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Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail supporters tour Pop Warner Trail in Springville

Photo by Nicole Hebdon

Supporters of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail recently met to tour the Pop Warner Rail Trail in Springville on Saturday, March 20.

Nicole Hebdon
Correspondent

On Saturday, March 20, 17 supporters of the extension of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail gathered in Springville to experience a completed trail. Deb Fenn, the president of the Erie Cattaraugus County Rail Trail, explained that the majority of the walkers were from Orchard Park and are part of the founder's club, which meant that they had donated at least one thousand dollars. She said, "I'm so very glad that you could all be with us on the first day of spring. We're very grateful for your clear and generous contributions."

After name tags were handed out, participants introduced themselves, identifying how they are involved with Erie Cattaraugus County Rail Trail. William Krebs, Mayor of Springville said, "We are very proud of our trail here. Starting in 2009, we've been investigating why the conversion of a railroad to a trial would benefit our village." The walk started near Kiril's Restaurant, by the donated Little Free Library. Krebs explained that someday, once the trail is extended, walkers could park in this area and then walk to Salamanca or Orchard Park. He said, "That's the dream and it will happen someday."

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Krebs stopped at the Depot, to explain that the trail is also an effort of historical restoration, and that eventually, plaques outlining the importance of historical buildings will be erected. As the participant's walked, Krebs answered questions about the Springville trail. "We hardly get any complaints about this trail." He said the most frequent complaint is in regards to the appearance of backyards. "If you think about where railroads went, this was zoned as village and industrial. We're following history and the uses of the property are going to be that way." Krebs explained that the Rail Trail crosses residential, farmland and industrial areas. "It's one of the nice things about a rail trail," he said. "When you see a community from the back, it's different."

At the Springville Community Trout Pond, which is adjacent to the trail, Jason Engel, the project manager for the Springville Field and Stream trout pond renovation project, spoke about the project. He said that eventually five thousand fish could be raised in the hatchery annually, and that a concrete pier with wheelchair access will be constructed for fishing. He said, "We're going to make a better habitat for the fish." He also talked about the upcoming Earth Day celebration, which will take place at the trout pond on April 24. Several local businesses and organizations will be involved with the event, including The West Valley Demonstration Project, The Springville Chamber of Commerce and the Springville Moose Club. "We are hoping to have 300 fish stocked in the pond for that event," Engel said. He said that boy scouts will be present to help participants fish. "This is an example of how the trail can pull businesses together," he said. Krebs added, "It's a partnership. That's how communities build."

Photo by Nicole Hebdon

Hikers from the ECRT walk on a section of the Pop Warner Rail Trail in Springville near the Depot.

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Police Reports

The information published in the police reports comes directly from the various law enforcement agencies in the area including the Springville Police Department, the Erie, Wyoming, and Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Departments, the Cattaraugus County District Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office and the New York State Police. The Springville Journal prints what is received and does not accept additional information or changes from other sources to information received from these agencies. Some names are withheld by law enforcement due to ongoing investigations, or because suspects are juveniles. Names appear if the subject has been charged and will be omitted otherwise. Arrests made by the agencies are included, all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty. An arrest does not mean a person went to jail as individuals may be cited and released or placed under custodial arrest.

DWI — Driving While Intoxicated
DWAI — Driving While Ability Impaired
BAC — Blood Alcohol Content
AUO — Aggravated Unlicensed Operation
UPM — Unlawful Possession of Marijuana
MVA — Motor Vehicle Accident
LPR — License Plate Reader
PDO- Property Damage Only

Friday, March 12

Concord – The Erie County Sheriff's Office responded to an exit on Route 219 after receiving a traffic complaint of a vehicle operating erratically. The same vehicle was located and a traffic stop was initiated. The driver, Michael Crean, 45, of Kenmore, was charged with DWI, as well as various other traffic offenses. He was released on an appearance ticket to a sober third party.

Concord – Patrol responded to the Scoby Hill Park after receiving a report of an unknown person(s) had been spray painting graffiti on trees and rocks within the park. A police report was filed and the Erie County Park Rangers were advised.

Springville – Patrol responded to East Main Street for a property damage accident after a vehicle left the lane of traffic and struck a parked vehicle. No injuries were reported and both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Saturday, March 13

Sardinia – The ECSO responded to a Route 39 address for the reported larceny of a handgun from a residence in which the complainant believes a family member may have taken the item. A report was filed and detectives are investigating.

Sunday, March 14

Sardinia – A youth was advised after the ECSO investigated an alarm at the post office that was set off by the individual filming "Tik Tok" videos.

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Sardinia – The ECSO responded to an area of Olean and Genesee roads for a report of several cows walking in the roadway. The owner of the cows was located and the animals were returned to the farm without incident.

Springville – The ECSO responded to Aldi on South Cascade Drive for a property damage accident after two vehicles collided in the parking lot. No injuries were reported and both vehicles sustained minor damage.

Monday, March 15

Ashford – Summer J. Mathews, 39, of Delevan, and Daniel J. Jennings, 58, of Springville were both charged with criminal possession of a firearm. They were both issued an appearance ticket.

Boston – The ECSO responded to an exit on Route 219 for a property damage accident after a vehicle drove off the roadway and struck a guardrail. No injuries were reported. The vehicle sustained minor damage.

West Valley – At around 10 a.m., The West Valley Protective Force Security Police assigned at the West Valley Demonstration Project on Rock Springs Road conducted a routine search of a semi in the truck trap and reportedly found an unregistered pistol in the cab of the truck. The driver was turned over to the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office for processing. The driver, Richard D. Johnson, 54, of Hopewell, Va., was charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. He was issued an appearance ticket for Ashford Town Court in April.

Tuesday, March 16

Ashford – No injuries were reported as a result of a one-car property damage accident that took place on Route 219 near Snake Run Road at around 7:10 p.m. involving a 61-year-old Great Valley man.

Concord – Following a traffic stop for a traffic infraction, Grant Gohr, 63, of East Otto, was charged with DWI, as well as various other traffic infractions. He was released to a sober third party on an appearance ticket.

Springville – Ruth Fancher, 21, of Machias was arrested on a bench warrant issued by the Village of Springville Court after she reportedly turned herself into police at the ECSO Springville station. Fancher was transported to the Erie County Holding Center pending arraignment.

Thursday, March 18

Arcade – At around 9:13 a.m., Brandon J. Hughson, 43, of Chaffee, was charged with operating a motor vehicle while the registration was suspended following a traffic stop initiated for an License Plate Recognition hit. Hughson was processed and released on his own recognizance.

Saturday, March 20

Arcade – At around 12:05 p.m., following a traffic stop initiated for an LPR hit, the operator, Alexia L. Witt, 21, of Springville, was charged with operating while the registration was suspended. Witt was also allegedly found to be in possession of one cartridge of concentrated cannabis. She was subsequently additionally charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree. Witt was processed and released on her own recognizance, and is to appear in court on April 29.

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Sunday, March 21

Boston – Domonique L. Hoskins, 27, of Buffalo was charged with operating a motor vehicle when the license or registration was suspended and circumventing an interlock device-operating without a device. She was issued an appearance ticket