Ulster County is a World Class Destination
Come See Us This Summer

As the long days of summer are now upon us and the Mid-Hudson Region is finally opening up, many of the region’s tourism properties, on both the indoor and outdoor recreation front, are rocking and rolling and welcoming guests, right here in Ulster County.

The Chamber will feature several of those properties in its next Virtual Breakfast Meeting, entitled “Ulster County: A World Class Vacation Destination.” The program will be on Facebook Live and Livestream from 9:00-10:00 am, July 22 from the Six Smiles Media Center.

Mohonk Savings Bank is the sponsor. ElizabethCohen Creative in the Underwriting Sponsor role.

“Many people haven’t actually been on the road for a vacation for the last few months,” said Smiley, Mohonk’s CEO.

Mohonk, a national historic landmark, was founded by Smiley’s family in 1869. The 3,000-acre estate is a genuine time warp and a hidden treasure. The property is roughly 265,000 million annual tourism economy and a huge contributor to Ulster County’s roughly $650-million annual tourism economy.

Today’s Mohonk is a full-service, 21st-century family resort. “We are so happy to be back and offering our guests a refreshing getaway in the great outdoors,” said Smiley. “We’ve all been cooped up for so long, and we think the ranch will be therapeutically for families itching to be back outside, and for many of our guests in the great outdoors.”

We’re adhering to all the CDC guidelines for the safety of our guests, which is in our number one priority. The ranch is beautiful and we’re looking forward to the rest of the season and being able to help with the comeback of our local tourism industry.”

The family-owned resort is set on 150 acres with mountain views, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, a rock-climbing tower and mountain tubing. Trip Advisor has it as a top five resort in the nation among family hotels.

We’re really excited to reopen, and our guests are really excited to be back,” said co-owner Mike Offner.

“Our biggest burden ever seen—COVID-19. We’ve had three months of nothing,” Smiley said. “We’ve been basically monitoring all of this and trying to come up with alternatives to make sure that other events can still happen this year or 2021.”

The Virtual Breakfast Meeting is found at www.UlsterChamber.org or the Chamber’s Facebook page for more information, or call the Chamber at (845) 338-5180.

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Pine Ridge, set up on 150 acres with mountain views, offers the ultimate glamping ranch experience, with first-class riding programs for riders of all levels. The ranch also boasts geobags of activities like fishing and paddle boarding on the private lake as well as swimming at the indoor and outdoor pools of which include a hot tub, sauna, archery, a bounce pillow, rock wall, trampoline and sports and games.

“Emerson features the newly renovated banquet venue known as The Catamount, Billed as a “hidden treasure” in the Catskills, the Emerson also offers spacious lodging and one of the region’s most popular luxury camps, along with food, shopping and the World’s Largest Kaleidoscope. Emerson’s dining options are extensive and there are several bars to choose from. Whether you’re in the mood for a quick snack or a formal dining experience, they have it all.”

Even though the spa experience is again welcoming guests, money Smiley shared, concerns about the tourism industry.

“It’s been devastating,” she said. “It’s devastating not just for hotels, but for anyone who’s in the tourism industry, so if you’re talking about activities, restaurants, anything like that, it has been very, very difficult.”

Murray, the Emerson’s Director of Marketing and Sales, and the community has reached out to support the Emerson and that has been overwhelming. She said One Town when they were, “We’re all in this together.”

Brechbiel said. “Emerson’s opening is set in Kerhonkson will differ when it reopening the weekend and we’ll be there to support the Emerson and that has been extremely heartwarming.” It’s true when they run out to support the Emerson and that has been such a huge support for us.”

The breakfast will feature Tom Smiley of the Emerson Resort & Spa in Mount Tremper, Mike Offner of the Pine Ridge Dude Ranch in Kerhonkson and Steve Ellenbogen of Ellenbogen Creative Media as the Underwriting Sponsor.

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Lending A Hand

Chamber Members Give Back During COVID-19

As non-essential businesses began grinding to a halt in March, Cioffi already was sending meals to those in need. His role expanded when Gov. Cuomo put New York “on pause.”

