

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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CURBSIDE BIKE 'N BREW

This time of year is typically packed full of fun events bringing the community together. The recent pandemic has put a halt to many of these, which can put a damper on summer.

While our typical Bike 'n Brew format of bringing hundreds of people together with beer samples isn't possible this year, that isn't stopping us from continuing to hold Bike 'n Brew, even if it will look a little different.

We're excited to introduce Curbside Bike 'n Brew! This version of our annual event still includes awesome beer and fun.

Attendees will purchase a ticket to pick up a "package" full of cans of local craft beer, swag, coupons, and games. Ticket sales begin July 18 and packages will be picked up Thursday, August 27.

FLEX will interact with attendees through live videos the week after

the pickup, with tasting information, interviews with brewers, fun facts, and more.

We're excited about the amount of community support we already have, in the form of sponsorships and participation. This year may be different, but it will be just as good of a time!

For more information and to purchase tickets once available, visit ohfbikenbrew.org.



TICKET SALES BEGIN: JULY 18

PICKUP: AUGUST 27

OHFBIKENBREW.ORG

"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

Professional Development Tip of the Month: Mentorship

By Ashley McCauley

A mentor is someone who you can depend on for unbiased advice and guidance. A mentor brings clarity to your biggest life decisions. My first boss, Ron Shoup, has been my lifelong mentor. He is someone I trust and I admire his ability to make me think differently about situations.



bank where I worked at 10 p.m. He took that opportunity to remind me of one of the most important life lessons: “Work will always be there tomorrow, but your loved ones will not. You should go home.”

I have found a mentor is critical to my future success and professional development, especially while navigating complicated career decisions that ultimately impact my personal life. You may be only thinking about tomorrow, but a great mentor will help you plan to reach your long term goals.

Growth

I have never made a career decision without asking for my mentor’s advice. His guidance helped set me on my career path. One night, my mentor was driving past the

As a young professional with career and sales goals, it’s easy to get consumed by numbers on spreadsheets and market share reports. I’m competitive by nature and I thought I enjoyed looking at the numbers daily (sometimes hourly).

Ron knew I needed something different. I’ll forever be grateful for his advice on a career change from banking to insurance. For me, it was a move that almost instantly gave me a new family! #TeamRossbacher is a real family and I’ve never been happier to go to work on Monday. Without Ron’s encouragement and boost of confidence, I may have never stepped out of my comfort zone and found a career that changed my life.

Expectations and Roles

Don’t force a mentoring relationship. I worked for a company that teamed you up as a mentor to another employee who may have had less experience. It didn’t work because a mentor and mentee relationship has to be built on mutual trust and respect. A mentor should be someone who has inspired you by their work ethic, drive, and dedication to employees. A great mentor will feel invested in the future success of their mentee. When looking for a mentor first ask—who inspires you to be better? It’s important to pick someone who not only is invested in your career, but your entire future which includes your personal life.

Becoming a Mentor

Experience is a huge factor in what makes a mentor invaluable. They may have faced the same choice as you at one time or another. You can benefit from that or learn from their mistakes. I hope to one day have the years of experience behind me that will help someone make some of the biggest changes in their lives, too.

Thanks Ashley, for the tips!

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Join us in welcoming **Jennifer Kissell** to FLEX! Jen, a native to Oil City, is the Aquatics Director at the Oil City YMCA.

She loves this area and enjoys the way she can continue to help the community thrive through her work and investment in Venango County.

Jen has a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and some of her personal achievements include being a 17 time National Champion in YMCA Masters Swimming and earning her YMCA Branch Executive Leadership Certification.

In the future, she would like to use her certifications and skills to become a branch executive of a YMCA. This is one way she feels led to invest in her community and help it grow.

In her free time, she loves swimming on a master's team where she sees personal and team growth, coaching the youth YMCA swim team, and spending time with her two kids. She also enjoys going out and running on the many trails in the area.

She is excited to be a part of FLEX so she can continue to be an active part of the community. Jen is also looking forward to building relationships with other young professionals as they invest in their careers and the area they all call home.

Member(s) Highlight: Heather & Jessica



Heather Hondel and Jessica Wilson are back at the Chamber as summer interns!

This is Heather's third summer at the Chamber. She helps with the monthly newsletter, coordinates the Oil Heritage Festival (OHF) Basket Raffle, runs the Chamber and OHF Facebook page, edits website pages, among many other duties. She will be a senior at Grove City College and is graduating a semester early with a degree in Entrepreneurship.

Jessica is at the Chamber for a second year and helps mostly with FLEX and Be Here, especially social media and graphic design. She graduated a year early from Geneva College with a degree in Communication, and recently accepted a position at WebFX, a marketing company in Harrisburg.

Congratulations to both Heather and Jessica for graduating early! They are huge assets to the Chamber team and we're excited to have them with us another month. Although you won't "see" them at upcoming events, they'll be continuing to help behind the scenes with FLEX initiatives.

