

Campaign '24 In Full Swing Breakfast Features Assembly, Senate Hopefuls

Candidates for two state races have been invited to the Chamber's next networking breakfast on Sept. 26, right in the heart of 'Campaign 24.

The breakfast, scheduled from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus in Kingston, is expected to feature three of the four candidates for the 103rd Assembly and 41st Senate districts.

"We think it's important for our members to stay abreast of state issues," Chamber President Ward Todd said. "We are grateful that these candidates would take time to share their visions with us about the future of Ulster County and the state."

The Senate race in the 41st Senate District pits incumbent Saugerties Democrat Michelle Hinchey against Patrick Sheehan, a Rhinebeck realtor.

Senator Hinchey was born and raised in Saugerties before graduating in 2009 from the Industrial and Labor Relations School at Cornell University. A former executive in the technology and media fields before entering politics, Hinchey was elected to the New York State Senate in 2020, making history as the youngest woman to represent an upstate district.

Sheehan is a town of Ulster resident, former prosecutor and volunteer firefighter. A graduate of Boston College and

Albany Law School, Sheehan ran unsuccessfully against Sarahana Shrestha in 2022.

The 41st Senate District includes most of Ulster and Northern Dutchess counties and all of Greene and Columbia counties.

In the race for the 103rd Assembly seat, Republican challenger Jack Hayes has agreed to appear, but Democratic incumbent Shrestha has declined.

Hayes is a former Gardiner town supervisor (2002-2003) and county legislator (2010-2011). In recent years, he has run unsuccessfully for the Assembly and Ulster County Executive.

Shrestha lives in Esopus and is a native of Nepal who became a U.S. citizen in 2019. She was elected to the Assembly in 2022 after winning a primary against longtime Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, D-Kingston.

The 103rd Assembly District includes the city of Kingston and the towns of Esopus, Gardiner, Hurley, Kingston, Marletown, New Paltz, Olive, Rosendale, Saugerties, Ulster and Woodstock in Ulster County. The Dutchess County towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck are also part of the district.



Michelle Hinchey



Patrick Sheehan



Jack Hayes

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.

Nuvance Health Is Our September Breakfast Sponsor

Nuvance Health expands reach in Ulster County with new primary care practice in Kingston

Nuvance Health continues to grow its presence in Ulster County with the opening of a new primary care practice at 1240 Ulster Avenue in Kingston. This facility is the latest addition to Nuvance Health's network of primary care locations, joining existing practices in Highland, Modena, Woodstock, and Plaza Road in Kingston. With a mission to enhance access to quality healthcare, Nuvance Health is committed to serving the diverse needs of the local community.

The Kingston Ulster Avenue practice is designed to provide comprehensive care to patients at every stage of life. The practice is staffed by a dedicated team of family medicine physicians who are fluent in both English and

Spanish, ensuring that care is accessible to a broad range of patients. From routine wellness checks and chronic disease management to mental health support and dietary guidance, the practice is equipped to meet the diverse needs of the community.

The facility represents a significant step forward in providing a wide range of health services to the community. It reflects Nuvance Health's commitment to providing reliable medical care and promoting a healthier future.

The opening of this new practice is part of Nuvance Health's broader strategy to offer high-quality healthcare services throughout Ulster County and beyond. Nuvance Health's network extends beyond primary care, offering residents access to a comprehensive range of services across its facilities, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie and

Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck.

Vassar Brothers Medical Center is renowned for its advanced medical services, including specialized care in cardiology, oncology and neurology. The hospital's excellent facilities and expert staff make it a leading healthcare provider in the region. Additionally, the hospital offers a range of outpatient services, making it easier for patients to receive the care they need without the need for extended hospital stays.

Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck complements these services by providing high-quality care in a more intimate setting. The hospital is well-known for its birthing center, which offers a family-centered approach to childbirth, as well as its comprehensive orthopedic services. Patients at Northern Dutchess Hospital benefit from personalized



care and a focus on wellness that is central to Nuvance Health's mission.

As Nuvance Health continues to expand in Ulster County, residents can expect to benefit from an integrated network of care that is focused on meeting their individual health needs. Whether it's a routine checkup at one of the new primary care locations or specialized treatment at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Nuvance Health is committed to providing the highest standard of care to the communities it serves.

Find out more at www.nuvancehealth.org.

A Glorious Golfscape Stone Dock To Host September Mixer

Even though it's already September, there's still plenty of opportunity for great golfing in Ulster County. Autumn, in fact, is one of the most invigorating times of the year to hit the links at Stone Dock Golf Course in the historic hamlet of High Falls.

Surrounded by picturesque trees, fields and woods, Stone Dock gives golfers a view of the Rondout Creek and the tower at the Mohonk Mountain House at the 6th and 7th holes.

Owners Francis and Jennifer O'Donnell are anxious to show off their scenic nine-hole course and Stone Dock Café at the Chamber's next Networking Mixer on Sept. 4th. Village Apothecary of Woodstock is sponsoring the event that runs from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The O'Donnells bought the golf course in 2021 and have worked hard to revitalize it. Last year, they updated the Café, which is open to the public and available for private events. The Café, which has a bright and welcoming vibe, features a menu of comfort foods, including burgers, hand-cut fries, ribs and house-roasted turkey clubs as well as fresh vegetarian and vegan options.

"We are so grateful to have an excellent team: Our manager, Steve, and Chef Chris in the Café and Assistant Superintendent Aidan on the course," said Jennifer O'Donnell. "Many members of the community also pitch in to help."

As for the golf course itself, O'Donnell called it "very laid back."

"We believe that the most important rule of golf is courtesy, not designer clothing, so we show a great deal of hospitality to every guest, and this shows in our great reviews for the Café and course and the increase in business," she said.



"Stone Dock is unusual in many ways. First of all, it is on 68 spectacular acres surrounded by woods, farms, the Shawangunk Mountains and nearly a mile of Rondout Creek. The course has many natural water features running through it, which makes play challenging and fun. Now that we are also running the Stone Dock Café, we can offer a full day of fun for our guests."

One of the things that makes Stone Dock so special is the owners' dedication to cultivating a natural landscape. That includes "wilding" with native grasses in places that are not in play and don't need to be mowed. Stone Dock uses only organic fertilizers and refrains from the use of pesticides as much as possible.

"Most courses use drinking water to irrigate," said O'Donnell, an urban and environmental planner by trade. "We use only reclaimed water, which is one of the many reasons we know how important it is to protect our watershed from dangerous runoff."

O'Donnell credits her husband, a farmer and former Superintendent at Stone Dock, for bringing the course back to life and beautifying the grounds. The couple has further plans to market the property as a venue for special occasions in the coming months.

"We design and build everything ourselves," she said. "We plan to expand our outdoor patio and build a beautiful 20-by-40 pergola that can accommodate large parties. Our outdoor space is lovely, with flowers, a large back lawn, lounge seating, and it features a perfect view of the 9th hole and the sunset."

For the time being, O'Donnell is focused on the Mixer and impressing Chamber guests with golf-cart tours of the property, wine from a local winery and a putting contest for a chance to win gift certificates.

There's also a special golfing package for those who'd like to come early and try out the course - just \$100 for a foursome.

If interested, call the golf course for a tee time (845) 687-7107.

And now that fall is in the air, she's got even bigger plans, including free fall memberships to new 2025 members. "We plan to have 'Glow Golf' three nights in the fall, which is a thrilling walk through our course at night with candles and tiki torches to light the way, so people should follow us on Instagram and Facebook to sign up."

Additionally, be on the lookout for special music nights, karaoke, couples' nights and food-themed movie nights at the café beginning this month.

Stone Dock Golf Course is at 12 Stone Dock Road in High Falls. For more information, go to stonedockgolfcourse.com or call (845) 687-7107.

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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The Best Of The Best

Business Awards Dinner October 24

The Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce will honor nine area business leaders for their exceptional achievements and community support at the annual Ulster County Business Recognition Awards Dinner at Diamond Mills Hotel on Oct. 24th. The event begins at 5:30pm.

Lizzie Vann, owner of the Bearsville Center, is among those being honored. The British-born businesswoman has been named Entrepreneur of the Year.

Vann made her fortune founding (and later selling) the baby food company known as Organix. Looking to start the second chapter of her life, she relocated to Woodstock in 2013 and later bought the 16-acre iconic Bearsville campus in August 2019, sinking \$2.5 million to restore the deteriorated property once owned by music impresario Albert Grossman.

Today, the complex is what Vann calls a "restored jewel." The rebranded Bearsville Center now serves as a premier venue for concerts, rehearsals, recordings, weddings, private parties, corporate events, retreats and memorials.

Her newest project is the former Lasher Funeral Home at 100 Tinker St., which she bought in May 2023. Vann plans to transform the historic Woodstock property once owned by the Lasher family into a cultural center with office and workshop spaces, gardens and a contemplative green space, a cafe, art studio and gallery and workforce housing.

Other honorees at this year's Business Awards Recognition Dinner will include:

Business of the Year:

Callanan Industries, Inc. Peter Callanan founded the company in 1883 as Callanan Home Improvement. Its home base was Bethlehem, N.Y., but as it grew, company officials purchased property at 677 Flatbush Road in East Kingston in 1937 and experienced tremendous growth in the years that followed. Callanan Industries is a leading supplier of paving materials and construction paving services to state, federal, municipal, commercial and private customers. Callanan has won several awards for excellence over the years, including the American Road and Transportation Builders Association Global Award and the Liberty Mutual Excellence Award.

Small Business of the Year:

Brad's Barns & Gazebos, at 903 Route 28 in Kingston, is known for its high-quality Amish-built barns, sheds, garages, pavilions, greenhouses, gazebos, horse barns and run-in sheds. Joseph Charnello purchased the business 19 years ago and has steadily grown it over the years. He employs 11 people and gives back to the community by supporting area nonprofits like the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, the Boys and Girls Club and various youth programs.

Tourism Business of the Year:

Phoenicia Diner at 5681 State Route 28 in Phoenicia, was purchased by Mike Cioffi in 2010 and after a complete restoration, he opened it to rave reviews in 2012. It quickly became a tourist destination and has won numerous awards for its fresh and locally sourced dishes and traditional diner favorites served with a twist. The popularity of the Phoenicia Diner can be at least partially attributable to their successful use of social media, particularly Instagram, where today the Diner has more than 36,000 followers from around the world. The Phoenicia Diner serves 170,000 guests each year.

The Heritage Award:

Village Pizza has been a family-owned staple in Saugerties since 1971 when Sicilian immigrant Gaetano Calcagno first opened it at 87 Market St. He ran it through the 1970s, and his daughter, Lucy, and son-in-law, Al Mazzella, joined the business in the early 1980s. They not only ran it successfully but expanded to other locations. Their son, Rodney, has now stepped in to continue the family tradition and has grown the business to include bars and grills, bagel cafes and mobile catering. His sons, Maximilian and Luca, represent the fourth generation in the longtime family business.

Commitment to the Community Award:

HUDSY, founded in 2017, is one of the first local streaming

platforms in the Hudson Valley, highlighting the stories of the region. The nonprofit employs 15 full- and part-time workers in addition to six paid apprentices. Its mission is to unite and empower the Hudson Valley through impactful storytelling by promoting diversity, providing opportunities, fostering understanding and driving positive change. HUDSY is available for free and features original content and hosts other local filmmakers and creators on its platform.

Emerging Young Leader:

Ryan Naccarato, the founder of Hudson Valley Ambition, has taken the local fitness scene by storm. Three years ago, he founded the fitness boot camp that operates year-round in parks, at the waterfront and other open areas in the region. The 45-minute workouts in sun, rain and snow, are team-oriented and focused, and participants form strong bonds of friendship. Naccarato recently won first place in the Chronogrammys for personal trainer and second place for best gym. He has expanded his offerings by starting a kids' boot camp and online coaching program. Naccarato has also launched his speaking career, taking his message of "unlocking one's potential" to area schools.

Chamber Champion Award:

Bill Calderara, president and chief executive officer at Ulster Savings Bank, has been a longtime supporter of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the many small businesses the Chamber represents. Calderara has more than 30 years of banking experience and has been at the helm of Ulster Savings Bank since 2016. Under his leadership, the bank has been recognized locally and nationally, and he has won numerous professional and community service awards. Calderara was inducted into the SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame as the 2019 Business Person of the Year. In addition to his overall support for the Chamber, Calderara and his team at Ulster Savings Bank annually host the Black Business Community Celebration at their Schwenk Drive branch in Kingston.

Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award:

Merle Borenstein, the founder and former owner of Armadillo Bar & Grill in Kingston's Rondout, has a tremendous passion for brightening the lives of others through good food, charitable work and animal welfare. For more than 40 years, she's given back to the community by serving on the boards of Family of Woodstock,

the YWCA and Ulster County SPCA. Not long after debuting Armadillo in 1987, she worked with the Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church to open the Fare Share Soup Kitchen, the first of its kind in Kingston. Borenstein, who studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Culinary Institute of Technology, also volunteers at the Samadhi recovery center and has served as the vice president of Have a Heart Animal Welfare. She also is involved with Paws Unlimited, a senior dog sanctuary in Kingston.

The awards presentation will take place Thursday, October 24, at Diamond Mills Hotel, 25 South Partition St., Saugerties, starting at 5:30pm. Sponsorship opportunities are available. They include Premier (\$3,500), Platinum (\$2,500) and Diamond (\$1,500).

