ages 6-8), Pee Wee (ages 8-10), and Midget (ages 10-12).

Here's the Paul Harvey moment, with The Rest of the Story... Nick Pitillo grew up playing little league football back in the late 70s when I was selling hot dogs in the snow. His parents, Mike and Joanny turned out to be a vital part of the backbone of the new, emerging Ellicottville, and his siblings, Michael, Frankie, and Kim all shared in that evolution. From an ellicottvilleNOW story some Octobers ago, Spencer Timkey told this story about Nick talking about his brother Frankie: "My brother was an entrepreneur and ran a clam stand outside of the Nail (The Rusty Nail, a former bar in town). He went out on his motorcycle and unfortunately never came home. So, Frank had a couple grand in his bank account, and my old man asked what we should do with the money."

"At that point, very few schools had lights for their football fields," Pitillo said. "Frank, a star on the football team, was doubling up his junior and senior years at Ellicottville Central to graduate early and go train with the United States Ski Team - as the #1 ranked junior skier in the country." The Pitillo family mobilized the local community to raise the rest of the money to light up the football field. "We had this huge spaghetti dinner," Nick said. "A ton of heavies from that time came to help us raise money. Danny Gare and Terry Martin, legendary members of the Buffalo Sabres, and Paul Seymour from the Buffalo Bills, amongst others. After we had raised enough money, my dad and other members of the community installed them at no expense. They held me up in my little league football jersey and I turned them on for the first time."

As our kids are apt to do, Nick went off to chase his dreams, married and returned, first to Buffalo to establish his restaurant Osteria and then, in 2015, he packed up his wife, Kendra, and daughter, Olivia, and came home to Ellicottville. Sitting in the bleachers watching a game of his daughter's at that same ECS field, he realized that the lights

"Little Eagles Fundraiser" continued page 14

Happy Holidays



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Judy Gross
Lic. R.E. Assoc. Broker
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THINGS TO CHECK OUT

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Nëhdöwes
with the assistance of Rebecca Bowen, Seneca
Nation Archivist
Cover Drawing by Bradley Jimerson

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The chapters include:

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- Seneca Women
- The Beaver Wars
- The French & Indian War
- Pontiac's Rebellion
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MEETING NOTES

VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Following Public Hearing Centered Around Short-Term Rentals, Mayor Highlights Segment on WKBW; Gives Praise to Village Crews

By COLLEEN EVANS



photos / Village of Ellicottville

A special evening occurred for the Village of Ellicottville as they hosted a Public Hearing in addition to their regularly scheduled Board meeting. The topics discussed included Cannabis Dispensary Zoning, Sewer Rate Increase, and the Short-term Rental Permit Fee increase.

Starting off with the Public Hearing, the Board welcomed residents, renters, and taxpayers of the Village to join in as they discussed the topics of concern. (It should be noted that the subjects of the Cannabis Zoning Regulation and Sewer Rate Increase were not open for discussion. They were, however, available to gauge the public's interest.) It was agreed by the Board to drop the 200-foot Cannabis Dispensary setback pertaining only to retail.

There will be a 25% increase to the sewer rates, which ends up being an additional \$5 a month. The quarterly rate was set at \$60 and that will go up to \$75 moving forward. For seniors that hold their permanent residence in the Village of Ellicottville, the increase will be from \$30 to \$37.50.

For the hot topic of Short-term Rentals... The Village is set to increase the permit fee for Short-term Rentals and while numbers have been thrown around, a decision has yet to be made. One of the key takeaways from the Public Hearing was to address the common concerns involving short-term rentals and that ultimately to better enforce these problems, an increase must be made to balance that cost. With over 50 people in attendance, and a dozen of those speaking about their experiences, the room reflected responsible residents and local short-term rental owners. They agree that some of the largest issues lie with non-local short-term rental owners that ignore Village laws and guidelines. In order to best enforce these issues, the Village will have to increase the permit price but has yet to determine what that amount will be. The Village Board will have a Special Committee Meeting on January 14th to further discuss the permit pricing and feedback they received. They would like to thank those who were present that took the time to show their genuine care for the quality of life in the Village of Ellicottville.

Moving on to the topics surrounding the regular meeting, the Board began discussions regarding the evening's agenda. With plenty of positive points to share, Good News was brought to the floor. A new Executive Director has been named for the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce. The Village Board congratulates Barb Pump on the position.

The news station WKBW aired a promotion highlighting Ellicottville, NY and all agreed that it was very well received.

A great start to the season, both ski resorts - Holiday Valley and HoliMont - were able to kick off their opening days with nearly perfect conditions. It brings a lot of excitement and of course visitors to the area who were ready to enjoy a fun filled day on the slopes.

Approval of the previous month's meeting minutes went through without issue, as did the Financial Report. Next up we heard the Mayor's Report which included an exciting announcement - the official appointment of Amy Hayward as Village Clerk and Treasurer. Congratulations to Mrs. Hayward to all that she has worked toward and continues to do to benefit the Village of Ellicottville!

The new sewer billings are ready to be mailed out starting this January and will be sent in the format of postcard. They will also include the dates for large garbage pickup in the Village.

All Department reports were presented to the Board and approved without issue. Some of the information shared included an engineering update on the completion of the Elizabeth Street Project. Locals have shared their positive feedback, and the Village now looks to add some additional signage to minimize trucks from using the residential street as a route.

The Engineering Department will also be conducting a parking analysis on the amount of parking spaces available and their usage within the business area of the Village.

High praise has come in for the Department of Public Works (DPW) as we recognize all their hard work in keeping the sidewalks clear and safe. They have had a very busy start to this winter season, and it has not gone unnoticed. As their efforts continue, we'd like to thank them for a job well done.

As the evening came to a close, Mayor John Burrell called the meeting to adjourn. They will reconvene in January to further discuss the needs of the Village of Ellicottville. Updates and announcements can always be found at www.ellicottvillegov.com.

TOWN REFLECTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS; PREPARES FOR NEW YEAR

Bid Received to Replace Front Door of Town Hall; Ellicottville Police Dept. Hires New Officer; Highway Dept. Looks to Hire Additional Staff

By COLLEEN EVANS

The Town Board of Ellicottville gathered for their last meeting of 2024 on December 18th. Following the busy Short-term Rental Public Hearing of November, this month's agenda reflected on updating current project plans and finalizing reports to prepare for the new year.

To start the evening, Deputy Steve Crowley called the meeting to order as Supervisor Matt McAndrew joined by phone. The first topic to be discussed was the approval of the November 20th Board meeting minutes, followed by the approval of the current Town billing reports. Also accepted without issue, the Supervisor's report was approved with talks then shifting to the Department Heads.

The Police Department, led by Officer-in-Charge Jim Bouchard, has had a busy season; with events, patrolling, and staffing, they continue to serve the community diligently. OIC Bouchard was happy to then announce to the Town Board the hiring of a new officer, James Smerka, who has begun training. Congratulations and welcome to the force!

The Highway Department has been hard at work, keeping up with this season's snow coverage and Town road upkeep. This month's heavy snowfalls have kept the Town crew plowing streets and clearing snow at a fast pace. Scot Brumagin, department head, is hoping to add an employee to offset concerns of short staffing and encourages serious applicants to apply. To find out more about open positions in the Town of Ellicottville, go to the official government site at www.ellicottvillegov.com under the announcements section.

Moving on to the Town Planner's report, Greg Keyser addressed the short-term rental zoning amendment that is currently in the works. The short-term rental committee met, and during their discussions they aimed to review and revise the current local law in place. A drafted update is being made to be presented to the Town Board at the January regular meeting.

The Planning Board has reviewed the current Comprehensive Plan and believes a considerable update is in order. A comprehensive plan provides a future vision of a community

and the necessary tools to achieve those goals. It can offer shared guidance for public and private development that reflects the best interests within an area. For the Town of Ellicottville, the suggestion was made to form a committee with a cross section of members which would include those from the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, along with community representatives.

Continuing in the evening's talks, Board members then heard from the Engineering Department. A bid was made for the Town Hall Door project and is currently being reviewed. The hope is to replace the front door with one that matches the character of the 1829 Washington Street building.

New business regarding the annual Organizational Meeting was directed to the Board as they then agreed to set a date for January 2, 2025. During this time the Town Board will address policy matters, routine appointments for public offices and additional formalities.

Old business brought some positive updates to the Board's attention. The EVGV Trail has continued in their fundraising efforts and is now receiving support from GObike, the Western New York organization that connects communities through mobile activity.

Another previous matter that was discussed, Town Attorney Seth Pullen is continuing to coordinate with the Village Attorney to draft a new law that will allow the Town and Village of Ellicottville to have the same regulations and rules regarding noise law. If successful, the new adaptation could help solve confusion on how and where enforcements are made.

Wrapping up the evening's agenda, the Town Board received two correspondences thanking them for their support in regards to two separate efforts. The positive exchange was noted by the Board as discussions came to a close. The meeting was called to adjourn, and the Town Board will gather again on the third Tuesday of January. Go to ellicottvillegov.com for additional information about the Town and Village of Ellicottville, NY.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Breakaway Classic Adventures: A Cabin Fever Remedy

BY INDREK KONGATS

All deer hunting will be over January 1, 2025, so what will you do after the season ends and what will you do with your deer? (Hopefully you got one.) Well here is an idea. Besides the venison which we all savor, the deer's hide is also of value, especially to a fisherman. For the fly fisherman, the natural properties of deer hair make it ideal for spinning around a hook and creating famous flies like the Dahlberg Diver, the infamous Mouse, the Muddler Minnow, the Bomber and the Green Machine, to name a few. The common element in these flies is that they float due to the hollow cavity inside the deer hair that traps air.

The tail, more commonly known as the "Bucktail," is used in the making of streamer-type flies, especially large ones for musky and pike. Regular fishermen can add Bucktail hair to their lures; to spinners for musky, to jigs for bass and walleye and dressing up the rear hook of some wooden plugs for pike.

As one hunter/fisherman states, "Having processed my own whitetail hides for 20 years, I am still amazed at the uniqueness of the hair on each whitetail deer."

The flair quality of the deer hair makes it much better than other animal furs and depending on where on the hide the hair is taken, it can vary in length and thickness - critical in tying small flies like the Hair Wing of the caddis fly (elk hair is also widely used for the caddis fly). Hair from the head or legs is short while back, sides, and belly have longer and coarser hair.

If you yourself aren't a fly fisherman, then maybe one of your friends are, so ask around if they want your hide. If you are looking for a great hobby this winter, fly tying is one of the best! You will save a ton of money by tying your own flies or even make you some money on the side. Fly fishermen are always looking for unusual flies, so if you are good at tying deer hair and Bucktail flies, people will find you. List them on eBay or other similar sites and you could make \$3-\$5 per one of your hand-tied flies. Not that you'll ever get rich doing this, but you will stay out of trouble, sane, and out of the funny farm over those long winter months.

To tie flies, you'll need to have the following fly tying tools: a fly tying vise, a bobbin to hold your spool of thread, scissors that are sharp with sharp points, a whip finisher to finish tying the thread on the head of the fly, hair stackers, hackle pliers, bobbin threader, and a dubbing needle.

Materials that you will need: some tying thread, your deer hair, hackle or bird feathers, and epoxy to hold everything together. Although there are literally thousands of different fly tying materials and catalogues displaying them in dozens of different colors, a fly only requires either a hair or feather body to start with.

Finally, you will need hooks to tie the material to. Although any hook will do, the size, shape and style will be dependent on what fish you are tying the fly for. For example, large saltwater fish require large 1/0 to 5/0 hooks, while the trout fisherman will go as small as a #20. For general purposes, a 2-12 size of hook will catch most of your salmon, trout, pike, bass and panfish.

There are many books, DVDs and internet Youtube videos that will teach you to tie flies, so I won't go into that here, but keep in mind that the simplest fly that just takes a few minutes to tie will sometimes out-fish the classic salmon fly that takes many painstaking hours to tie. If you spend more than five minutes tying one fly, then you are tying flies for show rather than for fishing. You may be crushed when that fly snags on the bottom of the river or lake and you are forced to break it off. The less time that you put into your flies will save you considerable heartbreak.



The fly tying vise is your most important piece of equipment that you'll buy for fly tying. Don't be fooled by all the bells and whistles when shopping for a vise; you'll need to become a master tyer to effectively use all of them on an expensive one. On the other hand, a cheap or inexpensive vise will certainly be poorly constructed and will lead to frustration and possibly lead to you giving up the hobby.

The jaws of the vise need to be well manufactured of hardened steel that are precise - not too soft as to leave a groove from a hardened hook, but not so hard that they are brittle and will crack if over tightened. Sometimes vises will have three types of removable or interchangeable jaws: fine, medium and large jaws for those big 5/0 flies.

The tightening device or method for closing the jaws around the hook is where most vises fail, and rather than giving you a lifetime of use, may only last one or two years. Normally there is a locking method that requires the tightening of a threaded bolt. Poorly made vises use cheap metal that can easily break or the threads can get stripped. If you can't hold a hook 100% still in the jaws, you'll throw up your arms in frustration and start pulling out your own hair.

The last piece of equipment will be some sort of table light with a magnifying glass built into it. If you don't already require reading glasses, you will shortly after you start fly tying - especially if you are tempted to tie a tiny #20 gnat. Beauticians light, one of those with a round neon bulb around a 6" magnifying glass on a robotic type arm are ideal and most department or office stores sell them. Make yourself a hot cup of coffee, light a fire and nestle in for that long cold winter at your fly tying table. Tie a mouse or two... you'll be glad you did and so will your wife by staying out of her hair!

Indrek Kongats is an artist, traveler, outdoorsman, and business owner residing in Ellicottville. He operates River Dog Art Gallery in Houghton, NY, and his Breakaway Classic Adventures specializes in adventure travel destinations. Learn more about him at breakawayclassicadventures.com.

ADVENTURES WITH ANIMALS

Nature Center Invites Children to Explore Habitats During Sunday Storytime

JAMESTOWN - At Audubon Community Nature Center's (ACNC) First Sunday Story Time, children ages 2-8 can go on literary adventures with animals through habitats and seasons and discover new things with every page.



On Sunday, January 5th from 12:30-1:00pm, storyteller Claire Certo will share books that are powerful tools to connect children to nature and establish a strong foundation for their educational journey. Nature Center doors open at 12:20pm for the event before opening to the public at 1:00pm.

After Story Time, children can visit Audubon's animal ambassadors, explore the interactive exhibits and indoor Nature Play Area before going outdoors to view ACNC's three resident birds of prey, Cricket the American Kestrel, and Soren and Bridget the Red-tailed Hawks, and enjoy the outdoor Nature Play Area. First Sunday Story Time is free as is Sunday admission.

Reservations for Story Time are requested by Saturday, Jan. 4th. To reserve your space, call the Nature Center at 716-569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org and click through Programs and Events. Participation is limited to 15. Walk-ins are welcome if there is room.

Audubon Community Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, NY and Warren, PA. You can visit the nearly 600-acre nature preserve, check in on the live birds of prey, and hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski the more than five miles of trails dawn until dusk daily for free. The three-story Nature Center building houses interactive displays, a collection of live animals including the Hellbender exhibit, and the Blue Heron Gift Shop. Visitors are welcome Mondays through Saturdays 10:00am-4:30pm, and Sundays 1:00-4:30pm. Nature Center members and SNAP/EBT cardholders have free building admission daily. Building admission is also free every Sunday for non-Nature Center members. To learn more about Audubon and its many programs, call 716-569-2345 or visit AudubonCNC.org.

SNOWSHOE HIKES

Experience Allegany State Park in the Winter with Guided Treks

SALAMANCA - Join Allegany State Park every Wednesday evening at 4:30pm for a trek into the sunset at the park. Beginning January 8th, Park Naturalists will lead interpretive snowshoe treks, weather depending, or hikes if there is not enough snow. Witness a breathtaking winter sunset at Stone Tower, visit a secret beaver pond or hike along a creek.

Meeting places and hikes will vary. See schedule below. Be sure to dress for the weather, bring a flashlight, water, a snack, and a sense of adventure. Need snowshoes? No problem! The park has several pairs to use during the program for FREE! Please call to reserve snowshoes by noon the day of each hike. For more information contact the Environmental Education/Recreation Department at 716-354-6263.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 8: Camp Allegany - Meet at Camp Allegany
- January 15: Bear Paw - Meet at Summit Warming hut
- January 22: Bridal Falls - Meet at the parking lot of the tent and trailer store
- January 29: Camp Allegany - Meet at Camp Allegany

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- February 5: Quaker Bike Path- Meet at Quaker Rental
- February 12: Bear Paw - Meet at Summit Warming hut.
- February 19: Red Jacket/ Campground - Meet at Administration Building.
- February 26: Hemlock Hollow - Meet at the Hemlock Hollow trail head, near the Red House Toll booth.

