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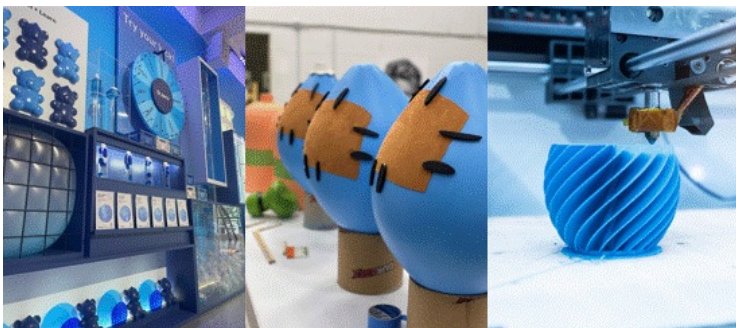


Stephanie James
VP | Commercial Loan Officer

Michael Spencer
VP | Commercial Loan Officer



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Advocating for YOU
Heather Bell, President & CEO

I am pleased to share some recent updates and ongoing initiatives that are pivotal to our community and businesses.

Professional Hockey in Orange County!
Ice Time Sports Complex in the Town of Newburgh will be the new home to the Professional Hockey Team, Hudson Valley Venom before the start of the season in



October. The Vipers, who recently won the APHL League Championship, will serve as the feeder team for the Hudson Valley Venom; playing at McCann Ice Arena, Ice Time's sister rink. YOUR Chamber proudly represents both as Corporate Partners!

Building Bridges with Local Colleges

Recently, we hosted a productive working session with our local colleges. Our focus was to discuss how the Chamber can bridge the gap between businesses and academia, particularly in the areas of internships and graduate hiring. This collaboration aims to ensure that our future workforce is well-prepared and that our local businesses can tap into a pool of talented graduates.

Main Street Tax Certainty Act

I have been advocating for the passage of the Main Street Tax Certainty Act. Currently, I am in Washington D.C. meeting with your congressional representatives

to push for this and address other areas of concern. Without congressional action, the **20% Small Business Deduction is set to expire** at the end of 2025, which would result in a significant tax increase for small business owners. I urge you to join me in advocating for the permanence of this deduction by contacting your Congressional representatives.

The following did NOT Pass NYS Legislature. Many of which YOUR Chamber advocated on YOUR behalf!

Bottle Bill A bill aimed at expanding the types of bottles eligible for redemption in New York and increasing the five-cent deposit failed in the final days of the legislative session. Despite backing from environmental advocates, the bill faced significant opposition due to concerns it would financially burden consumers and businesses. Proponents argued it would enhance recycling efforts, but Assembly Member Deborah Glick, the bill's sponsor, declared it "dead" last Tuesday.

Single-Use Plastic Reduction The legislation aimed to reduce the state's plastic waste by 30% over the next 12 years and included an exemption for businesses with net incomes under \$1 million. However, many small businesses found the requirements too burdensome.

Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.4246D/A.5322D) This bill sought to limit the sale of plastic packaging and other materials while mandating source reduction for all packaging types. Concerns about cost and enforcement were raised but remained unaddressed in the legislation.

Consumer and Small Business Protection Act (S.795A & A.7138) This act aimed to significantly expand New York's Deceptive Acts and Practices Law (GBL §349), potentially exposing small and medium-sized businesses to frivolous lawsuits.

Clean Deliveries Act (S.2127C/A.1718C) This legislation would have imposed new construction and operational standards for "heavy distribution warehouses."

Workers Compensation (S.9840/A.10561) This bill aimed to substantially increase short-term disability benefits, which would have led to significant premium hikes for the state's small businesses.

Support for the Woodbury Common Premium Outlet Expansion

On a positive note, we are honored to support the Woodbury Common Premium Outlet expansion project. As a top employer in Orange County and a major tourist destination, this expansion promises to boost our economic development and create approximately 2,000 new jobs. This project is a testament to our commitment to fostering growth and prosperity in our community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we can advocate for

policies that benefit our businesses and community while opposing those that pose undue challenges. Please stay engaged and proactive in these critical legislative matters.

Warm regards,
Heather



BUSINESS FOR BREAKFAST

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Sharpen your executive leadership skills and hear how Thayer Leadership starts building leaders with a simple premise: character is foundational to your ability to lead.

