

THE CHAMBER CHRONICLE

News, Notes, and Business from Hyde Park



August 2026 Edition

Follow us on:



Issue #7

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT



On September 26, 2026, we celebrated our 16th Annual Town of Hyde Park Car Show — and it was one of our best yet. Under the leadership of **Stu Davis** and **Harvey Burns**, cars began arriving at 7:00 AM, and by 9:00 AM more than 90 vehicles were already on the field. As Chamber Board Member **Mike Evans** joked, “John, I thought registration started at 10!”

What began sixteen years ago with the vision of **George and Lynn Golden** has grown into one of **Dutchess County’s premier car shows**. Their idea continues to shape an event our community looks forward to every year. With 192 cars participating, judging was tough. Over 70 trophies were awarded, including our top honors:

Lynn Golden Memorial Award – *Chris Starbala*, 1966 Shelby GT

Chamber’s Choice Award – *Andrew Gallante*, 1955 Thunderbird

Best of Show – *Brandi Ryder*, 1971 Dodge Challenger

The day delivered everything we hoped for — great cars, great weather, and great company. A sincere thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers, especially **Colin Lasher**, **Peggy Lipparille**, **Andrea DeCarlo**, **Tom Dressel**, and our corporate sponsor **Dack Consulting**. Your support makes this event possible.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Our Chamber Breakfasts resume **September 10th at 7:30 AM at Coppola’s of Hyde Park**, with guest speaker **Sharon Myers** from the **BOCES CTI** program.

See you in September.



Monthly Breakfast Meeting



THE HYDE PARK
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Location: Coppola’s Restaurant Time: 7:30-9:00 am
Speaker: Sharon Meyers, BOCES CTI Program
Sponsor: The United Methodist Church of Hyde Park

The Hyde Park Farmers Market in the Fall

Autumn is one of the most beautiful times of year at the Hyde Park Farmers Market. As the air turns crisp and the leaves begin to glow with color, the market shifts into its fall rhythm — a season filled with rich harvests, warm flavors, and that unmistakable Hudson Valley charm.

Shoppers can expect tables piled high with pumpkins, winter squash, apples, pears, hearty greens, fresh breads, local meats, and handcrafted goods from our talented vendors. It’s the time of year when the scents of cider, baked goods, and seasonal spices drift through the market, creating a cozy Saturday tradition for families, neighbors, and visitors alike.

Fall also brings special events, themed weekends, and plenty of opportunities to support the small businesses that make Hyde Park unique. Whether you’re picking up ingredients for a holiday meal, grabbing fresh produce for the week, or simply enjoying a stroll with a warm drink in hand, the Farmers Market remains a welcoming place to connect with community.

As we move through the season, we invite everyone to stop by, shop local, and celebrate the bounty of autumn in Hyde Park. Every visit supports our vendors, strengthens our town, and keeps this beloved market thriving.

Roasted Autumn Salad

Serves: 4 Prep Time: 10 min Cook Time: 0 min

Ingredients

1 medium	butternut squash, peeled and cubed
2 tbsp	olive oil
1 tsp	kosher salt
1/2 tsp	black pepper
4 cups	mixed autumn greens (spinach, kale, arugula)
1	crisp apple, thinly sliced
1/3 cup	toasted pecans or walnuts
1/4 cup	dried cranberries
1/4 cup	crumbled goat cheese or feta
2 tbsp	maple syrup
1 tbsp	Dijon mustard
2 tbsp	apple cider vinegar
1/4 cup	olive oil
1 pinch	salt & pepper to taste

Method

Roast the squash: Heat oven to 400°F. Toss squash with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast 25–30 minutes until caramelized and tender.

Prep the greens: Place spinach, kale, or arugula in a large bowl. Add sliced apples, toasted nuts, dried cranberries, and cheese.

Make the vinaigrette: Whisk maple syrup, Dijon, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper until smooth.

Assemble: Add warm roasted squash to the salad. Drizzle with vinaigrette and toss gently.

Serve: Taste and adjust seasoning. Serve warm or room temperature.



BREAKFAST SPONSOR



CORPORATE SPONSOR



BOARDROOM ODDITIES AND BLUNDERS

Corporate life loves to strut around like it’s auditioning for a documentary titled “*The Majesty of Efficiency.*” Spreadsheets gleam like stained glass, charts rise heroically toward the heavens, and forecasts are delivered with the solemnity of ancient prophecy. Then come the meetings — temples of nodding heads and PowerPoint slides so polished they could double as mirrors.



The Motivational Poster That Backfired

Someone hung a sign reading “Failure Is Not an Option.” The printer jammed immediately.

