WINTER WINE & BREW FEST RAISES $7K FOR ARCHES!

Toasts make bread!

‘This is great,’ guest says amid beers and cheers

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY – No sooner than 40 days before an estimated 265 guests crammed the second Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest was Frank Carrozza shaving 15 “thick-skinned” lemons and two oranges, boiling 4 cups of sugar in 5 cups of water and combining the tart-and-sweet viscous blend with two bottles of 100-proof vodka, after which his popular Frank’s Limoncello would coalesce in a “cool, dark place.”

“The longer it rests,” he said, “the better the taste will be. All you have to do is wait.”

That wait, said Eric and Kelly Muha, of Beaver, was well worth it.

Guests toast one another with beer and liqueur at the 2018 Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest. The event raised approximately $7,000 for Ellwood City Revitalization and its goal of raising $90,000 to create 18-foot high triangular arches at the Ellwood City Community Plaza.

Among the newest members of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce:

Name: Karl Florie, physical therapist, doctor of physical therapy
Company: Uprising Physical Therapy
Founded: July 2016
Position: Owner/physical therapist
Address: 3510 Fourth Ave., Beaver Falls
Service: Outpatient physical therapy specializing in myofascial release, a safe and highly effective treatment in eliminating the root of pain and improving overall mobility, function and vitality.

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“Good, very good,” Eric said after a shot-sized plastic cup of the pale yellow liqueur left his lips.

“Wonderful,” Kelly added. “Excellent.”

Such accolades — followed by toasts — were also echoed by guests sipping and socializing near any of the 15 other vendors who supported the Jan. 27 fundraiser that benefits Ellwood City Revitalization and its goal of raising $90,000 to create 18-foot high triangular arches upon which lights will hang to provide a longer season for acts performing at the Ellwood City Community Plaza.

“A lot more people than I expected to see”

But the lights, and the music — from any of DJ Frank Pezzi’s 250,000 available selections — and taste-bud tantalizing finger foods were not to be staged on this Saturday in the five-year-old, $2.2 million plaza, but three blocks west on Lawrence Avenue, at the Sons of Italy Lodge 608 on Lawrence Avenue.

“This is great,” said Kathryn DeCaria, of Ellwood City, as she glanced across 25 circular tables, their occupants returning with 8-inch plastic plates teeming with appetizers from Mary Jo’s Catering or Agostinelli Brewing.

“A lot of people,” said Luke Reynolds, of Ellwood City, as he surveyed the crowd. “A lot more people than I expected to see. There really is a lot to do in Ellwood. There are events like this going on all the time. You just have to look for them.”

Those looking for a non-alcoholic drink found themselves lining up for Bruce Thalmann’s Rotary Rootbeer, one that like Frank’s Limoncello is homemade far in advance.

“They are enjoying it,” Thalmann said, adding that it takes up to four days to produce the frothy flavor that drew raves and conjured memories of yesteryear. “A few of them said it reminds them of what their grandfathers made years ago. It reminds them of their grandfather’s rootbeer, so that is a bonus.”

Across the room, near the 28 white paper bags inscribed with the names of raffle items donated by sponsors, Ron Reyer, of Fombell, had just finished a 3.5-ounce sample of Outta Focus Brewing’s Schnapsidee.

“Very flavorful,” Reyer said. “It goes down smooth, and afterward, you savor the aftertaste.”

Added Ellwood City resident Mark Edwards, of Outta

**WHO POURED?**

Vendors at the second Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest:

**Wine and liqueurs**
- Agostinelli Brewing: Malbec and varieties
- Class of ’71: Meritage Vino
- Fombell Farms: Vino de Italia
- Frank Carrozza: Frank’s Limoncello
- Kic-a-poo Brew and Wine: Citrus Ale
- Kerr Brewing: Specialty Beer
- Kic-a-poo Brew and Wine: Citrus Ale
- Outta Focus Brewing: German Alt, American Wheat
- Sixteen Ton Brewing: Belgian Dubbel, American Pale Ale
- SYOBB: Mandarina IPA
- Walleybrau: Winter Ale
- Pete’s Uptown Beer and Beverage: Premium Samples

**Brews**
- Class of ’71: Cream Ale
- First Round Brewing: Winter Warmer, Buckwheat Honey and Fig Porter, Malt Chocolate Oatmeal Stout
- Kerr Brewing: Specialty Beer
- Kic-a-poo Brew and Wine: Citrus Ale
- Outta Focus Brewing: German Alt, American Wheat
- Sixteen Ton Brewing: Belgian Dubbel, American Pale Ale
- SYOBB: Mandarina IPA
- Walleybrau: Winter Ale
- Pete’s Uptown Beer and Beverage: Premium Samples

**And**
- Rotary Rootbeer: Bruce’s Batch, nonalcoholic
- National Grind: Coffee
- Culligan: Water
SECOND WINTER WINE & BREW FEST RAISES $7K

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WHO WON?

