

Hear About BOCES’ Move To iPark 87

Superintendent Next Breakfast Guest

Ulster BOCES Superintendent Dr. Jonah Schenker has big dreams for this fall when the district relocates its Career & Technical Center from Port Ewen to iPark 87 in Lake Katrine.

“I imagine the opening where we’ve got 1,400 students standing out in front saying, ‘Come live and work and own your business in Ulster County. We’re your future workforce and we’re ready.’ Just seeing the video of that or hearing that ... that’s a game-changer,” Schenker said.

You can hear more about the move and Ulster BOCES in general when Dr. Schenker addresses the Chamber’s next monthly breakfast meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. on June 12 at Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston. The sponsor is HealthAlliance Hospitals, members of WMCHHealth.

Schenker said while the business park suffers a “historic legacy of failure” since IBM pulled out in 1995, the hope is that Ulster BOCES can “breathe some life back into” the Enterprise Drive complex, which is under new ownership and has been rebranded iPark 87.

“Nothing is more of a rehabilitator than students,” Schenker said.

The relocation is expected to happen in September, providing Ulster BOCES with a state-of-the-art, 105,000-square-foot leased space serving as an anchor for the Sustainable Ulster Workforce Innovation Center, a collaboration between Ulster County, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Ulster, Ulster BOCES, and community-based partners.

Schenker is excited about the possible collaboration with so many agencies under one roof and heading in the same direction.

“Proximity is critical,” he said. “We don’t have the wrong people doing the work. We just don’t have integration of the work. So, we end up working really hard for kind of low output. I believe iPark 87 can kind of be a lighthouse

for what partnership can look like.”

Schenker said economic and workforce development has typically been driven and focused on when students are out of high school, what he called “an adult thing.” He believes local schools, employers, and economic development officials must change direction.

“The perceptions about going straight into the workforce, the perceptions about what success is, are only going to be shifted if we focus on our younger students and families,” he said.

“We’ve been in this conversation for over a decade, and I haven’t seen a lot of changes,” he added. “My belief is that until we center here in Ulster County on the 20,000 students and their families as the future of Ulster County, we will continue to get the same results.”

The Ulster BOCES Career and Technical Center, now located in Port Ewen, features training in dozens of high-tech programs that lead to in-demand jobs in a host of fields, including architecture and construction such as HVAC; arts, audio visual technology and communications, including graphic design; business management and administration; education; health science; hospitality and tourism, including the culinary arts; human services like cosmetology; information technology; law, public safety, corrections and security; manufacturing, including robotics and welding; and transportation, distribution and logistics.

Schenker said the move to iPark 87 will allow the existing Career & Technical Center to be repurposed to meet the growing needs of the county’s expanding K-12 special needs population and will support innovative, future-focused programs for them.

“Our current Port Ewen site will be transformed into a middle/high school campus to serve the growing special education



Dr. Jonah Schenker

student population,” Schenker said last year when the move was announced. “This new learning space will be both a lab school for our educators to hone their profession, as well as a pre-technical, project-based, process-based learning center to ensure that the same skills and life-ready educational experiences are being delivered to some of our county’s most wonderfully complex and historically marginalized students.

“This will provide students with different abilities more equitable access to robust career education learning experiences and transition planning for viable pathways to employment and post-secondary opportunities.”

Schenker said his breakfast address would also include a discussion of “New York Inspires,” a plan from the state Education Department to overhaul education.

“There are a lot of changes in New York State regarding graduation measures, what it means to be a graduate, and the requirements,” he said. “There are a lot of shifts that are going to be relevant for career and workforce preparedness and development.”

**June
Breakfast
June 12
7:30-9:00 am
Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane
Kingston, NY
Sponsor:**



Schenker has been the superintendent of Ulster BOCES since March 2023. He also serves as the state education commissioner’s representative for the eight local school districts in the Ulster BOCES region, and as chief executive officer of Ulster BOCES.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a 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.

WMCHHealth HealthAllinace Hospital Is June’s Breakfast Sponsor

A Lifesaving Assist: How Quick Action on the Ice Saved a Hockey Player’s Life

Paul Del Santo never expected a heart attack at age 42, especially while doing something he loved—playing hockey.

But one evening, his life changed dramatically. “I don’t remember much, honestly,” Del Santo recalls. “One minute I was playing, and the next, I woke up in the hospital.”

While Del Santo doesn’t remember the exact moment his heart gave out, his teammates filled in the gaps.

After complaining of shoulder pain and sitting out for an entire period, he went straight to the locker room after the game. That’s where they found him—collapsed, unconscious and unresponsive.

A paramedic from the opposing team sprang into action, performing CPR until further help arrived in the form of City of Kingston Police Officer, Oliver Menon. When Del Santo was brought to HealthAlliance Hospital, interventional cardiologist Falak B. Shah, MD, quickly determined he had suffered what’s known as a “widowmaker” heart attack—a 100% blockage of a critical artery.

“People don’t usually survive this,” Dr. Shah explained. “Paul is lucky

his teammates acted quickly, and he arrived at the hospital in time.”

A stent was immediately placed to restore blood flow to Del Santo’s heart, and after five days in the hospital, he began his recovery journey.

One of the hardest parts for Del Santo was accepting that it even happened. “I’ve always been active—played sports, served in the military—and I thought I was invincible,” he says. “But this made me realize I’m not.”

Since then, Del Santo has quit smoking, made efforts to eat healthier and is slowly building his stamina back. He hopes to return to the hockey rink when the season starts this October.

His experience also caused a ripple effect—after his heart attack, every member of his hockey team scheduled physicals and cholesterol screenings. “It scared them enough to take their health seriously,” Del Santo says.

His advice for others? “Just go get your blood work done. It’s a quick appointment that could save your life.”

As Del Santo continues to see Dr. Shah for follow-up visits, he’s grateful for a second chance. “Dr. Shah has been amazing through it all,” Del Santo says. “I’m just lucky to still be here.”



Del Santo’s story is a powerful reminder that even young, active people with no history of cardiovascular disease should prioritize their heart health and get checked regularly. For more information about WMCHHealth’s cardiology services, visit our website at www.wmchealth.org/service-line/cardiovascular-care or call 845.339.3663 to make an appointment.

HealthAlliance Hospital located at 105 Mary’s Avenue in Kingston is a state-of-the-art facility and proudly features a new Emergency Department, including emergency behavioral health services, a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, a Trauma Center and a Stroke Center featuring the latest in advanced equipment and convenient access to expert care.

Try The Food At The Table At Wiltwyck Golf Club Hosts Next Mixer June 25

Looking for a unique place to eat? One of the best-kept secrets in the Kingston area is the Table at Wiltwyck, a restaurant on the grounds of the iconic Wiltwyck Golf Club.

The restaurant, with the theme “Where Food Meets Scenery,” is open to the public and the business community can enjoy its culinary delights at the Chamber’s next networking mixer from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. June 25 at Wiltwyck Golf Club, 404 Steward Lane in Kingston.

Wiltwyck General Manager Eric Atkins is also anxious to show off some of the club’s latest upgrades.

“The Mixer is a wonderful opportunity for Chamber members to see all the changes that have taken place at Wiltwyck, including our new banquet room and new patio,” Atkins said. “I think a lot of locals don’t realize that The Table at Wiltwyck is open to the public.”

Wiltwyck used to be a private club, and its restaurant was not accessible to non-members, but those days are over. “We just want people to come and take a look,” Atkins said.

While many Mixers cater the refreshments, The Table at Wiltwyck is

on the grounds and Chamber members can expect beer and wine, hors d’oeuvres and “scrumptious” food from The Table at Wiltwyck prepared by “Chef Erich.”

The Table at Wiltwyck, which is open Tuesday through Sunday, features a menu of sandwiches, salads, entrees and much more. There’s also plenty of live music (go to thetableatwiltwyck.com for the lineup of local talent).

Atkins, who is in his fourth year as general manager, is a fan of the

Chamber’s popular networking Mixers and said he in fact picked up a new member at the Mixer at the YMCA of Ulster County.

“It’s great to meet other members in a more social environment,” he said. “It’s about mingling, it’s about networking. I always enjoy going to them.”

There will be plenty to see at this Mixer. Wiltwyck features a picturesque 18-hole golf course and driving range, a pool, pickleball, tennis and its banquet facilities.

“There are so many different businesses under one roof,” he said. “That’s really what distinguishes us.”

Originally founded in 1933, Wiltwyck relocated to its present location in 1954.

Wiltwyck’s 72-par golf course was designed by renowned architect Robert Trent Jones, the “Dean of American golf course architects,” according to Wiltwyck’s website (wiltwyck.org). Known for its picturesque fairways, Wiltwyck received the distinguished honor of being named the 2024 Club of the Year by the esteemed Robert Trent Jones Society last September.

“The golf course itself is second to none,” Atkins said. “The golf course is always perfect. You’ve got views of the Catskills here.”

Wiltwyck, after 85 years as a member-owned, member-operated facility, all assets and custodianship of Wiltwyck were transferred to WGC Holdings, an entity now controlled by 14 equity owners.

“It’s an incredibly important asset and is here for the enjoyment of our members and the public at large,” said Bill Collins, one of the



owners. “There’s no golf club within a 60-mile radius that offers the same things we do. You’d have to go to Albany, across the river or travel mightily to find any facility that even comes close to Wiltwyck. It’s the combination of the social environment, the culture of the club together with our facilities, starting with our historic golf course, that makes us so special.”

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.

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Nominate a business, business person,
or organization online @
www.UlsterChamber.org

*For a nomination to be valid, the Nomination Form
must be complete and submitted no later than
12 noon on Friday, July 25, 2025.*

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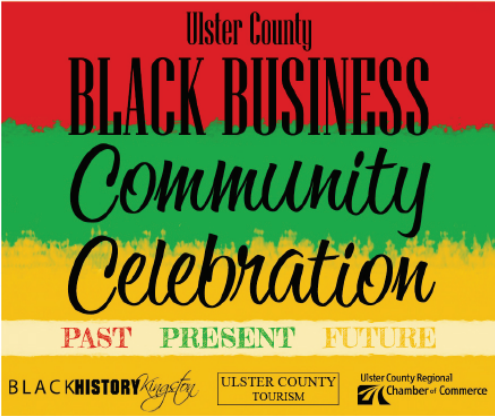
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Wednesday, June 18, 2025
4:30-6 pm Awards
6-8 pm Community Celebration
Ulster Savings Bank
Corporate Headquarters
180 Schwenk Drive
Kingston NY

Presenting Sponsor
Ulster Savings

2025 BLACK BUSINESS HONOREES

- Black Business Excellence Award

Bryant "Drew" Andrews
(Center for Creative Education)
- Black Business Leadership Award

Minya Dejohnette
(Kingston Acupuncture & Wellness)
- Maude Bruce Community Impact Award

Pastor Doris Schuler
(Riverview Missionary Baptist Church)
- Young Black Leader Award

Calief Housen
(Career InTouch)

Everyone is Invited to Join in the Celebration!

Food and beverages provided by **Pointe of Praise Catering**,
Benny's Tropical Ice, **One N Only Cakes**, **JK's Wine & Liquor**, **Keegan Ales**
Entertainment provided by **Instruments of Praise Choir**

Registration is required. There is no charge to attend but space is limited.
For more information or to register for this event
call 845.338.5100 or visit www.UlsterChamber.org

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Wednesday June 4 | 9:00 - 10:30 am

**Business Card Exchange @
Wellness Empowerment Center at People's Place**
17 St. James Street | Kingston, NY
There is no cost for Members to attend. Reservations required.
Sponsor: Hudson Valley Credit Union

Tuesday June 10 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm

**Leadership Ulster Celebration
Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony**
Honoring Hall of Fame Inductees
Sean DuBois | Kevin McLaren | Jenn Zell
This event is open to the public
Wiltwyck Golf Club | 404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY
Tickets \$85 per person | Cocktails 5:30 pm | Dinner 6:30 pm

