

House Candidates At Next Breakfast

Control Of Congress In The Balance

Political analysts believe a handful of New York's 26 House races could hold the key to which party controls the U.S. Congress next year and the candidates in two of the more closely watched campaigns will be at the Chamber's next breakfast meeting on Oct. 15.

The breakfast is scheduled from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the Wiltwyck Golf Club, 404 Steward Lane in Kingston.

The candidates who will be appearing include incumbent U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan, D-Gardiner, (NY-18), and his opponent Republican Alison Esposito of Goshen. Rep. Marc Molinaro, R-Catskill, (NY-19) will also be appearing but his Democratic challenger Josh Riley of Ithaca has declined our invitation.

Ryan, a former tech entrepreneur, U.S. Army veteran and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point served as Ulster County executive prior to his election to Congress in a 2022 special election. Ryan's priorities include fighting inflation, protecting abortion rights, tackling crime, safeguarding the environment and increasing resources for mental health and addiction recovery.

Esposito served in the New York City Police Department for nearly 25 years and rose to the rank of deputy inspector and commanding officer of the 70th Precinct. She ran for Lieutenant Governor on a ticket with former U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin in 2022. Her priorities include bringing down inflation, fighting crime, advocating for military and veterans affairs and seniors.

New York's 18th Congressional District includes the city of Kingston and the towns of Rosendale, Marbletown, Rochester, Gardiner, Lloyd, Esopus, Marlborough, Plattekill, Shawangunk in Ulster County, along with the village and town of New Paltz parts of the town of Wawarsing and village of Ellenville. Orange County and a portion of southern Dutchess are also in the district.



Pat Ryan (NY18)



Alison Esposito (NY18)



Marc Molinaro (NY19)

Molinaro was elected to the Tivoli board of trustees at 18 and has had a long career in public service, including a run for NYS Governor in 2018. He also was mayor of Tivoli and served in the Dutchess County Legislature and state Assembly before becoming County Executive. Molinaro said he would attack the problems of inflation, mental health, and opioids, help solve America's energy crisis, and support veterans, seniors, and Israel.

Riley, an attorney, is a former staffer for the late U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey and ex-U.S. Sen. Al Franken. Prior to attending law school, he served as a policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Labor. Riley said he would champion equality for all, cut middle-class taxes, create opportunity for people with disabilities, protect abortion rights, empower labor, end gun violence, enhance public

education, and expand access to health care.

New York's 19th Congressional District includes Rosendale, Marbletown, Rochester, Shawangunk, part of Gardiner, Wawarsing, Hurley, Olive, Shandaken, Hardenburgh, and Denning. The district also includes all of Columbia and Greene counties, most of Rensselaer County, and all of Otsego County, Delaware, Sullivan, Broome, Tompkins, and Chenango counties.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a great way to stay on top of current events and connect with other local business leaders and are open to Chamber members as well as the general public. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door for Chamber members, \$40 for non-members. Reservations are required. Call (845) 338-5100 or register online at www.UlsterChamber.org.

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Maritime Museum Hosts Mixer

You'll Want To Get On Board

"More Than a Museum."

That's the motto of the Hudson River Maritime Museum (HRMM), which will host the Chamber's next Networking Mixer from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. Oct. 9 in Kingston's historic Rondout. The sponsor is Naccarato Insurance.

"This will be our third time holding a Chamber Mixer," said Bob Burhans, the Treasurer of the Museum's Board of Trustees. "We want to give the business community of Ulster County the opportunity to come and see our campus and experience our museum."

"It will be a beautiful night down on the Rondout. We have a great campus. We're right on the Rondout Creek and it's really a great backdrop to sit and relax and have some conversations with friends."

Burhans said the HRMM will be open for tours during the Mixer. The museum features hundreds of items, including works of art and artifacts, historic vessels and other exhibits highlighting Kingston's maritime history. The museum has more than 1 million artifacts to support research on the Hudson River, and much of it is available digitally through New York Heritage.

"The museum is open year round with an evolving lineup of themed exhibits alongside items in our permanent collections," he said. "There's always something new down there."

However, as the motto says, the organization is more than its impressive museum. For example, HRMM will offer free rides on

Solaris, the organization's solar-powered boat, out to the Kingston Lighthouse. Solaris operates May through October with specialty-themed cruises on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River. HRMM is a popular destination for visitors, ranking high on Trip Advisor, as is Kingston's Rondout Lighthouse. Guided tours of the historic Rondout Lighthouse are accessible only via Solaris. The 1915 lighthouse—owned by the city of Kingston and operated by HRMM—is one of only seven remaining on the Hudson River and is open May to October.

Meanwhile, the Wooden Boat School at the HRMM offers introductory and intermediate courses in woodworking, boat building and traditional crafts.

"The wooden boat school is going great guns," Burhans said. "If you would like to learn how to do woodworking, if you'd like to build your own canoe, or if you would just like to build a shaker stool, we have classes down there. I've actually taken a few myself. It's amazing what you can do with someone teaching you who is very, very adept at woodworking."

"Everybody thinks woodworking is a hammer and a nail, but there's a lot of measurements and science that goes into it when you're building something. You have to know angles so you can miter things ... and build to a set of plans."

The HRMM is also the only accredited US

Sailing school in the Hudson Valley and offers youth and adult sailing classes, as well as occasional US Sailing instructor certification courses.

Burhans said HRMM also delivers programs to students from BOCES as part of Place Corps' nine-month fellowship program, and their education and outreach includes field trips for local schoolchildren, workshops, boat tours and in-class programs.

HRMM's docks are also available for any transient boaters in need of overnight or short-term docking, and often host visiting vessels like the tall ship, Amistad.

The museum was established in 1979 and "preserves, interprets, and celebrates the maritime history, traditions, industries, and communities of the Hudson River and its tributaries," according to the organization's website.

HRMM has grown over the years from a small museum to an organization with an annual budget of \$1.2 million and an impressive campus that has grown along with the revitalization of the Kingston waterfront.

"We located to the Rondout Creek in 1983, so we were ahead of the trend," said Burhans, who has been on the Board of Trustees for 15 years. "We are proud to have been at the

forefront of this neighborhood's resurgence and that the Museum has evolved into a vital community resource and popular heritage destination for thousands of visitors each year." HRMM, located at 50 Rondout Landing in Kingston, can be reached at (845) 338-0071 or hrmm.org. For more information, email info@hrmm.org.

Chamber Mixers are a great way to network and promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. This free networking event is open to Chamber members and prospective members. Reservations are a must and can be made by calling the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or by registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

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28th Buy Local Expo A Huge Success

Networking Event Sells Out - Attracts Large Crowd

We live in a digital world, but Chamber President Ward Todd reminded the crowd at this year's sold-out Buy Local Expo to get off their computers and phones and engage with others. "You're going to see today the real value of face-to-face relationships," Todd said in welcoming everyone to the Diamond Mills Hotel & Conference Center in Saugerties. "There's nothing better. There's nothing more lasting. These are the kinds of relationships that make this community so special." Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger struck a similar chord and revealed that she has sometimes chided family members for shopping online. "We have so many of these goods and services locally," Metzger said. "It's just become kind of automatic for people to [shop online] because of the convenience, but we need to be supporting our local economy and there's nothing that replaces that face to face with our own community and our own businesses." "Ulster County is about buying local. That is what we're about, that is who we are, and that is really the driver of our economy. It's a truism. We're always saying that local businesses are the backbone of our economy, but they are. That's the reality. Whenever we shop locally, it has a huge multiplier effect on our



local economy, which employs so many of our fellow residents." This year's Buy Local Expo, the 28th in Chamber history and billed as the county's largest networking event, drew about 100 local businesses, non-profits and community groups from noon to 4 p.m. on Sept. 18. Calling the Ulster Chamber the "best Chamber of Commerce in the country," Board of Directors Chairman Alan Roberts thanked the sponsors and businesses for another sold-out event.

"Not only is the Expo sold out this year, but we've been sold out earlier than ever," he said.

Town of Saugerties Supervisor Fred Costello called it a "point of pride" for Saugerties to host the Expo and "celebrate the economic fabric" of Ulster County. Presenting Sponsor John Naccarato of Naccarato Insurance and Diamond Mills owner Tom Struzzieri also praised Saugerties with Struzzieri calling it a "vibrant and great community" to raise a family and own a business.

"We feel so lucky and love to share it with you all," Struzzieri said. "Ulster County is a great place to do business and as you look around, you can see that."

Todd added, "We could not be happier with the reception we've had and the wonderful partnership we've developed with Diamond Mills."

After the official Ribbon Cutting to open the Expo, those with booths were eager to show off their wares, while crowds descended all afternoon to learn about area businesses, watch demonstrations and discuss prospective business. Networking was the focus of the day.

WMC Health | HealthAlliance Hospital, one of the Expo's Welcoming Sponsors, had a full team on hand at its booth, including Dr. Manisha Holmes, section chief of adult epilepsy at WMC Health. She and marketing manager Christopher Metts shared information about epilepsy and stroke awareness and let the public know about the local hospital's stroke center.

"We've really been expanding all of our neurology programs, but to me, raising epilepsy awareness and letting the community know that we have various ways we can get seizures under control is vital," Holmes said. "No one should be living with untreated seizures."

"Seeing an epilepsy specialist can be really helpful in trying to get medications optimized, as well as other treatments. The more people know about this and can seek help earlier and get treatment

faster is important. Preventive measures are also important, especially for stroke. We're here with that information."

The company named Business of the Year for 2024, Callahan Industries of East Kingston, also highlighted how vital it is to the county's infrastructure.

Jason Ilgner, a sales associate with Callahan, noted that Diamond Mills itself and the parking lot, along with many roads in the county, feature material produced by the company. Callahan operates a quarry and blacktop plant in East Kingston.

"It's important for us to be here to show what we contribute to the community," Ilgner said. "We're a leading aggregate and asphalt supplier. If you go on any rail trail or any road here in Ulster County, there's a good chance that our product is underneath you."

Ten Broeck Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, a newly renovated 258-bed facility in Lake Katrine, had a booth to highlight its work. Ten Broeck earned Ulster County's Business of the Year Award in 2023 from the Chamber.

"A lot of people have questions about long-term care and getting their loved ones the help they need," said Elizabeth Vertullo, the facility's Admissions Director. "We also offer physical and occupational therapy and speech therapy. We're just here today to answer all those questions."

The Chamber also honored several booths for their creativity and originality. The winners included:

- BEST IN SHOW – FIRST PLACE - People's Place
- BEST IN SHOW – SECOND PLACE - Adams Fairacre Farms
- BEST IN SHOW – THIRD PLACE - Phoenicia Diner
- MOST ORIGINAL BOOTH DESIGN - Normann Staffing
- MOST CREATIVE GIVEAWAYS - RBT CPAs
- BEST NEW EXHIBITOR - MyKingstonKids
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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Wednesday October 9 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Hudson River Maritime Museum

50 Rondout Landing | Kingston, NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Naccarato Insurance

Tuesday October 15 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting Meet the Congressional Candidates (NY18 & NY19)

Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY
\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At The Door
\$40 Non-Members

Sponsor: Hudson Valley Credit Union

Thursday October 24 | 5:30 pm Cocktails 6:30 pm Dinner

Business Recognition Awards Celebration

Diamond Mills Hotel & BLACKBARN Hudson Valley
25 S. Partition Street | Saugerties, NY
Join us to honor this year's Award Recipients
Tickets \$125 per person

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Thursday November 7 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Tasca Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram, Fiat of Kingston

129 Route 28 | Kingston, NY
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More Info and Registration UlsterChamber.org
Questions (845) 338-5100

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Bad Acting For A Good Cause

Kingston Kiwanis Kapers Set For Oct. 17-19

The folks at the Kiwanis Club of Kingston don't mind admitting they're a bunch of bad actors. They consider their goof-ups at the annual Kiwanis Kapers as a badge of honor, especially considering that all the money raised from the show goes directly toward area children's programs and scholarships for Kingston High School students.

"We're amateurs, and we make it known that we're amateurs," said Kingston Kiwanis President Steve Mazzei. "We literally only practice for about four days. The show is a parody and is meant to be funny, so we have a blast performing."

No doubt, all that bad acting and buffoonery do a lot of good. In 2024, the club gave out \$22,000 in scholarships to college-bound seniors, and over the years, more than \$800,000 has been awarded, according to Mazzei.

The Kingston club's mission aligns with the international one, which is to "empower communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children," he said.

Each club comes up with unique ways to raise money for worthy causes, and the Kiwanis Kapers is both a creative and fun project that has been entertaining local audiences for more than 75 years, Mazzei added.

While the theme of this year's Kiwanis Kapers is still under wraps, the curtain opens on Oct. 17 and runs through Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Elementary School, 67 Wall St., Kingston.

Mazzei said the 50 or so members expected to participate can't wait to get their hands on the script written and directed by Kiwanis member and Kingston attorney Steve Klein, who, in past years, has produced such farces as "The Godbrother," "Fifty Shades of Grey Hair" and last year's "Ladies of the 80's."

Mazzei said the show is one of the club's most anticipated events of the year. The other is the springtime Kingston Classic featuring a 10K and 5K race and a 1.5-mile run/walk. In April, the 40th annual Kingston Classic drew 550 runners and upwards of 80 volunteers.

"It really is our biggest fundraiser of the year," Mazzei said. "We took it over about 10 years ago. It takes a village to make the event happen each year."

A big part of that village is the business community. Once a year, the club solicits sponsorships from area businesses to pull off the Kingston Classic, the Kapers and the Kiwanis' annual summer golf tournament.



Each function gets a share of the yearly sponsorships, and all the money raised from those events goes back out into the community.

The Kingston Kiwanis, a Chamber member for 25 years, does a lot more than just scholarships. It hosts an annual holiday party at Brookside School, a preschool in Cottekill run by The Arc Mid-Hudson and gives generously

to the Children's Home of Kingston. It also supports local literacy initiatives, including book fairs at elementary schools. Last year, the Kiwanis donated 2,600 books to George Washington Elementary School.

The Kiwanis also participates in many service projects throughout the year like the Kingston Clean Sweep; Project Santa (a People's Place fundraiser); Scouting for Food and The Salvation Army's annual red kettle campaign.

Even though the focus of Kiwanis is children, the Kingston club also hosts a senior dinner each year around the holidays.

President-Elect Ann Papelian said Kingston Kiwanis has been around for 103 years, and service is at the heart of the club, which meets the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Christina's restaurant, 812 Ulster Ave. in Kingston.

As far as the upcoming Kapers, expect some surprises, said Papelian, who noted that several prominent members from the community have made cameos over the years, including Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Kingston Police Chief Egidio Tinti, former Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack and even Chamber President Ward Todd, who was a Kiwanian in the 1990s.

Papelian hinted that this year's show is rumored to be Christmas-themed, but whatever direction Steve Klein goes with the script, the audience can expect to laugh hard and often.

"Oh, my goodness," she said. "We often wonder how his mind works, or what makes him tick. Sometimes, there's even a little perversion in there as well as humor. We have to tell him, 'I don't think you can get away with this.' The bottom line is if you don't laugh, there's something wrong with you."

Kingston Kapers will take place Oct. 17-19 at George Washington Elementary School, 67 Wall St., Kingston. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$7 for seniors. For more information, go to k1909site.kiwanis.org.

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LIZZIE VANN BEARVILLE CENTER
- Business of the Year
CALLANAN INDUSTRIES
- Small Business of the Year
BRAD'S BARN & GAZEBOS
- Tourism Business of the Year
PHOENICIA DINER
- Commitment to the Community
HUDSY
- Emerging Young Leader
RYAN NACCARATO HUDSON VALLEY AMBITION
- The Heritage Award
VILLAGE PIZZA
- Chamber Champion
BILL CALDERARA ULSTER SAVINGS BANK
- Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award
MERLE BORENSTEIN