Winners of raffle items Jan. 27 at the second Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest:

- $500 gun from Duke’s Sports Shop: Lisa Ovial
- 50-50 drawings: Carol Monk and Carmella Teolis.
- Young’s Barber Shop: Josh Court.
- Sweet Caroline’s and Leaps & Bounds Gymnastics Co.: LuAnn Santillo.
- Ruby Ribbon: Anne Dawson.
- Dayspring Gifts on 6th: Toni Swick.
- Dimeo Olson Law Group: Jan Keenan.
- WesBanco: Debbie Shaffer.
- The Sweet Shop: Heather Leopardi.
- Good Wheels and Mac’s Motorcycles: Bob Dawson.
- Good Samaritan Hospice: Carmella Teolis.
- Giant Eagle: Cheryl Bejgro-wicz.
- Core 3 Group: Lauren Blatch-ford.
- KML Carpenters: Frank Pezzi.
- Quilt by Ellen Jackson: Kristi Torba.
- Loccisano’s: Louise Carroll.
- Posies by Patty: Deanna Massung.
- Paul Davis Restoration: Jean Barsotti.
- Teolis Funeral Home: Donna Miskolcze.
- H&R Block: Jeff D’Amico.
- Vinny’s Pizza: Kelly Muha.
- Mr. B’s: Jamie Miller.
- Blocher Jewelers: Michele Teolis.
- Fine Wine & Good Spirits: Lisa Ovial.
- Kimpel’s Jewelers: Josh Court.

Guests enjoy the 2018 Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest.

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Focus Brewing’s Hazy Dayz: “Smooth.”

“The two Winter Wine and Brew Fests have drawn nearly 600 guests, said Brad Ovial, president of Ellwood City Revitalization.

“This has been a great turnout, and there have been nothing but great compliments,” Ovial said. “They are telling me it’s the best $20 they have ever spent. It’s a great afternoon and it’s at the right time of the year.

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Guests enjoy the 2018 Ellwood City Winter Wine & Brew Fest.

‘This is great,’ guest says amid beers and cheers

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“They can’t believe how the community has come together with donating baskets, the sponsors, the food, and the opportunity to socialize with everyone.”

The $20 cost of admission allowed guests to sample, in addition to Carrozza’s Frank’s Limoncello and Thalmann’s Rotary Rootbeer, wines that included Class of ’71’s Meritage Vino and Kic-a-poo Brew and Wine’s Chilean Syrah, and brews that included First Round Brewing’s Winter Warmer, Sixteen Ton Brewing’s Belgian Dubbel and SYOBB’s Mandarina IPA – and those finger foods.

Most popular among her buffet of chunked cheese, Italian meats and cheeses, sliced pepperoni rolls, antipasto, biscotti and wedding cookies, fresh mozzarella and tomato skewers and polenta squares – many presented on tiered silver platters or in long-stemmed glass flutes – was her red, orange and yellow stuffed peppers, Mary Jo Carusone said.

Within the miniature vegetables, she said, are “bread stuffing, mixed with mozzarella, provolone and asiago cheeses. Some have pepperoni, and others have medium-hot sausage and seasoning. Everybody is enjoying everything.”

“This is a big crowd having a lot of fun”

As they were at Agostinelli’s Brewing, operated by longtime friends Anthony Fraser, Bob DeLisio, Barry Agostinelli and Curt Agostinelli, who offered homemade prosciutto and capicola, cured venison and sausage, six flavors of homemade bread, home beans and greens, and Merlot, aged fontinella and fresh asiago cheeses.

“This is what we do,” Fraser said. “We like sharing it with our friends.”

Most popular, he said, was the Merlot cheese.

“That went over really big,” Fraser said. “It just has a special flavor. It’s got something going on.”

Added DeLisio: “Everybody just loves it. The flavor just pops in your mouth.”

Mouths that, Raymond Santillo said, would result in smiles.

“This is a big crowd having a lot of fun,” said Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce. “I see a lot of generous people with big smiles. It’s a friendly atmosphere, and people are saying thanks.”
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“THESE PROGRAMS ENRICH THE LIVES OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS”

Support the arts and sciences in EC!

ELLWOOD CITY – Ellwood City Community Enrichment, which delivers Ellwood City’s summerlong concert series held in the Community Plaza, and April’s Lawrence County Earth Day Celebration and September’s Storytelling Festival, both held in Ewing Park, is seeking sponsors for those programs in 2017.

“These programs enrich the lives of all community members,” said Jillian Court, the coordinator of the volunteer-run nonprofit subsidiary of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce. “The arts, sciences cultural and education programming that Ellwood City Community Enrichment provides is important in a small community like Ellwood City. Our programs reach a wide range of residents from children to the elderly to avid environmental enthusiasts.”

Financial support is needed to help to continue organizing these “wonderful cultural and education programs that instill the passion for the arts and sciences in our residents’ hearts,” Court said.

“Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us bring quality programming to the community,” Court said.

Sponsorship levels

Donors will be acknowledged in all publications -- such as brochures or programs -- provided for the events, as well as on social media, on posters and on flyers. Diamond through silver sponsors will also receive verbal acknowledgement at all events, and in group signage posted at event.

- **Diamond, $1,500**: Sponsor two concerts.
- **Platinum, $1,000**: Sponsor one concert.
- **Gold, $750**: Sponsor entertainment at Lawrence County Earth Day Celebration.
- **Silver, $500**: Sponsor children’s activities at Storytelling Festival.
- **Bronze, $250**: Acknowledgments in all publications and publicity material provided for events.
- **Other**: Acknowledgments in all publications and publicity material provided for events.

Those interested in sponsorship are asked to do so by Feb. 23 and by mailing their tax-deductible donation to Ellwood City Community Enrichment, 806 Lawrence Ave., Ellwood City, PA 16117.

Events at the Lawrence County Earth Day Celebration are shown in April.

Events at the Ellwood City Community Plaza are shown in June.

Events at the Ellwood City Storytelling Festival are shown in September.