

Mayor Noble Breakfast Guest

Parking, Other Issues on Agenda

Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, who will address the Chamber's next breakfast meeting on Sept. 27, plans to credit the local business community for an improving economy.

"Our community is thriving and it's thanks in large part to the longstanding investment of our local businesses," Noble said. "Their steady and unwavering commitment to our City, even during times in which our future remained uncertain and the hopes of prosperity dimmed, reflects a business community that truly cares about Kingston."

"I want the business community to know that my administration is aggressively working to meet their commitment, to grow our tax base, and to break down barriers to economic development."

The breakfast is scheduled for 7:30-9 a.m. at The Chateau, 240 Boulevard in Kingston. Health Quest is the sponsor.

Noble said he will provide business leaders with an update on his Uptown Kingston parking plan and what has been accomplished over the past year, including:

- The implementation of Whoosh!, a mobile app that allows users to pay for parking remotely, receive alerts when their time is running low and add additional time without returning to the meter.

- Updates to the parking fee structure.
- The upcoming pilot program for parking lots that includes the installation of payment stations in six municipal lots and the introduction of parking permits for frequent users of those lots.

Noble said he will also provide an update on the three community forums about parking held in August and earlier this month.

"I will be speaking on the short-term and long-term strategies we will be implementing to address our parking shortage and, more

broadly, to improve transportation options throughout the city," Noble said.

Among the long-term strategies could be the construction of a new parking garage in Uptown. JM Development Group of New Windsor recently joined the Chamber with a goal to "redevelop" a site in Uptown.

"We all recognize the need for improved and expanded parking infrastructure and I believe that includes the development of a multi-tiered parking garage in Uptown Kingston," Noble said. "While the City does not have the



Kingston Mayor
 Steve Noble

Continued on page 9

**September
 Breakfast**

**Sept. 27
 7:30-9:00 am**

NOTE NEW

LOCATION:

**The Chateau
 240 Boulevard
 Kingston, NY**

Sponsor:

HEALTHQUEST

The September Breakfast Sponsor is HealthQuest

Health Quest is transforming healthcare in the mid-Hudson Valley and beyond.

Health Quest Medical Practice (HQMP) is the largest physician practice in Ulster County — and is growing.

HQMP and The Heart Center provide quality care at locations in Kingston, Highland, Modena, Woodstock, Boiceville, Saugerties and Ellenville. Throughout these practices, patients have access to high-quality primary care, obstetrics, gynecology, neurology, cardiology, rheumatology, cancer care and medical imaging.

In addition to these locations, HQMP is expanding in Ulster with two planned medical



office buildings, one in the Town of Lloyd and the other in the Town of Ulster. These projects, with an estimated cost of \$22 million, will help patients stay close to home for quality healthcare services.

The plans for these new sites were announced after HQMP invested \$2 million in 2016 to open a 15,000-square-foot OB/GYN, primary care and rheumatology office in Kingston Plaza.

New to the Health Quest family is an

epilepsy monitoring unit (EMU). The EMU at Northern Dutchess Hospital (NDH) in nearby Rhinebeck diagnoses and treats epilepsy and seizures under the close supervision of a neurologist. In the EMU, the patient is continuously monitored overnight on camera and via an electroencephalogram (EEG), a test that evaluates the electrical activity in the brain.

Dr. Amber Mitchell, a neurologist who specializes in seizures, helped open the EMU in April. Mitchell sees patients in HQMP's Division of Neurology in Kingston.

Also new to NDH is a weight-loss surgery program. Procedures include minimally

invasive gastric bypass, sleeve and band surgeries, which change the anatomy of the digestive system to decrease hunger, absorb fewer calories and burn fat more quickly.

Surgeries at NDH are performed by Dr. Brian Binetti, a bariatric surgeon with HQMP. He sees patients in the Rhinebeck general surgery office.

Through its investment in talented specialists, advanced services and state-of-the-art facilities, Health Quest is ensuring patients do not have to travel out of the area to find exceptional healthcare.




Begnall Motors

Mixer

**Sept. 14
 5-7 pm**

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DAILY FREEMAN

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

September 14 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Membership Mixer @ New Home of Begnal Motors

129 Route 28 | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.

Sponsors: Begnal Motors & National Business Technologies

September 20 | Noon - 5:00 pm

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@ The Chateau

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October 26 | 5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner

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New Begnal Motors Hosts Mixer

Come and See Spectacular Showroom

You've watched the building go up over the last year and now it's complete. The new home of Begnal Motors on state Route 28—just off the Thruway circle—is ready to be showcased.