Those wishing to sponsor the event should contact Chamber President Ward Todd at (845) 338-5100 (Ext. 2) or email Ward@UlsterChamber.org. For more information about this year's celebration or to purchase tickets, call (845) 338-5100 or visit the Chamber website at www.UlsterChamber.org.

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Wednesday September 4 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Stone Dock Golf Course
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There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.
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\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At The Door
\$40 Non-Members
Sponsor: NuVance Health

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

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Jennifer Bogart (Benny's Pizzeria), Nicholas Seaman and Jessica Seaman (both from Sage Provisions), and Taylor Craig (Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union).



Jessica Andradez (Golden Hill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center), Joseph Montalto (RBT CPAs), Gina Paige (Golden Hill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center), Vince Buono (RBT CPAs), and Kristen Saracino (Golden Hill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center).



Christine Vetere (Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel), Moses Balbuena (Old Capitol Supply), and Debra Harris (Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel).



Jim Lamb, Vince Ferraro, and Carl Carlew (all from Hudson Valley Bakery).

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www.lastminutemomcreations.com
Connie Di Stasi - Owner
 Category: Clothing - Retail &/Or Wholesale
 Description: Last Minute Mom Creations offers personalized gifts and apparel that are perfect for busy moms and anyone who wants to express themselves with humor or a touch of irreverence. From graphic tees and sweatshirts to drinkware, find trendy designs or create your own custom message. I also work with many business and sports teams to make apparel with custom logos.

PAWS ON THE GROUND PET SERVICES

180 Glenerie Blvd.
Saugerties, NY 12477
www.pawsonthegroundpetservices.com
William Salerno - Owner
 Category: Pet Care Services
 Description: Pet-Sitting, Dog Walking, cat services, waste pickup, drop-in visits overnight at clients home.

PC CONSTRUCTION

2645 South Road, Suite 3
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
pcconstruction.com
Lu Delgado - Purchasing Manager
 Category: Construction Management
 Description: PC Construction is one of the largest employee-owned construction companies in the country. We focus on delivering a turnkey construction experience to clients. We serve the commercial market by specializing in Medical Facilities, Hospitality, Manufacturing and Education. PC also has an industry leading presence in Water and Wastewater treatment facilities.

THE PIERRE TOUSSAINT GUILD/ THE OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NY

1011 First Ave.
New York, NY 10022
archny.org/ministries-and-offices/cultural-diversity-apostolate/black-ministry
Vincent Coq - Member
 Category: Advocacy
 Description: Since 1976, the Office of Black Ministry was created to address some of the unique spiritual, cultural and social needs of African American. The Pierre Toussaint Guild is an association whose members are devoted to the promotion of the cause for the beatification and canonization of Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

PROVENZANO COURT REPORTING

15 Dunneman Ave.
Kingston, NY 12498
Julie Provenzano - Owner
 Category: Court Reporter
 Description: Certified Court Reporter, responsible for creating word-for-word transcriptions at trials, depositions, administrative hearings, and other legal proceedings.

SAGE ACADEMY OF SOUND

6 Deming Street 2nd Floor
Woodstock, NY 12498
sageacademyofsound.com
Lea Garner - Founder/CEO
 Category: Health & Wellness
 Description: Sage Academy of Sound was founded in 2008 in Woodstock, NY, as an education center for sound healing rooted in a philosophy of respect and kindness. Offering a variety of workshops, events, retreats, and private healing sessions, our programs are designed to elevate the body, mind, and spirit to higher frequencies of wellness. By integrating complementary modalities, we strive to support health and wholeness, guiding our community toward a deeper understanding and appreciation of sound awareness as a pathway to holistic well-being.

WOODSTOCK VOLUNTEERS DAY COMMITTEE DBA: WAIV WOODSTOCK APPRECIATES ITS VOLUNTEERS

68 Plochmann Lane
Woodstock, NY 12498
www.volunteersday.org
Sam Magarelli - Treasurer
 Category: Non-Profit Organizations
 Description: A Day of Gratitude, a day in which we all remember what is good about our community. Woodstock is the only town in America that has a volunteers' day like this one, in which all volunteers both current and retired are thanked. This event is a valentine and a demonstration of our community's appreciation for the considerable acts of kindness, personal generosity, bravery, and community spirit that our volunteers provide us. On Volunteers' Day, the volunteers are treated as the Guests of Honor. A community picnic. Music-Food-Fun for kids-Fireworks!