



Grading Kingston City Schools

Padalino Addresses Chamber June 13

The 2023-24 school year will be drawing to a close when Kingston City School District Superintendent Paul Padalino addresses the Chamber's next monthly breakfast meeting on

The breakfast is scheduled for 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave. in Kingston. The sponsor is HealthAlliance Hospital, members of

Padalino, who has now been Superintendent for 13 years, said 2023-24 "has been a very good year" for the district, which is the county's largest with 6,400 students. The district is also one of the county's largest employers.

"There's so much going on," Padalino said. "I think it will be a 'State of the Kingston City School District.' It's going to be a smorgasbord of information. I'm not going to focus on just one topic. It will an update of where we are and where we're going."

"Since the pandemic, we've had a lot of years of fluctuation, and even some unrest, but I think this year, I won't say we're back to normal, but we're back in the swing of things. Kids have been back to school for a couple of years and they're not transitioning from technology and that kind of thing.'

"I think one of the other things I will hit on is post-pandemic education. What's going on post-pandemic? What's changed? What have we learned?"

Padalino is also expected to take business leaders on a video tour of the Kingston High School campus to highlight the results of the recently completed \$137-million-dollar renovation. He also will update another \$162.5-million building project approved by voters last May.

"It will touch nine of our 11 buildings and it's really an infrastructure upgrade," Padalino said. "We're looking at roofs, we're looking at wiring, we're looking at HVAC, we're looking at plumbing. There's not a lot of fancy stuff. There's no gymnasiums or football fields, but it's a lot of work that needs

Padalino also plans to touch on the state's Next Generation Learning Standards and the district's Universal Pre-K program, which boasts around 400 students.

He believes the public should be more aware of the pre-K program and the district's "extensive mental health services." While some call for more guidance counselors and social workers, Padalino said the public "doesn't realize how many we already have." There are mental health clinics in seven of the district's 11 schools.

I think one of the big things is that people don't recognize how intensive our mental health services are for our students,"

Padalino said the business community has been "very supportive" of the district and he expressed an interest in keeping groups like the Chamber better informed of the district's activities.

"Their continued support and involvement and the community partnerships throughout the whole county are phenomenal," he said. "I think keeping dialogues open is an important piece as well.' The superintendent also plans to provide an update on

changing trends in the district given the migration of new residents from New York City, particularly Brooklyn, since the "Schools that were at one point some of our poorest schools

are now not our poorest schools because of the influx of people from downstate," he said.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a great way to stay on top of current events and connect with other local business

BREAKFAST JUNE BREAKFAST June 13, 2024 7:30 - 9:00 am The Venue Uptown at the **Best Western Plus** adalino, Kingston Hotel tendent 503 Washington Ave. ton City Kingston, NY District **HealthAlliance** Sponsor: Hospital

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.

WMCHealth Is Our June Breakfast Sponsor

Transforming Care for our Community

After a decade of strategic planning, financial and clinical support from WMCHealth, and construction and legislative backing from the City of Kingston, Ulster County, and New York State, HealthAlliance Hospital proudly unveiled its new hospital 17 months ago.

Environment of Care

We've meticulously crafted an atmosphere centered on patient comfort, education, and privacy. To make the patient experience as seamless as possible, we added new Emergency Department Concierge Navigators to our care team to offer enhanced assistance during visits to our emergency room.

Our Partnership with WMCHealth Network has significantly broadened access to life-saving services in Kingston. Our Cardiac Catheterization Lab has performed over 1,000 heart procedures since it opened; we received

Trauma Level III Center designation which enabled us to care for for 240+ trauma patients since December 2023; and as a recently designated Certified Stroke Center, we've delivered stroke care to hundreds of patients annually. These investments underscore WMCHealth's unwavering commitment to HealthAlliance Hospital and the communities we serve, ensuring the delivery of top-tier healthcare to our region.

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Behavioral Health Investment We're

committed to enhancing behavioral health care with the ongoing construction of a newly renovated 20-inpatient bed unit, expected to open by the end of 2024. Simultaneously, we're pursuing the necessary approvals to transform the Broadway Campus into a Healthy Village, consolidating outpatient health services, including adult and adolescent behavioral health office-based programs, to one convenient location.

National Recognition HealthAlliance Hospital's dedication to community welfare has earned national recognition for Fare Share Spending. This places us among the top 20% of hospitals nationwide in community investment, according to the Lown Institute. This recognition reflects our commitment to put the priorities of our patients and communities first. Our collaborations with organizations like People's Place, the YWCA and YMCA



HealthAlliance Hospital

of Ulster County, the Point of Praise Family Life Center, and others have expanded access to quality care through wellness education initiatives.

Our Workforce None of these achievements would be possible without our devoted workforce, consistently praised for their exceptional, compassionate care around-theclock, seven days a week.

Join Our Team Learn more about career opportunities and joining HealthAlliance Hospital here: HealthAlliance Hospital - WMC Health (wmchealthjobs.org)

Rondout Savings Branching Out

A Mixer You Can Bank On

Rondout Savings Bank President Cheryl Bowers began her long and illustrious banking career in 1980 at 267 Wall St. in Uptown Kingston. The bank was known as Statewide

Savings & Loan back then and Bowers worked in the back office and as a teller. Several other banks have been in that spot since, but Rondout Savings is opening its latest branch there and will show it off at the Chamber's next Networking Mixer on

"Forty-four years ago, my first bank job was in that building, where I stayed for 20 years until I went to Rondout Savings and I've been here now for 24 years," Bowers says. "I've come full circle. I started my career there and I will likely retire with that building being part of my bank's system.'

The Mixer is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. and will feature food and beverages from Rondout Savings Bank customers. Bowers, who has been the bank's President since 2018, and her executive team will be on hand for the festivities.

"We are hoping to provide a superior networking opportunity, while bringing Chamber members together at a brand-new location," Bowers said. "We think this is an excellent way to show case our new Uptown branch and get an opportunity to bring the Chamber member community together.'

The 267 Wall St. location is in the heart of Uptown and in the shadow of the Old Dutch Church, the Matthewis Persen House and the Ulster County Courthouse. Bowers said when the last owner decided to sell the property, "we knew this would be an ideal location to expand our footprint in the Uptown district."

Bowers said the 3.5-story building may be old but has "great bones" and underwent a renovation to make it a "vibrant bank" for modern times

"For the last 20 years or so, it hasn't gotten the love and attention that it needs," she said. "We were able to bring all the floors to life and use the space.

"The renovation was very well thought out—it was important for us to maintain some original elements of the building, to nicely fit into the historic district and at the same time, provide state-of-the art technology, finishes and a superior banking experience. The entire theme of our design is community, collaboration and cutting-edge technology.'

Bowers said the design, which features plenty of glass to unify the space, was focused on being welcoming, collaborative and convenient. Bank officials took down the traditional barriers you encounter in most banks and built collaborative workspaces.

"We offer interactive technology that will help our leaders to better understand the needs of our customers and provide superior service. We have brought many lines of business leaders into this space," Bowers said, including commercial and residential lenders, investment executives and all the traditional banking services customers would expect.

"We are thrilled that all our team from the Schwenk Drive office will now serve our customers at the Wall Street office," she said. "We feel this will provide a seamless transition for our customers and all the friendly faces that they are used to seeing when they do their banking business.'



Rondout Savings Bank offers six branch locations in Ulster

Bowers, a former Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, knows the importance of the popular networking Mixers that bring together the community's business leaders.

"At Rondout Savings, we make it our business to not just be a Chamber member but to actively participate, host and sponsor many types of events the Chamber offers," she said.

June Mixer Wednesday, June 5 **Rondout Savings Bank** 267 Wall Street, Kingston, NY RONDOUT Sponsor:

"The networking Mixers are by far the most expansive way to network with business leaders, meet new contacts and build a community of relationships.'

For more information about Rondout Savings Bank, go to https://www.rondoutbank.com.

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.

Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce

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ULSTER COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS

Inspiring Greatness

Black Leaders Feted At Celebration

Four exemplary Black leaders, who have shaped the future of Ulster County by driving change and building up others, will command the spotlight on June 18 at the Black Business Community Celebration at Ulster Savings Bank's Corporate Headquarters, 180 Schwenk Drive in Kingston.

The Ulster Chamber, together with Black History Kingston and Ulster County Tourism, is hosting the annual event, with Ulster Savings Bank as the Principal Sponsor, Ulster County Tourism as the Welcoming Sponsor, RCAL as the Diamond Sponsor and Blue-Byrd's Haberdashery as the Bronze Sponsor. This year's honorees include:

Business Excellence Black Award: Corey James

Corey is a Kingston native and multimedia journalist at Spectrum News in Albany. He said he was drawn to journalism because, as a child, he was struck by the lack of diversity on local news programs. "I didn't see a lot of people who looked like me doing it, so I said, 'I've got to blaze this trail.' That became extremely important to me as I began thinking about careers," said James, who, at the age of 34, already has built a stellar broadcasting



resume that includes cross-platform production assistant at

CNN's headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. "The job entailed working with our national and political teams to cover a lot of the news that took place at the Capitol," he said. "It was a high-pressure job. You had to develop thick skin, but it was exhilarating because you had a front-row seat to history as it happened."

James, now a Spectrum News reporter covering a variety of stories for the Albany station, said he is honored to receive the award. "I was blown away that I was recognized, and I'm still speechless," said the 2008 Kingston High School graduate. "I'm very grateful as a hometown kid and a product of Kingston, but at the same time, you don't do it alone. I couldn't be where I am without my faith, my wife and my family.'

James, who participated in wrestling, football and track and field at Kingston High School, began his college career at Nassau Community College and later transferred to SUNY Cortland, where he majored in communications and African studies, earning a bachelor's degree in 2013.

He landed his first job out of college at CBS Radio, 92.9, "The Game," a sports radio station (now Audacy, Inc.) in Atlanta, and then got hired at CNN, first as a tour guide. He quickly moved up the ranks to the production team, where he was on the front line of major breaking stories, including the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, President Trump's impeachment trials, the Capitol riot and COVID-19 outbreak.

During the pandemic, James said he did some soul searching and started rethinking his career. "I wanted to switch and be on the other side of the camera to tell those stories that don't often get told, so I put together a reel on YouTube and began looking into other markets across the country."

Spectrum News hired him as a multimedia journalist in June 2022, a role he relishes and one that takes him back full circle to those days of watching TV news without adequate Black representation. "Typically, when you're reporting on communities of color, or when you see stations reporting on communities of color, it's often not positive," he said. "It's more the negative things that happen, so as a Black man, it's important to report on the positives ... and change that stigma and show young African Americans that they can follow this path as well."

Maude Bruce Community Impact Award: Essie "Liz" Baker

Liz is the owner of We Got the Juice, a combined juice bar and art gallery at 694 Broadway Kingston. The Kingston businesswoman said she is honored to share the stage with other Black leaders who inspire others to greatness.

"It's a good feeling to be recognized because I've been doing what I'm doing for quite some time, but my real reward is seeing results and helping people," said Baker,

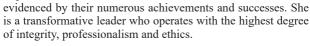
owner of We Got the Juice, which she opened just before the

Baker, a former board member at Midtown Kingston Rising, Kingston Midtown Arts District (MAD) and Cannabis Task Force Advisory Board and current board member at the Midtown Business Alliance, opened Broadway Arts, a creative space for the underserved community, in 2015 and expanded it to We Got the Juice in 2019—a combined art gallery and healthy juice bar.

"I sit in meetings and on boards and advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves, and I'm all about empowering people, especially young women. I guess I find my greatest joy in making sure everybody else is OK since I am so blessed and being that person that I needed as a teenager," Baker said.

