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A Message from The Editor



It's that time of year we all want to just hibernate until spring. Everywhere you look someone is telling you to make a resolution to eat healthier, exercise more or lose weight. This issue is filled with ideas to inspire you to accomplish these goals by staying active throughout the cold winter months.

You don't have to be a skier or ice skater to enjoy outdoor activities. Snow tubing and hiking are two things that don't require any special training. Snow tubing trails provide tubes to slide down the hill, as well as lifts to take you back to the top for more fun.

Winter hiking will give you a whole new perspective on trails that are usually green and lush. Seeing a favorite waterfall or stream frozen in stillness will have you reflecting on nature's change of seasons. If you are staying in a nearby cabin, a welcoming fire and some hot chocolate will warm you quickly, while you stare out the window at the falling snow.

How about staying at an Amish country resort with an indoor pool and hot tub to warm you. Most accommodations offer reduced rates in winter, so you can opt for a longer stay. Just because it's cold outside, doesn't mean you have to put outdoor activities on hold. Take advantage of what winter has to offer, inside and outside.

Whether your destination is New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia or right here in Ohio, this edition spotlights numerous indoor and outdoor activities to explore.

Douglas M. Kish, M.A.

Editor

Our Mission at Compass Media is striving to be a leader in Fitness, Health, and Recreation information that educates and inspires readers through print, web, mobile, social media events, and events in Ohio and beyond.

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IRONMAN 70.3 OHIO



THE START OF AN ANNUAL TRADITION IN SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO

This past summer the inaugural IRONMAN 70.3 Ohio was hosted at City of Sandusky in Shores & Islands Ohio. The event marks the start of an annual tradition, as IRONMAN, City of Sandusky, and Shores & Islands Ohio agreed to a three-year deal that will see the event return to the destination in 2023 and 2024. This will be the only IRONMAN event in Ohio during that time frame.

IRONMAN found a home in Shores & Islands Ohio, also known as America's Sports & Family Fun Capital, as the area embodies the excitement of a race weekend felt from the very first-time visitors to becoming a seasoned regular part of the welcoming community. The unforgettable 8+ hour race experience starts with athletes jumping off the Kelleys Island Ferry "Carlee Emily" at the Jackson Street Pier, part of downtown Sandusky, for 1.2-mile swim in Lake Erie.

After a loop along the Sandusky Bay and to the Paper District Marina, the athletes make the transition from water to land and begin cycling through Erie and Sandusky counties, climbing approximately 790 feet over the course of 56 miles across scenic rural county roads. Athletes return to the Paper District Marina after completing the bike course, before beginning the 13.1-mile run through the streets in downtown Sandusky.

After two loops of the run course, the athletes finish the race on Columbus Avenue in front of the Historic Sandusky State Theatre, with Schade Mylander Plaza framing views of Lake Erie as competitors cross the line. All this on an exciting coastal course while being surrounded by spectators from start to finish!

While race day is the highlight, this actually has become a weekend long event. IRONKIDS Ohio takes place the Saturday before IRONMAN, where hundreds of athletes under the age of 18 have the opportunity to join in the action with three distances for different age groups. Starting at the Jackson Street Pier, the Toddler Dot Trot is a 30-foot dash for children age 1-3, as well as half-mile and mile races for ages 3-8 and 5-17.

Jackson Street Pier in Sandusky is also the scenic host of the IRONMAN Village that is free and open to the public, housing athlete registration as well as a number of event partners and local vendors. The Official IRONMAN Store was open on selected hours on Friday through Sunday. A variety of downtown restaurants also participated in the I'M Local Program by offering discounts for race participants and volunteers who just have to show their race bibs, medals or credentials to receive exclusive offers.



SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO
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For this past year's event, the area witnessed over 1,500 athletes participating and exceeding expectations from IRONMAN representatives for a first-year host. IRONMAN athletes traveled to Shores & Islands Ohio from 40 different states and over two dozen countries, making this the largest international sporting event for the region. Now that the first year had a successful completion, plans are already underway for races in 2023 and 2024. The next races will be on Sunday, July 23, 2023 and Sunday, July 21, 2024. Are you IRONMAN ready? Registration is already open for IRONMAN 70.3 Ohio at www.ironman.com/im703-ohio.

Shores & Islands Ohio continues to live up to the hype of America's Sports & Family Fun Capital because every sporting event becomes a vacation. The year-round destination offers over 8,000 sleeping rooms with a variety of top-notch venues and attractions. There are numerous entertainment options to enhance any experience, including Cedar Point Amusement Park, the Lake Erie islands, and several indoor water parks. Shores & Islands Ohio doesn't measure success by trophies or medals, but by the memories and moments of all those who come here to play either on or off the field. Come find your Lake Erie Love at www.SHORESandISLANDS.com.

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Ice Skating

Along the Appalachian Byway of Ohio

By Gwynn S. Stewart, MS

Tucked away in the rolling hills of Appalachia in downtown Caldwell is a family ice skating rink, a great winter excursion. Just off Interstate 77 at exit 25 and SR78 to SR821, the Village of Caldwell rink is a great activity.

If you are not a great skater, there is plenty of seating for chaperones and for spectators on the picnic tables, swings and benches. Warming stations are also an option. On the synthetic rink, you can use regular hockey skates. If you don't have your own, the rink also has skates available by donation.

The rink was the dream and brainchild of Caldwell Mayor Misty Wells. She wanted to encourage guests to visit her "Hallmark-esque" downtown and set out to secure funding for a family-style rink. It is the only synthetic ice-skating rink within 50 miles of Noble County.

Especially after the routine holiday weight gain, ice skating is a great winter wellness activity for families. Research also shows that this low-impact exercise can be

a great workout for the heart. It is also a great balance-building activity for children and adults.

If you are concerned about falls, the rink provides beginners with a balance bar option until you "get your feet under you." But you can also consider helmets, knee pads or shin guards if you want to bring them along.

According to one synthetic ice rink company, ice skating can vary with the intensity of the workout and the person's size, but Harvard Medical School estimates a 155-pound person can burn 210-311 calories in a half-hour of ice skating.

Skating is also a great group activity boosting your social impact and overall mental health with fresh air and fellowship with friends! Great opportunities for daytime or nighttime group photos or shots of friends fallen on the ice.

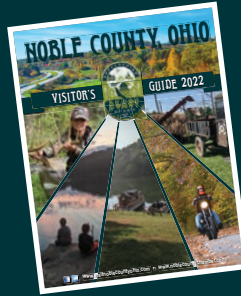
This unique outdoor rink provides music, fresh air and a unique atmosphere for a great old-fashioned family outing. Located at 215 West Street near downtown Caldwell, check the hours of operation and special events offered at <https://www.facebook.com/skatinginthevillage>. Consider holding a birthday outing or other special celebration at the rink too. Come skate with us, sharpen your skills and glide into winter 2023!

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Cozy Getaways AWAIT AT Cabins by the Caves

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Imagine sitting by a cozy and warm fire while enjoying a magical Appalachian winter wonderland view from just beyond the windows. Cabins by the Caves, located in Hocking Hills, Ohio, can make this dream a reality.

More than 70 properties have private hot tubs, an indoor stone fireplace, a fully equipped kitchen, central air, electric heat, and charcoal grills. There is a variety of cabins for couples to larger groups. Many cabins sit on several acres allowing you to walk right out the front door and straight to the trail. There is a cabin for everyone's needs and celebrations.

"Your beautiful cabin exceeded our expectations! The location is amazing, so private and beautiful. We have been married for 30 years and have had many special trips but this goes down as one of our favorites. This is also our first-time visiting Hocking Hills. The hot tub, the fires, and the

cleanliness were perfection. We will make this an annual trip," stated a Cedar Falls Cabin Guest.

Cabins by the Caves offers grocery delivery from the local Logan Kroger. Schedule this wonderful service and have your groceries picked up and put away before you even reach your destination—a perfect add-on to destress your life.

Suppose you have no desire to leave the cabin but would enjoy some extra relaxation...no worries. Stay cozy in front of the fireplace and schedule Blue Valley Massage for an in-cabin massage allowing all your tension and concerns of everyday life to drift away. This amazing add-



on is ideal for couples' getaways or girls' weekends.

"My boyfriend and I had a very affordable couples massage, which was amazing. The staff was very kind and professional, yet personable. They catered to our needs and wants and made us feel very comfortable before the massage," said Madison, a customer.

Ready to venture outside the cabin? Hike through Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls, Cantwell Cliffs, and many more. Experience a hike through Hocking Hills and take in the breathtaking ice formations and snow-covered landscapes during winter.

Book an excursion with Cork and Tap, a charter service partnered with Cabins by the Caves, to take you to some great winery, brewery, and distillery stops in Hocking Hills.

Sit back, and relax as they provide safe, reliable door-to-door service and take the hassle out of planning.

After a long day of hiking or relaxing, who wants to cook? Book the in-cabin chef to bring you an amazing entrée. Choose from The Romance getaway, a four-course dinner, to the Royal weekend, a six-course dinner.

Cabins by the Caves offers several indoor and outdoor private wedding ceremonies. They have an intimate wedding option, perfect for the winter season, and can accommodate up to 50 guests. Families can conveniently stay nearby at one of the beautiful cabins and celebrate the special day with the happy couple.

Make your calendars for the 58th Annual Winter Hike on January 23 from 9-11 am. Participate in this 6-mile trek from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave and enjoy the magnificent wonders of winter. Make sure you bundle up and have hiking boots, as you will encounter hills. This is a free event, and a shuttle bus will return you to Old Man's Cave.

According to thehockinghills.org, in 1965, the first hikers came to Hocking Hills State Park to feast their eyes on winter's touch on Old Man's Cave led by Norv Hall, Park Naturalist. There were about 60 hikers at the first Winter Hike, which has grown to over 5,400. Hikers have overcome blizzards, sleet storms, and bitter cold to come to the hike, and the only time officials canceled the event was the Blizzard of 1978, and still, 70 hikers showed up.

ABOUT THE CABINS BY THE CAVES

Cabins by the Caves is a family-owned business established by Robert and Valerie Freda in 2006. The Firefly was a spec cabin built in Big Pine estates by a local builder. It was his first cabin construction at the age of 25.

"It was our very first cabin as we had been looking for a cabin in the Hocking Hills for about a year," said Valeria Freda, owner of Cabins by the Caves. "All the details fell into place."

The Fredas lived in Pickerington at the time and thought the cabin would be perfect for personal use, and they knew the Hocking Hills was a popular destination. The cabin was 45 minutes from their home and was close to all the local attractions.

"We chose the name Firefly while sitting out on the front porch glider watching the many fireflies that visited," said Valerie. "We visit and stay at our cabins to get an idea of what guests might need or want. We spent our 10th wedding anniversary at the Firefly and took advantage of the spa services we offer and the traveling chef."

The Firefly Cabin is set apart by a stunning mural painted by a local artist. The scene depicts the cabin sitting in the woods, surrounded by fireflies. They hope guests will make special memories just as they did with their family.

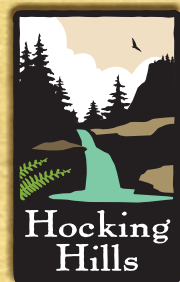
For more information about Cabins by the Caves or to make your reservation, visit cabinsbythecaves.com or call 1-877-322-2283.

Relax & Refresh



Need a change of scenery and a little R & R? Discover the magic of Hocking Hills in winter. Gather around a warm fire with a special someone or a group of best friends. Enjoy spectacular frozen waterfalls, savor mouthwatering cuisine or stargaze from the deck of a cozy cabin tucked into the woods. This is the place to revive your mind, body and soul in the Hocking Hills, Ohio's Natural Crown Jewels.

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THE BUCK FIFTY RACE:

Creating a Drug Free America One Relay at a Time

By Trish Mann

In 2012 Dave Huggins, the heart and soul of the Buck Fifty race, ran his first relay race. He didn't realize at the time how that one event would transform his life and the lives of his community.

Now in its seventh year, The Buck Fifty race consists of teams of 10 runners running three legs of the overnight relay. Starting in Chillicothe, the race winds through stunning state and national parks scenery to raise money and awareness for Drug Free Clubs of America (DFCA).

"I don't think kids want to do drugs. I think they want to go to school and be kids," states Huggins. Across America, the Opioid epidemic has been a systemic problem, but in Ross County, the community, spearheaded by Huggins, is working to change the narrative. In just over six years, they have raised 1.2 million dollars for DFCA. The Buck Fifty race believes in making a difference in kids' lives before they start using drugs and has an enrollment of over 60% of the teen population in the county.

While the Buck Fifty race is a philanthropic event, the rewards go beyond supporting the DFCA. The success of the race hinges on many aspects. Businesses, sponsors, community organizations, and individuals spend countless hours planning for every twist and turn the race may see throughout

the year. While the event is in the planning stage, runners from various states band together to form teams of 10 and train for the race. But for all of this to work, each individual must remember they are part of a team. Without a team-first mentality, none of this would be possible.

In 2022, 88 teams took part in the race, and 8 were all female teams. Organizers would like to see this number increase in a sport that women dominate. But hurry, the February 1, 2023 deadline is fast approaching!

The race takes place on April 21-22, with 400 volunteers on hand to encourage and guide the runners to the finish line. What starts out as a way to give back to the community quickly becomes a party. The community turns out to support and encourage the runners through each leg of the race doing their part to make this relay a success. But the best part is at the finish line. The kids of DFCA, who are at the heart of the Buck Fifty, are there to personally award the medals to the runners.

Nothing in life worth attaining is easy. By making a conscious decision to show up and push themselves each day, runners, volunteers, and the kids demonstrate that you can do anything, you put your mind to. This mindset is what makes the Buck Fifty continue to be such a success.



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Hitting the Slopes at Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia

By Trish Mann



Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia is the place to shake off the winter blues. The adventure doesn't stop just because the temperature drops. The fun is just beginning.

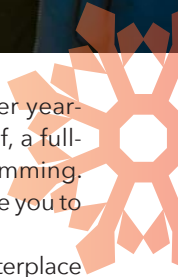
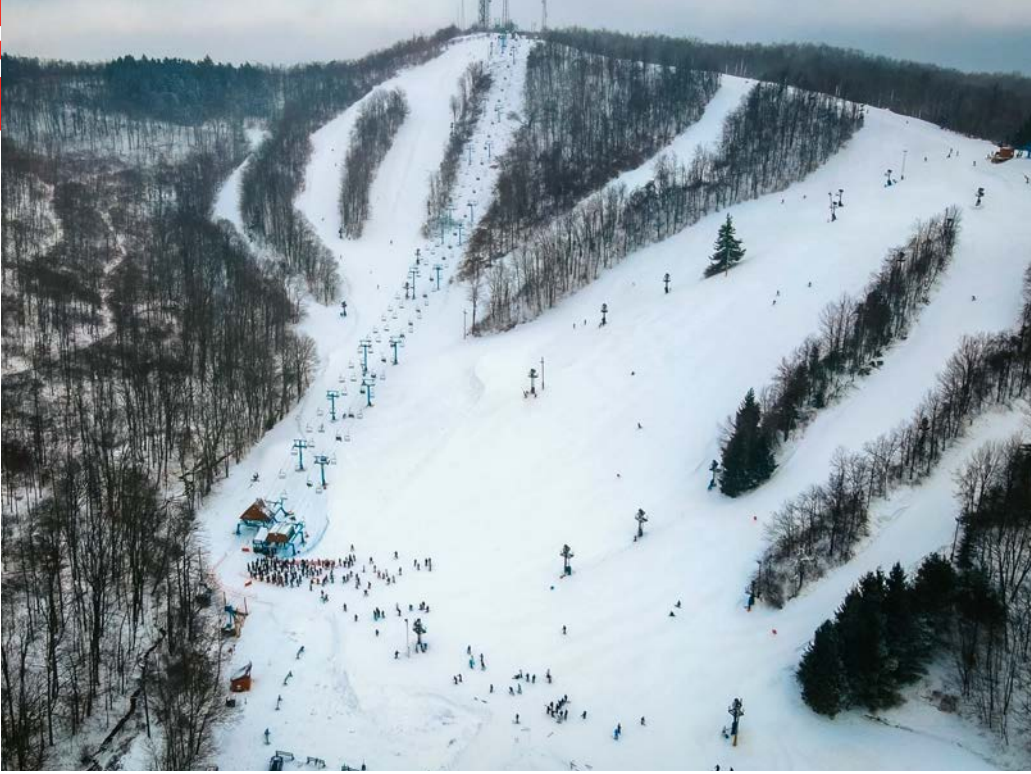
Voted #1 best place to learn to ski in the Southeast, Winterplace offers skiing, snowboarding, and tubing all winter long with the help of snow machines and the weather. Conveniently located five minutes off I77, the ski resort is located in Ghent, West Virginia, on Flat Top Mountain.

There is fun for all ages and experience levels on more than 90 acres of pristine West Virginia terrain. Twenty-seven slopes provide an assortment of trails for easy, moderate, and advanced skill levels.

If you like to take things up a notch, the terrain park offers snowboarders and skiers a chance to show off some tricks, take some air and practice some rotation moves. All ages can enjoy challenging themselves to take their experience to the next level.

If skiing or boarding is not your thing, Winterplace is home to the largest snow tubing park in the state, with up to 14 lanes of fun and excitement. Children must be 44 inches or taller to enjoy the tubes, but when weather permits, there is a kiddie snow tubing park for kids under 44 inches.

Winterplace is the perfect destination for a youth group. The resort has an onsite rental shop for all your winter gear, a food court to



keep the energy going for more fun in the snow, and The Snowdrift Lounge to unwind after a busy day on the slopes. The Cabins at Winterplace can accommodate up to 15 guests and include breakfast the following day.

While you are in the area, don't just stop at skiing. There is so much to do you will want to plan a few days to take it all in.

I bet you thought winter was just for skiing. Not in West Virginia, just down the road, you will find mountain bike trails open year-round. Arrowhead Bike Farm can help you plan this adventure.

The New River Gorge Bridge is less than an hour from Winterplace Ski Resort and offers exciting things to do all year round. The National Park and Preserve of West Virginia is a valuable resource for hiking, camping, and other

outdoor activities within the New River Gorge Park. The Canyon Rim Visitor Center is open year-round and has a boardwalk that provides extensive views of the New River Gorge Bridge.

Each season breathes a new life into the forest of West Virginia, and every visit is an opportunity to experience something new. You will find Adventures on the Gorge, which offers whitewater rafting and zipline tours, for those who like to spread their wings. The Timber Trek adventures will get your adrenaline pumping as you become one with nature and the forest on one of the nation's longest ziplines. Horseback riding, rappelling, exploring abandoned areas, there is so much to do you want to bring your friends.

