

Small Business On Breakfast Menu

Congressman Molinaro Addresses Chamber

If you're curious about the latest federal budget talks or the bipartisan tax deal that sailed through the U.S. House back in January, the Chamber's next breakfast meeting Wednesday April 24 in Saugerties is for you.

U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro, R-Catskill, is the guest speaker and the first-term lawmaker said he will discuss various provisions of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, including the child tax credit and business tax breaks to help small companies and families.

The breakfast is scheduled from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at Diamond Mills Hotel & BLACKBARN Hudson Valley. The breakfast sponsor is Sawyer Savings Bank. The Underwriting Sponsor is Sawyer Motors.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy," Molinaro said when asked what he would share with business leaders at the breakfast. "Upstate, the Hudson Valley and the Catskills rely on a robust and diverse and sustainable small business economy."

"So, whether it's us supporting tourism destinations or agribusiness or small manufacturers, we need a diverse economy locally and we need to ensure that small businesses have the ear of every level of government. We ought to be making decisions that help support them."

While campaigning for a second term, Molinaro said business leaders are telling him of the challenges they face finding qualified workers. Other concerns are inflation and rising costs, "overregulation from Albany," high taxes and public safety.

"It's why we need many voices representing our region," Molinaro said. "Not just one, but many voices that can at least provide some

sunlight and critical pushback on policies that undermine small business.

"Too many are voting with their feet and leaving upstate New York because they feel that their state government, in particular, is not being as respectful of them as is necessary."

A former member of the state Assembly and Dutchess County executive, Molinaro decried proposed state budget cuts to education, calling Gov. Kathy Hochul's plan "woefully wrong."

"If her budget were to be adopted, as is, school districts across the region would lose hundreds of thousands in aid and we know what goes first," Molinaro said, mentioning electives, sports, music and arts and special education. "It's unfathomable to me."

Molinaro has introduced legislation directing the Department of Education to conduct a study on the effects of learning loss for students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study will highlight the unique needs of these students so educators, parents and lawmakers can develop informed solutions to address learning loss, the congressman said.

"Very little attention has been given to the educational needs of students with disabilities and the setbacks they endured during the pandemic," Molinaro said. "As a father of a child on the autism spectrum, I saw learning loss firsthand. We can't allow students with disabilities to just be left behind. This bipartisan effort will work to ensure students with disabilities get additional support to address the learning loss that occurred."

As for the issue of the southern border, Molinaro said, "We hear it all the time." He said constituents are concerned about the moving of migrants to upstate communities and the issue of public safety. He has called on the Biden

administration to stop the relocation program.

"There is significant concern that the failure of the administration to secure the border and to move people without any care and concern for people and communities has made it real," he said. "I don't think it's fair to dismiss it or to suggest that it isn't real. It is real. I know it. I've seen it and we must respond to it."

Molinaro was elected to the Tivoli board of trustees at age 18 and has a long and distinguished career in public service, including a run for governor in 2018. He also was mayor of Tivoli—the youngest mayor in the country at the time—and served in the Dutchess County Legislature and state Assembly before becoming county executive.

The 19th Congressional District Molinaro represents includes the towns of Hardenburgh, Denning, Shandaken, Olive, Woodstock, Saugerties, Hurley, Ulster and Kingston in Ulster County, along with a portion of Wawarsing. A new map approved recently would change the district somewhat by adding the towns of Rosendale, Marletown, Rochester, Shawangunk and parts of Gardiner and Wawarsing, while retaining part of Wawarsing, Hurley, Olive, Shandaken, Hardenburgh and Denning.

The sprawling district encompasses parts of 11 counties, including Columbia, Greene, Sullivan, Delaware, Otsego, Chenango, Broome, Tioga, Tompkins and Cortland.

BREAKFAST Meeting



APRIL BREAKFAST
Wed, April 24, 2024
7:30 - 9:00 am
Diamond Mills Hotel
25 S. Partition Street
Saugerties, NY

U.S. Congressman
Marc Molinaro

Sponsor: 

Underwriting Sponsor: 

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

The April Breakfast Is Sponsored by Sawyer Savings Bank

Sawyer Savings Bank has been an independent community bank for more than 152 years and is proud of its strong financial foundation, exceptional customer service, and a legacy of community involvement and support. They keep their focus locally and on what the people, businesses, and organizations around us need.

Sawyer Savings Bank's philosophy to build relationships through focused banking creates a personalized customer service experience, building a comprehensive understanding of their customers' financial needs and goals. Sawyer does not simply take a one-size-fits-all banking approach. Instead, they invest the time needed to create a strategic and integrated plan for their financial goals.

James Whitaker, President and interim CEO of Sawyer Savings Bank explained "I'm excited about Sawyer Savings Bank's position in the Hudson Valley and our plans for the future. We offer our traditional brick-and-mortar branches to create a more personal banking experience with a talented and professional staff to guide and support our customers. But we are also dedicated to providing progressive and innovative online and mobile banking platforms to generate comprehensive banking services for our customers, both for personal and business."

Sawyer's commitment to serving their customers and communities is sustained by their highly committed team of bankers and contemporary financial products, allowing



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- Free business checking with no minimum balance.
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virtual banking experience will give customers the freedom to bank with enhanced security anytime, anywhere, from any device.

The Banking Industry witnessed historical changes throughout 2023 and Sawyer was able to adjust its financial service offerings and educate its customers how to correctly adjust their financial portfolios. Sawyer Savings is confident that they can adapt to changes within the banking industry, whether sudden or gradual. Through careful risk management, taking prompt corrective actions, and adhering to regulations, Sawyer Savings Bank has overcome challenges in the past and continues to thrive, just as it has for the last 152 years.

Networking On Hallowed Ground

Bearsville Theater Hosted April Mixer

A mesmerizing magic was blowin' in the wind on April 4 at the Bearsville Theater, which hosted the Chamber's monthly Networking Mixer at one of the most iconic musical birthing places in the world—Woodstock, N.Y.

The crowd that came out to the event at 291 Tinker St. got tours of the famed venue—considered hallowed ground—where Bob Dylan, The Band and other rock and folk artists defined the music of the '60s and where Janis Joplin had often come to recuperate after touring and recording.

British entrepreneur Lizzie Vann, who made her fortune founding the baby food company known as Organix, bought the 16-acre campus in 2019 for \$2.5 million.

Once owned by music impresario Albert Grossman, the property that had passed on to others had deteriorated over the years, sustaining heavy water damage and other structural issues like holes in the roof and buckling floorboards.

Vann, a music lover who had relocated to Woodstock in 2013, was so committed to restoring the property that she sank millions more into the massive overhaul of the theater and other buildings on the grounds, including The Bear Cafe.

"We literally dried out, remediated, scrubbed, polished, painted and, in many cases, replaced every inch of surface in the 8,000-square-foot (theater) building," Vann said.

What Chamber members saw was the finished product, a "restored jewel," according to Vann, who has rebranded it as the Bearsville Center and made it into a venue for weddings, private parties, memorials, corporate events, retreats, rehearsals and recordings.

Vann and her General Manager Ian Troxell led attendees on tours that began upstairs at The Lounge, a mid-century modern space with a bar and stage, and ended downstairs through myriad spaces leading to the art deco-style 400-seat auditorium with a stage, balcony and crystal chandeliers.

Along the way, they saw the sprawling "Music Made in Woodstock" mural featuring 80 musicians, from John Sebastian and Muddy Waters to the Rolling Stones and Van Morrison, who once performed in the town famous for its artist colonies and countercultural vibe.

Chamber members also got to see a museum-like exhibit dedicated to Bob Dylan, complete with a typewriter, ashtray and song sheets, one of the many musicians Grossman had managed in his career. They meandered through the Green Room, a contemplative space for performers to relax before and after shows, and through the hallway dedicated to Bearsville Records, a label founded by Grossman that released 81 albums between 1970 and 1984 by such artists as Todd Rundgren, Paul Butterfield, The Band and Foghat.

The tour also included peeks inside the Van Morrison and Janis Joplin dressing rooms. Joplin's room was one of the highlights and Vann's ode to the blues-inspired singer and songwriter. The room reflects the breadth of her life with rare photos, including one of her famous Porsche, which came to Woodstock after her untimely death in 1970, and a mural by artist Lindsey Tipler with the lyrics to "Half Moon" woven through her hair.

Vann loves to tell the story of how her affection for Joplin led her to Woodstock and served as the inspiration for buying Bearsville. "My love affair with Janis Joplin started in 1972 when I borrowed an LP called 'Pearl' from my local public



Woodstock Supervisor Bill McKenna with Bearsville Center Owner Lizzie Vann.

library in the Midlands district of England," she said. "It blew my mind, and I decided there and then, at the age of 14, to come to America and find where Janis had lived and played."

Vann said she hopes Chamber members left with a greater sense of Woodstock's importance as a music mecca, thanks in large part to Grossman, the "Baron of Bearsville," who built the complex for his artists.



Part of the overflow crowd at the Bearsville Theatre Chamber Mixer.

