I am thrilled to announce that the 30th Annual Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival is officially scheduled for September 3-5, and will be held once again at Tymor Park in Union Vale. Tickets will be available shortly for admission as well as opportunities to take a balloon ride!

One of the region’s signature community events, the Hudson Valley Hot-Air Balloon Festival will provide a wonderful weekend for the entire family. With at least 75 planned balloon launches throughout the three-day event, and other family friendly activities and games, there’s no better way to celebrate the final days of summer.

This year’s event is presented by the Chamber and JP Morgan Chase & Co., with event sponsors Bottini Fuel and Q92. A complete list of community sponsors as well as all the details and ticket information is available on our special website at www.balloonfesthv.com.

We’ll be celebrating our 30th anniversary of the event this year with special fireworks displays each evening (Friday-Sunday) following the spectacular moon glows. We will have early morning launches on Saturday and Sunday, and I promise you that early morning wake-up call is worth it!

Of course, the event will also include vendors, food trucks, live music, a beer and wine tent, helicopter rides, and much more. We are working with the town of Union Vale as well as incorporating guidance from Dutchess County Government and New York State to ensure proper protocols are followed, making this a safe event for everyone. As always, balloon launches are weather and wind permitting, but activities will be available at all times.

Tymor Park treats spectators to a 360-degree view of the balloons, and gives the crowd the opportunity to nearly touch the balloons as they soar up into the air. On-site parking is available for attendees to ensure accessibility and convenience, but you must purchase a festival ticket in advance to take advantage of it.

We all could use an uplifting event like this, and we will continue to work towards delivering a terrific festival for our community this fall. This event has always been an economic driver for the region, and we hope for that tradition to continue for at least another 30 years. I hope to see you there!

**Frank M. Castella, Jr.,** is President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber’s July Contact Breakfast will feature City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison. Join us as the mayors provide an economic update on their respective cities.

Rob Rolison has served as the mayor of Poughkeepsie since 2016, and was a member of the Dutchess County Legislature for 12 years. He worked for the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department for a total of 26 years in the Patrol Division and as a detective.

Lee Kyriacou is currently serving his first term as the mayor of Beacon, and previously served nine terms as a member of the City Council. He worked for a payments network based in New York City.

Chamber members and guests will need to pre-register for the July Contact Breakfast by visiting dcrccoc.org or calling 845.454.1700 x 1000. Tickets are $25 for members, and $35 for non-members.

**Frank M. Castella, Jr.,** is President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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Forty Under 40 Honorees Announced

As we continue to look forward in this summer of economic reopening and growth, it’s time once again to celebrate the Forty Under 40 Mover & Shaker Awards! To refresh your understanding, the Forty Under 40 awards are bestowed annually to 40 individuals under the age of 40 who have shown a strong commitment to the Hudson Valley. A selection committee comprised of former honorees judge nominations based on professional and community achievements. They score each nomination independently of each other and the Chamber, and the scores are then tallied to determine the Top 40.

The top 40 honorees were announced in late June, and you can check out the Chamber’s Forty under 40 page under the events tab for a list of this year’s honorees. Stay tuned for our announcement of a late summer ceremony to celebrate these individuals and their accomplishments!

Also in the works is this year’s Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival, scheduled for September 3-5th. Be sure to bookmark balloonfesthv.com for information updates as they become available! As the outlook for business and gatherings brighten as the summer progresses, we are able to do more and more and we are updating plans on a regular basis so, now more than ever before, it’s important to check these addresses regularly to keep up with the latest plans.

On a final note, ribbon cuttings continue to make a comeback with rules on attendance and masking being loosened. Come out to mix and mingle, remember what it’s like to meet in person, share information on your company, pass those business cards out, and schedule follow ups (network!). You can find a list of all the upcoming ribbon cuttings by visiting the Ribbon Cuttings page under the Events tab as well.

William Francis of Fortress Financial Advisory LLC is the Chamber’s Board of Directors Chair for 2021. You can reach him at wfrancis@lifeemark.com.

Zoom: Sharing More than you Thought?

By Jaime M. Butler
Business Development Specialist, Integrated Enterprise Solutions, Inc.

By this time, you have mastered the art of changing your Zoom background, maybe even think you have gotten quite proficient at knowing when to use that all important mute button. However, there are still some issues with security that you need to take into consideration.

Zoom’s security has drawn criticism in the past from users worldwide with the articles about software bugs, “Zoom-bombing”, etc. Though Zoom has added new security features like end-to-end encryption, there are still some things you should watch out for to keep your chats as private as possible. For starters, the Zoom’s attention-tracking feature knows if you are paying attention. The meeting host can enable a built-in option which can alert them if any attendees go more than 30 seconds without Zoom being saved to the cloud where it can be accessed later by authorized users at your company, including anyone who may have not attended the meeting. Zoom only allows administrators to limit the recording’s accessibility to only certain pre-approved IP addresses, even if the recording has been shared already. Just remember, if you do not have something nice to say, keep it out of your meeting and your chat.

Be aware that Zoom can also send analytical data to Facebook, whether you have an account or not. You should probably look at Zoom and your device security settings with an eye towards reducing permissions and make sure any anti-tracking software you may have installed on your device has the latest updates and is running just to be sure your information is not being shared out without your knowledge.
UPCOMING EVENTS

More information at drcroc.org. Proceeds from events will support the programs and services of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation, Inc.

Business After Hours
Wednesday July 14, 5PM
Millbrook Vineyards & Winery
26 Wing Road, Millbrook NY
Monthly networking event featuring wine tastings and complimentary hors d’oeuvres.
This event is complimentary to attend thanks to our generous sponsors. Registration is required in advance.
Sponsored by:
Greystone Programs, Inc.
Mackey Butts & Wise, LLP
Tompkins Mahopac Bank

July Contact Breakfast
Wednesday July 21, 7:45-9 AM
The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
Monthly Contact Breakfast featuring two Dutchess County mayors, Rob Rolison of the City of Poughkeepsie and Lee Kyriacou of the City of Beacon, providing economic updates on their respective cities. The Chamber’s July Breakfast will be held as a live event at The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and Conference Center. Payment of $25 per person must be made in advance, and walk-ins will not be able to be accommodated.
For questions, please email Chelsea@drcroc.org or you may leave a message at 845-454-1700 ext. 1006.
Sponsored by:
Ulster Savings Bank

UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTINGS

Keller Williams Realty Partners
Wednesday, July 14 4PM
2537 Route 52, Hopewell Junction
Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new location!

Blondie’s Bagels & Bait
Friday, July 16 4PM
1097 Route 55 - Suite 11, Lagrangeville
Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new location!

Nationwide Mortgage Bankers, Inc.
Friday, July 30 4PM
460 Freedom Plains Road - Suite 1, Poughkeepsie
Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening!

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GET TEXT ALERTS!
Text “Dutchess” to (833) 814-8535 or visit drcroc.org and click “Text Alerts” in the member center tab.

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Dutchess County Fair The 2020 Rhinebeck Destination Guide, was awarded “Best Print Collateral Material” in the 2021 New York State Tourism Excellence Awards which acknowledge the work done in crisis conditions during the 2020 pandemic year. The Rhinebeck Destination Guide is published by Content Studio @ Martinelli Custom Publishing on behalf of The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce and is a collaboration between Thomas Martinelli and Josiah Brown, President, New York’s Best Experiences. Deemed a “Travel Guide of the Future” it was developed based upon travel interests from attendees at major Northeast consumer travel shows. The Guide features a magazine-style, image-driven, listings-free format showcasing the picturesque region of Rhinebeck and its surrounding area, conveying a premium destination experience.

Content Studio @ Martinelli Custom Publishing is a premier content marketing and custom publishing company based in Wappingers Falls, NY, producing both digital and print travel and destination guides that are forward-thinking, content-driven, and visually compelling. It has an 18-year engagement with Amtrak producing the New York By Rail magazine, an APEX award-winning “Magazine of Excellence” for ten consecutive years. www.contentstudiony.com

The New York State Tourism Industry Association (NYSTIA) advances economic growth, job creation, community revitalization, quality of life and pride of place by realizing the potential of New York State’s tourism industry and facilitating the success of its members. We serve New York State’s tourism industry through collaborative initiatives, research, legislative awareness, and exceptional marketing. www.nystia.org

GREYSTONE PROGRAMS GIFTED $32,266 THROUGH MID-HUDSON SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE EVENT

For thirteen years, Subaru’s Share the Love event has supported not-for-profits around the country. For every car that Subaru sells during this event, they donate $250 to the customer’s choice of the listed nonprofits available. Mid-Hudson Subaru generously invited Greystone Programs to participate in the 2020 Share the Love Event as their local charity of choice, and donated funds above the $250 per vehicle for a total of $32,266.

“We are so grateful to Mid-Hudson Subaru for choosing Greystone Programs as their local charity. “We have so many deserving individuals in our care who will benefit from this generous donation,” says Skip Pryce, CEO of Greystone Programs. “We are also so appreciative of all the Subaru customers who chose Greystone as the charity that they would like to support.”

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro who attended the May 25, 2021 event said, “As a parent of a child with disabilities, I can tell you we live it every day, but what Greystone does is tremendously important, and after the year we have all had, this contribution will go a long way.”

Greystone Programs provides exceptional services and life-enriching opportunities for children, adults, and families living with Autism and other developmental disabilities. As a recognized human services provider, Greystone offers certified residential programs and community-based/non-residential programs that include habilitation services in a five-county region of the Hudson Valley, New York.
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Congratulations to our Leadership Program Graduates!

**Classes of 2021**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP GRADUATES**
Who completed both years of programming:

- Kariem Aly
  - Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School
- Robert Angelo
  - Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School
- Princess Ashby
  - Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School
- Lexi Barlanti
  - Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School
- Makaila Barnett
  - Spackenkill High School
- Nicolas Bronzi
  - Arlington High School
- Njeri Collins
  - Poughkeepsie High School
- Amanda Moore
  - Our Lady of Lourdes High School
- Ella Jentsch
  - Our Lady of Lourdes High School
- Hunter Ingold
  - Beacon High School
- Simrat Mann
  - Beacon High School
- Alexa Cordeiro
  - Beacon High School
- Amanda Moore
  - Beacon High School
- Sarah Kleban
  - Beacon High School
- Cherlin Liao
  - Beacon High School
- Maya Moffitt
  - Beacon High School
- Franklin D. Roosevelt High School
- Amanda Reeves
  - Our Lady of Lourdes High School

**LEADERSHIP DUTCHESS GRADUATES:**

- Emma Sandison
  - Beacon High School
- Shannon Macedonio
  - Ulster Savings Bank
- Sara Santu
  - Homeschool
- Alexandra Martinez
  - Rhinebeck Bank
- Britney Sasaguay
  - Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School
- Christine McShane
  - Adams Fairacre Farms
- Hannah M Smith
  - Beacon High School
- Glenn A. Noakes
  - RB7 CPA’s LLP
- John Jay High School
- Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Kevin Thomas
  - John Jay High School
- Amanda Quintana
  - Owen White
- Samuel Thomas
  - John Jay High School
  - New York Air National Guard
- Merrick Tompkins
  - Arlington High School
- Ross Schaub
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Jackson Wainwright
  - Our Lady of Lourdes High School
- Kariem Aly
  - Beacon High School
- Hunter Ingold
  - Beacon High School
- Joey Ilco
  - Our Lady of Lourdes High School