West Park Rehab

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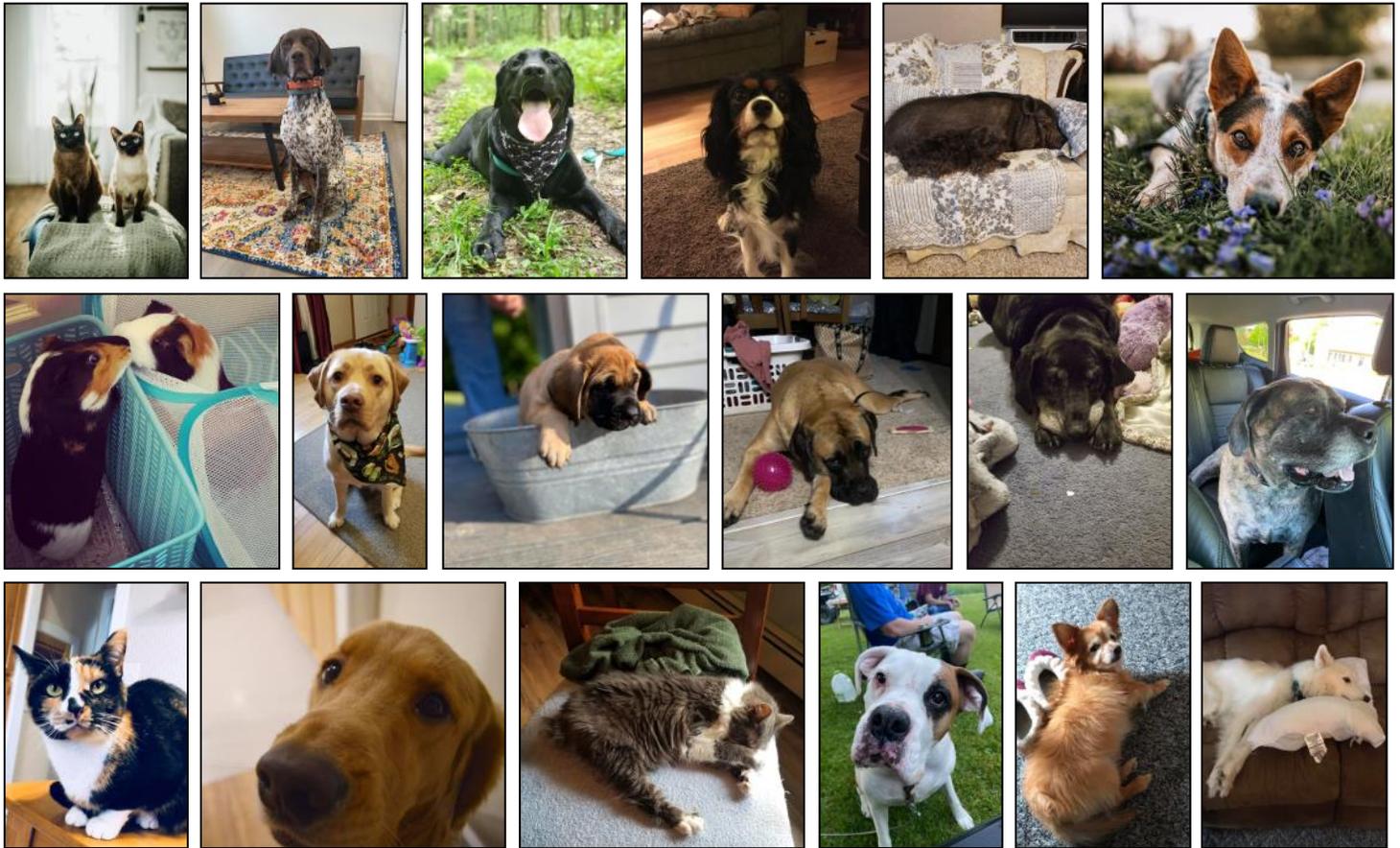



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Local young professionals sure have some cute pets!

Thanks for sharing your pet photos: Alexa, Ashley, Cheyenne, Deanna, Kat, Kurtis, Lyndsey, Megan, Nicole, Randy, Sarah, Saxon, Stephanie, and Tessa



Have a pet photo to share?
Comment on our Facebook post at [facebook.com/VenangoFLEX](https://www.facebook.com/VenangoFLEX).

OUR MISSION

FLEX represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning ourselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development, and networking.

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

In-person events and meetings have been postponed. We'll share updates about future virtual meet-ups in our weekly email and social media. We also plan to share a poll on Facebook, soon, for ideas for future meet-ups!

Are you on our email list? Click the button that says "Join the FLEX Email List" at the bottom of the page at [venangoflex.org](https://www.venangoflex.org) to be added.

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