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History and hot cocoa make for sweet fun in Elmore

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Locals gather in front of the Elmore Historical Barn before hiking down the trail with Park District of Ottawa County staff. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

BY SHERI TRUSTY

Sometimes, the Park District of Ottawa County delves deeply into community projects like planning inland trails that help provide park accessibility or partnering with communities to improve natural spaces. But sometimes, the park district staff just pops into a community with their arms full of fun.

Participants look over their Bingo cards during the Hot Cocoa Walk in Elmore on Jan. 27. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

Fun was the theme when Park District of Ottawa County Executive Director Jannah Wilson and Administrative Specialist Sara Hill visited Elmore to offer a Hot Cocoa Walk down the North Coast Inland Trail. The event was hosted in collaboration with Elmore Historical Society (EHS).

Dozens of people showed up at Depot Park, where they played a mobile game of Bingo as they walked down the trail. When they returned, they enjoyed a hot cocoa bar in the EHS Historical Barn and visited the Elmore Historical Railroad Club depot and the Elmore Log Cabin.

A hot chocolate bar awaited walkers during the Hot Cocoa Walk. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

As Hot Cocoa Walk participants walked the trail, EHS Secretary Carolyn Neff built a hot and cozy fire in the log cabin. The cabin, which was built in 1864, was the former home of Harris-Elmore School teacher Mattie Heckman, who was born in the cabin in 1893. Thanks to the collaboration between the park district and the historical society, the Hot Cocoa Walk gave local residents the opportunity to engage in family fun with their neighbors and learn a bit about Elmore history.

Elmore Historical Society Secretary Carolyn Neff stands outside the Elmore Log Cabin moments after lighting a fire in its fireplace. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

"We're hosting the park district today," Neff said. "They have been at many of our events in the past, and they've already reserved a booth at our Portage River Festival in June."

More information on the Park District of Ottawa County can be found at www.ottawacountyparksoh.org. More information on Elmore Historical Society can be found on the Elmore Historical Society Facebook page.

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FEBRUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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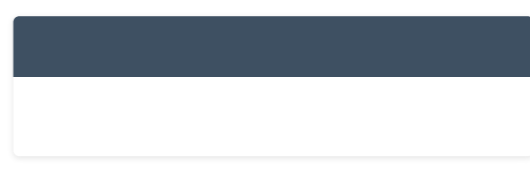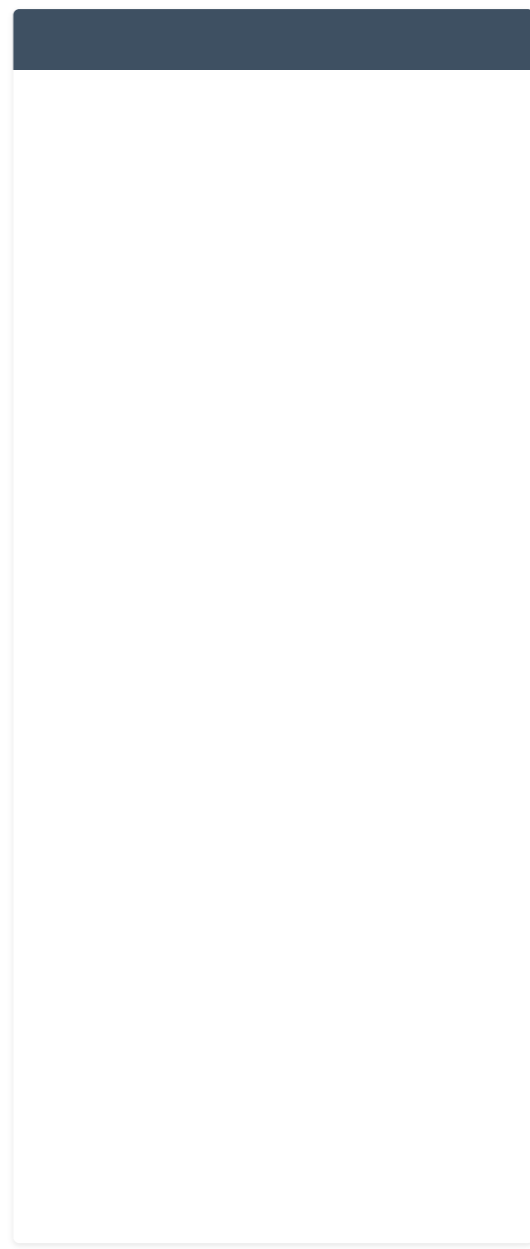Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

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