The Spreadsheet That Achieved Sentience

After 47 tabs and 300 formulas, the CFO swore the budget file whispered, “Please... stop.”

The Coffee Machine Coup

When the espresso broke, the staff formed a temporary government to restore order.

The Meeting That Became a Therapy Session

Agenda item one: quarterly goals. Agenda item two: why everyone feels personally attacked by the quarterly goals.

The PowerPoint of Doom

A consultant used 12 fonts, 9 transitions, and one sound effect labeled “Explosion.” The board applauded — mostly out of fear.

The Email Thread That Achieved Mythic Status

A simple question — “Can someone confirm the meeting time” — spiraled into a 47-reply saga involving three departments, two conflicting calendars, and one accidental attachment of a lasagna recipe. The meeting was ultimately canceled. The lasagna was excellent.

Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum: A Window Into Our Town’s Past

Tucked beside the river just north of the hamlet, the **Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum** stands as one of our town’s most enduring historic treasures. Built in **1914** during the height of the New York Central Railroad era, the station once served as a bustling gateway for travelers arriving in Hyde Park — families visiting relatives, workers commuting to Poughkeepsie, and tourists stepping off the train to explore the estates that lined the Hudson Valley.

Though passenger service ended decades ago, the station’s story didn’t. Thanks to the dedication of local volunteers, the building was lovingly restored and transformed into a museum that preserves Hyde Park’s connection to the golden age of rail travel. Today, the station is a charming blend of nostalgia and community pride, offering visitors a glimpse into the rhythms of daily life from more than a century ago.

Inside, you’ll find **vintage railroad equipment, historic photographs, lanterns, signage, uniforms,** and artifacts that tell the story of how the railroad shaped Hyde Park’s growth. Many items were donated by local families whose



parents or grandparents worked along the line, giving the museum a personal, hometown feel. The volunteers who maintain the station are always eager to share stories — from the days when steam engines rolled through town to the era of sleek silver passenger cars.

The museum also hosts **seasonal events, holiday displays,** and educational programs that make it a favorite stop for residents and visitors alike. Whether you’re a history buff, a train enthusiast, or simply someone who enjoys discovering the quieter corners of Hyde Park’s past, the Railroad Station Museum offers a peaceful, nostalgic experience right along the water.

More than a historic building, it’s a reminder of how transportation, industry, and community intersected to shape the Hyde Park we know today — a place where the past still feels close enough to touch.



BUSINESS UPDATES

Guidance for Hiring the Right Employee

Hiring the right employee reduces turnover, improves productivity, and strengthens workplace culture. Employers—especially small businesses—should focus on clear communication, thoughtful evaluation, and creating an environment where workers can succeed. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) offer employers guidance on selecting candidates who are a strong fit for the role.

Best Methods for Selecting Quality Candidates

Define the Role Clearly

Provide a detailed job description outlining responsibilities, required skills, and expectations. Share realistic information about work conditions, schedules, and performance standards.

Structure the Interview Process

Use consistent interview questions for all candidates to ensure fairness and clarity. Schedule interviews in a quiet, distraction-free space and allow time for candidates to ask questions.

Choose the Right Evaluation Tools

Employers may use skills tests, work samples, or trial tasks to assess real-world ability. Reference checks should confirm past performance, reliability, and communication style.

Provide Supervisor & Hiring Team Training

Educate hiring staff so they understand legal requirements, bias prevention, and effective interviewing techniques. Document hiring procedures, outline onboarding plans, and provide time for new workers to acclimate to the role.



New Member Spotlight

Building Trust Since 1981
Founded by Walter D. Kuhn in Staatsburg, NY, Stat Construction has been proudly serving the Hudson Valley for over 40 years. As a family-owned and operated business, we bring the personal touch, dedication, and pride in craftsmanship that only a family team can deliver. Every project we take on is treated as if it were our own — with care, precision, and an unwavering commitment to quality.

Experience That Works for You
Our decades of hands-on experience mean we can tackle even the most challenging projects with confidence. From expert design and layout to ensuring lasting structural integrity, we work with you every step of the way to create a solution that’s built to last.

Hudson Valley Expertise
After more than four decades working in the region, we understand the unique soil types, ground conditions, and weather challenges that can impact your project. This local knowledge allows us to



customize every paving, excavation, and drainage solution for maximum efficiency, performance, and longevity.

Fully Equipped. Fully Insured. Fully Committed.
Whether it’s a residential driveway, a commercial parking lot, or a municipal project requiring specialized skills, we have the equipment, insurance, and expertise to get the job done right — on time and on budget.

Your Next Project Starts Here
When you choose Stat Construction, you’re choosing proven experience, unmatched quality, and a partner you can trust. Let’s bring your driveway, parking lot, drainage, or excavation project to life.



NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

Th!nk DUTCHESS ALLIANCE FOR BUSINESS

Hyde Park FOOD PASTRY BROS

Legion Fireworks

Alladin Tent Rentals

DACK CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, INC

STAT CONSTRUCTION CO. COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL PAVING & EXCAVATION 845.229.3998 www.statconstructionco.com

Artistic Hair Lounge

WELCOME

ROOSEVELT LYCEUM CINEMAS

JEFFREY L. NISSEN ARTS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND www.JLNARTS.ORG

STARS

STERLING PUMP COMPANY, INC

Hudson Valley Concierge Service

Vin's Lawn Care A perfect lawn every year!

Anderson Center for Autism LIFELONG LEARNING

FOSTER Custom Carpet and Flooring since 1976

DPG DAVID PING GROUP PASSION. EXPERIENCE. RESULTS

ORSI AND CO

iHeart RADIO

DUTCHESS BOCES

MILEA ESTATE VINEYARD HUDSON RIVER REGION

KEY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Chamber Board-Member Focus

Ron Lane

If you’ve spent any time around Hyde Park’s business community, you’ve likely crossed paths with **Ron Lane** — and if you have, you already know he’s one of the Chamber’s most reliable, generous, and quietly influential members. Ron brings a blend of humility, leadership, and genuine hometown pride to everything he touches, making him an invaluable part of our board. Ron’s commitment to Hyde Park shows up in ways both big and small. This spring, he and his wife Cathy stepped forward as **the very first community donors to help launch the Hyde Park Police Department’s K-9 program**, a gesture that sparked momentum and demonstrated exactly the kind of neighbor-driven support that strengthens our town.

He’s also a familiar face at Chamber events — not just attending, but **sponsoring**, supporting, and helping create the welcoming atmosphere our members appreciate. At our April Chamber Breakfast, Ron and Cathy’s sponsorship helped fuel a morning full of networking, local updates, and even a bit of behind-the-scenes filming as we continue expanding our community outreach.

Beyond his Chamber work, Ron is deeply woven into Hyde Park’s civic and cultural life. He’s often present cheering on fellow members, celebrating milestones, and showing up for organizations like the New Deal Creative Arts Center, where he recently supported the swearing-in of a new Chamber board member.

What makes Ron stand out isn’t just what he does — it’s how he does it. He leads with sincerity, supports without fanfare, and brings a thoughtful, grounded perspective to the board. As he once wrote, “Most things in life that seem complicated are really pretty simple when you take a good hard look at them.” That mindset has become part of his quiet leadership style.

We’re proud to spotlight **Ron Lane** — a board member whose dedication strengthens our Chamber, supports our community partners, and reflects the very best of Hyde Park.

Page 3



Dutchess Outreach

Feeding Community Health in the Hudson Valley

Dutchess Outreach continues to be one of the region's most essential nonprofits, providing food security, dignity, and direct support to thousands of residents across Poughkeepsie and the surrounding communities. Operating out of the Family Partnership Center, the organization delivers a wide range of programs designed to meet immediate needs while strengthening long-term community health.

Their impact is unmistakable: more than **250,000 meals served**, **10,000 people fed**, and **2,400 volunteers** contributing their time and compassion. Programs like **The Lunch Box**, **The Pantry**, the **Mobile Food Pantry**, and the **Free Farm Stand** ensure that anyone in need can access fresh produce, nutritious meals, and essential supplies. Dutchess Outreach also accepts food and personal hygiene donations, offering residents and businesses meaningful ways to support their neighbors.

With a mission rooted in equity and service, Dutchess Outreach remains a cornerstone of local support—an organization proving every day that community health begins with community care.



Catholic Charities Community Services

Compassion in Action

Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess County has become a vital source of stability and hope for residents facing hardship throughout Poughkeepsie and the surrounding communities. Since its incorporation in 2012, the organization has focused on delivering comprehensive human services to neighbors in need—Catholic and non-Catholic alike—through programs designed to meet both immediate and long-term challenges.

Their services include a bilingual hotline, case management, financial assistance for rent, utilities, medication, and other critical needs, as well as food pantries offering both regular and special-diet options. Catholic Charities also supports women's groups, deaf ministry, and emergency relief efforts that help families remain safe, housed, and connected. Their newest initiative, **Friends of Seniors**, provides transportation to medical appointments, help with grocery shopping, companionship, and caregiver respite—ensuring older adults receive the support they need to maintain independence.

With heartfelt testimonials from clients who credit the organization with restoring stability, dignity, and hope, Catholic Charities continues to demonstrate what community care looks like in action. Their mission is simple but powerful: to lift neighbors through compassion, practical assistance, and unwavering support.