Allegany State Park is located at 2373 ASP, US-1, Salamanca, NY 14779. Access the Red House area at Exit 21 off I-86, or the Quaker area at Exit 18 off I-86. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more. For more information on any of these recreation areas, visit parks.ny.gov or call 518-474-0456. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the OPRHP Blog.



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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 520 sq. ft. of office space at 39 Mill Street available for rent. \$600 a month plus gas, electric, water and snowplowing. Must sign 3-year commercial lease. Call for details 716-699-4516 or 716-397-9527.

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PLACE YOUR AD: Classified ads run in print and online. Call 716-699-9816 or email info@ellicottvilleNOW.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: LEGAL NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Local Law, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Park Side Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731 on the 7th day of January, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. to hear all interested parties regarding an appeal by John Sabates for an Area Variance at 31 E Washington Street (SBL 55.036-1-34) to construct a new pavilion. Further information is available for review at the Engineering Department, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Village website at www.ellicottvillegov.com. Persons wishing to do so may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 475, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to greg.keyser@evlengineering.com.

LLC NOTICES

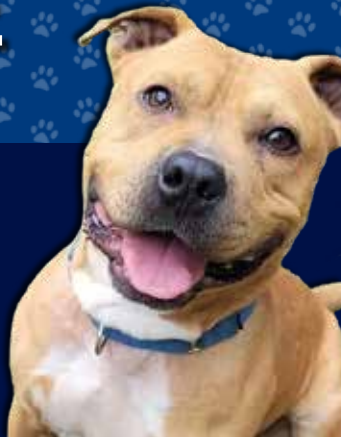
NOTICE OF FORMATION of Limited Liability Company (LLC). NAME: WILD OAK PROPERTIES, LLC. Articles of Organization filed by the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 15, 2024. Office location: County of Cattaraugus. Purpose: any and all lawful activities. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: PEKAREK LAW GROUP, P.C., 218 E. Dyke Street, Wellsville, New York 14895.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Limited Liability Company (LLC). NAME: WILEAN FARMS LAND, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 12, 2024. Office location: County of Cattaraugus. Purpose: any and all lawful activities. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Wilean Farms Land, LLC, 9017 East Otto Springville Rd., East Otto, New York 14729.

COMMUNITY

VISIT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: Located at the historic four corners in the Village of Ellicottville, St. John's hosts a visitor-friendly service every Saturday at 5:00 PM. Any and all are welcome to attend!

ADOPT ME please?



Hi everyone, I'm Duke!

I am a **3 year** old Pit Bull Terrier mix. I am very **friendly** and playful. I am neutered and **up to date** on vetting, am house broken, **crate trained** and know my basic **commands**. I am **affectionate** and snuggly and give the **best** kisses! I am an **active** dog, but not overly so. I also like to **chill** and chew on a bone. I am **very friendly** with other animals and **children** too! **I AM SPONSORED - NO ADOPTION FEE!**

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LITTLE EAGLES FUNDRAISER

cont. from page 04

really needed replacing. Being Nick, being a Pitillo, he sprang into action, organized a fundraiser, involved the entire community and indeed, within a year, had generated the funds needed to replace those lights in September of 2023. Ellicottville is like that. Its people, its brain-stormers are undaunted, fearless, and determined. Nick, and others like him, shows us time and again that, where there is a will, there is a way.

On January 8th, you have your chance to help a cause that gives kids a chance at life, an equal playing field, and a solid foundation for their future selves. We all know how involvement in sports changes lives. So, when you consider why to come to the event, know that you will, of course, have an amazing dinner, you will have an opportunity to meet and mingle with friends, old and new, you might go home with a few prizes... but the biggest prize will be supporting our youth. It doesn't sound any sweeter than that. "Buon appetito!"

EVENTS AT HOLIDAY VALLEY

cont. from page 04

to work with many tremendously talented women who often have brought a totally different perspective to the way that I might normally view things in the ski industry. I hope that has allowed me to become a better leader in my own regard," said Dash.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Also huge in January and February at Holiday Valley is their hosting of grade school ski clubs. Dash says that's a fantastic age to pick up a new sport like skiing or snowboarding, and in general just an absolute blast for all the kids that come. The Holiday Valley Snowsports School is a great resource to these young athletes and Dash emphasized how the resort and its instructors are working every night that the schools come through.

"Holiday Valley is so appreciative of every school that creates a club and visits us throughout the winter. There's no doubt that the school clubs add a different dynamic to our nighttime operations. The terrain parks see more traffic. The lodges are all filled with activity. It's a fantastic scene," he added.

Deals on both passes and lodging don't just disappear now that the season is in full swing either! Lodging package deals can be found at holidayvalley.com/lodging-packages, and the Intense Milk BOGO begins January 1st. If you bring an Intense Milk bottle or its wrapper to the ticket window any Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday night, you'll get two lift tickets for the price of one.

There's lots happening in the new year at Holiday Valley, and more details can be found at holidayvalley.com or on Holiday Valley's official social media accounts which are all @holidayvalley. In the meantime, if you need me, I'll be at College Daze jamming out with my friends on the sundeck!

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AIDE TRAINING CLASS AVAILABLE

HomeCare & Hospice to Host No-Cost Certification Course Starting Jan. 6th

ALLEGANY - HomeCare & Hospice announces an upcoming aide training class at their Allegany office, located at 115 E. Main Street. The program will run from January 6th through the 16th, with sessions held Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm. (Please note, there will be no class on Monday, January 13th). Participants who successfully complete the training will qualify for employment opportunities within the organization.

This comprehensive training program provides the skills and knowledge necessary to become a Home Health Aide (HHA) or Personal Care Aide (PCA). These vital roles offer a rewarding career path, allowing individuals to make a real difference by delivering compassionate, one-on-one care to patients in the comfort of their own homes. Responsibilities may include assisting with bathing and grooming, preparing meals, light housekeeping, running errands, and more - all while fostering meaningful connections with those in need.

Joining the HomeCare & Hospice team means becoming part of an organization dedicated to providing high-quality care and helping patients maintain independence with dignity. HomeCare & Hospice serves communities across Allegany, Cattaraugus, Genesee, and Wyoming counties, with a mission to enhance lives through compassionate care.

Whether you're looking to start a new career in healthcare or seeking an opportunity to give back to your community, this training program is the perfect first step. Spots are limited, so don't wait to secure your place in the class.

This training is offered at no cost. Interested individuals must be 18 years or older and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Upon successful completion, participants will earn certification as a personal care aide. For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact the HomeCare & Hospice Human Resources Department at 716-372-2106 or visit www.homecare-hospice.org.

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totalclaireity: Had a great girls morning snowboarding session today at @holimont #ellicottvilleny @ellicottvilleno #evlnow #girlswhoshred #girlswhoride



daldrich32: What a run. Thanks to an awesome crew. @holidayvalley #ellicottvilleny #evlnow



biran_on_bass_16: Winter Solstice @holidayvalley!



ellicottvillebakeshop: @homegrownpediatrics



jtdaw6: Making lots of snow up here at Holiday Valley. @holidayvalley #thankasnowmaker #evlnow



nicolazzorealtor: #christmas #evlnow



bloodunderrazor: Beautiful winter day! @ellicottvillenow



deanna.r.wallace: First time skiing @holimont and it was amazing! I had to add it to my wall of favs! @ellicottvillenow



mollystrongart: Magic @ellicottvillenow #evlnow #winter #lightpillars #nightphotography @visitellicottville



team_pritchard: Soooo, what happens at the ERA Team VP Real Estate Christmas party, certainly gets posted. #thisisellicottville



matt_bruhhhhh: BRISK. Layer up, she's a cold one! @holidayvalley



A YEAR OF FESTIVALS

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY 2025

CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK
JANUARY 6-10

WINTER BLUES WEEKEND
JANUARY 17-19

WINTER MUSIC JAM
FEBRUARY 22-23

MARDI GRAS WEEKEND
MARCH 8-9

HAPPY HALF MARATHON & 5K
MAY 10

GAZEBO SERIES
JUNE 26-AUGUST 7

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL
JULY 4-6

JAZZ & BLUES WEEKEND
JULY 25-27

TASTE OF ELLICOTTVILLE
AUGUST 9-10

ROCK N' ROLL WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 12-14

LACROSSE FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 19-21

FALL FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 11-12

HALLOWEEN HALF MARATHON & 5K
TBD

BEER AND WINE FESTIVAL
TBD

CHRISTMAS IN ELLICOTTVILLE
NOVEMBER 28-30

CHRISTMAS STROLL
DECEMBER 13



ELLICOTTVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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