Carlys Lemler, Esq.
Thayer Executive Leadership

JUNE 13, 2024 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Register Here 

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The Borland House Inn & Brunch House



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Thank You!



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Puroclean of Central Orange
Rider, Weiner & Frankel,
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WOMEN M.E.A.N BUSINESS PRESENTS

WMBB Beyond Boundaries

ENJOY A DAY FULL OF WOMEN & MEN SUPPORTING WOMEN,
A KEYNOTE PRESENTATION, INTERGENERATIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION,
NETWORKING, PHOTOBOOTH FUN, WINE FLIGHTS, AND MORE!

THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2024

CITY WINERY
23 FACTORY ST.
MONTGOMERY, NY 12549

Schedule of Events

- 9:30AM** NETWORKING BREAKFAST & MIMOSAS
- 11:00AM** CHAMPAGNE TOAST & KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
- 12:15PM** LUNCH WITH PANEL DISCUSSION
- 1:00PM** COCKTAILS, CONFECTIONS, & WINE FLIGHT PARTY!

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Keynote Speaker

Anna Gibbs

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Best Business Training



Tailored to support and empower emerging business owners in their first and second years.



In collaboration with Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).



This initiative is spearheaded by esteemed local and community figures, all of whom are active Chamber Members, bringing vast expertise in their respective fields. The program delivers a wealth of valuable insights and knowledge essential for entrepreneurial success.

\$199 Member

\$299 Non-Member

Chamber Membership is not mandatory, however Participants must pass a comprehensive readiness assessment before joining the program.

Apply Now

**APPLICATION
&
ASSESSMENT**



RESOURCES

■ RESOURCES FOR YOUR

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YOUR Chamber sourcing for YOU



 Health Resources & Services Administration



Workforce Programs

Workforce programs help strengthen the health workforce and connect skilled health care providers to communities in need, improving the health of people who need it most.

We offer [scholarship, loan, and loan repayment programs](#) to individuals and award grants to organizations .



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[SMALL BUSINESS TRENDS THAT WILL IMPACT YOUR SALES IN 2024](#)

The Premier Awards Program for Small Businesses

10 Categories Honoring the Best Small Businesses in America; plus one \$25K Award

[LEARN MORE](#)



Consolidated Funding Application Round XIV Now Open

Round XIV includes \$445 million in core capital grant and tax-credit funding combined with a wide range of programs from eight state agencies, including \$100 million in grant funds from Empire State Development (ESD), available to projects on a continuous basis.

View more information and the 2024 Available CFA Resources [here](#)

CFA Info Session
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 - 8:30am
In Partnership with Sullivan County

Be Respectful of Individuals' Privacy and Preferences During Pride Month

When you think of Pride Month, vibrant celebrations and public displays of pride often come to mind. However, it's important to recognize that not everyone is in the same place on their journey. Many individuals may not have "come out" yet, may prefer to keep their orientation private at work, or may still be exploring their sexual identity. Additionally, some who are proudly "out" might not want to be featured on their company's social media.

Given these considerations, it's crucial to prioritize respect for employees' privacy and preferences. Ensure that any opportunities for staff to be featured on social media during Pride Month are entirely optional and handled with sensitivity.

For those employees who do choose to participate in Pride Month activities or share their experiences on your company's social media, it's important to acknowledge and compensate them for their time

Virtual
Register [here](#)
CFA Info Session
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 - 3:00pm
In Partnership with Westchester County
Virtual
Register [here](#)

LGBTQ+ businesses in the United States contribute an [estimated](#) \$1.7 trillion to America's economy, creating thousands of new jobs each year according to the SBA.

Funding Options and Resources for LGBTQ+-Owned Businesses

Resources to help you start, run, and grow your business.

By: [Danielle Fallon-O'Leary](#), Contributor

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FREE TRAINING FOR ORANGE COUNTY TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS!

Heartsaver First Aid with CPR/AED

Provided by Orange County Div of EMS Education

Date: Thursday, July 11th, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Lunch/light refreshments will be provided)
Location: Emergency Services 911 Center
22 Wells Farm Road, Goshen, NY
Who: Individuals ages 14 – 21 who live, attend school, volunteer, and/or work in Orange County

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

Please register as soon as possible as classes fill up quickly!

To register: Please complete the attached form and email it to the Youth Bureau by June 20th for more information, please call the Youth Bureau at 845-615-3620 or email Lseppey@orangecountygov.com.

About this training:

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a life-saving skill and a crucial component in the chain of survival for individuals in cardiac arrest. CPR provides life sustaining oxygen to the brain and vital organs which can be irreversible damaged within minutes. An individual's ability to recognize the signs and initiate CPR while awaiting the arrival of EMS could not only be the difference between life and death but also the quality of that life saved. The First Aid segment will teach participants to recognize the onset of stroke, control bleeding, administration of naloxone (when an opioid overdose is suspected), and epinephrine for an individual suffering an extreme allergic reaction. Please join us to learn these critical lifesaving skills.



Attendees will receive a Certificate of Completion from the American Heart Association.

65 GRANTS, LOANS & PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT YOUR BUSINESS! When you know where to look, help for your business is there for the taking. [CLICK HERE](#)

and effort. Additionally, allowing employees to review any posts featuring their image or words before they are published can help prevent miscommunications and ensure that everyone feels comfortable and respected.

Legislation to promote **job opportunities in New York State and help job seekers secure new employment** opportunities - [Learn more](#)

The [Comcast Innovation Fund](#) provides grants to support technology and research “for the betterment of the Internet.” Areas of interest for the 2024 grant year include open-source development, general and targeted research, and work that enhances the growth of the Internet. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funds for 2024 are disbursed.

More grant & program information can be found [here](#).

Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

More than \$500 million in federal funding is now available to support the resurgence of small businesses across New York State through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), a program through the American Rescue Plan Act. Managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and allow them opportunity to succeed in the post-pandemic economy. Visit esd.ny.gov/ssbci for information

Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program

\$5 million available through newly created [Read more](#)

"It takes no compromise to give people their rights ... it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression."

— HATZVEY MILK



[Human Rights Campaign: the Foundation](#) offers a host of support services around the world for the LGBTQ+ community to support health, wellness, and inclusivity.

Preparing For The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: The Final Rule Takes Effect June 18. [READ MORE](#)



"I'll be the first one to step on any organization, any politician's toes if I have to, to get the rights for my community."

SYLVIA RIVERA

woman's day



Beyond Pride Month

Engaging workforce inclusion and building trust with LGBTQIA stakeholders: a conversation with B Corp leaders



Where should NYSDOT build new truck parking facilities on I-84? Share your input!

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is exploring the feasibility of adding freight parking facilities **along Interstate 84** in Dutchess and Orange counties. To determine locations, NYSDOT has developed a survey to hear what is important to the industry and understand the needs. While geared for drivers, industry participation is welcome. Responses are anonymous. Visit bit.ly/i84freightparking to take the survey and share it by June 28, 2024.

[SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FOR](#)

[WOMEN IN](#)

[NEW YORK](#)

The [Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations \(WANTO\) grant](#) program (application deadline June 10) supports community-based organizations in their efforts to recruit, train and retain more women in Registered Apprenticeships and nontraditional occupations. [Apply here.](#)



Motivity Care Presents an Educational Webinar:

**Planning with Purpose:
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June 20, 2024



12:00 PM EST

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31 Companies With Impactful Initiatives to Support Their LGBTQ Employees

\$82 million Available for New York State Artists, Arts, and Culture Organizations - Guidelines for First Round of FY 2025 Council on the Arts Grants Available [here](#).



[Small Business Alert: Bankruptcy Debt Limits Soon Could Drop](#)

[DOL Expands Overtime to Millions of Workers](#)

[Updated Guidance on Business Vehicle Depreciation](#)

[Close-Up on Pass-Through Entity Tax Laws](#)



The top 10 things I wish business leaders understood about IT

[READ MORE](#)

\$14.7 million Announced to Strengthen New York's Food Supply Chain Infrastructure through Partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture - for more information on program details and how to apply visit [here](#).

Inclusive leadership and why it matters

A team is more effective when everybody's knowledge, skills and experience are utilized. Inclusive leaders know this and build upon it to drive company success. The question is, how do they do it? [READ MORE](#)

The OCLive! Arts Festival is currently accepting artist registration. No fee, no selection process. Just sign up and you're in!

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/rpU8GoGWDjtvhkQz9>



Register for Events [HERE](#)



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