

County Executive Addresses Chamber Metzger Breakfast Guest On Feb. 25

It's become a tradition of sorts for local business leaders to get an exclusive "State of the County" from the Ulster County Executive each February.

This year, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger will have plenty to discuss when she appears from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 25 at the Wiltwyck Golf Club, 404 Steward Lane in Kingston. Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley is the breakfast sponsor.

"This annual gathering provides an important opportunity for the business community to hear directly from county leadership about priorities for the year ahead, and to engage in dialogue about the issues that matter most to local employers, workers and residents," Metzger said.

Metzger said she will provide a wide-ranging overview of the county's agenda for 2026. She will focus on strengthening the local economy through targeted investments, supporting workforce development in partnership with educational institutions, expanding housing and transportation options and improving access to health and mental health services for residents of all ages.

"These priorities reflect the county's commitment to building resilience and opportunity in the face of both local challenges and broader national headwinds," she said.

Metzger said she will also highlight new initiatives designed to support small businesses, farms and downtown revitalization. She will discuss efforts to grow Ulster County's creative sector and promote tourism in ways that balance economic growth with sustainability

and preservation of the region's natural and cultural assets.

Breakfast attendees will also hear about environmental programs aimed at protecting air and water quality, including what Metzger called innovative partnerships and pilot projects that place Ulster County at the forefront of public health and environmental stewardship.

Metzger said she also plans to address how Ulster is navigating challenges posed by federal policies and rising costs, while continuing to uphold open, transparent and accountable government. She will emphasize the importance of collaboration between public officials, businesses, and community organizations in ensuring that Ulster County remains a place where residents and employers alike can thrive.

This year's breakfast carries special significance because it marks Ulster County's 45th anniversary as a proud member of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chamber has long served as an important partner in advancing economic development and supporting the business community, and the county is proud to celebrate this milestone alongside Chamber members," Metzger said.

A Rosendale Democrat, Metzger formerly served in the New York State Senate,



County Executive
Jen Metzger

representing Ulster and several other Hudson Valley counties, in 2019-2020. Metzger served as a Rosendale town councilwoman from 2013 to 2018 and was the deputy town supervisor from 2010 to 2012. She also chaired the town's environmental commission.

She made history as the first elected female County Executive in Ulster County. Metzger won a special election in 2022 to fill the unexpired term of former Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan, who was elected to Congress. Metzger

ran unopposed in winning a full four-year term in 2023.

Metzger, a former public affairs coordinator for the United Nations, has spoken before the Chamber many times and will certainly be no stranger to the business community.

"Throughout my address, I will reaffirm Ulster County's dedication to creating the conditions for success—ensuring that our county continues to be a place where communities are supported, opportunities are expanded and quality of life is strengthened," she said. "From investments in infrastructure and housing, to programs that nurture entrepreneurship and innovation, to initiatives that protect public health and the environment, our vision is clear: Ulster County is committed to building a thriving future for all."

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a

February Breakfast

February 25

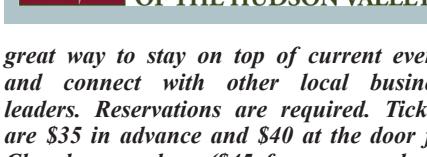
7:30-9:00 am

Wiltwyck Golf Club

404 Steward Lane

Kingston, NY

Sponsor:



great way to stay on top of current events and connect with other local business leaders. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door for Chamber members (\$45 for non-members.) For more information, contact the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

Community Foundations Of The Hudson Valley is February's Breakfast Sponsor

Empowering Philanthropy in the Hudson Valley

Since its founding in 1969, the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has evolved with the region it serves, expanding its reach to meet the changing needs of communities across Ulster, Dutchess, and Putnam counties. Today, CFHV connects generosity with opportunity, helping donors, businesses, and community partners translate vision into lasting impact. Last year, CFHV's 600+ funds distributed more than \$17 million in grants and scholarships to nearly 1100 Hudson Valley recipients.

The foundation's work touches many facets of community life—helping families achieve stability, expanding educational opportunity, improving health and well-being, and sustaining the cultural, environmental, and civic assets that make the Hudson Valley a desirable. By responding to immediate challenges while investing in long-term solutions, CFHV plays a vital role in building a region that is resilient, inclusive, and positioned for future growth.

At its core, CFHV is a trusted partner in philanthropy. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations work with CFHV to establish charitable funds that reflect personal values while addressing real community needs. Whether inspired by the arts, education, or regional prosperity, CFHV provides donors the expertise to turn intention into impact. Through close collaboration with legal, financial, and

community partners, the foundation ensures every contribution is stewarded responsibly and strategically—allowing donors to focus on their priorities while CFHV manages grantmaking and oversight.