Not everyone appreciates the appeal of a crisp winter day, which means smaller crowds, resulting in shorter wait lines for activities. Also, lodging costs are often lower in the winter months, making it the perfect time to take that getaway you need.

The Resort at Glade Springs sits on 4,100 acres in the scenic Appalachian Mountains. Everything you could

want is at the resort. They offer year-round activities, including golf, a full-service spa, bowling, and swimming. A free shuttle is available to take you to Winterplace Ski Resort.

Sitting right across from Winterplace is Skyline Lodge, where guests can enjoy a lake view from a 3,600-square-foot deck and an onsite pub and grill. The menu is a rotating array of seasonal delights, often with live music.

For those who enjoy the experience of staying at a cozy cabin, The Cabins at Pine Haven are a great option. Located just twelve miles from Winterplace, the cozy cabins feature a fireplace and a hot tub, perfect for relaxing in after a busy day on the slopes. Whether traveling alone or with a family, Pine Haven will make you feel welcome. They offer cabins, tree houses, and a lodge for bigger groups. All cabins include a fireplace and a hot tub to relax after a day on the slopes. You won't find a better place to roast a marshmallow and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa after spending a day in the refreshing winter air.

West Virginia is an area you will certainly enjoy and want to visit again and again. Whether you like skiing, snowboarding, hiking, or simply warming by a fireplace in a cabin near the majestic snow-covered mountains, it's all waiting for you in West Virginia this winter.





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PINTS & LITERS
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Celebrate Winter at the Medina Ice Festival

By Trish Mann

From February 17-20, Medina hosts its 29th Annual Ice Carving Festival, which is the largest festival in Northeast Ohio. This must-see event expects over 120 sculptures and will give you a reason to come out and enjoy.



The history of ice sculpting goes back thousands of years as people came to appreciate the gift from nature. From its humble beginnings as a carving of ice to preserve food, it has since grown into an art form used to entertain, decorate and serve as functional displays.

Skilled artists use simple tools, such as chisels, hair dryers, irons, and chainsaws, to create masterpieces out of frozen water. The ideal temperature for the ice is between 15-25 degrees Fahrenheit, meaning the sculptor must work in extreme conditions, and often a walk-in freezer is used to maintain an even temperature. The Ice Festival is a judged event; awards are given in various categories.

The Medina Competition offers a chance to see these artists at work and appreciate their fine attention to detail.

The carvings are displayed in and around Historic Medina Square and the South Town District and are available round the clock. During the evening hours, color-changing LED lights highlight the sculptures.

These 3-D masterpieces are exquisite in design and craftsmanship. One artist may create a dramatic dragon, and another can depict a sailboat. The ice lends itself to an artist's interpretation. The temperature and surrounding conditions can impact the composition and clarity of the ice. A sculptor may desire a block of ice that is clear or cloudy, depending on the design.

While visiting the Ice Festival, leave some time to visit the quaint shops and local eateries. Main Street Medina boasts over 35 bakeries, restaurants, and snack places. Throughout the year, the town hosts many events and activities for the entire family. The community is warm and welcoming, and once you discover Main Street Medina and all it has to offer, you will want to come back and see what each new season brings to this charming town.

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Oglebay Offers RELAXATION AND FUN During the Winter Months

By **Candy S. Collins, BS**

The long winter days have set in and what better way to enjoy them than at Oglebay in Wheeling, West Virginia. A place where the air is filled with the sounds of a crackling fireplace and the views are of serene beauty everywhere you look.

Oglebay finishes the spectacular Festival of Lights on January 8 and gears up for another exciting event, WinterFest. This three-day event, January 27-29, is sure to get you in the winter spirit. WinterFest kicks off with the Polar Plunge at Schenk Lake and the proceeds benefit the Special Olympics of West Virginia. The fun continues throughout the day with ice sculpture demonstrations, ski clinics, prize giveaways, seasonal eats, local brews, and more. Be sure to drop in on

the WinterFest party Saturday evening, featuring a live band.

"I can't think of a better experience for any family, than coming together to enjoy the lights and sounds of the season during the Festival of Lights or finding some peace and quiet after the holidays, snuggled up by the fireplace in an Oglebay cottage with a winter getaway," said Wendy Hodorowski, Oglebay Marketing Director.

Guests staying at Oglebay can enjoy The West Spa, a luxurious 5,000-square-foot sanctuary with many amenities. The spa offers best-in-class services paired with the finest products and equipment. Melt your stress and winter blues away with the Oglebay Signature Journey, a sophisticated treatment of tailored exfoliation paired

with a rich envelopment of pure shea butter. Afterwards, a soothing rain shower and full body massage with warm pink Himalayan salt stones will refresh both body and mind.

Need some retail therapy? No problem as Oglebay has that covered as well. Visit the Carriage House, where they feature Fiestaware at outlet prices and beautiful hand-blown glass pieces from regional artists. If you are in the mood for something sweet, head over to the Farmhouse Sweets & Treats as they specialize in chocolate and candy. Kirke's homemade ice cream is served daily and is a must-have. The Resort Shop in Wilson Lodge offers a variety of Oglebay souvenirs, apparel, snacks, and more. Stop by The West Spa Boutique to pick from a wide selection



of luxurious bath and skincare products to continue your relaxation at home.

If you are ready to head out on an outside adventure, check out Oglebay's Good Zoo, the only AZA-accredited zoo in the state of West Virginia. It is home to over 50 species of animals, 20 of which are rare or endangered. There are indoor and outdoor habitats to enjoy including red pandas, an albino alligator, tamarin monkeys, lemurs, and more. Be sure to see Poe and Raven's (the river hogs) little one, Koka. Animal experiences are offered to those who would like a more unique opportunity to be up close and personal with some of these fascinating species.

Experience skiing and snowboarding at the Nutting Winter Sports Complex, when the snow starts flying. Rental skis and snowboards are available for the beautiful ski area, which includes a triple chair lift. If you are unable to ski or snowboard, no worries as they offer lessons and clinics (there is a fee), which includes the rental equipment. If you enjoy ice skating,

head over to Oglebay's sister park, Wheeling Park, and lace up your skates.

There is no need for your golf clubs to collect dust as their championship golf courses are open year-round, weather permitting. You can also still take those hikes you enjoyed in the warmer months as it brings a whole new experience in the off-season. Oglebay offers miles of walking and hiking trails. Over 4 miles of paved walkways and unpaved trails have been restored from the early 1900s that take in the majestic views of Oglebay's landscape.

When those winter blues set in, remember there is something for everyone at Oglebay during the winter months. Whether you enjoy sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine or a book to adrenaline activities such as skiing and snowboarding,

there is something for everyone. You will even find peace in watching the deer gracefully roam the hillside. It is a place that many have found to be their "second home."

"Everybody talks about southern hospitality. At Oglebay, we found there's northern hospitality as well. They took good care of us," said James Hess of Surfside Beach.

Oglebay is located an hour from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and within three hours of Columbus or Cleveland, Ohio. Oglebay offers a magical sort of beauty that is sure to touch the soul. Situated on a Wheeling, West Virginia hilltop, the 250-room Wilson Lodge or 55 quaint cottages with modern amenities brings a feel like a warm hug. The word "cozy" is one Oglebay often hears from its guests.





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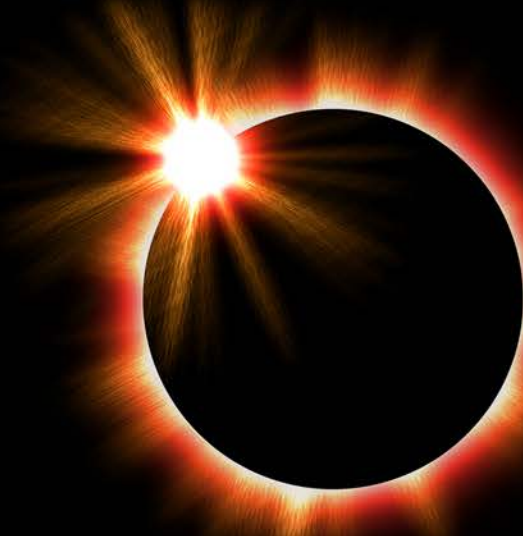
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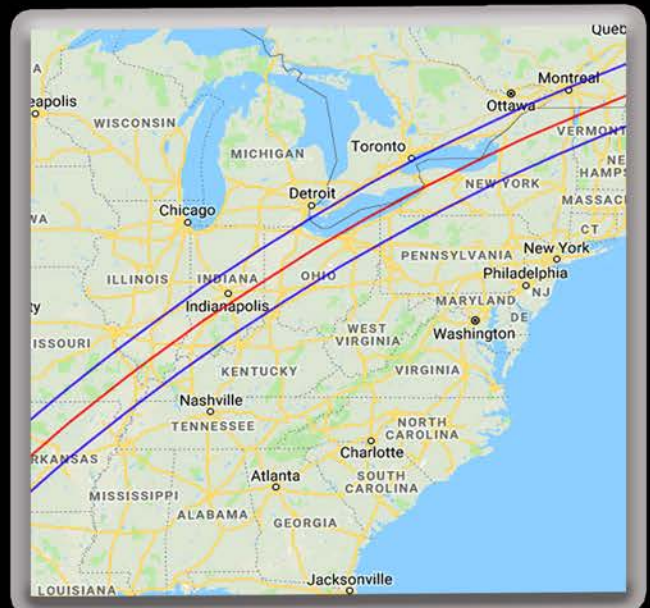
By now, many people have probably heard the buzz surrounding the Total Solar Eclipse that will take place in parts of Ohio, including Fremont, Ohio located in Sandusky County, on April 8, 2024. People within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse.

