Dear Chamber member,

We know there are many challenges you are facing and there is seeming no end sight. We also know we are facing the most difficult era we have all seen in our lifetime, but you need to know that your Chamber of Commerce is continuing to advocate for you and the entire regional business community.

In the last few weeks, our Chamber has assisted Dutchess County Government and our regional economic development partners to organize the Dutchess Business Notification Network. We recognized quickly the need to have one collective effort to deliver accurate information to the business community. Many of our professional staff have taken on new assignments, working to ensure you’re able to access the latest information and guidelines, as well as communicating news about area businesses and organizations which have altered their usual hours.

The Chamber has opened up its Member News and Jobs portals, giving all businesses and organizations, both member and nonmember, the opportunity to spread the word about changes to their business – hours, services, and employment opportunities. We have collected employer data to assist our elected officials with accurate information on real-time economic data relative to the business community, and we have been providing a network of social sourcing of Personal Protective Equipment to aid our first responders. We are forming an economic development taskforce to advise us on industry challenges, have held virtual committee meetings, and we will be bringing you webinars with the information you need to know to keep your organization strong.

While this certainly is not business as usual, you also must know that together this community is unified. We have pooled resources and have been responding in the best way we can. The Chamber is proud to be a part of a solution to accelerate our community onward. We have fielded hundreds of calls, emails, online requests and questions, and we have worked tirelessly to respond quickly and accurately. And, like you all, we have had to make some significant and difficult decisions about our operation.

The business community will come back, we will be stronger for it, and the Chamber plans to be a critical partner to advance our economy to the next level. Even now, our team is working on plans to bring businesses back on line and giving all businesses and service providers will need your support now more than ever, and it’s important to remember that every dollar you spend locally helps your friends, neighbors and your community.

If you have thoughts, comments or questions, please feel free to email me personally at Frank@dcrcoc.org and I will my best to get you the answers you need.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Castella, Jr.,
President & CEO
How has the Chamber helped you?
SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONIAL AT DCRCCOC.ORG/TESTIMONIALS

Welcome New Members

Adult Care, Assisted Living & Nursing Home Facilities

Precious Keepers LLC
205 South Avenue, Suite 108
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 546-1483
Email: preciouskeepersllc@gmail.com
Web: preciouskeepers.com
Contact: Shanalee Henrygordon
Precious Keepers Adult Daycare is a coordinated program that provides professional services for adults age 60 years and older in a community based group setting.

Attorneys & Legal Services

Magnus Divorce Mediation
2537 Route 52, Suite 1
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(914) 382-3268
Email: dcmagnuss@gmail.com
Web: magnusdivorcemediation.com
Contact: Diane Magnusson
If you’re looking for an alternative to the expense and trauma of traditional divorce, Magnus Divorce Mediation has opened at Heritage Executive Suites, Hopewell Junction, NY.

Automobile Dealers

Platinum Auto Firm, LLC
1127 Route 9
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(917) 434-2011
Email: platinumautofirmmanagement@gmail.com
Web: platinumautofirmmanagement@gmail.com
Contact: Andrew Hughes
Auto Broker/ Auto Dealer

Banks & Banking Associations

Bank of Greene County
2 Miron Lane
Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 594-9740
Email: stephaniefp@tbogc.com
Web: thebankofgreenecounty.com
Contact: Stephanie Premo
The Bank of Greene County is a full service institution proudly serving the Hudson Valley and Capital District for over 130 years. The Bank offers local personal service, innovative products, and the latest in technology.

Child Development Services

Kidz Town of Dutchess
1299 Route 9, Suite 101
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 865-5865
Email: director@littlescholarshildcareeny.com
Web: kidztownofdutchess.com
Contact: Heather Pitcher
Daycare center and preschool

Cleaning & Janitorial Services

First Response Restoration
122 old Route 6
Carmel, NY 10505
(914) 924-2422
Email: cpartenza@firstresponse1.com
Web: firstresponse1.com
Contact: Cole Partenza
Disaster restoration

Financial Services

Edward Jones (Schweitzer)
1399 NY 52
Suite 101
Fishkill, NY 12524
(845) 231-0527
Email: austin.schweitzer@edwardjones.com
Contact: Austin Schweitzer

Food Trucks

Flores Food Truck
1072 Route 82
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(845) 243-0479
Email: info@floresfoodtruck.com
Web: floresfoodtruck.com
Contact: Austin Flores
Food truck and catering business that is passionate about providing high-quality food with refined, personable service.

