

Meet NYS Senate Hopefuls Oct. 18 Hinchey, Serino Breakfast Guests

Redistricting has created a winner-take-all race featuring two incumbent state senators in the newly redrawn 41st District. Both Democrat Sen. Michelle Hinchey and Republican Sen. Sue Serino will appear at the Chamber's next Breakfast meeting on Oct. 18.

The breakfast is scheduled from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. The sponsor for the breakfast is Hudson Valley Credit Union. The League of Women Voters will help facilitate the event. Chamber President Ward Todd will moderate.

Hinchey, a Saugerties Democrat, is a first-term legislator currently representing the 46th Senate District. Serino, a Hyde Park Republican seeking a fifth two-year term, now represents the 41st Senate District.

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

A Saugerties native and former executive in the technology and media fields before entering politics, Hinchey is the daughter of the late U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey. She is a graduate of the Industrial and Labor Relations School at Cornell University.

Hinchey said she would focus on "common sense politics" and touted 50 of her bills that were signed into law. Other priorities include strengthening family farms and the food supply, health care, education, increasing infrastructure and broadband, climate change and the environment, women's rights, utility bill

reform, infrastructure, and housing.

"Michelle is focused on a multi-pronged approach to addressing our housing crisis by fighting for funding to build more affordable and workforce housing, strengthening code enforcement and tenant protections, and getting an accurate registry and taxing of our short-term rental market," according to her website, michellehinchey.com.

Hinchey said she also hosted more than 40 community events in every county of the district, including blood drives, veterans' events, and informational forums on issues ranging from Lyme Disease to substance abuse.

Serino, who owns a Dutchess County real estate firm, formerly served on the town board in Hyde Park and also in the Dutchess County Legislature before getting elected to the NYS Senate.

Serino said her platform involves helping New York become "more affordable" given the "laundry list of New York taxes and fees."

"My goal is to make New York a place



Michelle Hinchey



Sue Serino

where people want to live, not one they want to leave—and that starts with lower taxes," said Serino, who started working as a waitress at age 15. "I want our community to be a place where our young people can afford to start a family and our seniors can afford to stay and enjoy the lives they worked so hard to build," according to her website, sueserino.com.

Other priorities for Serino include rebuilding the state after the COVID-19 pandemic, senior care, protecting nursing home patients, public safety, fighting the heroin and opioid epidemic, health care, mental health, helping those with Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases, and "restoring faith in government."

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a great way to stay on top of current events

October Breakfast
October 18
7:30-9:00 am
 The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus
 503 Washington Ave.
 Kingston, NY
 Sponsor:

and connect with other local business leaders. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door for Chamber members (\$40 for non-members.) For more information, contact the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

The Breakfast Sponsor for October is Hudson Valley Credit Union

For nearly 60 years, Hudson Valley Credit Union has delivered more than just financial services to our friends, families, and neighbors. From transactions as complex as commercial mortgages or as routine as opening a checking account, HVCU focuses on creating successful financial futures for Ulster County business owners and residents. Whether you're launching a new business, buying your first car or home, or teaching your little ones how to manage their money wisely, we're here for all the moments that make life rewarding.

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Breakfast With County Exec Candidates Just A Week Before Election Day

Ulster County voters will be selecting a new County Executive November 8th and both candidates will take part in the Chamber's Meet the Candidates for County Executive breakfast meeting. The vacancy in the office of County Executive occurred when Pat Ryan was elected to Congress in August.

The candidates, Democrat Jen Metzger and Republican James Quigley will appear at the Nov. 1st event, exactly one week before Election Day. The breakfast is scheduled for 7:30-9:00 a.m. at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. The Sponsor is Rhinebeck Bank.

Quigley is a 34-year certified public accountant who has been supervisor of the town of Ulster since 2010. Metzger was a member of the Rosendale town board before serving in the state Senate from 2013-18. She has been a member of the state Cannabis Control Board since 2021.

Metzger, who also serves as policy director for the non-profit New Yorkers for Clean Power, said on her campaign website (jenmetzger.com) that her priorities would include tackling the housing crisis, shifting to a clean-energy economy, expanding mental health services and support, filling the gaps in broadband and cell services, and implementing the Ulster 2040 recommendations for economic growth.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy in Ulster County," said Metzger, who moved to the county 21 years ago.