Areas in Ohio that are outside the path of totality will experience a partial eclipse. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. On average, one happens somewhere on the Earth only once every 1.5 years. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States. On that day, "totality" as it is referred to, will enter Ohio around 3:00 p.m. in the southwest corner of the state and will exit the northeast corner around 3:10 p.m. During that time, those in the path of the total solar eclipse will be cast into darkness.

Our entire county will be in the area of totality. Sandusky County will experience 3 minutes 38 seconds of darkness. The last time Ohio saw a total solar eclipse was in 1806. Anyone wishing to view another total solar eclipse in Ohio will have to wait until the year 2444!

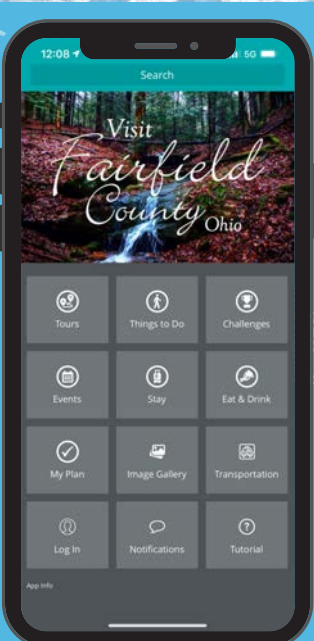
What does this rare natural phenomenon mean for Sandusky County and Ohio? More than 70% of the country is within a 1-day drive of Ohio. Because we will be in a high demand viewing area, it is estimated that our county will see a population influx of nearly 118,000 additional people. Over 1 million people are expected to descend on our county and its contiguous counties over that weekend. Of course, this means millions of tourism dollars will pour into our state and region during this time.

Sandusky County and the State of Ohio began planning for this several years ago. The county is diligently working to coordinate entertainment, educational opportunities and lodging options. All plans for the county will be included on the State of Ohio Eclipse website. It will include information on the solar eclipse, an interactive map for searching things to do, areas to view the eclipse and safe ways to view it. Additional information can be found at <https://eclipse.ohio.gov/resources.html>.



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Winter Wonder in Fairfield County

By Tia Dauterman

Winter is a special time in Fairfield County! In the colder Ohio months, there is still plenty to do; whether you enjoy the chill, or prefer warming up from the crisp, cold air, the area provides opportunities to have fun year-round in a charming, small-town setting. Only 30 minutes south of Columbus, Fairfield County is an excellent escape this winter right in central Ohio.

Fairfield County offers many experiential themed trails; these adventures create an opportunity for you to explore locations around the county related to your interests. This winter, why not embark on the Fairfield County Covered Bridge Trail? Our county is home to 15 original, historic covered bridges (the most in any county in Ohio). These historic sites are true architectural wonders that stand out beautifully in our snowy countryside. The covered bridges are easy to explore with *Visit Fairfield County's Covered Bridge Trail Guide*, available digitally on the *Visit Fairfield County* app and website; and those who prefer tangible copies of the

guide can pick up the brochure at the visitor center in downtown Lancaster, or request it to be mailed.

Once you've enjoyed a scenic, snowy countryside drive, you may feel inclined to get out of the car and stretch your legs at a number of parks that offer miles of hiking trails. Breathing in the crisp air during a brisk winter walk can feel so rejuvenating! Explore a variety of parks and nature preserves, like Smeck Park in Baltimore, or Christmas Rocks State Nature Preserve near Sugar Grove. These outdoor recreation spots are just a short, 30-minute drive from Hocking Hills and provide a nice change of pace for hiking enthusiasts and casual walkers alike.

But if you're wanting to push yourself and enjoy stunning views, Mount Pleasant in Lancaster's Rising Park is certainly an experience worth seeking. This 20-minute uphill hike is steep, but the summit offers an incredible, panoramic view of the city. And on a clear day, you can even see the Columbus skyline to the northwest.





With so many outdoor adventures to be had and wintry landscapes to see, you'll eventually want to warm up at a local establishment. If a hot (or iced) coffee is your way to unwind, check out the FC Java Trail. This self-guided experience highlights several cozy cafés across the county with the help of the *Visit Fairfield County* app. The Java Trail also offers an optional

challenge; use the app to check in at each coffee shop along the trail to earn a prize at the visitor center. This trail spans all the way from Millersport Coffee near Buckeye Lake to Spade's Café in the small town of Amanda, so you will surely find your perfect cup.

After indulging in a delicious drink, a trip to a local eatery is in order. Restaurants like Ale House

1890, Baltimore Pint House, and O'Huids Gaelic Pub offer exquisite, cozy atmospheres with appetizers and entrées that will keep you feeling warm all winter long. From the rustic ambience found in a local restaurant to the European-inspired decor of an Irish pub, these places will surely satiate your appetite and make you feel at home.

If craft brew is more your style, stay refreshed this winter by exploring the Route 33 Brew Trail, which consists of six local breweries with varying styles and spirits. With a special passport in hand, you can discover all six breweries and receive a unique stamp at each location. Upon completion, you'll earn a commemorative pint glass as a memento of your experience. These breweries also often feature grub from food trucks if you're looking for a quick-and-easy meal while enjoying a pint.

But if ciders and ales aren't your thing, you may consider the FC Sweet Tooth Trail. Similar to other *Visit Fairfield County* trails and challenges, this endeavor will have you exploring local sweet shops, like Al's Delicious Popcorn in Pickerington, Candy Cottage in Lancaster, Sweets to Taste in Bremen, and more. Indulge in baked goods and candy confections while supporting local business. This trail is also particularly popular in the winter months as it coincides with Valentine's Day. Surprise your friends and family with a thoughtful treat from Fairfield County - it will surely be memorable (and delicious).

Regardless of how you like to spend your winter days, Fairfield County has plenty of ways to keep you busy and enjoying every moment! A visit to this small-town getaway, not far from Columbus or Hocking Hills, could be exactly what you need to start your year off right. And once you visit, you'll want to see what else the area offers across the seasons; from our beautiful, blooming springs, our fun summer festivals, and our annual autumn experiences, there's so much to see and do right here in Fairfield County, Ohio.

For more information, call 740-654-5929, go to VisitFairfieldCounty.org, or download the free *Visit Fairfield County* app for iOS and Android.



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A winter scene at sunset. A snow-covered path leads towards a frozen lake. A row of streetlights stands on the left, and a wooden railing is on the right. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene.

Chautauqua Harbor Hotel Brings *Laughter to the Soul*

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Winter can often become a blah feeling after months of cold, snow, and dreary days. The Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, Celoron, NY, is offering a way for you to turn those winter blahs into laughter by experiencing their "Hilarious Package." This package is sure to have you relaxing and laughing in no time.

My husband and I had a chance to experience this package and we both walked away rejuvenated. From the moment we walked into this exquisite hotel I felt as if I was in paradise. It was warm and welcoming. As we walked into our room, we were greeted by a balcony overlooking the beautiful southeastern shores of Chautauqua Lake.



The first evening, we enjoyed watching a magnificent sunset across the lake while sitting outside around one of the three fire tables providing heat for the chilly evening. Music consisting of jazz and piano filled the air allowing our minds and bodies to relax.

Our first stop on our “hilarious” adventure was the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum in Jamestown (approximately 15 minutes from the hotel). We learned of their incredible life stories and careers as they gave us 70 years of laughter. They are also known as the “First Couple of Comedy” leaving an impact felt around the world. The museum features replicas of the sets from the most beloved TV comedy, I Love Lucy, including the Ricardo’s New York City apartment living room, kitchen, and their Hollywood hotel suite. We read about their personal stories and viewed rare artifacts and wardrobes from “I Love Lucy.”

There is much more to this museum such as a behind-the-scenes look into the creation and production of the show, plus the opportunity to be the star of your very own Vitameatavegamin commercial (I Love Lucy Season 1, Episode 30).

Next up, is the National Comedy Center, the first state-of-the-art museum dedicated to telling the vital story of comedy in America. As a nonprofit cultural institution, the museum celebrates great comedy minds and unique voices, from Charlie Chaplin to Dave Chappelle. More than 50 immersive exhibits with cutting-edge personalization technology make the entire experience unique. This is more than just a museum as it is an experience.

Upon entering the center, we were given a band where we created our own humor profile. Throughout the center, we explored content tailored to our individual tastes from broad slapstick to edgy satire. The first stop we made was at the HEEERES JOHNNY, display. This was one of my favorites as Jimmy Fallon was the host of Johnny’s story. Yes, Jimmy Fallon popped in as a hologram throughout the tribute. It was our first time experiencing something this incredible up close. It felt and looked as if he was on stage for real.

We went on to experience more at The Stand-Up Lounge and The Movie House to name a couple of exhibits. We drew our own character for a comic strip, created a meme, recreated comedy faces, learned sound effects, and played Laugh Battle. We laughed at many jokes and had smiles the whole time throughout the center. It was a fascinating experience learning about comedy and its history.

After we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves for the day, we headed back to the hotel for dinner at the Lake House Tap and Grille. The view is amazing as full-length glass windows allow you to look out over the lake. Our dinner was deliciously full of flavor and dessert...oh my...mouthwatering and tasty.