Health & Wellness

Elite Martial Arts
1164 Rock ledge Plaza Suite #2
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(845) 229-1500
Email: emartialarts@aol.com
Web: emahp.com
Contact: Garth Perkins
Elite Martial Arts is a progressive martial arts academy located in Hyde Park, New York. We teach a blending of traditional martial arts with modern day self defense skills to people of all ages, physical abilities, and fitness levels.

Mended Hearts Chapter 5 of the Hudson Valley
974 Dutchess Turnpike
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 473-5753
Email: mhchapts5@hotmail.com
Contact: Joann Fernandez
Mended Hearts is a non-profit organization that has been offering the gift of hope to heart disease patients, their families and caregivers, help educate patients, families and caregivers.

Information Technology Services

Hudson River Technologies, Inc.
236 Plaza Road
Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 340-4870
Email: aibarra@hrt.bz
Web: www.hrt.bz
Contact: Alex Ibarra
Hudson Valley’s leading Managed Services and general IT support and consulting for small and medium businesses.

Jewelers/Jewelry Stores

Hannoush Jewelers
1655 Route 9
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 298-8599
Fax: (845) 298-8541
Email: mhalpy@hannoush.com
Web: hannoush.com
Contact: Michael Halpy
Family-owned and operated full service jeweler located in the Poughkeepsie Galleria. We offer on-site jewelry and watch repair.
We manufacture and custom design most pieces.

**MANUFACTURERS**

**Benjamin Moore**
15 Nassau Road
Glen Cove, NY 11542
(516) 238-8642
Email: alex.soutelo@benjaminmoore.com
Contact: Alex Soutelo
Territory Representative for the Hudson Valley region (Dutchess, Ulster, Colombia, Greene)
Supporting independent businesses including but not limited to, Williams Lumber, Herzogs, etc.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS**

**Associa New York**
11 Raymond Ave Suite 32
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 473-3711
Email: kristine.bates@associa.us
Web: associanewyork.com
Contact: Kristine Bates
Property Management Company specializing in Community Association Management and Homeowners Associations.

**PSYCHOLOGISTS - PSYCHOTHERAPISTS**

**Hudson Valley Center for Neurofeedback**
12 Davis Avenue, Suite 25
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 473-4939
Email: hvcnf@aol.com
Web: hvcnf.com
Contact: Dan Meyer
We provide an assessment and treatment of the electric activity of the brain. Very effective for ADHD and other challenges.

**RESTAURANTS**

**Cafe Con Leche**
32 Market Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 632-1535
Email: nycafeconleche@gmail.com
Web: nycafeconleche.com
Contact: Phil Cordero
Authentic Puerto Rican Restaurant

**Hudson Valley Gyro Grill & Market**
1116 State Route 82
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(845) 464-0527
Email: hvgyro@icloud.com
Web: hvgyro.com
Contact: Paul Kastanis
Deli/Market, Greek Dine-in/Take-out

**TRAVEL AGENCIES**

**Dreamcatcher Travel LLC**
300 Church Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 232-0602
Email: dreamcatchertravel2@yahoo.com
Web: dreamcatchers.travel
Contact: Rosemary Freeman
Travel Agency

**Crazy Over ART on Tour**
160 Academy Street, Suite 2N
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(857) 222-0858
Email: crazyoverartontour@gmail.com
Web: CrazyOverARTontour.com
Contact: Carrie Decker

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RondoutBank.com

Stephen J. Sickler
VP, Commercial Loan Officer
845-334-4106
ssickler@rondoutsavings.com

Evan Rothfuss
AVP, Commercial Loan Officer
845-334-4045
erothfuss@rondoutsavings.com

Our Business Advantage solutions offer special rates on loans, lines of credit, remote deposit capture, and easy to use digital solutions, so you can accept payments from any mobile device.