"Unfortunately, many of our small businesses did not survive the economic shock of the pandemic, and many of the businesses that did make it through are continuing to struggle with supply and staffing challenges.

"I look forward to partnering with the business and nonprofit communities to implement an economic development plan that helps our small businesses through these challenges and beyond, prioritizing workforce training and development, building on our strengths, and making sure that no one is left behind."

Quigley said the heart of his campaign can be summed up as: "Thirteen years of experience. Ready Day 1."

"My family has been here since 1849," Quigley said. "We owe a tremendous debt to this community for what it has provided to us. I have spent the last 13 years of my life giving back to the community."

Quigley's campaign website (quigleyforulster.com) said his priorities would include infrastructure, fighting crime,



Jen Metzger



James Quigley

battling inflation and expanding mental health services. Other issues would be improving and sustaining emergency services, supporting the environment and renewable energy, jobs and the economy, and what he called "corruption."

Quigley said he believes the county executive's office "has been misused as a steppingstone for ambitious politicians to advance their personal goals."

"Those days will end with Jim Quigley as county executive. Jim's focus won't be on what's best for Jim's career, his focus will be what's best for the people of Ulster County," his website reads.

The winner of the election will fill out Ryan's term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2023.

November Breakfast
November 1
7:30-9:00 am
 The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus
 503 Washington Ave.
 Kingston, NY
 Sponsor:

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Gateway In Party Mode

Nonprofit Fetes 65th At October Mixer

Gateway Hudson Valley is marking its 65th year in Kingston, and the nonprofit agency invites Chamber members to fete the milestone at the monthly Mixer on Oct. 13. There is plenty to celebrate as Gateway opens its doors to guests at its main hub at 1 Amy Kay Parkway in Kingston from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. The Mixer Sponsor is Catskill Hudson Bank.



cleaning service, which includes everything from janitorial work to floor care. The professionally trained staff services area businesses such as the Ulster Chamber, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and FDR Presidential Library and



Chamber Members are invited to tour Gateway and network with fellow Chamber Members while enjoying delicious complimentary food, beverages, and desserts from Home Plate Deli & Caterers, Town & County Liquors, and Rip Van Winkle Brewing Co.

For starters, Gateway does so much good in the community by helping people overcome challenges and reach new heights, according to agency representatives.

"We are the longest-lived leading human service agency in the area," said Stephanie Turco, Gateway's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We take care of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities as well as those facing mental health, psychiatric and economic challenges.

"We also are the vendor for Ulster County Senior Meals program, where we provide meals for our aging population. We host the county's Community Cafes, where seniors can get a hot meal and see their friends and neighbors," she added.

As part of its operations, Gateway provides 24-hour supervised housing, therapeutic programs, including comprehensive psychiatric rehabilitation and care management for those battling depression, trauma, anxiety and more serious mental-health challenges such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Gateway further provides vocational services for those 16 and older. Through these programs, job seekers can explore occupations, identify their strengths, build confidence and even get on-site job coaching.

"It's a robust vocational program," Turco said. "We always say we help folks find, get and keep employment, which is pretty significant. We provide ongoing job support for as long as the person wants it."

Participants, she said, get a thorough vocational assessment and have the opportunity to gain self-awareness and education on different career fields through a discovery process.

Turco said she also is anxious to get the word out to fellow Chamber members about Gateway's longstanding commercial

Museum.

One of the things Turco wants most to impress upon Mixer attendees is that Gateway does more than offer services for "differently abled" people. Building an inclusive work environment, in fact, is one of its strongest points, she said.

"The folks who come to us for services are often hired by the agency. To me, that distinguishes us. It means that we are really walking the walk. We do so many different things, but that's what I am most proud of. We're a fully integrated environment."

A person may begin with Gateway when he or she is discharged from a hospital and living in one of Gateway's homes, Turco said.

"They may need a lot of care at first, but they get better. In their journey to wellness, they may land an internship with us, and as that person continues to grow, change and recover, they may become an employee of our organization. We often hire the folks we serve. They are more than people we help. They're our colleagues and friends," Turco said.

Over the years, particularly during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, treatment models changed dramatically for those suffering from mental illness, according to Turco.

"It's changed our ability to provide services remotely on platforms like Zoom and over the phone. It's made services more available to people, who, for example, may be suffering from anxiety and don't want to leave the house. That's really helped a lot of individuals."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in five adults in the United States experiences a mental illness in a given year, and though public viewpoints about it have improved, some stigma remains, Turco said.

"I think it's still scary for some people, and that's OK. For me, I see all people as having had experiences that have challenged them. Sometimes you cope better, and sometimes, not so much. It's pretty universal to experience trauma and loss. That's just part of the human condition, and you may need a little help.

"Mental health issues can be overwhelming and derail the life that you have led. Maybe, you had a family member who passed on and you're grieving and can't leave the house. At Gateway, we're going to teach you skills to help you regain your life and develop long-lasting well-being."

Turco said she is looking forward to welcoming the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce back for a Mixer. Gateway hosted one five years ago, and Turco said it was a great success.

This time around, she hopes to broaden her contacts and even look for ways to hook area employers up with the people served by the agency as a way to ease the labor shortage. Additionally, there's always the ongoing financial need, Turco said.

"We really welcome any donations that come our way. This is not a business in which anyone is going to get rich, and we really look for support through philanthropy. We rely on the generosity of our community to go above and beyond for people," she said.

For more information on Gateway Hudson Valley, call (845) 331-1261 or go to www.ghv.org.

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.

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Thursday October 13 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Gateway Hudson Valley
1 Amy Kay Parkway | Kingston NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.
Sponsor: Catskill Hudson Bank

Tuesday October 18 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Meet the NYS Senate Candidates (New 41st District)
The Venue Uptown | 503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY
\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At the Door
\$40 Non-Members
Sponsor: Hudson Valley Credit Union

Thursday October 27 | 5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner

Business Recognition Awards Dinner
Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane | Kingston, NY
Tickets \$125 per person
Sponsorship Opportunities www.UlsterChamber.org

Tuesday November 1 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Meet the Ulster County Executive Candidates
The Venue Uptown | 503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY
\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At the Door
\$40 Non-Members
Sponsor: Rhinebeck Bank

Wednesday November 2 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Begnal Motors
129 Rt 28 | Kingston NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.
Sponsor: Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

More Info and Registration UlsterChamber.org
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The Best of the Best

Business Awards Dinner Oct. 27

J. Mullen and Sons Inc., a Saugerties-based construction company, has been named Business of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA).

The company, along with seven others, will be feted at the annual Ulster County Business Recognition Awards Dinner at Wiltwyck Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 27 starting at 5:30 pm. The awards recognize Ulster County businesses, business leaders, and organizations that are leaders in their sectors, have achieved outstanding results, or have shown dedication and commitment to furthering business and the quality of life in Ulster County.

John Mullen launched his company in 1982 with a skeleton crew. It has since grown to more than 100 employees working in areas such as commercial demolition, new construction, construction management, excavation, site utilities, site concrete, site masonry, structural concrete, architectural masonry and finishes, interior framing, drywall and construction, and foundations for the public, private, industrial and institutional sectors.

Mullen said he has always stayed focused on his work and doesn't look for recognition for his many achievements.

"I am truly humbled by the award. It wasn't something I expected," he said. "I just go to work every day. To win such a prestigious award as this is truly a great honor and something I will never forget."

J. Mullen and Sons have done work for hundreds of well-known organizations throughout the Hudson Valley and the state, ranging from retail centers and hospitals to churches and schools, including Vassar College, The Culinary Institute of America, Ulster BOCES, and Marist College.

The company also is working alongside Central Hudson Gas & Electric as the construction partner in a five-year project to install new natural gas distribution mains and services throughout the region.

The company's motto is "From the Ground Up," and over the years, J. Mullen and Sons has had a role in building communities into what they are today," according to the website, jmullellandsons.com.

"Though we continue to expand our outreach, we still hold onto our core values that have defined our reputation," Mullen said.

Devin and Marybeth Mills, restaurateurs with a rich background in the culinary arts, also will be in the Chamber spotlight on Oct. 27. Their Peekamoose Restaurant + Tap Room in Big Indian was named Small Business of the Year.

The Peekamoose is known throughout the Catskills for its New American cuisine, award-winning beverages, and laid-back atmosphere. The restaurant is a destination and community hub for locals, weekenders, and tourists.