The Chautauqua Harbor Hotel is a 135-room luxury property. It opened in September 2018 and brings a new level of luxury accommodations and world-class service to the region. Open year-round and located on the former nine-acre site of the Celoron Amusement Park. Chautauqua Harbor Hotel features spacious guest rooms and suites, many of the rooms feature balconies and lake views. Dine at the Lake House Tap & Grille, a restaurant with a large patio overlooking the lake.

Enjoy an indoor or outdoor pool, and a state-of-the-art fitness center. A lakeside Carousel Bar, paying tribute to the grand carousels of yesteryear, is connected by a footbridge to Sunset Island offering an unparalleled setting for wedding ceremonies, private receptions, and more.

The hotel offers conference facilities not found elsewhere in Western New York. The hotel’s Pier Ballroom and Conference Center comprises over 100,000 square feet accommodating up to 350 guests for corporate meetings and social events.

Our experience is one that will last a lifetime. We had amazing views of the lake, laughed, dined, relaxed by the fire, and drank coffee and tea each morning provided by the hotel on each floor. We also enjoyed complimentary apples and apple cider in the lobby each day. In the winter, starting in December you will find hot chocolate.

Grab your significant other or best friend and head over to the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel this winter and replace winter blahs with laughs. Enjoy sitting around one of the fire tables overlooking the lake while enjoying a cup of hot chocolate or a glass of wine to warm your soul. Visit www.thechautauquaharborhotel.com/ for further details and packages.

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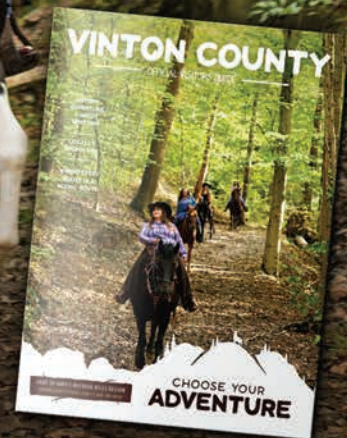
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Winter Wonders Await in Vinton County

By Trish Mann

Winter has blown our way again, and chances are you are feeling cold and dreary.

Living in the midwest can be challenging this time of the year, but with some planning and imagination, you will soon wonder why you waited so long to enjoy this season. Southern Ohio's lack of brutal cold and moderate snowfall make it the perfect place to shake off the winter doldrums and head outside for some winter fun.

Vinton County prides itself on its vast parks and recreation system, especially during this time of the year. The rich history, stunning scenery, and vast wilderness provide many opportunities to experience the beauty of nature. When Mother Nature cooperates, Lake Rupert at the Wellston Wildlife Area offers ice fishing. At the same time, Lake Alma State Park and Lake Hope State Park feature hiking and equestrian trails.

When you feel the cold creeping in, head to the Lake Hope Lodge and warm up with a craft beer while relaxing and overlooking the lake. Since you are already there, why not try one of the delicious made-from-

scratch offerings on their menu? You won't be disappointed.

Perhaps being outdoors is not exactly your thing. Enjoy visiting quaint shops throughout the county, or stop by the Le Petit Chevalier Vineyards and Farm Winery and enjoy a glass of Chablis while the snow falls gently on the vineyard. Vinton County has you covered.

There are not enough hours in the day to enjoy everything this picturesque area of Ohio has to offer. So why not find a cabin or Airbnb to enjoy for a night or two? Prices are lower during this time of the year, making it more affordable.

Ravenwood Castle is an unforgettable destination with a medieval flair, perfect for a romantic getaway or time with family and friends. Where else can you spend a night in King Arthur's Suite or

the Duke's Dungeon? Have you dreamed of staying in a caboose? Fiddlestix Village offers unique lodging experiences. From their 1926 B&O Caboose cabin to the Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum, Fiddlestix Village brings history to life. Close to many area activities; this will highlight your trip. Getaway Cabins offers luxury cabins set in breathtaking settings for those looking for a little more indulgence. Each place is set apart from the others to allow for an intimate and memorable experience. You will want to return to this destination for years to come.

However you choose to spend these quieter months, don't let the season pass without embracing all the beauty and exceptional experiences winter offers in Ohio's Hocking Hills Region. Remember to set your GPS for Vinton County.





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GRAND RESORT OFFERS GUESTS THE ULTIMATE RESORT EXPERIENCE

By Candy S. Collins, BS



When winter's gray skies and cold temperatures get you down, there's no better place to escape from it all than the luxurious Grand Resort located midway between Cleveland and Pittsburgh in Warren, Ohio. The Grand Resort recently completed a more than \$35 million expansion and renovation project which has resulted in one of the greatest new resorts in the country offering the very finest in accommodations and amenities.

One of the most unique features of staying at The Grand Resort is that registered hotel guests become members of Avalon Golf and Country Club during their stay where they may enjoy endless additional recreation, dining, relaxation, and many other first-class amenities through Avalon Golf and Country Club at Squaw Creek, Avalon Golf and Country Club at Buhl Park, The Avalon Field Club at New Castle, and the Avalon Athletic Club at Boardman. Free transportation via resort shuttle is provided for hotel guests to any of the five Avalon Golf and Country Club locations.

The Grand Resort offers a variety of packages, from girls' getaways to winter golf getaways. There are more than 15 unique varieties of luxurious rooms and suites. Choose from Luxury or Premium rooms with various bed configurations to pet-friendly rooms. Each room is full of the highest quality furniture and amenities.

"This is a beautiful property with extremely friendly and helpful staff, a great place to relax and enjoy life," stated a guest traveling with family.



Ladies, grab your girlfriends and head to the Salon and Spa for pampering and relaxation. A full complement of therapeutic and rejuvenating massages and other facial and body treatments are offered. The new Medical Rejuvenation Center provides an array of services, including physician-directed and clinical treatments for skincare, facial, and body. They feature the latest Lutronic Laser Systems for aesthetic treatments, 11 types of IV therapy administration, dermal fillers, Botox, holistic medicine, and more.

"I am so in love with the work done at The Grand Resort. Thank you so much, as I couldn't have asked for a better result. I wish I lived closer to the resort as I trust the Med Spa and love the workers," said a guest.

Gentlemen, plan some time away with your buddies and watch the game in the Cigar Lounge while having one of your favorite cigars. Choose from a selection of more than 150 of the best brands in the world. Relax in an atmosphere of distinction with a rich mahogany interior,

leather chairs, large televisions, and private humidors. Feel at home by the fireplace or find your own private area to get away.

The Grand Resort offers "The Ultimate Water Experience" through their one-of-a-kind Roman Bath. The breathtaking Roman Bath is located outdoors and is open year-round. It is heated to a therapeutic 90 degrees allowing your body to release stress and feel a sense of calmness and is perfect for adults who may prefer a quieter, more casual setting.

Enjoy the indoor 25-meter Olympic size pool all year-round. During the warmer months, enjoy the gorgeous outdoor resort pool with private cabanas that provides a great experience for families looking for a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Work out in the world-class Fitness Center with one of the largest equipped centers featuring Hoist Weight Training and Precor Cardio. The center offers indoor cycling, yoga, Pilates, group classes, and individual personal training. Other activities around the resort include an Indoor Golf Center with state-of-the-art golf simulators, indoor tennis, racquetball, pickleball, and a recreation center complete with arcade games, billiards, ping pong, bocce, shuffleboard, outdoor sports court, and more.

During the warmer days, enjoy a round of 18-hole golf at one of the four best well-designed and manicured golf courses. Avalon Lakes Golf Course is nationally ranked by Golf Digest. Or choose the beautiful and challenging layouts of Avalon at Squaw Creek or Avalon at Buhl Park.

Experience the rolling fairways, fast greens, and signature layout at The Avalon Field Club at New Castle. One of the world's most famous golf architects, A.W. Tillinghast, is responsible for this 18-hole gem. The design puts this course near the top of the list and a "must-play" for anyone that has ever teed up a golf ball.

"The golf course is in absolutely impeccable condition and reflects the magnitude of an A.W. Tillinghast-designed property," said Ron Klinge, chairman and CEO of Avalon Holdings Corp, owner of the property.

The Grand Resort's dining is nothing short of exceptional. There is something for everyone's appetite, with 25 restaurants serving savory dishes from burgers to seafood. Be sure to check out one of the 20 bars and seven lounges also serving delectable foods and drinks. The Avalon wine selection is limitless and garnered the attention of Wine Spectator Magazine. The magazine awarded The Grand Resort as one of the prestigious Best of Award of Excellence in 2022, recognizing the excellent breadth and depth of commitment to wine.

Once you arrive, there is no reason to leave this stunning property, as all your needs are in one location. From spas to restaurants and breathtaking views, there is something for everyone. The Grand Resort is a place to unwind, relax and allow yourself to be pampered. The resort makes for an incredible wedding venue and is an ideal location for business meetings and conferences.

For information, package pricing, and stunning property images, visit www.thegrandresort.com.

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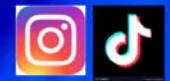


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The Monroe Theatre: A RENAISSANCE UNFOLDING

By Ashley Schumacher

Traveling through many towns across Ohio, individuals see the unmistakable vestiges of early 20th century movie theaters. These structures often evoke images of classic movies, Saturday cowboy matinees and live performances.

Some of these theaters remain alive, while others appear forgotten. However, the historic Monroe Theatre, in Woodsfield, Ohio, is experiencing a robust renaissance after its 45-year closure.

The Monroe Theatre, built by Mena Fliehman, opened its recognizable Art Deco doors in December 1939, as both a movie theater and stage for musicians. Many of these performers are considered pillars of bluegrass and country music, proven by their appearances at the Grand Ole Opry and inductions into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Performers such as Bill Monroe, Tex Ritter, Flatt & Scruggs, and an unknown teenager later known as Patsy Cline and others took to the same stage being used today at the Theatre.

The Monroe Theatre was a frequent stop for these performers on their way to Wheeling, West Virginia's



WWVA Jamboree. As times changed, the Monroe Theatre became solely a theater closing in 1977. Since 2019, however, the Theatre's trademark doors are open again, welcoming back audiences.

When the Monroe Arts Council, a 501(c)3, acquired the Monroe Theatre in 2016, it became eligible for state and local grant dollars essential for the restoration. These and private donations made the following renovations possible.

- December 2019 - Four furnaces were installed; prior to this, patrons brought blankets and the Theatre closed during the winter.

- Summer 2020 - The auditorium ceiling was insulated through a community campaign, Purchase a Roll.



- May 2021 - A concession stand / box office was added. A bistro is planned for the future.

- August 2021 - Two ADA family restrooms were completed; until this time, no restroom facilities were available.

- Summer 2022 - Air conditioning was installed and awaiting electrical upgrades.

- September 2022 - Roof replacement, vital masonry work and window replacement begin. This was possible through a 2020 Community Development Block Grant totaling \$280,000.

- A balcony addition is slated for the Theatre's future made possible through an Appalachian Regional Commission grant in the amount of \$345,000.

Other work to be completed includes replacement of the ceiling, a sprinkler system and seating.

History is still being made at the historic Monroe Theatre; experience the renaissance unfolding. For information, visit the Facebook page or call the box office at 1-740-213-5757.



City of Massillon Parks & Recreation Provides Winter Activities

By Candy S. Collins, BS

We find ourselves outdoors hiking, biking, sports, picnics, and much more in the warmer seasons. Then the winter months set in, and we hibernate indoors as we feel the fun has stopped momentarily. However, the City of Massillon Parks and Recreation offers many activities during the winter months to keep you moving.

One thing is to keep those swimming clothes unpacked as the recreation center offers an amazing indoor aquatic center for all ages. The indoor center features two 19-foot water slides, a lazy river, a two-lane lap pool, a splash-down pool, a kiddie play area, and a dry sauna. Those with younger children may enjoy the shallow water area. This is perfect for when the family has cabin fever.

“My first time at the facility I brought my grandson and we both had so much fun. The swimming area was very clean and well maintained. Lifeguards were

exceptionally friendly and very good at upholding the rules and keeping everyone safe. We will definitely be returning. Thank you,” stated Diane Jarrett, a community member.

Winter can bring the blahs, but also, we tend to add a couple of pounds to the waistline with no activity. The City of Massillon Parks and Recreation’s Fitness Center located in the north wing features treadmills, bikes, steppers, cross trainers, resistance equipment, and a free weight area. The center also offers a wide range of exercise classes for all abilities. If you

are a parent of a little one from the age of one and steadily walking to eight, no worries about how to find a sitter as the center offers a Child Watch Room.

Do you need sports to stay in your life through the winter? The recreation center offers basketball and volleyball leagues for adults, as well as Club Extreme Junior Olympic Volleyball. Children may participate in the Rookie Sports programs and swim lessons. In addition, pickleball has designated areas in the gym; view our website, www.massillonparks.com, for dates and times.



Keep those golf clubs dust free for when those little nicer days appear and head outdoors to the Legends of Massillon Golf Course. This is a fun and challenging 27-hole course with over 80 sand bunkers and water on 22 holes. Four sets of tees make it great for all skill levels. It is currently rated 4 stars by Golf Digest and is recognized as the Fourth Best Public Golf Course in Ohio by Great Lakes Golf Magazine. This year's season begins on April 1.

Carrie Lowry, PGA Head Golf Pro/Director of Golf, was thrilled to announce last year that the Legends of Massillon Golf Course was also the winner of the Best of the Best Golf Courses in Stark County. This spring, watch out for new golf carts with GPS systems. Other additions include a gazebo and a new tent for outdoor events and weddings.

The Legends is a beautiful location for a wedding, reception, reunion, shower, business meeting, or golf outing. It is their goal to give you a memorable experience for your next gathering. Their Executive Chef, Steve Yacono, will work with you to pick a menu that anyone would be proud to serve.

For those of you that do not mind the cold, head over to one of the many parks featuring paved walking paths, playground equipment, etc. Even in the winter, the sun is a great source of vitamin D, and the freshness of the air can fulfill a sense of newness.

ABOUT

The City of Massillon Parks and Recreation provides over 30 parks and open spaces. It features over 500 programs and events yearly including sports, aquatics, special events, and fitness and wellness programs. All these programs are open to the community and its surrounding areas.

The Parks & Recreation Director, Steve Pedro, stated "The City of Massillon Parks & Recreation and Rec Board was established to ensure that our citizens could enjoy all of the amenities that a city should have. The Massillon community is very fortunate to have many great parks and green spaces, the Recreation Center, Senior Center, and a 4-star golf course to offer places to enjoy with friends and family. The Parks & Recreation Department shows great pride in managing these spaces for our community."

The Massillon Parks and Recreation also provides a Senior Center. Caroline Ferrel, Senior Center Director, plans many senior activities and events such as euchre, bowling, bingo, exercise classes, trips, and more. She also works with local care providers who sponsor lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for Activity Club members. Memberships for ages 55 and up are only \$15 annually and include a monthly newsletter and a parking pass.

The City of Massillon Parks and Recreation is a must experience, not in the winter, but all year. For schedules, league information, and all other information about the parks and recreation visit, <https://www.massillonparks.com>.

The City of Massillon Parks and Recreation's Mission is dedicated to creating positive experiences by providing quality parks, facilities, services, and programs. The parks, greenways, fairways, and recreational facilities represent safe and positive community developments, which support first-rate leisure activities.





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MASSANUTTEN RESORT CELEBRATES

50TH SKI SEASON

By Morgan Mowbray

This winter, plunge into a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be part of mountain history at Virginia's premier mountain resort - Massanutten. Celebrating its 50th ski season this year, Massanutten offers authentic mountain experiences and endless outdoor adventures for all ages in every season. Whether you seek relaxation, exploration, or inspiration, Massanutten Resort is the perfect family destination, located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, just a short five-to-six-hour drive from eastern Ohio.

As an all-season resort with more than 100 daily activities to choose from, you will never run out of things to do and places to explore. Taste the local flavors at 12 on-site dining locations, challenge yourself to multiple escape room concepts, indulge yourself at the full-service day spa, play a few rounds at both 18-hole golf courses, and experience what will be the highlight of everyone's trip, the award-winning Massanutten Indoor WaterPark.





If you're visiting for an adventure filled with downhill skiing, 800 feet of snow tubing, or leisurely ice skating, then look no further. The Resort is alive and thriving during winter season which typically lasts from early December to mid-March. Guests can enjoy a plethora of outdoor and indoor winter fun all winter long.

Massanutten features a variety of ski trails for both beginners and experts with the most vertical drop in the area with 100% snowmaking coverage and 100% open terrain open for night skiing. The Resort also offers Terrain Based Learning and private lessons for those new to the sport of skiing and snowboarding, as well as a youth instructional program ranging from beginner to advanced levels of skiing and snowboarding.

The 2022-23 ski season will see a major terrain expansion with three new trails opening, part of Massanutten's 2021-24 Trail and Lift Expansion.

For those looking for a snowy adventure but without the skis and board, guests can head over to the Massanutten Family Adventure Park for snow tubing during the day and Northern Lights Tubing at night with neon lights and pumping music to enjoy while zooming down the tubing hill. Be sure to plan in advance as this popular snow activity sells out fast!

Ready for a more artistic experience? Ice skating takes over the mountain near the Massanutten Fitness and Recreation Center, at The Rink. Our 125-ton chiller and over 34,000 feet of tubing allow the Fitness Center's tennis court to be transformed into a frozen winter wonderland all winter long.

Once you're ready to warm up, stop by

the Resort's multiple restaurant and dining options to grab southern delights, seasonal flavors, and tasty desserts to refuel for more fun. With three sit-down dining restaurants, Campfire Grill, Base Camp, and VA BBQ, we offer a variety of settings and cuisines to meet even the pickiest of eaters' needs. For a fine dining setting, Campfire Grill offers southern cuisine favorites including rotisseries, steaks, and entrees including trout, chicken and dumplings, pork tenderloin, gumbo and so much more.

Or stop by Base Camp for dining by the ski slopes under the Umbrella Bar for salads, soups, burgers, fish, pasta, sandwiches, and chef creations with seasonal ingredients. For those off the mountain, Virginia BBQ offers a wide selection of BBQ and pizza for a quicker dining experience with breakfast options.

A trip to Massanutten isn't complete until you visit the famous award-winning Massanutten Indoor WaterPark featuring an always-heated indoor park at 84 degrees Fahrenheit with a water fortress, body slides, pools, lazy river floats, hot tubs, and a FlowRider Wave Machine for a chance to learn how to surf. The WaterPark is home to the recently renovated Diamond Jim's Arcade, the Merchandice Shop, Sweetz, The Snack Shack, and The Chill Grill.

