

Open this Season: The Hideaway & The EMAA

Eagles Mere has always been a unique place: one where people come together to make special things happen. From George Lewis and his glass factory to the originators of the Eagles Mere Association and Water and Fire Companies, the Conservancy, the Eagles Mere Friends of the Arts, and the Eagles Mere Athletic Association - each organization was formed by an individual or group of individuals who shared a passion or concern about preserving and protecting this mountaintop and who put their time and funds into doing something about it.

The EMAA Board of Directors and staff, together with a committed organizing committee including Barb Powers, Betsi Way, Richard Johnson, Don Lundy, Mark Stitzer, and Dana DiCarlo could not be more thrilled to share that the Eagles Mere spirit continues to thrive and benefit us all. Due to the incredible generosity and passion of a small group of public-spirited community members, a new property is open for community use, and the EMAA has a new home base! The former Hayes property (next door to the Beach and across from the Field of Dreams) is now The Hideaway – leased by the EMAA with expenses covered by generous donors to provide a comfortable, attractive community hub, especially for our pre-teens and teens.

The Hideaway is ideally located to offer all the traditional activities we love, and is ready to host newly-imagined EMAA programming: the T-Shirt Shop will be relocated to the Hideaway, as will all activities that formerly took place in the DeWire Center, such as Teen Nights, drama workshops, arts and crafts, speech nights, movie nights, and more. Rainy days have never looked so promising as they do with the EMAA Hideaway. Rain? No problem! Head on over and enjoy a game of ping pong, pool, or foosball, or spend some time on a puzzle or board game until the showers subside.

Meeting rooms will soon be available at the Hideaway for EM community organizations, and those working from the mountaintop who need a dedicated space for an important call – we want The Hideaway to be used and enjoyed by the community at-large when EMAA scheduling allows, both in and out of season.

Staff offices, training and housing space for the Tennis Pro are all huge wins from a logistics perspective, and there's a tennis/pickleball court for games close to the Beach. There will be more information to come regarding play when the court is ready.

The Hideaway is not just providing a (very nice) space for things. It quite literally creates an opportunity that has long been the wish of many in our community: the chance to have a comfortable, attractive hub, especially for our pre-teens and teens - one whose mission is modeled after the historic Allegheny when it was the home of the EMAA, and where teens gathered regularly for a variety of social events and activities.

The past year saw a group of community members building on a shared vision - finding common ground around our sense of community and our children. We are dedicated to making this vision a reality in Eagles Mere, and we can't wait to see you and your families enjoying The Hideaway!