We want to tell you more, let’s talk!
Our Chamber will continue to serve the business community

What a difference a month makes. Last month we were looking forward to celebrating our young leaders at the Forty Under 40 event and even further to summer and the Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival. Today, our focus is squarely on COVID-19 and what each of us can and must do to eradicate this virus as quickly as possible, limit the effect on the general population and look forward to recovery from the drastic actions that needed to be taken.

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce has, and will continue to do all we can to fulfill our mission of supporting the business community. We’ve opened up our member page to members and non-members alike to get relevant news out about your industry or company, and we’ve partnered with others in the ThinkDutchess Alliance for Business to provide timely, updated information to the business community through DutchessBNN.com and its related Facebook page. There are daily emails being sent to thousands of recipients, and we are responding to hundreds of industry and business specific emails a week. We will continue to use our resources to keep you up-to-date on the latest news and find answers to your questions as they come to us.

Looking forward, there will come a day when we see the light at the end of this tunnel and start to look forward at the recovery process. We have taken steps to insure that we will be there, as always, to support the local business effort, as many businesses and entire industries begin to rebuild. We intend to remain a source you can lean on to get the word out and advocate for your business, industry and the community in which we live, play and plan to stay!

For now...be safe, smart, follow the directives as they come, appreciate friends and family (even if it needs to be at a distance for now), support our first responders and healthcare professionals on the front lines, and look forward to a time we can start to put the pieces back together.

Be well...
William Francis of Fortress Financial Advisory LLC is the Chamber’s Board of Directors Chair for 2020. You can reach him at wfrancis@lifemark.com.
Stay aware of hackers, scams

With everyone on edge about the coronavirus pandemic we’re all trying to muddle through, the one thing you may not be prepared for is the increase in hacking or scam attempts that are swarming in your email just tempting you to open them. Now more than ever is the time to be diligent about your cyber security protocols. Here are some general tips to keep in mind as you navigate your increased use of technology.

Most of us are already aware that you should NEVER click on attachments or links in email that come from accounts you are not familiar with, but it’s even more critical that you are vigilant because during times of crisis there is an extreme rise in social engineering attacks. These types of attacks usually work because they contain some sort of details about you to draw you in.

Beware of mobile apps that contain malware. Again, this is something that should be second nature, but recently there was an app created to track the spread of COVID-19, but turned out to be a malicious attack against Android phone users that allowed them to lock people’s phones in order to extort ransom. Stick to getting any tracking apps from the Google or Apple app stores.

Do your charity homework. During a crisis, we feel the need to reach out and help others that may be less fortunate and less able to recover from days out of work due to the virus. Make sure you check out the charity you may be considering sending a donation to. The Federal Trade Commission’s Charity Scams page can offer you a wealth of information before you inadvertently give someone access to your checking account, and they empty it.

Confirm your sources. If a recent Facebook group popped up in your feed offering helpful information about the virus symptoms or prevention, you can click on the “about” section of the group to see if the group has changed its name multiple times to reflect the leading new story, it’s a good bet that it’s nothing but a page created to troll for unsuspecting participants. If a site you are thinking about visiting says it’s an official government run publication, verify that the URL ends in .gov. For more tips, you can visit the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, a department of US Homeland Security for more information.

Jaime Butler, business development specialist at Integrated Enterprise Solutions, Inc., contributed this article. For more information about IES, visit ies-ny.com or call (845) 226-9983.
Chamber Foundation continuing with leadership programming

The landscape of our business and nonprofit community is changing and we hope this finds you staying healthy and safe. As all of us try to navigate through uncharted waters, and find answers in a time of uncertainty, The Chamber Foundation is exploring new opportunities to best serve its participants and our community as a whole.

Leadership programming, including Leadership Dutchess and Executive Leadership will bring learning online for the time being, still allowing participants to receive quality programming. The Professional Development Programming committee has met, and will continue to meet on a regular basis (virtually!) as they review and make the changes necessary to give participants the best experience possible. Career Achievement Program mentees and mentors are encouraged to set up online meetings — there are many free platforms out there — and mentorship could be vital at this time.

