

Little Switzerland headed for auction block

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SLINGER — A family-run business that has spanned more than 65 years and three generations is coming to a close in August as the auction hammer strikes on the Little Switzerland property.

A message posted on the popular ski hill's Web site (www.littleswitz.com) by owner Jay Herte reads in part: "The Herte's are offering Little Switzerland for sale - if we sell it you will know by seeing this offer being retracted or removed."

Attempts by the Daily News to reach Herte were unsuccessful.

According to a village history, Herte's grandfather, Ed Herte, opened Little Switzerland, 105 Cedar Creek Road, on Dec. 7, 1941. Crystal chandeliers found in the Bavarian Bar are from the old Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago and a round copper fireplace was made out of what once was a vat from Slinger's Storck Brewery, the history states.

The sale comes as a surprise to staff at the Village Hall, especially after a sign advertising an Aug. 17 real estate auction at Little Switzerland appeared June 29 alongside Highway 41.

"At this point, it's news to us," said Village Administrator Maureen Murphy.

She said the village has not been approached with any proposals for future uses, but adds that staff would be willing to discuss possibilities for the property, which is currently zoned for park and recreational use.

According to the sign, the auction will be run by the Badger Corp, a Theresa-based firm that specializes in commercial and real estate auctions. The auction will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 17.

Information on the auction can be found on the Internet at www.badgerauction.com.