**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP GRADUATES:**

- Rita Ansbro
  - Tompkins Mahopac Bank
- Katelyn Arcket
  - Anderson Center for Autism
- Evan Baright
  - Peckham Industries
- Jeff Belval
  - Peckham Industries
- Karri Bible
  - Abilities First, Inc.
- Leann Coyle
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Joe Bryant
  - Key Bank
- Susan Dallies
  - Peckham Industries
- Hunter Ingold
  - Rondout Savings Bank
- Michael Flannery
  - Peckham Industries
- Merrick Tompkins
  - Arlington High School
- Katrina Gobins
  - Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Deanah Mancuso
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Ashley Hill
  - Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Michelle Gluck
  - The Academy of Music at Dutchess Community College
- Dan Levinson
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Jerylyne Galbreth
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Kariem Aly
  - New York Air National Guard
- Laura G. Doe
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Matt Garfinkle
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union
- The Academy of Music at Dutchess Community College
- Zachary Decruzen
  - Hudson Valley Credit Union

**APPLIES ONLINE TODAY**
ChamberFDN.org/leadership-programs

**APPLICATIONS FOR FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

**The Youth Leadership Program**

Incoming High School Sophomores and Juniors:
Application Deadline: July 30, 2021

Professional Development for entry-level to mid-level career individuals.
Application Deadline: August 1, 2021
Workforce Participants Help Chamber Member

For the month of June, the Workforce Development Center collaborated with one of our very own Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce members, Mariapolis Luminosa. Mariapolis Luminosa is a beautiful retreat and event facility that is located in Hyde Park, New York. WFDC and Luminosa teamed up to create an awesome work experience opportunity for participants enrolled in Project FORWARD and the Career Action Center located at Poughkeepsie High School.

The land at Mariapolis Luminosa includes multiple homes, a chapel, a dining hall, conference center, gift center, gym, and a team building course. The participants were given a tour of the whole “city” as they call it and were able to make connections and network with the staff. Participants involved were asked to complete a 20 hour work experience internship where they were tasked with many different duties to help enhance the atmosphere on the Luminosa grounds.

The tasks that the participants encountered were endless. They started off with painting a porch on one of the many houses on the land. The final product can be seen in the picture along with two Project FORWARD participants showing off their new painting skills. The participants expressed that this was their first experience with painting. They also learned how to pull weeds and rake mulch. They all took turns learning these new skills, helping them discover their likes or dislikes for future jobs and careers.

They ended the work experience by assisting in cleaning and fixing up the team building obstacle course that they have for future groups that come to use it. Participants talked about their dream jobs and how much school, money, and time is required for certain degrees or professions that they may want to get into or have interest in.

Thank you to Mariapolis Luminosa and all their staff for their extremely welcoming hospitality and for hosting the WFCD and participants for this amazing hands on work experience.

We are always looking for local businesses and organizations to collaborate with to give WFDC participants the chance to learn and grow in the business world. If your business or anyone you know is interested in learning more about any of the programs at the Workforce Development Center and what you could offer, please call Jenna Salmonese, at 845-454-1700 ext. 1028, or email jsalmonese@dcrcoc.org.
HIGHLIGHTING RIBBON CUTTINGS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DUTCHESS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ReStore for opening their brand new location, and to Bottini Fuel for continuing to serve Dutchess County after 70 great years!

*Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity ReStore
1822 South Road, Wappingers Falls

Bottini Fuel
2785 W Main Street, Wappingers Falls

CUTTING THE RIBBON

Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce
One Civic Center Plaza Suite 400
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

CONGRATULATIONS TO DUTCHESS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ReStore FOR OPENING THEIR BRAND NEW LOCATION, AND TO BOTTINI FUEL FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE DUTCHESS COUNTY AFTER 70 GREAT YEARS!

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2680 South Road / Poughkeepsie
1387 Route 9 / Wappingers Falls
7296 South Broadway / Red Hook

*This offer is good for personal checking accounts opened through August 22, 2021. Recurring payroll, social security or pension direct deposit must be active within 90 days of opening your new checking account in order to receive $200 bonus credit to your new USB checking account. You must be 18 years of age to open this account. Bonuses are considered interest and will be reported on IRS Form 1099-INT. Offer available with new checking account relationships only. Other conditions may apply.

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Coming Soon to Hyde Park!