The Mills have become famous for their farm-to-table menu, which changes seasonally. The restaurant operates out of a former farmhouse, which the couple revived. They employ 32 people and support the local community by giving regularly to causes and events.

"It's a big deal for us," Marybeth said of the award. "This community has been exceptional to us, and we are very honored. My husband and I are incredibly grateful because this region has given us both a landscape and a lifestyle.

"It's a gift to be able to do what you love. Jokingly, I tell people we're one-trick ponies, so we better do it well. We want to make sure the community feels our appreciation. We're going into our 20th year, so we are very grateful that we've been able to make a living doing what we love in such a beautiful place," she said.

Among others to be honored at this year's awards gala is developer Charles Blaichman, who was named Business Person of the Year for his Hotel Kinsley, a campus of four boutique 19th-century buildings with 42 guest rooms as well as two restaurants and a bar in Kingston's historic Stockade District. The project was the first destination hotel to open in Uptown Kingston in 2019.

"This award sort of confirms what we are doing," Blaichman said. "It's nice to be acknowledged for all our work and our investment in the city and county.

"It's been a natural progression. There was a need for this type of hotel, and we wanted to bring different kinds of good food to Kingston, so the restaurants (Restaurant Kinsley and Lola) were part of that. Kingston has a lot of great properties, and I believe in the city—not only as an investment but as an important asset

to the area, especially all the historic buildings. It's a beautiful city, and we're happy to be part of its revitalization," said Blaichman, who has been developing, building, and managing real estate for more than 30 years.

Other 2022 honorees include:

Emerging Young Leader

Ulster County archivist Taylor Bruck became the city of Kingston historian when the late and legendary Ed Ford retired in 2018. The 32-year-old Bruck, who grew up in Kingston and studied under Ford for years, has been part of several groundbreaking initiatives in Kingston, including recreating two missing lunettes at City Hall, working with the History Alliance of Kingston to build a Black history database, and planning Kingston's 150th anniversary celebration. Bruck credits his mother, Lisa Bruck, for passing on a love for history and reading. Due to his efforts, the Association of Public Historians of New York State will hold its three-day conference in Kingston this September for the first time.

Tourism Business of the Year

Rail Explorers is a unique adventure in the Catskill Mountains featuring pedal-powered bikes that ride the tracks of the historic Ulster and Delaware Railroad. The tourist attraction, which launched in Phoenicia in 2018, enables passengers to take an eight-mile round trip that runs alongside the Esopus Creek and through the woods of the Catskill Mountains.

Commitment to the Community Award

Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties has had a presence in Ulster for 40 years and has served thousands of residents each year regardless of religion or ability to pay. The agency provides a variety of bilingual services to individuals and families that include case management, information and referrals, and emergency assistance for rent, utilities, transportation, food, clothing, and advocacy. Catholic Charities also helps those fighting addiction and immigrants navigating the journey to citizenship.

The Heritage Award

Scanlon's Dry Cleaners is a three-generational, family-owned business that has served Kingston and surrounding areas for more than 60 years. Bob Scanlon founded the company in 1956, and today it operates at four locations—two in Kingston, one in Rhinebeck, and another in Red Hook. The business is a full-service company that not only offers dry cleaning but standard wash-and-fold services, window treatment and area rug cleaning, and onsite upholstery cleaning.

Len Can Heart of Ulster County Award

This award annually goes to an Ulster County business or organization leader who gives back to his or her community in a big way. For the past two decades, Tom Struzziari has become known throughout the region as a businessman with a big vision and an equally big heart. Known for his world-class equestrian company HITS, Struzziari has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The horse shows, which run from May through September, attract thousands of equestrians, spectators, and tourists each year, boosting the local economy. Struzziari also opened a boutique hotel and event space known as Diamond Mills Hotel & Tavern in Saugerties several years ago. He is also legendary for his philanthropy, which included funding a huge feeding program for frontline workers during the pandemic and numerous other causes throughout Ulster County.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. They include Premier (\$3,500), Platinum (\$2,500) and Diamond (\$1,500). Those wishing to sponsor the event can contact Chamber President Ward Todd at (845) 338-5100 (Ext. 2) or email Ward@UlsterChamber.org. For more information about this year's celebration, call (845) 338-5100 or visit the Chamber website at www.UlsterChamber.org.




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Business of the Year
J. MULLEN & SONS

Small Business of the Year

PEEKAMOOSE RESTAURANT + TAP ROOM

Business Person of the Year
CHARLES BLAICHMAN
(HOTEL KINSLEY)

Tourism Business of the Year
RAIL EXPLORERS

The Heritage Award
SCANLON'S CLEANERS

Commitment to the Community Award
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ORANGE, SULLIVAN & ULSTER

Emerging Young Leader
TAYLOR BRUCK

Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award
TOM STRUZZIERI

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

5:30 pm Cocktails | 6:30 pm Dinner
Wiltwyck Golf Club
404 Steward Lane, Kingston, NY

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Mixer

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Herb Litts (GPI), Patrick Hertica, Aron Chapyak (both with Samadhi) and Patrick Paulson (Adams Fairacre Farms).



Cara Schnitzer, Lynda Intrabartola (both with River Radiology), and Janeda Vasquez (Global Dwelling).



Tara Ryan (Junior League of Kingston) and Erica Cox (Artisan Beauty Bar).



Mark Cozzupoli (Ulster County Veteran's Services), Mario Tagliaferro (Ulster County Sheriff's Office) and Anthony Troccia (Ulster Savings Bank).



Joe Percivalle and Lori Christiana (both with Kingston Railyard Brewing).

Don't Steer Clear Of This Mixer

Begnal Motors Marks 50 Years



Begnal Motors is a mainstay in the Ulster County business community and will be celebrating a very rare milestone at the Chamber's next Mixer on Nov. 2. "It's going to be a Mixer celebrating our 50th anniversary," said owner Larry Begnal. "We'll have door prizes and raffles and we're also planning on conducting a raffle for a local not-for-profit agency and they're going to get all the proceeds."

The two-hour Mixer, sponsored by Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, will get on the road at Begnal's sprawling lot at 129 state Route 28 in the town of Ulster at 5 p.m.

Larry Begnal and his wife, Dorothy, started the dealership in 1972 on Clinton Avenue in Kingston where Timely Signs is now located. The business moved to Albany Avenue in Kingston in 1984 and was there until moving just off the Thruway circle five years ago.

The move to the town of Ulster has been "fantastic" and a "game changer," according to Begnal. The dealership is in a high-traffic area with two other car dealers directly across the street.

"Competition breeds success," Begnal says. "The customers cross-shop all of us. They go from here to there. Our display area is well-lit and very accessible. There's always lots of parking."

Begnal Motors—which sells Chrysler, Jeep, Ram, Dodge, and Fiat vehicles—is now in a 34,000-square-foot building. Before the move, the dealership operated out of 10,000 square feet on Albany Avenue in Kingston and many of its services were spread out in separate buildings. Parking was also tight, but the new dealership provides plenty of space.

The dealership offers 11 acres of property to display vehicles, compared to 2 acres at the old location on Albany Avenue in Kingston.

Begnal said all the plumbers, electricians, and contractors on the \$10-million building project were all his customers. He has hosted other Mixers since opening but is always proud to have the county's business leaders under his roof.

"It showcases the building," he said. "It shows them how much we've poured back into the community."

A family-owned business, Begnal now works with his two sons, Brian and Tim. He also is proud that some employees, such as Jim Barnes and Jerry Trepanier, worked for him for several decades. Four others—Paul Roeber, Joe Frangello, Ron Beatty, and Kevin Crockett—have been with Begnal for more than 25 years.

When asked how he has been able to stay in business for half a century, Begnal replied, "Just taking care of customers. That's the long and short of it."

"We've got people who have been buying cars here for a long, long time," he said. "We've gone into second and sometimes third generations of customers."



While inflation remains stubbornly high and has hurt the auto industry, Begnal said he "hasn't noticed that much of a slowdown" at his dealership.

"People need cars in this area," he said. "You can't rely on public transportation."

Begnal said the nationwide microchip shortage has been "frustrating" because auto manufacturers can't make cars without them. He used to have more than 300 new vehicles in stock, but that is now down to approximately 100.

Begnal Motors 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.

Mixer

Nov. Mixer
Wednesday, Nov. 2
5-7 pm

Begnal Motors
129 State Route 28, Kingston, NY

Sponsor: