

# THE CHAMBER CHRONICLE

News, Notes, and Business from Hyde Park



April 2026 Edition

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Issue #3

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT



### A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Hyde Park Chamber Members!

We're thrilled to introduce the latest businesses joining our growing Chamber community: Hudson Valley Heating & Cooling, Artist Hair Design, Dutchess County BOCES, United Methodist Church, Liberty Restoration, Foster Flooring, Hudson Valley Concierge Services, Myers HR Solutions, Think Dutchess Alliance for Business, Roosevelt Lyceum Theater, Alladin Tent Rentals, Darby O'Gills, and Hyde Park Vintage Emporium & Antique Center. Even more members have joined since this newsletter went to print, and we look forward to featuring them in our next issue.

A special round of applause goes to our **Corporate Sponsor of the Year: Dack Consulting Solutions**. Your support strengthens our mission and our community.

We're excited to collaborate with our new, current, and future members. The Chamber offers a wide range of marketing opportunities—from weekly and monthly features on Facebook and Instagram to sponsorship packages designed to elevate your visibility. Be sure to follow us on social media to stay connected.

Our **monthly Contact Breakfasts** (held the second Thursday of each month) and our **quarterly after-hours events** continue to be some of the best networking opportunities in town—complete with fun, engaging activities that make meeting new people easy and enjoyable.

We remain committed to promoting our members and supporting the businesses that make Hyde Park thrive. Visit [hydeparkchamber.online](http://hydeparkchamber.online) for updates, resources, and upcoming events.

Mark your calendars: on **April 30th, 2026**, we'll celebrate our **Business of the Year** and award scholarships to two outstanding students. More details are available on our website. More details are available on our website.



## Monthly Breakfast Meeting

\$25.00 members  
\$30.00 non-members



**Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
Location: Coppola's of Hyde Park      Time: 7:30-9:00 am  
Speaker: Robert Pollard, Hyde Park Recreation Director  
Sponsor: Ron and Cathy Lane

## Seasonal Eating:

By Shannon Lasher  
*Tis the season for Kale*

As we excitedly prepare for the Saturday, June 6, 2026 Opening Day of the market, our community is still very much growing. Behind the scenes, our farmers and makers are busy preparing for the season—starting seeds, tending animals, and getting ready to bring you the fresh, local products you love.



April is the perfect time to stay connected with us! Follow along on Facebook and Instagram where we'll be highlighting vendors, sharing seasonal recipes, and giving you a sneak peek at what's in store for this year's market—including some exciting new additions.

Your support means everything—not just during market season, but all year long. We're so grateful to be part of this incredible community, and we can't wait to gather with you again soon.

## Crispy Kale Chips

### Ingredients

- 1 bunch kale (curly kale works best)
- 1–2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt to taste
- Optional seasonings: garlic powder, smoked paprika, parmesan, chili flakes, lemon zest

### Prep:

- **Preheat oven to 300°F.**
- **Prep the kale:**
- Remove thick stems & tear leaves into chip-size pieces.
- Wash and **dry completely**—moisture makes them soggy.
- Toss kale with olive oil until lightly coated.
- Sprinkle with salt and any extra seasonings you like.

### Bake:

- Spread in a single layer on a baking sheet.
- Bake 18–22 minutes, flipping halfway, until crisp but not browned.
- **Cool:** Let them sit for 2–3 minutes—they crisp even more as they cool.



## BREAKFAST SPONSOR



## CORPORATE SPONSOR



## BOARDROOM ODDITIES AND BLUNDERS

Business likes to pretend it's all spreadsheets and straight faces—charts pointing somewhere important, forecasts whispered like prophecy, and meetings where everyone nods very seriously. But tucked behind every immaculate PowerPoint slide is a tiny circus of delightful blunders reminding us that the workplace isn't just human... it's gloriously, irresistibly silly.

### The Strategic Planning Session That Wasn't

The board gathered for a full-day retreat to "reimagine the future." The whiteboard read: "Step 1: Get snacks." Step 2 was never reached. The snacks were excellent.



### The AI Brainstorm That Got Too Literal

A CEO asked ChatGPT to "generate 100 ideas for our next product." It did. The team printed them all. The printer caught fire. The new product is a fireproof printer.

### The Chair That Became a Status Symbol

One executive brought in a \$3,000 ergonomic chair. Others followed. Soon, the boardroom resembled a luxury furniture showroom. The intern sat on a yoga ball and was promoted.

### The Juice Cleanse That Tanked Productivity

A wellness consultant convinced the team to try a three-day juice cleanse. By noon on Day 1, five people were asleep, two were crying, and one tried to eat a stapler. HR quietly reinstated coffee.

### The Mindfulness Meeting That Got Too Quiet

The board tried a silent meeting to promote mindfulness. No one spoke. No one moved. After 45 minutes, someone coughed and was asked to resign.

### The KPI Experiment That Backfired

To boost performance, the board introduced a new KPI: "Number of Ideas Per Hour." One exec submitted 37 ideas in 60 minutes. All were about replacing chairs with beanbags. The beanbags were ordered. Morale dropped.

## Spotlight on the Hyde Park Library: A Community Cornerstone

For more than a century, the **Hyde Park Free Library** has served as one of the town's most welcoming and dependable community hubs — a place where learning, creativity, and connection come together under one roof. Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the area, the library continues to offer programs and services that enrich daily life in meaningful ways.



Beyond its programs, the Hyde Park Library remains a vital resource for everyday life. Residents rely on its computers, printers, and Wi-Fi for work, school, and research. Students find quiet study spaces. Local historians and curious newcomers explore the library's rich collection of Hyde Park archives. And throughout it all, the staff continues to be the library's greatest asset — welcoming, knowledgeable, and always ready to help someone find the right book, answer a question, or discover a new interest.

As Hyde Park continues to grow and evolve, the library remains a steady anchor — a place where everyone, from toddlers to seniors, can feel at home. The Chamber is proud to highlight the Hyde Park Free Library as a true community cornerstone, one that reflects the values, spirit, and warmth that make our town special.

March has been an especially vibrant month at the library, with activities for every age group. Families have enjoyed early-literacy programs like **Mother Goose Rhyme Time** and **Library Fun for 3s & 4s**, giving young children a joyful introduction to reading. Adults and teens have found their own creative outlets through the **Knitting Club**, **Chess Club**, and the **Creative Writing Group**, each providing a relaxed space to learn, share, and socialize.



## BUSINESS SPARKS

### The Mechanic Who Became a Manufacturer

A local auto tech got tired of waiting weeks for specialty parts, so he started machining his own in a rented garage. Other shops noticed. Today, he supplies half the county. Spark: When you solve your own bottleneck, you often solve someone else's too.

### The Bakery That Outsmarted Inflation

When ingredient prices spiked, one bakery didn't raise prices — they launched "The Mystery Loaf," a rotating bread made from whatever was most affordable that week. Customers lined up just to guess the flavor. Spark: Creativity can be more profitable than predictability.

### The Cleaning Crew That Became Consultants

A commercial cleaning company noticed patterns in office clutter and workflow issues. They started offering "workspace efficiency audits." Now they make more from consulting than cleaning. Spark: Your everyday observations might be your next revenue stream.

### The Shipping Clerk Who Built a Side Empire

A warehouse employee began posting clever packing hacks on social media. The videos went viral. Now he sells branded tools and teaches workshops. Spark: Expertise becomes powerful when you share it.



## New Member Spotlight

When disaster hits, Liberty Restoration is the team you want on your side — day or night. Specializing in emergency water, fire, and storm damage restoration, they respond 24/7 with a commitment to honesty, transparency, and putting homeowners first.

Beyond restoring properties, Liberty Restoration helps ease the stress of the insurance process. As true claim-handling experts, they advocate for homeowners through delays, low estimates, and tough adjuster communication — making sure every property is restored properly and without unnecessary setbacks.

Why homeowners trust Liberty Restoration

- ✓ They work directly with your insurance company
- ✓ Hands-on, customer-focused support
- ✓ Certified, top-rated technicians
- ✓ 24/7 emergency response



Construction experts delivering 24/7 restoration services for fire, water, storm, and mold damage, working with your insurance for a stress-free recovery.

This year marks a major milestone: **Liberty Restoration celebrated its 10-year anniversary this March** — a full decade of serving the community and helping homeowners when they need it most.

**Here's to ten years of dedication, service, and trusted restoration work — and many more ahead.**

**COPPOLA'S ITALIAN AMERICAN BISTRO**

**AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH FUNDRAISER**

Supporting Anderson Center for Autism in their mission to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism

**SUNDAY APRIL 26TH**

10:30 AM - 8:30 PM  
4167 Albany Post Road Hyde Park, New York 12538

Anderson Foundation for Autism  
LIFELONG LEARNING™

10% of proceeds will be donated to Anderson Center for Autism

*Coppola's*  
Ristorante  
EST. 1961 ITALIAN AMERICAN CUISINE

Mention this fundraiser or show this flyer to your server to donate 10%!

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS



*Roosevelt Lyceum Cinemas*



**FOSTER**  
Custom Carpet and Flooring since 1976

**WELCOME**

**Alladin Tent Rentals**



## Chamber Board Member Focus

### Stu Davis

Stu Davis, Owner and Operator of S & S Vac, Appliance & Sewing Center, has been a cornerstone of the Hyde Park community since September 1975 — an incredible 51 years of keeping homes and businesses running smoothly. From vacuum cleaners and sewing machines to power tools and small appliances, Stu has built a reputation grounded in skill, honesty, and unwavering service.

A Chamber member since 1976, Stu has also devoted three decades to serving on the Board. His leadership has helped raise thousands through the annual Car Show, and he has supported the community through the Paul Tegtmeier Memorial Committee and numerous other local initiatives.

Behind the counter — and behind the scenes — is his greatest partner, his wife Catherine “Bunny,” to whom he’s been happily married for 37 years. Together, they’ve kept the business strong and community-focused.

When he’s not helping customers, Stu enjoys collecting sports memorabilia, cheering on his favorite teams, and rolling into car shows with his original 1982 Trans Am.

Stu, thank you for more than five decades of dedication to Hyde Park and to the Chamber community. Your service, spirit, and loyalty continue to make a lasting impact.





The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee is devoted to celebrating, protecting, and enhancing the visual character of our community. We believe a beautiful environment strengthens pride, connection, and quality of life for everyone who calls Hyde Park home.

As part of this mission, HPVEC works to:

1. **Explore and Understand Our Town’s Character**  
Look closely at the visual, environmental, cultural, historical, and planning aspects of Hyde Park; identify areas of concern; gather information; and encourage thoughtful, community-minded solutions.
2. **Help Residents Engage in Community Planning**  
Support and guide citizens as they learn about and participate in shaping the future of Hyde Park.
3. **Inspire Positive Action**
  - a. Share clear, accessible information about proposals or conditions that may affect Hyde Park’s cultural, historical, or natural resources.
  - b. Collaborate with individuals, businesses, and organizations that share our commitment to a vibrant and welcoming community.
  - c. Build the skills and confidence of our members so they can connect with the public through educational programs and events.
  - d. Celebrate outstanding examples of landscape design, architecture, environmental care, and historical preservation.
4. **Strengthen Community Pride**  
Encourage residents to take part in projects and initiatives that help keep Hyde Park beautiful, and invite the community to join us in supporting and advancing the goals of HPVEC.



### Meals on Wheels: Delivering More Than Just Meals in Hyde Park

For many Hyde Park residents, a knock on the door from Meals on Wheels is more than a delivery – it’s a lifeline. The local program, powered by volunteers and supported by community partners, continues to expand its reach as demand grows among seniors who want to remain independent in their own homes.

Each weekday morning, volunteers gather to pack fresh, nutritious meals prepared through the county’s senior nutrition program. But the real impact happens on the road. Drivers don’t just drop off food; they provide a friendly check-in, a quick conversation, and a reassuring presence for neighbors who may go long stretches without seeing anyone else.

Program coordinators say the need has increased steadily over the past year, especially among seniors living alone. In response, the Hyde Park team has added new routes, recruited additional volunteers, and strengthened partnerships with local organizations to ensure no resident is overlooked.

One longtime volunteer put it simply: “You think you’re delivering lunch, but really you’re delivering connection.” Many recipients say the visits brighten their day as much as the meal itself.

As spring approaches, Meals on Wheels is encouraging new volunteers to join the effort – whether as drivers, packers, or occasional substitutes. Even an hour a week can make a meaningful difference.

In a town built on neighbor-to-neighbor support, Meals on Wheels remains one of Hyde Park’s quiet but essential pillars, proving that small acts of care can ripple far beyond the doorstep.