Thursday June 12 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

**Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Dr. Jonah Schenker, Ulster BOCES District Superintendent**
Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY
\$35 Members-PrePay • \$40 Members-At Door • \$45 Non-Members
Sponsor: WMCHealth | HealthAlliance Hospital

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

2025 Black Business Community Celebration
Ulster Savings Bank Corporate Headquarters
180 Schwenk Drive | Kingston, NY
Registration is required.
There is no charge for admission but registration is required.
Presenting Sponsor: Ulster Savings Bank

Wednesday June 25 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane | Kingston NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.

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

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DAILY FREEMAN

Chamber Honors 4 Black Business Leaders

Celebration June 18 At Ulster Savings Bank

The Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Ulster County Tourism and Black History Kingston, have selected four honorees for the 4th-annual Black Business Community Celebration on June 18 at Ulster Savings Bank, 180 Schwenk Drive in Kingston.

The awards recognize local Black-owned businesses or Black business leaders who have achieved outstanding results and shown dedication and commitment to furthering business, enhancing their community and improving the quality of life in Ulster County.

This year’s honorees include:
2025 Black Business Excellence Award – Bryant “Drew” Andrews, the executive director of Center for Creative Education (CCE), a non-profit community center for arts, wellness and education. “There’s a lot of heartfelt love behind what we do and a lot of love,” Andrews said. “We transform lives with the power of creativity and art and education.”

Andrews is also the creator of Energy Dance Company and DXF-Dance Xross Fitness. He further serves his community as an alderman representing Ward 7 on the Kingston Common Council.

This Black Business Excellence Award recognizes a Black business leader or Black-owned business that has achieved extraordinary accomplishments and is an example to others.

“I’m honored to be recognized within our community,” Andrews said. “What I always share is I think the real win is for the work of CCE and everyone working within it to uplift and empower our community with love and creativity. That’s the real win.

“I’ll accept the award, but this is a win not only for me, but for all of us who do the work and collaborate to keep our community tightly knit together and empowered, especially for our kids.”

2025 Black Business Leadership Award – Minya Dejohnette, the owner of Kingston Community Acupuncture, is a state-licensed acupuncturist and massage therapist. Dejohnette said she felt unworthy of the honor.

“There are so many other businesses that do so much more than me for the community,” she said. I’m surprised and very grateful for the people who

voted for me. I’m very proud to be to part of a community that is active and supports each other.”

Dejohnette earned her Master of Health Science degree from the Swedish Institute of Acupuncture. She is a former member of the Kingston Police Commission, and her nomination form described her as a “tireless advocate for social justice.”

The Black Business Leadership Award is given to a Black individual or Black-owned business or organization that displays exceptional leadership qualities with a history of community service.

2025 Maude Bruce Community Award – Pastor Doris Schuyler, the first woman pastor of the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Kingston. A former manager for the Children’s Home of Kingston, Schuyler is a member of the Ulster County Black Minister Alliance. Her nomination form recognized her “passion for ministry and her vision to promote the spiritual well-being of the people of God.”

Schuyler said she has known Bruce, an Ellenville civil rights activist, for many years and is honored to receive an award named in her honor.

“I would definitely thank her for being the trailblazer that she is,” Schuyler said of Bruce. “She is a person who never gave in and never gave up but kept going despite the injustices she had to face. I’m very, very honored to be receiving such a prestigious award.

“I’ve always been a people person. I’ve always been interested in seeing how I could be a blessing or a help to someone in need. It’s always been my heart’s desire to see people do better, rebuild relationships and to build themselves up. When you know better, you’ll do better.”

The Maude Bruce Community Award is given to a Black individual who has dedicated his or her life to issues of racial and social justice and has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Ulster County.