From outdoor adventures surrounded by fresh snow and warm fires by the slopes with hot cocoa to splashing around indoors at the Indoor WaterPark, the options for winter fun at Massanutten are endless. For lodging options, the Resort offers onsite lodging with nine different locations both on the mountain and in the valley ranging from luxurious two-bedroom condos sleeping up to six to Massanutten Resort Hotel rooms sleeping up to 4 people. Guests can even bring their furry dog friends to stay in our dog-friendly rooms.

Massanutten is a true all-season Resort but is so much more than that. It is a destination that must be experienced. To sign up for the latest offers, lodging packages, and Resort news, visit massresort.com and click on "News Sign Up." Massanutten Resort is located at 1822 Resort Drive, Massanutten, VA 22840.





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OUTDOORS

Cedar Cliff Falls

GREENE COUNTY

Nature trails and nature preserves with fantastic vista views.

Greene County is a natural if you like to have fun. You have a wide selection of outdoor activities to choose from. Everything from the region's best hiking and biking trails, plus thousands of acres in protected park lands and reserves.

John Bryan State Park – This is the most scenic state park in western Ohio. Campsites are not laid out in a grid, adding a sense of freedom to your experience. With 752 acres and nine miles of hiking trails along the Little Miami River's towering limestone cliffs.

Glen Helen Nature Preserve – 1000 acre nature preserve of woods, waterways, prairies, and fields laced with 25 miles of trails for hiking.

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve – 268 acres. A spectacular example of geological forces, limestone cliffs, scenic waterfalls and rapids on the headwaters of the Little Miami Scenic River.

Indian Mound Reserve – 169 acres offer one of the most diverse areas managed by Greene County Parks. A spectacular natural resource is created with a blend of Cedar Cliff Falls, the Massie Creek Gorge, meadows, woods, river and marsh, creating an amazing view in any season of the year.

Narrows Reserve – The Narrows Reserve offers canoeing, fishing, picnicking and hiking through forests, meadows and ravines where you'll see an abundance of plant and animal wildlife. Over four miles of hiking trails on 162 acres.



Indian Mound Reserve



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STARK AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Leo Jennings

Along with Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, and the dawn of a New Year, Stark County residents will have another reason to celebrate this holiday season: the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority's (SARTA) 25th Anniversary year beginning on December 3.

Like Thanksgiving and Christmas, SARTA's upcoming birthday provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the past and take a nostalgic trip down memory lane—or, in SARTA's case, the millions of miles of lanes, roads, avenues, streets and highways our vehicles have traveled on since our first rider climbed aboard on the chilly Monday morning that marked the beginning of the system's quarter-century-long journey.

To be honest, no one was quite sure if the public would use the new countywide transit service, but one year and 1.1 million rides later, it was clear that SARTA was on the road to success. The overwhelmingly positive response fueled growth that continues to this day. Service to outlying areas of Stark County, Akron, and Cleveland via the longest fixed route operated by a transit system in the U.S., was added, hours of operation increased from 13 to 21, and the Belden Village, Cornerstone, Alliance, and Massillon transit centers were opened. As a result, ridership hit an all-time high of 2.5 million in 2014 and demand for the

system's 30 fixed routes, Proline ADA, and Success Express service remains strong today.

Along with adding and enhancing service to meet the needs of the community, SARTA has developed and deployed cutting-edge transit technology, including EZfare, SMART Card Tap-Card fare payment, and SARTA PinPoint by MyStop, that make it easier and more convenient than ever for riders to reach thousands of destinations across Stark County.

SARTA's use of technology goes beyond how people ride to include what they ride in. Under CEO Kirt Conrad, who joined the system in 2009, SARTA has become a national and international leader in the use of low and zero emission vehicles and today operates the third largest fleet of hydrogen fuel cell powered (HFC) buses in the Western Hemisphere.



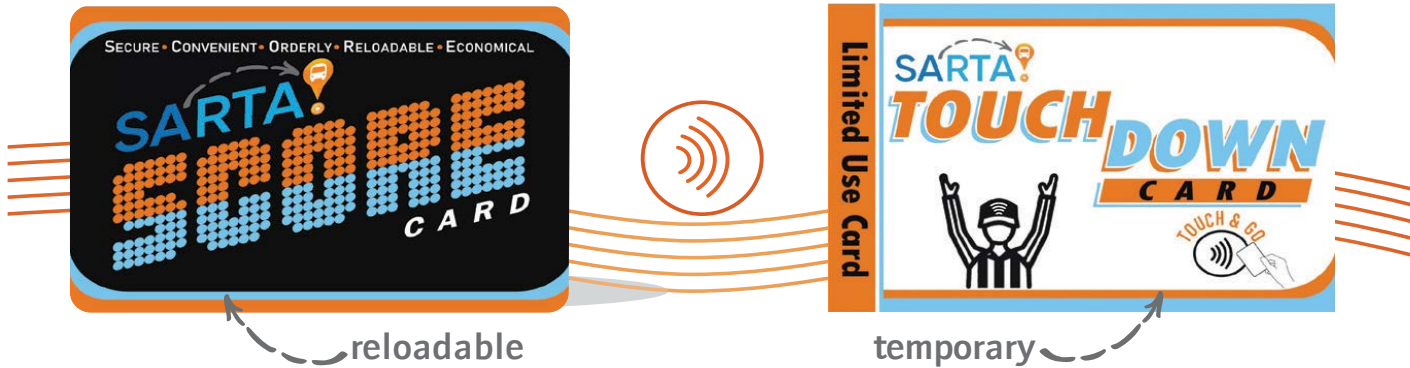
Now that we have looked back at SARTA's impressive past, it's time to share our New Year's resolutions, starting with our ongoing commitment to sustainability. The system will continue to acquire and operate full size and 12-passenger HFC vehicles, will open our hydrogen fueling stations to the public, and play a key role in the campaign to secure a large federal grant that will fund the development of a hydrogen hub in the region.

The system is also undertaking an impressive capital campaign that includes the construction of a new Massillon Transit Center and expansion of the Gateway headquarters facility. And as always,

SARTA will constantly find ways to meet the transportation needs of the people who depend on us, including the people who are using our newest service, Wayne County Transit.

All in all, it has been a wonderful 25 years filled with incredible memories and the promise of great things to come. Happy holidays from all of us at SARTA.

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Visit Carroll County this Winter!

Winter

in Western New York's Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region

By Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau

Plan a cozy winter getaway to the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region. Proximity to Lake Erie "lake effect" means snow for Chautauqua County, averaging up to 150 inches annually. For downhill and cross-country snow sports, head to Peek'n Peak Ski Resort and enjoy 27 slopes and trails, state-of-the-art snowmaking, eight chairlifts, and four progressive terrain parks. Need lessons? Peek'n Peak is home to a renowned ski and snowboard school with lessons available for all ages.

There's even a tubing area with seven lanes and a "Magic Carpet" lift that transforms into a nighttime Lunar Lights show. The thrilling and mesmerizing atmosphere features an ever-changing light show produced by thousands of LED lights and projection lights. The lights pulse, fade and change in coordination with an immersive sound system. On select dates, the massive sound and light program will be operated by a live DJ.

Skiers and snowmobilers can also enjoy Cockaigne Ski Area in Cherry Creek. This resort features a 10-acre terrain park, 15 slopes and trails, plus on-resort dining options. Amenities like a new Snowmobile Adventure Park and dedicated trailer parking for easy access to Chautauqua County's 400 miles of snowmobile trails via Boutwell Hill State Forest, located just across the road, are also available for use.

Cross country skiers, snowshoers and fat-tire bikers will also find opportunities on the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region's multi-use trail systems including Long Point State Park on Chautauqua Lake, Lake Erie State Park, Boutwell Hill State Forest, the Eastside and Westside Overland Trails, Chautauqua Institution and the Jamestown Audubon Community Nature Center. Spend some time on the ice at the Northwest Arena during their weekly public skate or bring a group of friends to rent their ice bumper cars.

Embrace all things winter when you attend one of several winter festivals in Chautauqua County. Support the local snowmobile clubs during the annual WinterFest held at the Bemus Point Golf Club and Taphouse! Ride your sled over to the festival or drive in to experience local vendors, prizes, live music and fireworks. Come



out to Lakeside Park in Mayville for the President's Day Weekend Winter Festival. Enjoy local craft beverages, vendors, snowmobile rides and an ice castle built with ice taken straight from Chautauqua Lake.

After a day of full of winter activities, indulge in après ski fun. Sip local wine from the over 20 wineries collectively known as Lake Erie Wine Country including ice wine, a specialty seasonal dessert wine. Stop by the Grape Discovery Center in Westfield, the hometown of Welch's, to learn about the 150-year history of grape-growing in the region and sample local wine, grape juice and shop for other grape inspired artisanal products.

Enjoy a craft beverage from one of the breweries and distilleries located throughout the region including Southern Tier Brewing Company, one of the largest craft brewers in the United States. Try Ellicottville Brewing Company signature beers at their Fredonia location, not far from Lake Erie and local wineries. Fuel up for a day of adventures with a coffee and breakfast from a local coffee shop or café. Sit down for a delicious meal at one of the many local restaurants open year-round. Whether you are craving hearty, comfort food, classic bar food or an upscale dining experience, you will find it all in the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region.

Nothing warms the heart like laughter. The intuitive technology powering the National Comedy Center in Lucille Ball's hometown, Jamestown, NY, takes guests on a journey through comedy's history. Featuring over 50 interactive exhibits with tailored content designed to make you laugh, everything from vaudeville to today's viral memes, from Chaplin to Chapelle. Laugh at the antics of Lucy, Desi, and the crew at the Lucy-Desi Museum. Find decades' worth of costumes, screen-used memorabilia, awards and personal treasures are on display. Be sure to ask about dual admission. While in town, don't miss the chance to experience the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Robert H. Jackson Center or enjoy some interactive, virtual entertainment at Mulligan's on Fairmount.

No trip is complete without shopping! Visit an assortment of charming, locally owned shops and boutiques throughout the region for a souvenir to help recall sweet memories from your lakeside retreat. Bring home some of your favorite artisanal food products specific to our region or cherish a handmade, one-of-a-kind piece of art or jewelry.

Chautauqua County is a great place for a relaxing weekend getaway. Take a stroll through the snow-covered streets of Chautauqua Institution and admire the expressions of American architecture dating back to the Victorian era. Rent a secluded cabin or cottage or stay in a quaint bed and breakfast and immerse yourself in a beautiful winter wonderland around a warm fire. With many local accommodations offering special packages, winter is one of the best times of year to visit.

For a full schedule of events and winter attractions, call the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau at 866-908ILNY (4569) or visit TourChautauqua.com.





Winter at the BERLIN RESORT

By Jaxon Yoder

The snow crunches under your boots as you make your way along a wooded trail, you cross a bridge over a creek to be greeted by a gorgeous, sparkling snow field, lined with twinkling lights! Just beyond the field is a hill, crowned with your hotel, the Berlin Resort. With gorgeous grounds, a beautiful interior, plenty of amenities, and sensational seasonal decoration inside and out, the Berlin Resort is a perfect spot for your next winter getaway, and we haven't even gotten to town yet!

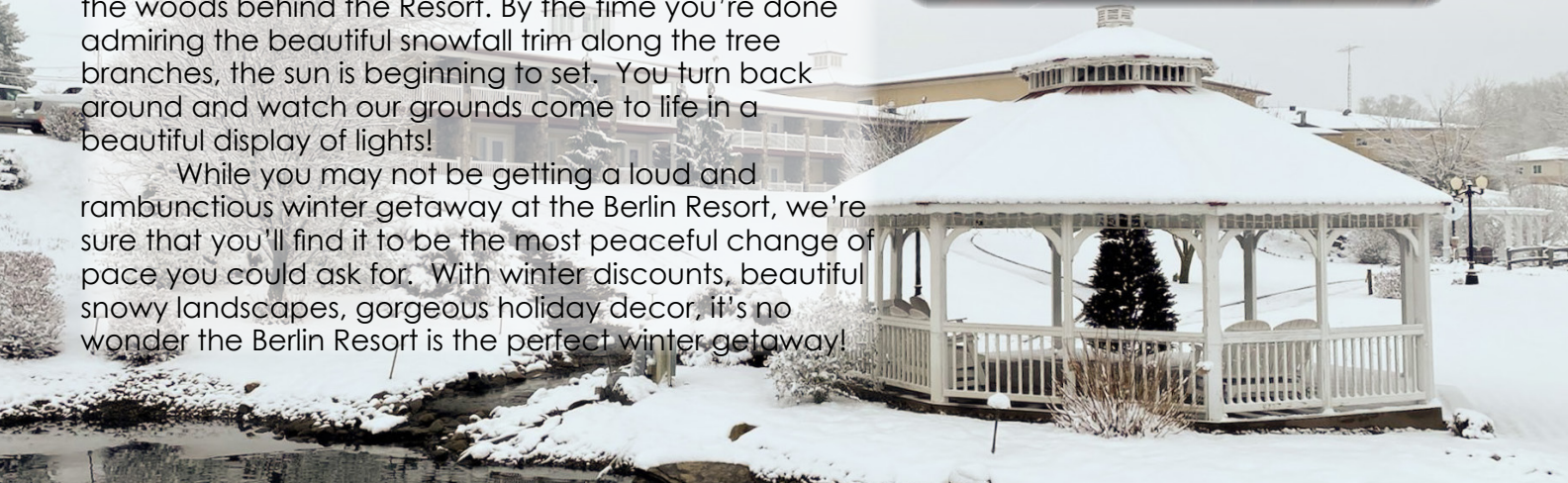
Amish Country is great during the winter! Calm, quiet country roads, rolling hills capped with snow, plenty of great sales for holiday shopping. While we may be known for having an incredibly busy fall season, winter provides a much more relaxed atmosphere, true to the image of the ideal quiet life that countryside living encapsulates.

If you're looking for something a little livelier, look no further than the yearly Shopping Under the Stars, where businesses stay open much later for a selection of nights during December, so that you can wrap up any holiday shopping under the beautiful starry night sky. There are plenty of wonderful shops to choose from, like 'Tis the Season, Ohio's largest year-round Christmas store, which is absolutely loaded with tons of holiday goodies to take home!

And after you've returned to the Berlin Resort you can unwind and warm up with complimentary hot chocolate and coffee, reflecting on your day's adventure. Watch a film in our movie theater with your family! Or have a game night in our rec room, with plenty of windows overlooking our grounds.

After you've warmed up, head back outside to our own winter wonderland. Follow the path to our wooded trail, stretching along a mile long loop through the woods behind the Resort. By the time you're done admiring the beautiful snowfall trim along the tree branches, the sun is beginning to set. You turn back around and watch our grounds come to life in a beautiful display of lights!

While you may not be getting a loud and rambunctious winter getaway at the Berlin Resort, we're sure that you'll find it to be the most peaceful change of pace you could ask for. With winter discounts, beautiful snowy landscapes, gorgeous holiday decor, it's no wonder the Berlin Resort is the perfect winter getaway!





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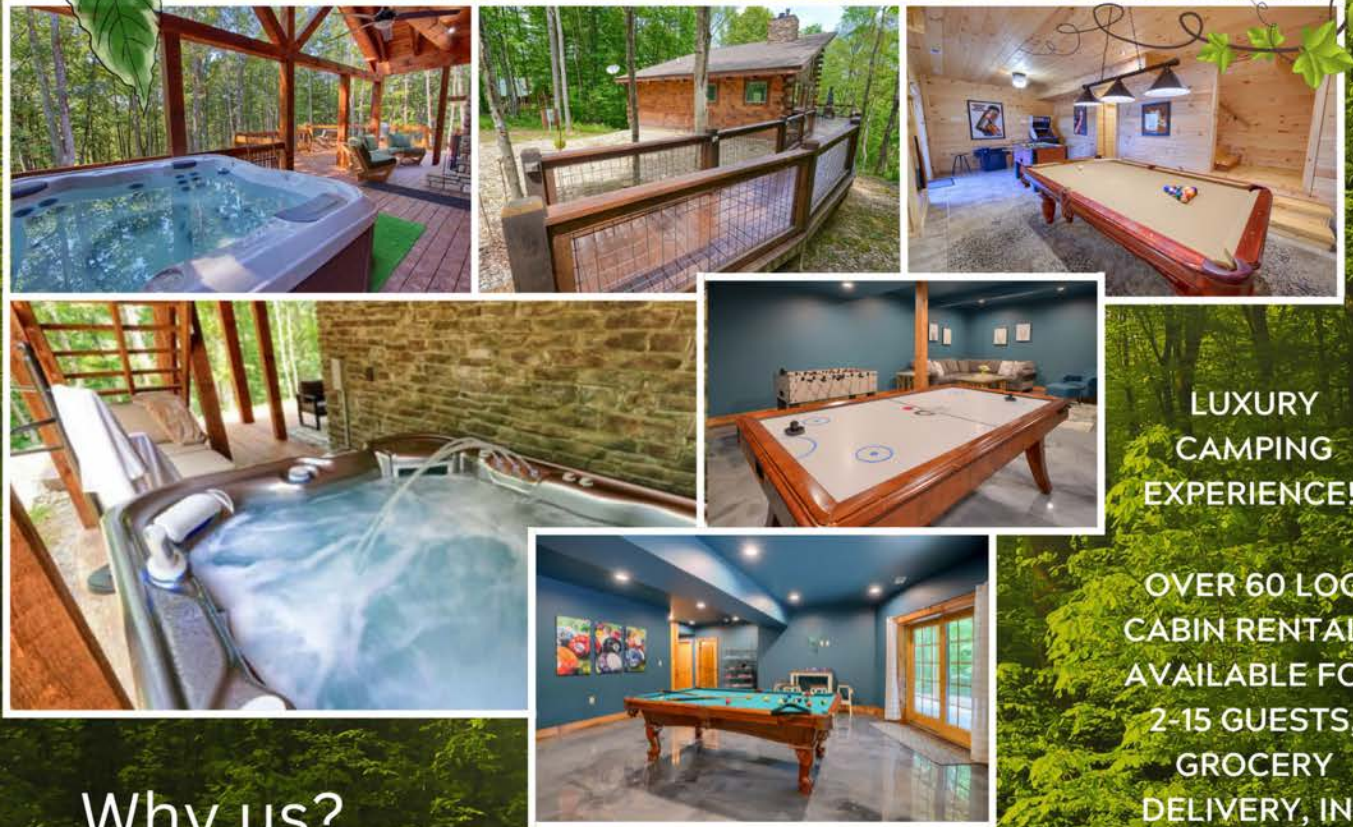
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