Congressman Antone Delgado will be the featured guest speaker at the Ulster Chamber’s first Breakfast Meeting of the New Year, which is scheduled for Jan. 26 at The Venue Uptown at The Little West Plaza, 503 Washington Ave., Kingston. Ulster Savings Bank is sponsoring the annual breakfast meeting.

Delgado represents the 19th Congressional District, which includes parts of Broome, Delaware, Greene, Orange, Schoharie, and Sullivan counties. He is currently serving his second term. He last appeared before the Chamber virtually in 2021.

In the past year, Congressman Delgado worked for his constituents to keep costs for gas, health and transportation, education, and childcare.

Additionally, he pushed for American goods and jobs with his Buy American Act, which was included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Delgado said, “As a result, we now have a future that will better benefit everyone and bring better opportunities.

At MAC Fitness, we strive to meet and exceed the needs of our clients, adapting to suit each person’s lifestyle, design fitness programs to suit each person’s lifestyle, design fitness programs to

**MAC Fitness**

MAC Fitness, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, is a family-owned business that provides a full-service fitness facility for individuals and families in the Kingston area. MAC Fitness offers a variety of services, including personal training, fitness classes, and group fitness programs.

**First Mixer Of 2022**

**January Breakfast Sponsor**

Ulster Savings Bank

January 26

7:30 a.m.

The Venue Uptown
The Little West Plaza
503 Washington Ave.
Kingston, NY

**Meeting Information**

- **Date:** January 26, 2022
- **Time:** 7:30 a.m.
- **Location:** The Venue Uptown, The Little West Plaza, 503 Washington Ave., Kingston, NY
- **Sponsor:** Ulster Savings Bank
- **Fee:** $45

**Parking:**

There is limited parking at The Venue Uptown. Additional parking is available at the Municipal Parking lot, 120 Main Street, and at the 500 Washington lot.

**To register:**

- **Phone:** (845) 338-1100 or (845) 338-1101
- **Email:** chamberinfo@ulsterchamber.org
- **Website:** www.ulsterchamber.org
The Intermission Is Over! NCG Makes Movie-Going An Experience

The long COVID intermission for the movie industry has ended. Theaters like NCG Cinema in Kingston are open again and looking forward to a blockbuster holiday season and better 2022.

NCG opened on April 19, 2019, replacing the former Regal Cinemas at the Hudson Valley Mall. NCG closed in March 2020 when the COVID pandemic struck and didn’t reopen until Oct. 19 of that year.

“At first it was a little slow because no one was releasing any movies,” said NCG General Manager Jason Harucki. “Things began to pick up this year, especially with the release of Marvel’s ‘Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings’ on Labor Day Weekend. Harucki said that theater has had some ‘very strong weekends’ since new movies hit the big screen. One of these was the third weekend in December when ‘Spider-Man: No Way Home’ hit the big screen.

‘It’s been crazy. We’ve seen something we haven’t seen since December 2019,’ Harucki said. ‘We had three separate weekends where we had ‘Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,’ ‘Frozen II’ and ‘Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,’ and we’ve surpassed those numbers with just one of these. We’re setting records because of this movie. We have 20 shows a day, and all of them, especially on the weekend, are selling very well. People have been wonderful with the new mask mandate, and we couldn’t be happier.

“As long as things stay the way they are, especially in Ulster County, we should be pretty good,” Harucki said. “The studios have all committed to releasing the movies that are scheduled. We can only assume 2022 is going to get better as things go on. As long as nothing collapses, we should be fine.”

NCG boasts 12 movie houses, including nine that can accommodate more than 100 viewers and three that hold 66. NCG is also proud of its luxury reclining chairs and affordable ticket and concession prices.

“We try to make it a personalized experience,” Harucki said. “We’re starting to see more and more regulars. We have a lot of the same customers coming in every weekend. We’ve added some premium seating on our competition that is not subject to the mask mandate and will be adding people to our theatre for the spring months. That number could grow to 40 or 50 people a day. We have the Theatre, and some of those that would come in to see a new movie at a time it was prior to the pandemic.”

Harucki said that he is excited about the “outside the box” ideas being floated for the Hudson Valley Mall, which he noted has two turn-key restaurants ready to go.

“I’ve always been thrilled to be in Ulster County,” he said. “I love Ulster County and think it’s one of the best places in the state. One of the reasons I took this job was because I wanted to be a part of the mall’s resurgence.”

“I hope we would do what Ulster County does best,” he said. “I hope more local businesses come up here and use the space.”

Harucki said the Chamber President Ward Todd told him on the radio show “Spotlight on the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce” and also introduced him to the Facebook group Ulster Eateries United. On Fridays during the pandemic, NCG offered popcorn-to-go to enjoy with a movie at home and Harbor Cinemas said Todd would try to continue this for a few more weeks.

“The Chamber has been wonderful about helping businesses and trying to get people to come up here,” he said. “Ward has been our savior ever since we opened.

Harucki made a point to the theater business when he spoke about the two-and-a-half-hour vacation every once in a while. ‘We’re on a pretty tough 18-month stretch.’

NCG Cinema, located in the Hudson Valley Mall at 110 Ulster Ave. in Kingston, can be reached at (845) 481-7474 or www.ncgmovies.com.
It was a magical moment for Dave Amato. In fact, the guests who attended the Chamber’s Ribbons Cutting festivities and Grand Opening for the Ole Savannah/Rondout Ice Rink on Dec. 2 remarked that it felt like a heart-warming scene from a Hallmark movie.

Folks were skating. Music was playing. Lights were twinkling. Faces were glowing. The cliched scene made Amato beam and Kingston proud of its newest form of winter entertainment outside Ole Savannah Southern Table and Bar at 100 Rondout Landing in Kingston.

"Honestly, it all came together magically," Amato said of the ice rink’s grand opening and unveiling ceremony. "It took a lot of planning to put it together. That night, I was blown away by one of these events where everything kind of fell into place.

The response to it has been unbelievable. Everybody’s talking about what a wonderful thing it is. They can’t wait to see the next event. It’s been overwhelming."

The idea for the ice-skating rink had been brewing in Amato’s mind for some time. He said he got down to serious business last year, researching how to make a rink a reality.

"I had to find something that wasn’t permanent, so we could take it down in spring," said Amato, the owner of Ole Savannah. "I talked to a company and figured out the largest size that I could get, and they custom-made it for me. It took a week to put it together and another week to install the ice. It is a process you’re guaranteed to have ice every day.

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Long warm period for the ice took it nightly." Amato, the owner of Ole Savannah, said of the ice rink’s grand opening and tree-lighting ceremony. "It took a week to make it solid and smooth, and when we have to maintain the ice, it takes a week."

Even during warm, summer nights, Amato said, he was able to keep the surface frozen.

"It will maintain the ice above 50 degrees," Amato said. "It really would take a long warm period for the ice to defrost. Since it’s been up, we’ve had days in the mid-40s, and that didn’t affect it at all. We’re guaranteed to have ice every day.

The 30-by-60 Rondout Ice Rink is open to the public and can accommodate up to 12 people at a time. Skaters pay only $20 per hour with skate rentals and $15 per hour without skate rentals. Group rates also are available. Amato even offers free skate passes for beginners who aren’t brave enough to go alone.

"We’re the only skating rink in the area that allows you to bring your own skates or rent them," Amato said. "We have about 100 pairs of skates available for rent. We can accommodate up to 20 people at a time with skate rentals, Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. There is even an after-school special for just $10 per hour, including skate rentals. Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The way Amato sees it, the ice rink is a great community magnet and excellent form of leisure during the long winter months. He also considers it as a plus for the Downtown business community.

"Basically, we know that there’s a lot going on at the waterfront during the summer, but not so much in the wintertime. It’s typically pretty quiet here at this time of year. So we tried to strategically find a way to get people downtown. We wanted to give them something fun to do. We look at it as something good for our community," he said.

"It’s really great for all the businesses here down, not just us. People are going to come down to see us at Ole Savannah or the other restaurants and then go skating or vice versa."

As for Ole Savannah, you may be wondering if he’s laced up his skates yet. Amato hasn’t gotten on the ice so far—at least, not with skates on," he said with a laugh. "We’ll see what happens.”
Ribbon Cuttings

MAEVE’S PLACE
5569 Route 28, Phoenicia, NY
maevesplace.com

SAUGERTAILS PET SUPPLY
252 Main Street, Saugerties, NY
www.facebook.com/saugertails

DANIELLE’S PIZZA SHOP
5575 Route 28, Phoenicia, NY
www.facebook.com/daniellespizzashop

MOONBURGER
5 Powells Lane, Kingston NY
www.moonburger.com

LUCY’S GROOMING PARLOR
12 Market Street, Saugerties, NY
www.lucysgroomingparlor.com

KEITH BENNETT’S KARATE ACADEMY
618 Ulster Avenue, Kingston, NY
kingstonnymartialarts.com

IT’S TIME FOR BALANCE

INTRODUCING Ulster Strong
Partners for Growth and Opportunity

New investor and developer interest in Ulster County presents a unique opportunity for growth and renewal. Our community stands at a crossroads on how this interest can be encouraged and focused in ways that are smart, sustainable, and facilitates broad-based opportunity.

Ulster Strong has formed to engage the public on development issues, and encourage discussion and support for smart investment and growth opportunities.

To learn more and explore how you can support our mission visit UlsterStrong.com

Ulster Strong is a partner of Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation