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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 opened its doors in 1957. "They may need a lot of care at first, but they get better. In their journey to wellness, they may need an internship with us, and as that person continues to grow, change and recover, they may become an employee of our organization," Turco said.

"It's a robust vocational program," Turco said. "We always impress upon Mixer attendees is that Gateway is there for folks we serve. They have a strong commitment to getting folks on-site job coaching."

"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 leader 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 meet 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 these battling depression, trauma, anxiety and severe mental health challenges such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

"Gateway further provides vocational services for those in the 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 training and support for as long as the person wants it." Turco said.

"We really look for support through philanthropy. We rely on the generosity of our community to go above and beyond for the folks we help," she said.

According to Turco, "It's a robust vocational program. People talk to us about it as a way to ease the labor shortage. Additionally, we look for ways to hook area employers up with the people served by the agency as a way to ease the labor shortage."

"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 a fully integrated environment in which to live."

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

"We really welcome any donations that come our way. We really look for support through philanthropy. We rely on the generosity of our community to go above and beyond for the folks we help," Turco said.

"It's pretty universal to experience trauma and loss. That's just part of the human condition, and you may need a little help."

"I see all people as having had experiences that have challenged your life and developed long-lasting well-being."

"We need to remember that we exist to serve. Gateway is here for folks we serve. They have a strong commitment to getting folks on-site job coaching."

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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 Economic Development Assistance (UCEDA).

The company, along with seven others, will be feted at the Best of the Best Business Awards Dinner at Wiley Park Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 27, starting at 5:30 p.m. The awards recognize Ulster County business leaders, and organizations that are leaders in their sectors, have shown outstanding dedication to their business, 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. The 150,000-square-foot facility on County Route 46 in New Paltz employs many people, including over 100 union workers, in areas such as construction management, excavation, site utilities, the concrete, masonry, structural concrete, architectural concrete and masonry, interior finish and concrete, offshore and concrete construction, and ground improvement.

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 is a thrill to a true go-getter 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 RISES, and Monticello Minisink.

The company also is working along with Central Hudson Gas & Electric as the construction partner in a three-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 have had a role in building communities into what they are today, according to the website, www.ulsterchamber.org.

“We look forward to expanding our outreach, we still hold true to our values that have defined us for 40 years,” Mullen said.

Each year, and Maybeth Miller, restaurants with a rich background in the culinary arts, also will be in the Chamber Mixers program. For two decades, Tom Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community. The equestrian company HITS, Struzzieri has put Saugerties on the national map and transformed it into a vibrant community.
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 non-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.

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.

“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.”

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.begtalmotor.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 registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.