Black Business Leadership Award: Rendesia Scott

Rendesia is the Director of the Business Advising Center at SUNY New Paltz, a position she has held since 2005. In her role, she oversees the undergraduate advising curriculum for the School of Business. She has counseled and supported thousands of students in their pursuit of a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Business. Her passion for nurturing talent and fostering growth has had a profound impact on the lives of her students, as





Black **Young** Leader Award: Shataya McComb Shataya is the founder of the

Point God Academy (PGA), which empowers aspiring basketball players to reach their goals. A star basketball player herself, McComb was a longtime coach at Tay Fisher's Camp and Clinics, Summer Sizzle in Kingston, the Biddy League and AAU basketball. She is also the Program Director at the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston,



Shataya McComb

whose Executive Director Dan Whalen said, "Shataya embodies everything midtown Kingston stands for. There is no better energy, soul or role model for BGC members than Shataya. She comes in every day with an infectious glowing attitude and personality that rubs off on our kids. She has the ability to engage all of our kids and get the most out of them. She has a tremendous effect on our members and community.'

The Black Business Awards Ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by a community celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. Pointe of Praise is catering the event, and music will be provided by the Instruments of Praise Choir and DJ Seven Spirits Entertainment. Radio Kingston will livestream the event.

To register for this No Charge event, go to UlsterChamber.

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Visions Human Resource Services, LLC

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Wednesday June 5 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Rondout Savings Bank's New Uptown Branch

267 Wall Street | Kingston, NY There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Rondout Savings Bank

Tuesday June 11 | 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Leadership Ulster Celebration Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony

Honoring Hall of Fame Inductee Ingrid Kulick This event is open to the public Wiltwyck Golf Club | 404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY Tickets \$75 per person | Cocktails 5:30 pm | Dinner 6:30 pm

Thursday June 13 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting Dr. Paul Padalino, Superintendent **Kingston City School District**

The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus 503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY \$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At The Door

\$40 Non-Members Sponsor: WMCHealth | HealthAlliance Hospital

Tuesday June 18 | 4:00 - 8:00 pm

2024 Black Business Community Celebration

Ulster Savings Bank Corporate Headquarters 180 Schwenk Drive | Kingston, NY Registration is required.

There is no charge for admission but space will be limited **Principal Sponsor: Ulster Savings Bank**

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

Chamber **News**

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

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For information on Chamber Membership, email Jess Davis at: Jess@UlsterChamber.org

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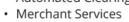
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ULSTER COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS

the waterside spa

May 22, 2024

The Waterside Spa

at Diamond Mills

2 Ferry Street, Saugerties, NY

SPONSOR: M&T Bank



Marcos Castro, Tommy Struzzieri and Kerry Hegarty Our Mixer Host: (The Waterside Spa at Diamond Mills Hotel & BLACKBARN Hudson Valley)



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Charles Stepaniuk (Lorpak), John Finch and MaryRose Warcholak (both from Ulster Savings Bank).



Jennifer Borrero (Hudson Valley Magazine), Sally DePoala and Jane Struzzieri (Diamond Mills & BLACKBARN HV).



Mari Mulshenock (EvolveD Interiors & Design Showroom), Nicole Friedman (Glampstar) and Juliet Lofaro (Juliet Lofaro Photography).



Calief Housen (Career InTouch), Chris Mayone (The Waterside Spa at Diamond Mills & BLACKBARN HV) with Kelly Caldwell (Visions **Human Resource Services**)

WELGOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

BLUE-BYRD'S HABERDASHERY & MUSIC

320 Wall St.

Kingston, NY 12401 bluebyrds.com

John Allen Blue - Partner Category: Retail

Description: "Blue-Byrd's Haberdashery & Music" is a shop specializing in "all things Blues" (music, harps, lithograph posters, T-shirts, etc.), along with a fine line of hats for men and women.

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Kingston, NY 12401

careerintouch.org

Calief Housen - Founder, Chairman and CEO

Category: Non-Profit Organizations

Description: Our mission is to provide a platform that enables all students to lead by example through providing a message that is Informational, Motivational, and Inspirational. We cultivate new experiences for the youth to increase student success and mobility. The vision is to be the bridge in our communities for all students to access the tools fundamental for academic and personal success. With soft-skills, we will increase the retention of our students and instill what it means to be InTouch. The importance in community, the power in self-awareness and the pursuit of your purpose.

EASY RIDERS EBIKE RENTAL COMPANY LLC

Saugerties, NY 12477

www.easyridersebikerental.com

Russell Morse - Owner Category: Rental Service

Description: We are a mobile ebike rental delivery company that brings the ebike right to your doorstep. Whether you are staying at a Campground, Hotel/Motel, Airbnb, Vacation home, Rail Trails etc... we deliver right to your doorstep so that you can start your ebike adventure without all of the

running around.

HUDSON LEGACY LAW THE LAW OFFICES OF DANA WARE

2162 Albany Post Rd. Walden, NY 12586 hudsonlegacylaw.com

Dana Ware - Owner Category: Legal Services

Description: Hudson Legacy Law is an estate planning practice owned by Dana Ware, offering wills and trusts to the Hudson Valley, downstate NY and northern NJ.

LIGHTS & YEARS MEDIA

275 Fair St., Unit 23

Kingston, NY 12401 www.lightsandyears.com

Drew English - Owner Category: Consultants - Media

Description: Lights & Years provides a platform that embraces diverse storytelling ensuring every unique narrative and voice has the opportunity to resonate. We work and collaborate closely with creators and brands to amplify their message and spark meaningful conversations. From brand films and podcasts to social media campaigns and immersive multimedia experiences, we leverage the power of storytelling to uplift and empower voices big and small alike. We believe in the transformative power of story to inspire change, foster understanding and bring new perspectives to our communities.

LONE WOLF

240 Foxhall Ave.

Kingston, NY 12401

Category: Restaurants

www.lonewolfkingston.com Anton Kinloch - Owner

Description: Lone Wolf is proud to welcome guests from around the world, and around the corner, to gather and enjoy expertly prepared cocktails and delicious food & be whisked away. With Pan-Asian inspired tapas style dishes by the owners & a cocktail program featuring a blend of classic & modern classic cocktails expertly prepared.

PEAK EVENT SERVICES

5 Tissal Rd.

Saugerties, NY 12477

www.peakeventservices.com/ Filomena Felix - Senior Event Sales Executive

Category: Event Planning

Description: PEAK Event Services is the northeast's premier tent and event rental company. With exceptional service and expansive product offerings, PEAK is here to partner with you for all your party and event rental needs.

ROULA'S KIDS: A SPACE FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES, INC.

239 Fair Street, Suite 11 Kingston, NY 12401

www.roulaskids.org

Maria Georgopoulos - President & CEO Category: Mental Health Services

Description: Roula's Kids provides free in person grief groups for children and families that have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives. We also provide community education on grief and trauma to local community health agencies and schools.

SHU-SHI SHOP INC.

Kingston, NY 12401 www.loveshushi.com

Sharona Ozeri - CEO

Category: Clothing - Retail &/Or Wholesale

Description: Shu-Shi is an online fashion brand specializing in women's boho-style clothing, now offering both retail and wholesale options. We provide trendy and versatile pieces through our website and Amazon, blending creativity and practicality to deliver high-quality, stylish apparel for fashion-conscious customers. Our range caters to those looking for unique, resort-inspired looks.

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523 Delaware Ave.

Kingston, NY 12401 Davina Thomasula - Owner

Category: Restaurants

Description: Opening Soon! Neighborhood bar will be serving great cocktails, local beer, bar style pizza and small

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298 Wall St.

Kingston, NY 12401 wallstreetpizzeriamenu.com

Elizabeth Tiul Coc - Owner

Categories: Restaurants; Caterers

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62 Ricks Road

Woodstock, NY 12498

www.woodstockspa.com

Linda Dubilier - Owner Category: Health & Wellness

Description: Woodstock Spa was developed with one thought in mind; everyone deserves to relax and rejuvenate. Our boutique facility mixes luxury products with the nature of the Catskills. Located on 3 wooded acres, Woodstock Spa takes you out of the fast-paced day to day and lets you simply enjoy the moment.

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Saugerties, NY 12477

YOUR VISUAL

www.woodstockwood.net Santiago Pietra - General Manager

Category: Furniture Maker

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