

Broadway Games in Bangor Makes A Come Back After Fire

By Michael Ortoski / Broadway Games

BANGOR - John has been a board game enthusiast since childhood, and when he and his business partner found the chance to open Broadway Games in Bangor, they jumped at it. Their store became a community hub for board games, card games, and more. But after two years, disaster struck in 2023—a fire from an upstairs apartment caused massive damage, leaving the store condemned and destroying over \$1,000,000 worth of inventory. Due to an insurance oversight, only a small portion of the damage was covered.

Despite this setback, John was determined to stay in the Slate Belt area. By chance, he found an abandoned American Legion building for lease. The owner agreed to renovate it, setting the stage for the new Broadway Games location. Soon after, John discovered the Slate Belt Rising Commercial Subsidy Lease program, which provided crucial financial support during the transition.

John stated the program was incredible for him, it granted him financial freedom as he set up his new store after the devastating loss and allowed him not to stress about paying his two employees that help greatly when it comes to running and setting up the store. John said, "It's not just the money, it's having the help and the support from the town level. Brian was right in the local offices. So any questions you have, about signage or how to get permits

and everything else, I found out about those processes from him."

Broadway Games isn't just about games; it's about community. "It's great because we have kids who will come in and play a Disney game and we have their parents coming in playing Magic, which is the same game they've been playing since the mid 90s. We'll have teenagers at a table playing a game with 50 year olds, and everybody is getting along. It's really a beautiful thing; games cross generations and fosters interaction. You're sitting at a table with one to six people, and you're having conversations." Check out Broadway Games on Facebook and visit them at 11 S Main Street in Bangor!

Bloom For Women To Host Town Hall Meeting To Discuss Human Trafficking In Slate Belt Region

By Michael Ortoski

LEHIGH VALLEY, Pa - Bloom for Women has announced that they will be holding a town hall meeting focused on human trafficking in partnership with numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The meeting, focused on human trafficking in the Slate Belt region of Pennsylvania, is scheduled for September 12, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Look Out Fire Company in Pen Argyl, Pa.

Bloom for Women is an organization that provides a safe space and empowers women survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Bloom offers emergency response, a two-year residential program, pregnant survivor services, and an independent living program in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania.

"The Slate Belt Regional Police Department, in conjunction with our local, state and federal partners recognize that human trafficking is a subject that is deeply concerning for communities across the Commonwealth, as well as nationally," said the department's Chief

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