Cioffi heard about Project Resilience and quickly hooked up with the feeding program in both Shandaken and Kingston.

Chamber, malls, general managers of Cioffi’s restaurants, said giving comes naturally to him. “It’s a no-brainer for Mike. He’s active in all facets of the community,” she said. “I’ve run many restaurants, and I’ve never met anyone who donates so much to the community. For him, it was about keeping the community spirit alive.”

Even now as coronavirus cases are dropping in Ulster County and things are loosening up, Cioffi continues his mission by distributing gift cards donated on social media to those in need. “I think anybody who’s in the service industry does it because they love feeding people,” Maltese said. “It’s what makes us happy—feeding people and making sure they have enough to eat, especially in such a weird and uncertain time.”

COVID-19 was Tom Struzzieri, the owner of Diamond Mills, “a wake-up call.”

A Brunch at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ulster County, a French fries for the University of Ulster County’s Food Bank.

Struzzieri identified needs during the pandemic and found creative ways to meet them.

In addition to participating in Project Resilience at the height of the coronavirus crisis, Struzzieri distributed more than 500 handwritten “Thank You” cards to local businesses, such as Stewart’s, with the hope that the recipients would give them to others.

Struzzieri also found other ways to help. For example, he offered free ice cream to those affected by COVID-19 at local fire stations.

Kevin Diers, owner of Foxhall Deli in Kingston, also found ways to keep busy. He did his part nourishing first responders and frontline workers, including personnel at the COVID-19 testing site on Grand Street in Kingston.

Diers said, “It’s what I’ve learned to do, especially in times of need. Those of us in a position to help others have an obligation to step up and answer the call.”

“We did both lunches and dinners to-go,” Ebel said. “It’s where we’ve learned to do, especially in times of need. Those of us in a position to help others have an obligation to step up and answer the call.”

“Taking care of people is important to me,” he said. “It’s what I’ve learned to do, especially in times of need. Those of us in a position to help others have an obligation to step up and answer the call.”

“Thank you very much to all the people who are still working, and the people who are making sure we can continue to function,” said Jordan. “We’re happy to support the overwhelming needs in our community.”

Kevin Diers

“Hemingway recognized the early demand for masks and purchased several hundred from local seamstresses,” Jordan said. “Today, Struzzieri said he has found someone making masks to sell at the Deli.”

“We can open the doors tomorrow.”

For more information: Jess@UlsterChamber.org

Supporting Businesses ~ Supporting Our Community

BRAINING STRATEGY

Chamber NEWS

In late April alone, he and a band of volunteers gave away 5,000 protective masks, along with toilet paper, at a drive-through at Solar City in Shandaken. The line of cars stretched around the venue over a two-hour period.

The whole mask project cost $1,525 and was financed through Struzzieri’s Savannah’s Seas in Ulster County.

The masks became even more important when Gov. Cuomo signed an executive order requiring anyone entering New York to provide documentation proving they have tested negative for COVID-19.

Diers, who had worked in his own, said giving was “hit him.

‘I was at work one day, and there was money at the end of the day when you lay your head on the pillow.”

“IT’S ALWAYS BEEN IN MY HEART TO HELP THE NEIGHBOR,” Jordan said. “YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.”

“George Bailey in ‘It’s a Wonderful Life,’ where he found a dollar bill at the end of the day and gave it to the people around him, it was about keeping the community spirit alive. You do it because you want to do it, and you feel good about yourself and the people around you.”

Diers reminded his fellow business owners to carry on the spirit of generosity once life returns to normal.

The owners of Hemingway’s Home and Paint Center in Kingston also worked with the county to obtain masks for frontline workers.

In fall 2020, the Chamber’s Project Resilience—shine a light will be in New York. It will run through May 2021.

The Chamber is planning to continue to assist local small business through the pandemic.

The sponsors are: The Republican and Northern Catskill Regional Chamber of Commerce; County and City of Kingston; Ulster County; and New York State Chamber of Commerce. The program is funded in part by the New York State Chamber of Commerce.

For information/Application Contact Ingrid Kulick

For more information: Jess@UlsterChamber.org

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