

Hinchey Shares Her Views Next Breakfast Focus Is State Budget

The new state budget and what it means for the Mid-Hudson Valley will be on the menu of the Chamber's next breakfast meeting featuring two-term state Sen. Michelle Hinchey.

The breakfast is scheduled for 7:30-9 a.m. May 19 at The Venue Uptown at the Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave. in Kingston. The sponsor is Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union.

Hinchey, a Saugerties Democrat, currently represents the newly drawn 41st Senate District, which includes most of Ulster and Northern Dutchess counties and all of Greene and Columbia counties.

She made history in 2020 as the youngest woman to represent an upstate district and saw more than 50 of her bills signed into law. The bills ranged from broadband and healthcare expansion, climate progress, healthy food access and farmland protection.

Hinchey, who chairs the Senate Agriculture & Food Committee, also earned the title of 2022 Advocate of the Year from the Rural Housing Coalition and received the esteemed Nelson A. Rockefeller Award from the New York Water Environment Association for her work to advance clean water initiatives and investments.

During state budget negotiations, she

called on water advocates and technicians, environmental advocates and municipal organizations to urge state leaders to fund her proposal for the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP) in the state spending plan.

SWAP would provide municipalities with a continuous funding stream through the state budget to help them more efficiently plan for and finance water system replacements and repairs.

"Access to clean and safe water is a fundamental right that we have enshrined in our own state constitution, and yet, in communities across our state, this access is threatened by failing water infrastructure and one-time grants that rarely make their way to the small towns and cities that urgently need them," Hinchey said. "I'm proud to lead the charge with a solution through the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP), which will deliver reliable, continuous support to help municipalities fix broken lines now and plan long-term water system maintenance.'

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.

Chamber Breakfasts are a great way to stay on top of current events 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.





Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Will Be The Breakfast Sponsor

How lucky we are to live and work in Ulster County. The Hudson River, the Catskills, and 350 miles of hiking trails – it's no surprise people flock here to enjoy what's in our own backyards. And with elevations from sea-level to over 4,100' we have our own fair share of peaks and valleys, gorgeous vistas and strenuous climbs.

When's the last time your financial journey felt at its peak, like you were on top of Slide Mountain, gazing out at a beautiful future, and at ease with your next steps? For a lot of people, money feels more like a valley, with steep climbs, no view, and not a lot to look forward to. And it can feel lonely - like you're the only one who hasn't made it to the top. The truth is, though, financial stress is rampant. 77% of Americans feel anxious about their finances, according to CNBC.

But here's the thing:

No one needs to make that journey alone.

For some it's ensuring their already secure financial future

stays that way. For others, it's getting started on managing their own money in a responsible way. For still others, it's guiding a recovery from a few missteps, a wrong path taken, an unexpected obstacle. Just like any of the hiking trails across Ulster County, how your financial journey unfolds depends on how well you prepare,

what turns you take, and knowing when to ask for help.

Your greatest ally is learning money. Understanding how to make it work for you uncovers possibilities you may have never known existed. What habits are hurting your credit without you knowing it? How do you start a savings account? Do you really need to think about retirement now? How are you ever going to pay for college? What's an Insufficient Funds Charge anyway, and how do you avoid it?

Putting the answers to those questions in your pocket means expertly navigating financial ups and downs - and never feeling alone on that journey.

BLACKBARN A Sensation Restaurant at Diamond Mills Hosts May Mixer

MID-HUDSON VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Change is provocatively delicious when it brings the sophistication of a John Doherty signature restaurant to an already established venue in Saugerties. The team at Diamond Mills Hotel

& Tavern believes the public will be swept off its heels by the rollout of BLACKBARN Hudson Valley, the newly rebranded restaurant at the

Partition Street hotel. It not only sports a new name and locally sourced farm-to-table American menu, but a new look that mirrors the original BLACKBARN on East 26th St. in the heart of Manhattan's Flatiron District.



bigger level," Ebel-Whalen said. "Tom and John are lifelong best friends and business partners at BLACKBARN Nomad. They were excited for the opportunity to bring that experience to the Hudson Valley. We've not just changed the menu. We've changed the whole look and experience.

"The redesign of this space is also

really about showcasing all we have to offer, including several private dining rooms," Ebel-Whalen added. "Diamond Mills and BLACKBARN Hudson Valley together are the best place for groups of all sizes to stay, celebrate and dine."

You've got the on-demand financial education you need. Podcasts, seminars, articles, eBooks, videos, recorded webinars - however you like to learn, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (MHV) provides open access to financial education to everyone in the Hudson Valley, regardless of whether you bank with us. Rather than outsource to big-box providers, we build our financial education in-house, crafting resources we know our communities need. Hosting a webinar on resume building and interview skills in the midst of the pandemic, offering budgeting classes in Spanish, even airing a podcast episode on how to stage your home to sell - MHV knows your financial questions are unique and important.

Just like the beauty of Ulster County, your financial possibilities are calling. Discover them. Visit mhvfcu.com/ learn.



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Chamber members will have a chance to experience BLACKBARN Hudson Valley at the May 9 Mixer from 5 to 7 p.m. The UPS Store Kingston, celebrating their 20th Anniversary, is sponsoring the networking event. Brianne Ebel-Whalen, the director of sales at Diamond Mills, said the business community should come expecting spectacular things.

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"We are planning to 'wow' guests by showing off our new space, a modern rustic barn space, and, of course, our fabulous view," she said. "We will feature a sampling of favorites from our menu."

Based on BLACKBARN's debut on April 14, the crowd favorites so far seem to be the olive oil-braised octopus, barbecue beef ribs, butternut squash ravioli and truffle ricotta gnocchi, but Ebel-Whalen said there's so much more.

Appetizers range from a "black mission fig pizza" to Hudson Valley foie gras. Salad lovers will be swooned by the local kale Caesar salad or grilled asparagus salad with avocado, pickled onions, sourdough, mixed greens and tri-color quinoa-all splashed with citrus dressing.

Main entrees run the gamut from crispy skin Amish chicken or black sea bass to roasted Faroe Island salmon or pan-seared diver scallops.

classic cocktails, draught beer, Drinks include BLACKBARN's craft cocktails as well as a robust selection of wines, ciders and non-alcoholic beverages.

Ulster County Regional

The master of the kitchen is Executive Chef Marcos Castro, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, whose menu boasts favorites from the original BLACKBARN with a distinct Hudson Valley flair.

BLACKBARN Hudson Valley at Diamond Mills not only uses products from local farms, bakeries, breweries and cheesemakers but local dairy products and heritage breed beef and pork.

called BLACKBURN, one of the best farm-to-table restaurants in New York City, is the product of John Doherty, a James Beard Award recipient and longtime friend of Diamond Mills creator Tom Struzzieri.

"It was more of an opportunity to be part of the BLACKBARN brand on a

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 at (845) 228-5100 or by registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.



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ULSTER COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Tuesday May 9 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer **@ BLACKBARN Hudson Valley** Diamond Mills Hotel | 25 S. Partition Street | Saugerties, NY There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.

Sponsor: The UPS Store Kingston

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Friday May 19 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey Albany Update

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

Thursday June 8 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Woodland Pond at New Paltz 100 Woodland Pond Circle | New Paltz, NY There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Sawyer Savings

Wednesday June 21 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting New BOCES Superintendent Dr. Jonah Schenker 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

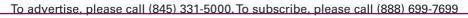
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More Info and Registration UlsterChamber.org Questions (845) 338-5100

Chamber*News*

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ULSTER COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS



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GPI 'Will Go Well Beyond The Normal' Engineering Firm's Motto: 'Many Talents One Firm'

When Herbert Litts III began working for the engineering firm GPI, he noticed that "Employee Satisfaction" was the first bullet point of the company's strategic initiatives.

"I read that when I first got here and I said, 'Well that's probably lip service.' But it certainly is not. The employees are ecstatic about working here and they're full of energy," said Litts, a local project manager with GPI.

"I find that our employees will go well beyond the norm because we own the company. If the company makes money, we all share in the profit. I think that goes a long way."

design, planning, survey/mapping, construction management, and inspection for new buildings and infrastructure. Among the clients are government agencies, municipalities, institutions, industries, architects, and developers.

Locally, GPI was the construction inspection firm for the city of Kingston's Broadway Streetscape Project. The firm is now involved in the Wurts Street Bridge project and the renovation and reconstruction of several Hudson Valley rest areas on the "We help them if they're going to put in for grant money for a bridge or a culvert or a highway," he said. "Whatever they need, I meet with clients."

GPI is also prequalified by the New York State Association of County Highway Superintendents



Herbert Litts III

Litts described GPI as a "full-service engineering firm," which began in 1966 in Babylon, N.Y., and now employs 1,750 employees in the United States. GPI, known officially as Greenman-Pedersen Inc., boasts a vision of "Many Talents One Firm." Litts works mostly out of an office in Albany and the firm also maintains a Kingston location at 15 Railroad Ave., Suite 301.

A Highland beef farmer whose family came to Ulster County in 1640, Litts joined GPI after a 25-year career with the state Department of Transportation and almost a decade with the state Thruway Authority. One of his biggest projects was overseeing the construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge, now the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, connecting Rockland and Westchester counties.

Litts said GPI—with offices up and down the East Coast and other parts of the country, provides consulting engineering, Thruway. ar

"I mostly deal with the Hudson Valley," Litts said. "We have several local projects. We've done some projects for Ulster County. We're involved in various bridge projects for municipalities. What I do now is more business development. If there are any issues, I troubleshoot them. I meet with clients and discuss future work and those types of things.

"We do horizontal construction, which is bridges, roads, all kinds of infrastructure. We do vertical construction and design of all kinds of buildings. We do HVAC, mechanical, and electrical—pretty much soup to nuts. The only thing we don't dabble in is architecture. We hire architects and architectural firms. That seems to be a better fit."

Just a few examples of the smaller municipality projects GPI is involved in include the revamping of the town of Marlborough's public works building and a culvert job in the town of Plattekill.

Litts said GPI's engineers are "on call" for several towns in the Hudson Valley.

and state DOT to submit grants for municipalities.

Litts described GPI as a medium-sized company between the mega engineering firms with 140,000 employees or so and a mom-and-pop operation with 15.

"We're still local and we're small enough to give good service to our clients and know

them all," he said. "We're large enough to have all of the disciplines necessary to do a project, no matter how small or how large."

GPI, located at 15 Railroad Ave., Suite 301 in Kingston, can be reached at (845) 203-1280 or <u>www.gpinet.com</u>.

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ULSTER COUNTY CHAMBER NEWS





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Mixer Host John Smith-Amato, Director of Cornell Creative Arts Center, and Mixer Sponsor Gary Bellows of The Arc Mid-Hudson with Ward Todd (Ulster Chamber).



Lori Ferraro (The Arc Mid-Hudson), Jonathan Kaplan (Royal Carting), Margaret Green, Teresa Hammeral, and Jo Ann Campise (all with The Kelly Wright (The Arc Mid-Hudson).



Arc Mid-Hudson).



Rebecca Hart, Eden Selle, and Justina Justus (all with Artisan Beauty Bar).



Franz Edlinger (eOneMedia), Katy Dwyer (Katy Dwyer Design), and Sheree Cross (The Arc Mid-Hudson).



Charles Broe, Lisa Bergenn, and Shayna Ostoyic (all with Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union).

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ILEO

288 Fair Street Kingston, NY 12401 www.chleovin.com Hope Mathews - Owner Category: Restaurants Description: Chleo is a wine bar with seasonal share

plates. Come order a few dishes and a bottle of wine to share. Gather around the table with those you love. Stay as long as you like. Here, we use the best local produce possible, cook over an open fire, and welcome all into our little space. No reservations, first come, first served.

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350 Kings Mall Court Kingston, NY 12401 www.waxcenter.com Alexandra DeMarco – Kingston Store Manager Category: Beauty Salons/Barber Shops Description: Waxing salon for full-body waxing. Products for brow, body, and wax packages are available. Skincare.

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Wayne Murphy - Resort Manager

Category: Campgrounds

Description: Historic RV Campground in New York Rondout Valley RV Campground offers its guests a premier location to spend a few days, weeks, or even months. Located in the historic Hudson River Valley, nestled between the Catskill and the Shawangunk Mountain ranges, Rondout Valley RV Campground offers campsites from basic to full hookup, as well as rental cabins and park models to accommodate every level of camper. Enjoy fishing, hiking through the woods, or taking a stroll through the park at this scenic New York RV campground. Guests also enjoy our activities program, live entertainment, and special events. Grab your family and friends and book a Rondout Valley RV Camping trip. We promise to make your stay worthwhile. We can also provide you with as much R&R as you would like with our many waterfront sites.

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