Youth Leadership students are being given assignments to work on from home and we hope to have a concluding session in time when it is safe to do so.

Our events, for the time being, are postponed. If you have given support, we will reach out to you, if we have not already, and work with you on your next steps.

Programming applications will continue to be accepted, but deadlines will be extended and flexibility given. We understand everyone is just trying to maintain, and that some of these opportunities have taken a backseat for the time being.

If you are a current participant in any of our programming and have questions, concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us a foundation@chamberfdn.org.

Thank you for your continued support of The Chamber Foundation, Inc. Please stay healthy.

ChamberFDN.org
Since 1996, the Workforce Development Center has offered a variety of services and programming to help youth and adults gain knowledge, confidence, and experience to be successful in the workforce. Over the past 8 years, we have expanded our youth programming to provide mentoring and case management support to over 200 youth a year in Dutchess County. One way we prepare our youth for employment and to add value to their resumes is to provide the opportunity for all youth to take the NRF Foundation’s customer service certification. Two youth programs housed at the Chamber’s offices are Project FORWARD and Dutchess County Youth One Stop. Thursday night and Saturday activities in February and March were our busiest months! In the months of March, program youth had the opportunity to come together with chamber staff and participate in a game of Dungeon and Dragons. A game that integrates various skills like communication and team building.

In addition, our Career Action Center program housed at Poughkeepsie High School was visited by a special guest speaker. Knowledge is power and being aware helps you prepare! Mario T. Johnson delivered a very informative and soul touching presentation on the Census early in March to the students of the Career Action Center at Poughkeepsie High School. He lectured to our students about the economic impact that the Census has on the community and how it affects allocated resources by the government for 10 years.

The 2020 Census project’s purpose is to count the population within the United States and 5 other U.S territories. The collected data is vital to the public safety, schools, hospitals, businesses and real estate planners of our local communities. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Johnson reminded students about how important they are to the Census project in helping to get an accurate count and spread overall awareness of the Census. By participating, state, county, and community agencies will be able to have access to the $675 billion the government allocated towards this mission. The Census is available on all platforms and you can register online, by phone, or mail. From the information gathered, the population count influences district and county boundaries as state officials use the results to redraw areas due to population increase or decrease. The commitment to the project has opened up volunteer, part-time, and full-time opportunities for the youth and adults at very competitive wages, and in most areas above minimum wage.

Mr. Johnson’s presentation brought to light the importance of community and helping one’s neighbor, especially during this time of crisis. Local food pantries and organizations The Workforce Development Center (WFD) welcomes any food donations that could assist our participants to get through this difficult time. We are committed to continuing to provide support services for our participants in a safe and productive environment.

**FOOD PANTRIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE INCLUDE:**

**Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc.**
Beacon/Red Hook/Dover Plains/Poughkeepsie
(845) 452-5104

**River Haven I.L.S Food Pantry**
305 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY
(845) 454-2300
Monday-Friday 11am - 4pm

**Lunch Box Community Meal Program**
29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY
(845) 471-2522

**Trinity Episcopal Church Food Pantry**
1200 Main Street, Fishkill, NY
(845) 896-9884
Visit www.trinityfishkill.org or Facebook page for operating hours.

**Reach Out Food Pantry**
249 Crum Elbow Road, Hyde Park, NY
(845) 229-6080
Friday 2:30 - 4pm
(new members need photo ID, members will load groceries)

**Love Reaches Out Food Pantry**
1138 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY
(845) 452-4673
Wednesday 10am - 2pm

**St. Mary’s Church Food Pantry**
11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY
(845) 297-6261
Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm

**Community Resource Service Center**
126 East Main Street, Pawling, NY
(845) 855-3459
Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 3pm

To learn more about Workforce Development programs, please reach out to Katrina Gobins at katrina@dcrcoc.org.
Supporting Autism Awareness Month

Greystone Programs, Inc.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH!
Greystone Programs is dedicated to supporting children, adults and families living with Autism and other developmental disabilities by enriching lives one person at a time.
For more information please visit greystoneprograms.org.

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