"We wanted Chamber members to feel a sense of excitement that such a unique facility exists in the heart of the Catskills, within Woodstock, where the Bearsville team is intent on reviving the musical reputation of the town and determined to bring economic success once again to this small jewel of a campus," she said.

The Bearsville Theater is at 291 Tinker St. in Woodstock. For more information, go to bearsvilletheater.com or call (845) 684-7133.



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Outdoor Recreation Thriving In Ulster County Post-Covid

Part Three - Golf

This is the third in our series on the positive impact the pandemic had on local outdoor sports and activities.

Every cloud has a silver lining and that proved true for Ulster County golf courses during the pandemic and in the years following it, with record numbers of golfers out on our links.

For local residents as well as others wanting to escape the big city, Ulster County golf courses seemed to inspire people to get outdoors and get fit, and hitting the links proved to be a good way to do that. In the third part of our series on outdoor recreation, we will look at golfing and how our first-rate courses flourished during the pandemic ... and have ever since.

Once golf courses reopened in the spring of 2020, with strict restrictions in place, Wiltwyck Golf Club, which had recently become semi-private, was there to provide a healthy outlet for folks anxious to get outside for some recreation.

Wiltwyck is a par-72 Robert Trent Jones-designed course, known for its picturesque fairways and challenging greens. It opened in 1933 and moved to its current location in 1954, offering a restaurant and banquet facility with indoor and outdoor dining, a newly renovated resort-style pool, fitness center, plus tennis and pickleball.

"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 five managing members who oversees the operation and one of 14 owners of Wiltwyck.

"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," he said.

Among our most venerable local courses is Twaalfskill Golf Club at 282 West O'Reilly St. in Kingston. It's a 9-hole private golf and country club that opened in 1902 by some of the area's most prominent families. Among its many notable members was financier John Jacob Aster, who perished on the Titanic in 1912.

Club Manager Jeremy Simonhughes said Twaalfskill has been called "Kingston's best-kept secret" because it not only boasts a

challenging course for golfers of every skill level but swimming for its members and a robust social club with a hometown feel. The club also offers an abundance of exclusive events and activities for its members and their guests throughout the year.

Like other outdoor venues, Twaalfskill experienced an influx of new members during the pandemic, according to Simonhughes. A lot of them had relocated to Kingston from metropolitan New York and were looking for ways to keep fit and recharge their mental batteries while socially distancing from others.

"Being the only private course conveniently located in the heart of Kingston, Twaalfskill became a popular choice for many of our new neighbors," he said. "During a time when so many of us spent a long period of time sheltered indoors, outdoor activities were in high demand. Golf is an outdoor activity where you can easily socially distance yourself from others, and as a private member-owned club, we saw many of our long-term members bringing in new members looking for a place to play."

Other notable places in Ulster County include High Falls-based Stone Dock Golf Course, a 9-hole golf course with a new cafe serving fresh and locally sourced food. Run by Francis and Jennifer O'Donnell, Stone Dock's grounds have been steadily improving since the couple purchased it in 2021. The course is surrounded by fields and woods and gives golfers views of the Rondout Creek as well as the Mohonk Mountain House Sky Top Tower at the 6th and 7th holes.

Some 20 miles north of Stone Dock is the Woodstock Golf Club, a 9-hole golf course founded in 1929. Here, golfers are challenged not only by the Sawkill Creek, which comes directly into play on the finishing hole, a long par 3, but also by rugged rock ledges, stately trees and ponds that are home to waterfowl and native vegetation. The historic clubhouse, with its outdoor deck, overlooks the Sawkill and offers a view of the first tee and fairway, making it the perfect place to relax before or after a round of golf.

Another option is Apple Greens Golf Course in Highland, a 27-hole championship golf course that offers some of the Hudson Valley's most spectacular views of the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountain ranges. The family-owned and operated enterprise opened in 1995 and gets extra stars for its manicured bluegrass



Wiltwyck Golf Club



Twaalfskill Golf Club

fairways, bentgrass greens and four teeing areas to choose from.

Now that the pandemic is history, Twaalfskill's Simonhughes believes that golfing will always be a thing in Ulster County because the courses have a sense of place and fit naturally into the landscape. Plus, it's just good for the body, mind and soul, he says.

"Golf is a sport that balances the mental and physical game. It's highly competitive, especially in our private golf club with all

your friends and family. It's a sport that can be played at every age and skill level," he said.

It turns out the golfing trend was widespread, not just local. According to the National Golf Foundation, there were close to 25 million golfers in the nation in 2020, which was an increase of 500,000 from the previous year. The NGF also noted that in the period between 2020 and 2022, more than 800,000 women took up the sport for the first time.

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- Adirondack Trailways/Pine Hill Trailways/ New York Trailways
- Amthor Welding Service, INC.
- Artco's Copy Hut
- Astor Services
- Atlas Security Services Inc.
- Auto Tech
- Avon - Dina Zager
- Banister Animal Hospital
- Blair Collectibles
- Boy Scouts of America/Rip Van Winkle Council
- Brickyard Pizza
- Bridge Arts and Education
- Builders FirstSource
- Carole Amper, Inc.
- Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster
- Catskill Animal Sanctuary
- ClearPath Advisors
- Coalition To Save Belleayre
- Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey
- Catskills Visitor Center
- Crested Hen Farms
- DBS Remodel
- Esposito Professional Services, LLC
- Farber Brothers Inc. dba Ophira Sailing
- Gilpatric VanVliet Funeral Home
- Hickory Barbecue & Smokehouse
- HITS, LLC
- Howard Johnson Inn
- Hudson Valley Chapter of SHRM
- Hudson Valley Financial Services
- Hudson Valley Wine Village
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Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster
Hickory Barbecue & Smokehouse
- 10 Years**
Blair Collectibles
Farber Brothers Inc. dba Ophira Sailing
Hudson Valley Wine Village
- 5 Years**
ClearPath Advisors
Town & Country Liquors
- 1 Year**
Atlas Security Services Inc.
DBS Remodel
Main Street Web Developer, LLC
Paint Xperts NY LLC
Rondout Valley Resort

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Thursday April 11 | 9:00 - 10:30 am

New Member Meet & Greet
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1835 Ulster Avenue | Lake Katrine, NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.
Sponsor: Hudson Valley Credit Union

Wednesday April 24 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
U.S. Congressman Marc Molinaro
Diamond Mills Hotel & BLACKBARN Hudson Valley
25 S. Partition Street | Saugerties, NY
\$30 Members-Advanced Pay • \$35 Members-At The Door
\$40 Non-Members
Sponsors: Sawyer Savings | Sawyer Motors

Wednesday May 15 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Lisa Berger, Ulster County Tourism
Kevin Lynch, Economic Development
Tourism Boosts Economic Development
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: Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Wednesday May 22 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @
The Waterside Spa at Diamond Mills
2 Ferry Street | Saugerties, NY
There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.
Sponsor: M&T Bank

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

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DEDICATION OF GANNA'S WAY



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Pedal Power Kingston Cyclery Set For Big Season

Bill Hadsel is all geared up for spring and he's got the tools, inventory and know-how to get every biker on the road safely and in style this season.

Hadsel, a longtime bike enthusiast, is the owner of Kingston Cyclery, which moved recently from Morton Boulevard to a new 3,000-square-foot store at 612 Ulster Ave. in Kingston. The shop carries a wide array of bicycles, including children's bikes, comfort bikes and hybrids as well as mountain and road varieties. It's also stocked with the latest cycling apparel and shoes and accessories and parts like seats, pedals and handlebar grips.

"As spring arrives, the repairs start coming in, and customers want to trade in their old bikes for a new one," Hadsel said, adding that he has a trade-up program for children. "It is very important to bring your bikes in for tune-ups to keep them safe and enjoyable to ride. With all the new rail trails in the area, gravel, hybrid and comfort bikes have been the most popular bikes. We also stock car racks to transport your bicycle, making it much easier than putting your bike inside your car and possibly causing damage to your bike."

Hadsel, it seems, was destined to one day own the Kingston shop, which opened in 1973 during the so-called bike boom—a period in America when 45 million bicycles were sold. As a teenager, he became fascinated with how bikes worked and would disassemble them for fun, repair them and put them back together.

"In 1979, I rode one of my bikes over to Kingston Cyclery and was offered a job," he said. "I started assembling new bikes and eventually working on repairs and building custom bikes. I was always interested in the mechanics of a bike and how they worked, even as a young child."

Hadsel's story gets even more gripping when, in 1990, he became a Kingston police officer, following in his father's footsteps and joining the department's bicycle patrol unit when it first started. In 2006, he bought the bike store to continue servicing the bicycling community and retired from the police department five years later.

"I have grown the business substantially through the years," he said. "Over the many years, we have been a dealer for many manufacturers. We have tried many different bike brands and accessories. Through our vast knowledge and experience, we have come to provide only the best bikes and accessories for our customers."

Even after all these years, he still gets all pumped up talking bikes and how to choose one that's right for you.

"Do you want to ride on the street, rail trail or off-road? After finding the style of bicycle you're interested in, the next step (is) we will make sure it's properly fitted for you," he said. "A bicycle that fits well will be more comfortable, and it will handle better—giving you better control."

One of the perks about buying a bike from Kingston Cyclery is that it offers free adjustments as needed. Hadsel encourages his customers to think seriously about safety and security. "Not everyone needs padded shorts or cycling

shoes, but you should wear a helmet and gloves. Powerful flashing lights will let drivers and other cyclists know where you are at. Finally, protect your purchase with a lock," he said.

Another area of growing interest at Kingston Cyclery is the electric bike, or E-bike, which grew in popularity during the pandemic. "We have customers who have knee problems or just don't have the strength they used to have, but still love to ride a bike," Hadsel said. "An E-bike gives them that opportunity to get back on a bicycle, and with the different power settings, you can choose how much assistance you would like to receive."

Overall, biking in Ulster County is as popular as ever, and Hadsel stands at the ready to make it even more pleasurable for those who come through his door.

"I have a vast knowledge of the most up-to-date parts, components and techniques to keep your bike at its peak performance," he said. "My reputation for giving my customers the best sales and service is very important to me, which is why our customers return year after year."



Bill Hadsel, Owner

Kingston Cyclery, at 612 Ulster Ave. in Kingston, can be reached by calling (845) 383-1600. Go to kingstoncyclery.com for more information.

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Mixer

Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation



In celebration of International Women's Day, the Chamber Foundation hosted our March Mixer at The Locust Grove at Garvan's in New Paltz. Pictured (L-R) NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey, Mixer Speaker Hon. Karen Peters, Mixer Sponsor/Speaker Katy Dwyer, Founder & Creative Director, KDD Marketing, Mixer Sponsor from O'Connor & Partners, Regina Fitzpatrick and Ernestina Carosella, Mixer Speaker, Heidi Kirschner, CEO, YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, and Su Marcy, Executive Director, Ulster Chamber Foundation.

March 7, 2024
Locust Grove at Garvan's
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Mixer Host The Locust Grove at Garvan's staff, Kathy Combs, General Manager with Gerard, Sara, and Jamie.



Jess Davis (Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce) with Mixer Sponsor from MGI Construction, Susan Wright, President.



Mixer Host from Garvan's Gastropub, Garvan McCloskey, Owner, Herb Litts (GPI), Ashley Knox-Alleyne (Go Beyond Greatness), and Michael Roach (Michael Roach Creative).

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795 Broadway
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www.catskillballet.org
Kelly Polston - Board Member
 Category: Arts & Entertainment
 Description: *Established over 40 years ago, the Catskill Ballet Theatre Company is a not-for-profit organization providing cultural enrichment within the Hudson Valley through the art of classical ballet. The mission of the Catskill Ballet Theatre Company is to provide the residents and visitors to the Hudson Valley classical ballet performances, while offering opportunities to local dancers to be part of professional productions.*

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772 Ulster Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
Sonia Monroy - Owner
 Categories: Restaurants; Caterers
 Description: *Mexican Grill serving fresh authentic Mexican cuisine daily 7 days a week 11 am - 10 pm.*

ROCA FLORAL

272 Hasbrouck Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
www.rocafloral.org
Monica Gonzalez - Owner
 Categories: Florists; Retail
 Description: *Full-service florist specializing in weddings, baby showers, baptisms and all special events. Many different varieties of flowers including beautiful lilies, orchids and roses.*

THE COMMUNITY AT BROOKMEADE

46 Brookmeade Drive
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
www.brookmeadecommunity.org
Karen Zobel - CEO/Administrator
 Category: Health Services
 Description: *The Community at Brookmeade, located on 75 country acres just outside the Village of Rhinebeck, is a senior living retirement community serving the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas. Meadows Adult Day Healthcare Program offers a medical and social day model program for those who need daytime assistance, Arbor Ridge offers independent living, The Terraces offers assisted living, Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation (formerly known as The Baptist Home) provides long term care, sub-acute rehabilitation, palliative care and Out-Patient Rehabilitation Services,*

THE RDI BAR & ROAD KILL GRILL

28 State Route 55
Napanoch, NY 12458
www.therunningdeerinn.com
Christine Schiff - Owner
 Category: Restaurants
 Description: *"Keeping Dive Bars Alive" We invite you to a warm and inviting atmosphere. We are open 7 days a week serving comfort food classics, burgers, wings and your favorite bar snacks. Happy Hour 4-6 pm Monday - Friday, Sunday thru Thursday 11 am - 10 pm, Friday & Saturday 11 am - 12 am.*

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