CFHV is committed to strengthening the ecosystem that supports healthy, vibrant communities. Through Voices of the Hudson Valley, the foundation helps elevate local perspectives, surface shared priorities, and inform more responsive grantmaking and program development. At the same time, CFHV invests in the development of area nonprofits, offering training and capacity-building support organizations say they need—helping ensure the region's community infrastructure remains strong.

This commitment to leadership and innovation is also reflected in CFHV's forthcoming LIFT program (Local Impact Fund for Tomorrow), an emerging effort focused on strengthening the Hudson Valley's economic vitality and long-term growth. Centered on partnership and opportunity, LIFT reflects CFHV's belief that strategic philanthropy can help communities thrive, businesses succeed, and the region grow stronger together.

CFHV serves as a vital partner for businesses seeking thoughtful ways to reinvest locally. Working with CFHV, business leaders can design customized philanthropic strategies that align with their goals—supporting community priorities, strengthening the workforce, and

contributing to a resilient regional economy.

More than a steward of funds, CFHV is a builder of legacies. Guided by an experienced staff, a Board of Trustees composed of respected local leaders, and regional advisory committees, CFHV brings together deep local knowledge with disciplined stewardship. Together, they advance the foundation's mission to strengthen the Hudson Valley—today and for generations to come.

With CFHV, generosity becomes a catalyst for community strength, economic vitality, and shared prosperity. Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines, making it easier than ever to give back while planning for the future.

Learn how CFHV transforms philanthropic goals into community action at CommunityFoundationsHV.org, and follow the foundation on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to see the impact unfolding across the Hudson Valley every day.



Ulster BOCES Career Academies at iPark 87
300 Enterprise Drive, Kingston, NY

is one of the many steps we need to take to point everyone in the right direction.

"This space is also your space," Harris said of local business owners. "Our adult education program wants to hear from you and offer the trainings that your companies need. The Ulster BOCES Career Academies at iPark 87 is the largest workforce development site in the region, and we want you in the space as often as possible. As you take the tour (at the Mixer), think of all the ways you will use it in the future."

Chamber Mixers are a great way to network and promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. Mixers are open to Chamber Members 21 years of age and older. There is no charge for Chamber Members to attend but reservations are required. Call (845) 338-5100 or register online at www.UlsterChamber.org. Prospective Members interested in attending, please contact Jess Davis (845) 338-5100 x4 or Jess@UlsterChamber.org.

Your Business Deserves the Best

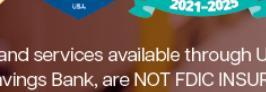
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The Heart Of Business

Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce GUEST COLUMN

by John Mallen - JMC Marketing Communications & PR

There are many books called The Art of Business and even more that pair "art" and "business" in their titles. Not only is Sun Tzu's The Art of War considered a classic in business leadership education, but that title set the stage for many other books in which art referred to mastery in all facets of business such as negotiating, managing, sales, marketing and more.

I recently participated in an Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce business card exchange that led me to marvel about the art of business and how it takes shape in my community of Kingston, New York. The morning session did more than introduce a roomful of organizations. It revealed the heart of our business community.

The event drew 50 members to the Wellness Empowerment Center at People's Place, which offers a food pantry, thrift shop, and community café in addition to its wellness programs. A staff member shared that People's Place served more than 1.5 million meals last year, helping to offset the unwelcome rise in food insecurity. That number alone tells you something about the quality of community we live in.

We were seated in an arc, each member given a fixed amount of time to introduce their organization and its work. Chamber Vice President Jess Davis was the emcee, and a remarkable one. In a display of nimble stagecraft, Jess proceeded unscripted, person by person, to introduce each participant with a brief, fitting and descriptive remark. Anyone else in that role might have leaned on notes. Jess didn't. She knew every person and every organization in the room. It was a skillful demonstration of the art of business.

Even more, the event brought home a quality that defines this Kingston/Ulster County network of for-profit and nonprofit organizations: it is a welcoming environment. Yes, our organizations create value in the marketplace. As for-profits, we charge fees and set prices in exchange for goods and services. As nonprofits, we accept contributions to fund our support of people and animals in need. But underneath those organizational models, the people who own, lead, manage, and staff these organizations show up as neighbors first.

I moved my communications business headquarters here from New York City in 1995. Thirty-one years later, that Chamber of Commerce experience has crystallized for me the notion that we are not just working alongside one another in a very cool part of New York State; we are quietly showing up for one another.

The way each person introduced themselves and their organization wove into a tapestry that revealed this business community is a network of people who see each other, know each other, and though one organization may compete with another, want each other to succeed.

I was present to offer our PR and marketing communications as a force multiplier for people and their organizations. Part of being a good neighbor, in my view, is sharing what I know.

So I'll digress for a quick ad. Here's my pitch! You're welcome to call on me for a free CAFFÉ Consultation — a Communication Assessment / Functional & Feasibility Evaluation. In this strategy session, we'll explore how communications can tell your story, present your brand, and expand your reach. Email John@JmcPR.com or call 917-833-8950.

But my message, like those of other Chamber members, is bigger. I'm your neighbor; we're in this community together. Whether or not it leads to a paid project, I'll do what I can to help. As Jess Davis demonstrated, we amplify one another's efforts and in so doing, help make our city and county a better place to live and work. In the body of community, the art of business becomes the heart of business.

(The next Business Card Exchange will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott on Thursday March 5, 2026, from 9:00 - 10:30 am, sponsored by Hudson Valley Credit Union.)



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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Tuesday February 10 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Ulster BOCES Career Academies at iPark87

300 Enterprise Drive | Kingston NY

There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.

Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Arctop Fiber

Wednesday February 25 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger

Wiltwyck Golf Club

404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY

\$35 Members-Advanced Pay • \$40 Members-At The Door

\$45 Non-Members

Sponsor: Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

Thursday March 5 | 9:00 - 10:30 am

Business Card Exchange

Residence Inn by Marriott

800 Frank Sottile Blvd. | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Chamber Members.

Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Hudson Valley Credit Union

Tuesday March 17 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

56th Annual Peter B. Mathews St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Featuring T. McCann Band

The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus

503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY

Pre-Registration Only

\$35 Members-Advanced Pay • \$45 Non-Members

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**More Info and Registration UlsterChamber.org
Questions (845) 338-5100**

ChamberNews

The official publication of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce is a special advertising section to the Daily Freeman, PO Box 4470, Kingston, NY 12402 – A Media News Group publication

Kevin Corrado, Publisher • Michele Sisco-Martin, Graphic Designer

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DAILY FREEMAN

Getting Away In Style

Camping World Has Something For Everyone

If you listen closely, you'll hear the sandy beaches and majestic palm trees calling. February is prime time to head South for a respite from the cold, and John Glenn has just the way to get you there. Consider a recreational vehicle—a fun way to pack up the family and see the country—said the marketing manager for the Northeast at Camping World of the Hudson Valley.

"Most of our customers take them on vacation, and a lot of people leave during Presidents' Week, so this is a good time. Obviously, we have a spike from April through September, but this is also a time when people do their shopping and research," Glenn said.

Local adventurers can find it all at Camping World of the Hudson Valley at 124 state Route 28 in Kingston. It is the No. 1 RV dealership in Upstate New York and part of the biggest RV dealership in the nation, with more than 200 locations across the country.

Camping World opened in Kingston in 2015. The team there sells about 1,000 RVs a year, Glenn said. The six-acre lot features more than 300 new and pre-owned FVs, including all major brands such as Coleman, Keystone, Fleetwood and Jayco, and every type of camper known to man.

Want a pop-up? They've got it. Need a travel trailer, Class C rig, van camper or Class A motorhome? Glenn said he's got them on his lot.

"If you can dream it, we have it. There are campers as small as 13 feet with bathrooms, bedrooms and kitchens, and nowadays, RVs have everything—showers, lofts, outdoor kitchens and party decks. There's almost no option you can't get. They're almost like tiny houses on wheels," he said.

And it's not just retirees who are drawn to the open road, according to Glenn. "One of the misconceptions is that we mostly cater to the elderly or the retired," he said. "The average age of our customers is somewhere in the low 30s. They've grown up camping as kids, and when they get old enough and have families, they buy their own. As their kids grow, they want bigger units."

Glenn said the travel trailers that come in a wide range of sizes and offer floor plans to accommodate families are the most popular option. Some even have fun features like bunk beds

for the kids. He added that the trade cycle is similar to that of a car, with families choosing a new RV every three years.

"Campgrounds create a social network, and we have something for almost every group," Glenn added. "I've seen hunters buy them to go into remote areas, and, of course, you have your families and retirees."

"It's funny. When you drive down the New York State Thruway, just count how many campers you see. When somebody comes shopping, they say, 'We're going to Myrtle Beach or Nashville or Florida. I used to think it was more cyclical or weather dependent. We used to sell nine or 10 in January. Nowadays, we're selling 40 or 50,' he said.

On top of everything else, Camping World of the Hudson Valley has a store on its campus that sells everything from appliances and grills to trailer hitches and portable heaters.

Glenn said the company is getting set to open a new 14,000-square-foot sales center on the adjacent property it purchased. He expects it to debut in the spring. Camping World is planning a grand reopening in early June.

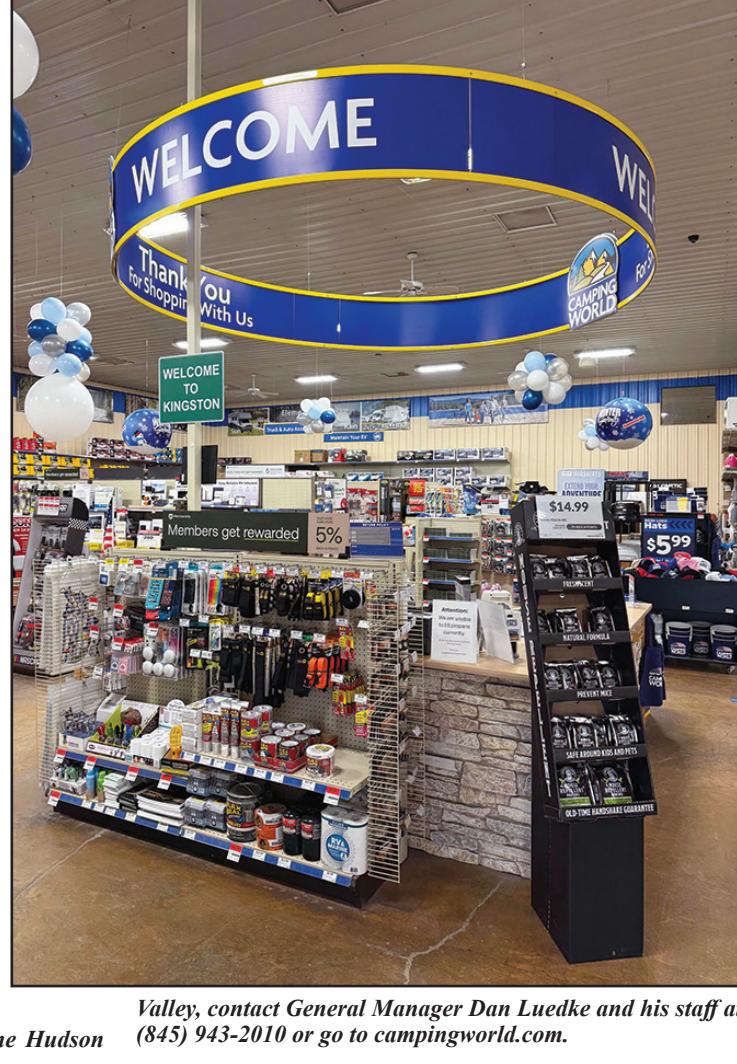
The business has become known for a lot more than the RVs on its lot. It proudly flies a super large patriotic American flag that can be spotted high above the entrance onto the New York State Thruway—something that is intentional, Glenn noted.

"Almost 99 percent of our campers are built in America and sold at American dealerships, so the flag is a great representation of that," he said.

With plenty of winter still ahead, Glenn stressed that now is an ideal time to think about getting an RV.

"Don't wait until you retire to get out and enjoy this great country. We have plenty of options to get you there," he said.

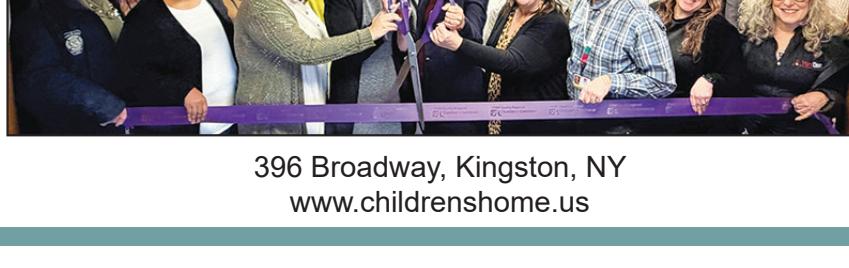
For more information on Camping World of the Hudson



Valley, contact General Manager Dan Luedke and his staff at (845) 943-2010 or go to campingworld.com.

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From supporting NASA and the federal government to working with foreign law enforcement agencies, Amthor's impact spans continents.

Its custom-built tank trucks deliver fuel globally, clean grease traps at Fenway Park and bring water to remote regions lacking access—just a few examples of their wide-ranging applications.

The company has even extended its brand to motorsports through a corporate partnership with Spencer Boyd and Freedom Racing in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series.

Closer to home, Amthor's work is easy to spot. Their heavy-duty tanks are mounted on Kimlin Energy propane trucks and the fleets of local municipalities and townships throughout the region.

What many outside the industry may not realize is that Gardiner is one of Amthor's home bases. The company holds the distinction of being the largest tank truck manufacturer in North America and the second largest in the world.

Amthor produces tanks and accessories for a wide range of industries, including refined fuel, propane, vacuum and septic, portable restroom, water, government, military, and construction.

Every tank is made in the United States, with manufacturing centered at a 125,000-square-foot facility in Gretna, Va.

In 2026, the company will expand further with a new 30-bay, 35,000-square-foot tank installation facility, also in Gretna. Additional assembly takes place at the company's 25,000-square-foot Gardiner plant, which employs 25 people across skilled trades and office roles.

Beyond manufacturing, Amthor provides local repair services for customers using its equipment and builds snowplow trucks for municipalities, townships and villages throughout the region.

"We're more than just a brand," said Brian Amthor, owner and executive vice president. "We're a family-driven tradition that goes back four generations."

That tradition began in 1928, when Ed Amthor opened a small blacksmith shop in Ellenville. His son, William, took over in 1943 and later moved the business to Walden, where he expanded into farm machinery and truck equipment. In 1976, leadership passed to Arnold "Butch" Amthor and his wife, Alice—both of whom remain active in the business today.

Brian Amthor and his brother, David, continued to build on that foundation, guiding the company to new heights. Today, Amthor employs about 125 people across its Gardiner and Virginia locations. Once the new Virginia facility opens, that number is expected to grow to 200 employees. The company produces close to 1,000 trucks annually.

"Through generations of hard work and dedication, we've built more than just trucks—we've built trust, partnerships and solutions that last," said Amthor, who earned his bachelor's

degree from Marist College and a master's in business administration from Liberty University.

Having grown up in the business, Amthor says the company's scale still surprises him at times. "I'm just proud to continue the legacy," he said. "My family came from nothing. They're self-made, and I'm especially proud of that and of the people who work with me."

For Amthor, success isn't determined by profit margins. "I measure success by relationships," he said. "In 1992, the company expanded to Virginia, then a depressed area with limited employment opportunities, and built a factory that created lasting jobs. Being a good corporate citizen is something I strive for every day."

That commitment extends beyond business. Most recently, Amthor founded A Child's Wish Foundation, an initiative that grants wishes to children facing life-altering illnesses—a cause he describes as his proudest achievement.

"Having our name on a NASCAR truck is exciting. Seeing the Peruvian military driving one of our trucks or watching a tank refill an aircraft is impressive," Amthor said. "But at the end of the day, it's about people. I wouldn't be where I am without the people around me."

Amthor Welding, at 20 Osprey Lane in Gardiner, can be reached at (845) 633-8226. For more information, go to amthorinternational.com.



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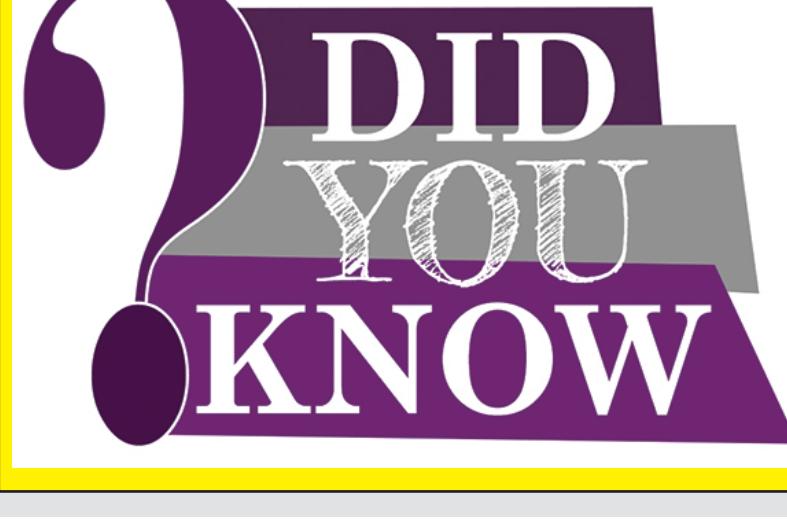
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Be a part of these special pages

The Daily Freeman has partnered with the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce to bring you a monthly publication with specific content from the Chamber President, Board and Members. Support this section while marketing your business to consumers and local business owners!

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