Chamber officials were on hand for a Ribbon Cutting and soft opening on Aug. 16, but the official grand-opening will coincide with the Chamber's next Business-After-Hours Mixer from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 14.

"The Mixer will be a few days before the grand-opening weekend," said owner Larry Begnal. "That's the preview. We are giving away several large flat-screen tvs as door prizes. We'll have tours of the building from front to back. So it should be a fun night."

The Mixer will be on a Thursday and Begnal said Chrysler officials will be in town that Friday to kick off the weekend festivities.

Begnal said the new dealership—which sells Chrysler, Fiat, Dodge, Jeep, Ram vehicles—features 34,000 square feet, compared to the 10,000 square feet he recently left on Albany Avenue in Kingston.

While Begnal's Albany Avenue operation was spread out with pre-owned vehicles and lube service across the street from the main dealership, that won't be the case now. New and used car sales, service and lube center will all be together.

"The new building allows us to combine all three of our operations into one space" Begnal said. "Everything and everyone are in one place. No more running across the street. If you want to look at a new vehicle or a pre-owned vehicle, they're all right here. It's three and a half times as big as our old dealership."

Begnal will also have 11 acres of property to display vehicles, compared to 2 acres at the old location. The dealership has about 400 vehicles at any one time.

The waiting area features free Wi-Fi and computer plug-ins, three 50-inch televisions and a "Junior Jeeps" room for youngsters that includes kid-friendly activities

such as a paint wall.

"It's streamlining everything for the customers," Begnal said. "They now have a wonderful place to get their car serviced or buy a car. It's a very pleasurable experience."

Begnal said the new dealership also offers an indoor pick-up area for both new and used vehicles.

"Customers now pick up their vehicle in comfort," he said. "They don't have to worry if it's pouring rain or snow. It'll be right there."

Begnal said he tried to keep the project as local as possible in keeping with the Chamber's "Buy Local" theme.

"We stayed right here," he said. "The contractor was local and he was our customer. The electrician was local and our customer. The plumber was local. The painters were local. Everyone who had a hand in this building was our customer or local—or both."

"They're very appreciative and we're glad to give back to the community that enabled this to happen."

Begnal said the auto industry, which was on the ropes just a few years ago, is now doing "excellent."

"The new leadership at Fiat-Chrysler has made a tremendous improvement in the vehicles and the quality. With the offerings that we have, it's just a really exciting time for us to be here."

Begnal said a new Jeep pickup will be unveiled in the next 24 months and the Ram pickup is being redesigned.

The old 4-door sedan is "on the way out," Begnal said, noting that General Motors and others have dropped some well-known and iconic brands.

People want the SUV-type vehicle like the Jeep Cherokee and the Compass," he said. "That's where FCA (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) shines. We're the pioneer in those vehicles and we've got them."

Begnal is a huge supporter of the Chamber's popular Mixers.

"They're wonderful because you can just unwind after work," he said.

"[Chamber President] Ward [Todd] does a really good job of managing them. They're always well organized and everything runs very well. People are convivial. It's a nice relaxed atmosphere for them. They get to meet some people and make some deals."

Begnal Motors, located at 129 state Route 28 in the town of Ulster, can be reached at (845) 331-5337 or www.ltbegnalmotor.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 office at (845) 338-5100 or by registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.



Thursday, September 14, 5-7 pm

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Cohens Are 'Power Couple'

2 Businesses In Century-Old Building

Joe and Barbara Cohen have something special going on at their historic building at 70 North Front St. in Uptown Kingston.

Call it good old-fashioned love for each other, their family, community and Kingston's history.

The Cohens happen to operate two successful businesses from that location, which has been in Joe's family since 1917 and is marking 100 years.

Joe is an optometrist with more than 46 years of experience and has been operating Dr. Joseph Cohen Optometry at the building since 1992.

Barbara is the congenial operator of the historic Schwartz's Inn, a bed and breakfast upstairs from her husband's practice.

Together, the entrepreneurial power couple serves Ulster County in their specialized fields with the ghosts of Joe's descendants lovingly watching over them.

"Joe's grandparents bought the building 100 years ago," Barbara said. "I think the building was built sometime in the 1700s. I always say, 'If the walls could talk, they'd have a lot to say.'"

Joe's maternal grandparents, Harry and Ida Schwartz, bought the building in December

1917 from the Cohn brothers, also Kingston merchants, Barbara said.

"When his grandparents bought it, they lived upstairs with their four children. His grandfather was a tailor and ran a pawn shop, and his grandmother ran a little tea shop. It was about making an income."

Barbara described her husband's grandparents as hard workers wanting to live the American dream and pass on a better life to their children. They were immigrants from Russia who had moved to Brooklyn before settling in Kingston.

"It's a typical immigrant story of coming to this country and trying to make an honest living," she said.

The familial entrepreneurial spirit continued when Joe's father opened Frank's Sport and Ski Shop on the first floor after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. The store sold sporting goods from 1946 to 1983, Barbara said.

Even after the family had grown and moved out of the upstairs apartment that later became the Schwartz's Inn, Joe's mother, Mary, continued to live there until she was 90. It had been her home since she was 3 years old.

After she moved to Golden Hill, the elderly

lady gave her blessing to her son and daughter-in-law to run it as a bed and breakfast.

Barbara has managed to turn it into something uniquely Kingston.

The two-bedroom boutique apartment features antique tin ceilings, old radiators, Victorian-era wainscoting, brick walls and a stairway leading to the roof. Some of the family's original furnishings remain in the sitting room and bedrooms. An eat-in kitchen with a sky roof is fully equipped to handle long-term stays or weekend tourists seeking a singular experience in a period setting.

"We've made a lot of changes over the years, even though the goal was to keep a lot of the original charm and integrity," Barbara said.

The business is one of several bed and breakfasts that are part of the Boutique Inns of Kingston, another Chamber of Commerce member. Barbara said the accommodation owners are now gearing up for autumn, the busiest time of the year for tourism.

As for Joe's practice downstairs, it remains a trusted place for total eye-care services, including vision testing, diagnosis of disease, as well as contact lens and eyeglass fittings.

A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Optometry in Boston, Joe began practicing

in New Paltz in 1991. He later branched out and opened a second practice on Washington Avenue in Kingston.

He moved one more time to Wall Street before settling at his family's North Front Street building, where he has been since 1992.

Barbara said she and Joe often talk about the family's presence in the building and feel as if Joe's parents and grandparents are "smiling on them" as they go about their day-to-day business.

"Joe was very close with his family, so he feels they would approve. It really means something," she said. "We feel grateful for Joe being able to practice in the place that was his grandparents' home and to continue their family name by having the business upstairs."

"It's a niche. So many people move around and don't have roots, but we feel really blessed to have that sense of history."

Schwartz's Inn and Dr. Joseph Cohen Optometry are both located at 70 North Front St. in Kingston. Schwartz's Inn can be reached at (845) 389-9918 or www.schwartzsinn.com. Dr. Joseph Cohen Optometry can be reached at (845) 331-3400 or www.cohenoptometry.com.

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Kingston Mayor Steve Noble

Continued from page 1

resources to build a parking garage itself, we have made significant progress in attracting the right developer and investor to create a mixed-use project that will include retail, housing and parking. I'm mindful of the fact that we've been here before, teetering on the edge of development of this property.

"While I share the community's sense of urgency for new parking infrastructure, I know that in order to be successful we must carefully move through this process, ensuring that any development is consistent with our historic character, enhances our retail offerings rather than diminishes them, and provides the type of housing and lodging in high demand."

Noble said he also would discuss the city's efforts to address aging infrastructure and how it is "reimagining" its transportation system.

"We have to nurture the organic networks and business clusters growing throughout our city and build the necessary infrastructure and policies to support these micro-business districts," he said.

Noble said his remarks would also touch on the city's effort to develop a Land Bank "to ensure access to quality and affordable housing and home ownership opportunities. We are

doing business smarter."

"This is an incredible time to live and work in the city of Kingston," Noble said. "We are seeing great results in our work to attract and retain responsible businesses, with a significant amount of private investment happening throughout the city.

"We have seen what happens to our city when we rely too heavily on one employer. It has taken us decades to recover from IBM's departure in the mid-90s and I will do everything in my power to prevent such an economic implosion from happening again. But that means we have to diversify our economic development strategies and support small businesses more than we ever have before."

A 2000 graduate of Kingston High School, Noble earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY's College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He was an environmental educator with the city for a decade prior to running for mayor in 2015 and taking office Jan. 1, 2016.

Chamber breakfast programs are a great way to network with other local business leaders and stay on top of current events. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more information or to register, call the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

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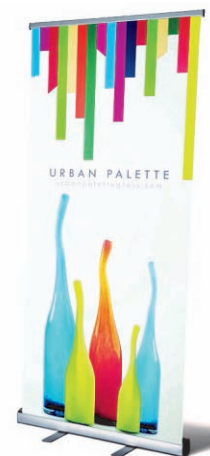
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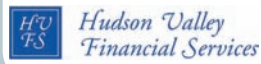
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