2025 Young Black Leader Award – Calief Housen, is the founder of Career InTouch, which offers peer mentorship to the youth of Ulster County. Housen started the program in 2023 because he saw a need among the youth in his community to guide them through their academic careers and ultimately, their future careers. He is a member of the Chamber’s Leadership



Bryant “Drew” Andrews



Minya Dejohnette



Pastor Doris Schuyler



Calief Housen

Ulster program. This Award is given to a young black adult who has displayed determination, has an exceptional work ethic and an interest in pursuing a career in business or entrepreneurship.

The evening begins at 4 p.m. with the awards at 5 and a community celebration to follow from 6 to 8. Food and beverages will be provided by Pointe of Praise Catering, Benny’s Tropical Ice, One N Only Cakes, JK’s Wine & Liquor, and Keegan Ales. Entertainment will be provided by Instruments of Praise Choir. Radio Kingston will also be part of the program.

“We are proud to present the 4th-annual Black Business Community Celebration by honoring four outstanding local Black leaders whose contributions continue to shape and inspire our community,” said Chamber Vice President Jess Davis, who organized the event. “In partnership with Ulster County Tourism and Black History Kingston, we come together to

recognize and uplift local excellence.”

The sponsors include Ulster Savings Bank, Ulster County Tourism, Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL), Ulster Federal Credit Union, CDPHP, and Blue-Byrd’s Haberdashery & Music.

Ulster Savings Bank President and CEO Bill Calderara said the event is an important and inspiring occasion.

“Ulster Savings is again honored to be the presenting sponsor and host of the 2025 Ulster County Black Business Community Celebration,” he said. “This is a celebration of excellence, resilience, and innovation as we recognize trailblazers and visionaries whose leadership not only drives progress in our communities today but also inspires generations to come. Congratulations to Drew, Minya, Pastor Doris and Calief.”

For more information, contact the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go to ulsterchamber.org.

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Mixer



Mixer Host/Sponsor Bank of Greene County Vice President Sean DuBois (center) with Kingston Branch Staff.

May 22, 2025
Bank of Greene County
2 Miron Lane
Kingston, NY

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Mixer Host/Sponsor Bank of Greene County President/CEO Don Gibson, Vice President Sean DuBois, with Ulster Chamber President Ward Todd.



Cristina Saito (Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster), Douglas Blancero (Ulster County Community Action), Shannon Kelly (Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster).



Linda Dubilier, Lydia Stover (both with Woodstock Spa), and Keri Jadrovski (KDD Marketing).



Michael Babcock (Hudson Valley Wine & Food Festival), Jon Perry (Town of Hurley), Joey LoBianco (Rip Van Winkle Brewing Co.), and Alex Stier (Keller Williams Realty Hudson Valley North).



Amanda Henderson (ARH Profinish Painters), Lucas Hopper (Independent Financial Services), and Aris Romero (ARH Profinish Painters).

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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Greg Dette - Executive Director
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Najae Carbon - Realtor
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www.imogenex.com
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LAS CAMELIAS

342 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
Veronica Martinez - Owner
 Category: Restaurants
 Description: Family business, providing traditional Southern Mexican food to the Hudson Valley.

LEE'S TAXI SHUTTLE INC.

2065 State Route 32
Kingston, NY 12401
Shadia Lee - Manager
leestaxishuttling.com
 Category: Transportation
 Description: We are local minority owned transportation business. Our service includes major Airports, Winery tours, wedding shuttles and doctor appointments.

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Shadia Lee - Owner
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 Description: WIEDENKELLER INSURANCE is an Independent Insurance Brokerage: This is our 48th Year Serving Ulster County, the Hudson Valley & New York State. WIEDENKELLER INSURANCE represents many fine local, New York State, National & International Insurance Companies. WIEDENKELLER INSURANCE offers Business Insurance, Homeowner's Insurance, Second & Seasonal Home Insurance, Condominium Insurance, Renters, Automobile, Motorcycle & Commercial Automobile Insurance. We also offer Whole Life Permanent Life Insurance & Term Life Insurance with the finest insurance companies in the U.S.A. Call 845-255-7777 or email Todd@Winsurance.com. We are happy to be of service.

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