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Summer nightlife

Your guide to Ulster County's hottest after-hours destinations



DION OGUST

Pearl Moon in Woodstock.

by Zac Shaw

AS THE MIDNIGHT hour approaches on a hot Ulster County summer night, most of our towns and hamlets are all tucked in for bed. But night owls need not worry: Our county does have a simmering summer nightlife if you know where to look.

What qualifies as nightlife? It's somewhat arbitrary, but my criteria is: "Are there multiple bars, restaurants and music venues open past 10 p.m. and within walking distance of each other?"

I wholeheartedly recommend spending

a wild night out in Woodstock, Kingston or New Paltz.

Perhaps the best way to highlight the greatest nightlife attractions each spot has to offer is to imagine the ultimate crawl in each locale.

Woodstock

You might not think a town of less than 6000 could be one of the main nightlife attractions in the region, but let's be real. This is Woodstock we're talking about. There's been a party here since the turn of the century, when adventurous artists took to the woods to form their own creative colonies.

In 2024, Woodstock is decidedly less hippified than it was even a couple of decades ago, with head shops replaced by real-estate offices and once-seedy bars now renovated to look like they're straight out of Brooklyn.

The village green is operating at only a fraction of its former freakiness. And gone are the days when the Rainbow-Gathering people got naked around a bonfire up at the Magic Meadow. Today, much of Woodstock's tie-dyed, free-lovin' mythos lives in museums and merchandise.

Things still can get freaky, though. The people of Woodstock's nightlife are

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RICH CALI

Tubby's in Kingston.

perhaps its most fun and unpredictable asset, but the town also boasts some great after-hours live-music venues, still

taking seriously its reputation as a music haven (at least for those not supporting draconian Nimby noise ordinances).

I'd recommend starting at Station Bar, where you can often catch a live honkytonk band in the large outdoor area, then dip inside into a super-eclectic

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atmosphere that ranges from antique ski lodge to Seventies basement game room. You're bound to run in some real Woodstock locals tying one on, and the staff themselves are colorful characters.

Definitely visit Colony, with its professional-grade stage and sprawling outdoor beer garden. You can catch live music here most nights, everything from tribute bands to local acts, karaoke, dance parties and open mics. The food here is quite tasty, and the full bar will keep you lubricated.

Make time for a top-shelf cocktail at Early Terrible, where the ambience is rustic chic, and the food and drink pricey but well-curated.

Right across the street is Pearl Moon Woodstock, where late-night music lives – often some eminently danceable mix of funk, jazz, rock and R&B. Shows here sometimes don't even start until 9 or 9:30 p.m.

Tinker Street Tavern is a fun bar to visit for its classic Woodstock ambience dialed up a notch with better-than-average bar food and a great drink selection. It's casual but classy with a decent karaoke scene, and open past midnight on the

weekends.

And while not within walking distance, don't forget Bearsville Theater, which has awakened from its slumber to offer a full bill of accomplished musical acts. It's a super-fun place to see a show, have a few drinks and kick back.

If you've still got energy at the end of the night, you could hit up Big Deep for some spirit-of-Woodstock-approved skinny-dipping. Actually, I'm not sure how legal that is. You didn't hear it from me.

Kingston

After an unfortunate real-estate deal led to stilling the beating heart of Kingston's nightlife years ago as the massive music venue BSP closed, it understandably took the city a while to bounce back.

In 2024, Kingston nightlife has officially returned, albeit with a more Brooklynized vibe (what else is new?)

Somehow Tubby's has filled BSP's spiritual shoes while being about 1/25th of the size. Perhaps that's the charm – shows here are super-intimate (and frequently sold out), and the musicians being booked here rival those that headlined the much-bigger BSP back room.

Like a miniature UPAC, Tubby's is often where larger artists go to enjoy the energy of a smaller venue, swinging through after a tour date in NYC. Besides the always-stellar music (you can watch and hear the show from the bar and hear it on the outdoor patio), Tubby's has really good drinks at reasonable prices, and often some tasty pop-up food. This is where Kingston's communal spirit lives on, and any music-lover will feel right at home.

Salt Box is a choice late-night hang in Kingston, appreciated by locals and tourists for its mirthful staff, its maze-like arrangement of colorful rooms and outdoor areas (a smoker's paradise), and its well-made cocktails. Karaoke on Sundays is a wild scene.

The best cocktail you can drink in Kingston after 10 p.m. will be made at Stockade Tavern. This place pioneered the kinds of speakeasy-style, old-fashioned drinks you can now find at least one of on most local menus. Its staff are super-cool, the atmosphere is cozy, and every glass is filled with love.

Snapper Magee's is under new ownership but no less divey. Frequented by



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The background of the top half of the page features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. Below the flag, there are green maple leaves and colorful fireworks exploding in blue and red. The text "Expert Tree Service" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right, positioned over the flag and leaves.

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hard-drinking 20-and-30-somethings, you'll also find a smattering of older locals and curious tourists wandering in after having a few too many. Sometimes open to the legal limit of 4 a.m., Snapper's has been the finish line for many late-night drinking adventures, and the atmosphere can still get crazy when the right combination of people bump into each other. Chic's Sports Bar and Kelly's Shamrock Tavern are even more divey if you're into more of a freewheeling after-hours atmosphere.

The newly opened Unicorn Bar is a fun place to visit for people of any persuasion, and the scene is specifically warm and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ crowd. They're open 'til midnight on the weekends with a stunning back-room music venue and classic up-front bar. Small bites and reasonably priced drinks abound.

Nightswim is the newest nightlife contender, opening where beloved neighborhood bar The Anchor used to be. It's open past midnight, with an artfully decorated, large interior space and a fun outdoor space.

You might find something going on late night at performance venues Big Cat or the Art Buoy downtown by the Rondout – check it out if you do, because these are some of the funnest, most underground and countercultural events in the area.

Often overlooked as a late-night destination, Patel's Kingston Lanes is a bowling alley and arcade open late on the weekends, with its own well-stocked bar and inimitable, local-friendly atmosphere.

One more late-night Kingston tip: You can't go wrong with Kennedy Fried Chicken, which is open until 2 a.m. on the weekend, 1 a.m. otherwise (and they deliver). Being a Halal establishment that takes pride in putting out a good product, it's fast food that's a cut above.

New Paltz

Summer nightlife in New Paltz can be a paradox. Of all the locations in Ulster County to let loose after hours, this college town is best equipped to take you to the wee hours of the morning. However, college obviously isn't in session during the summer, and while a few students stay behind, the nightlife scene in New Paltz changes drastically after graduation.

Things take a turn for the touristy, but school being out can also be a boon to

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LAUREN THOMAS

P&G's in New Paltz.

locals who have the village's venues more to themselves.

Despite closing at 10 p.m. on weekends, Jar'D Wine Pub in the Water Street Market area deserves an honorable mention as a hidden gem. Great wine and cocktails can be found in this super-cozy bar, and the view of the 'Gunks from the back patio is one of the best in town.

Bacchus also technically closes at 10 p.m., but deserves mention anyway for their encyclopedic beer selection and spacious billiard hall.

Another great pre-game spot. Well, this is awkward. P&G's normally would be a must-stop spot as the quintessential hometown college bar and restaurant. At the time of this writing, however, it was operating on a 30-day court-ordered window to sell booze after police caught many underage drinkers imbibing there months ago. Not sure where they'll be at by the time you read this, but it's a great casual spot to unwind.

P&G's counterpart is McGillicuddy's, it being more of a dive/party bar. Things can be more raucous late-night, as it's been known to stay open as late as legally possible. During the summer, you're likely to find a more subdued scene, but there's still action to be found.

The most raucous bar of them all is alternately known as Snug's, Snug Harbor, or Snug Harbor Bar & Grill (the venue itself can't quite decide). With live music that ranges from jam band to punk rock, Snug's has been a New Paltz institution for decades. It's a dive with heart, where inebriated passion can be let loose with abandon. The communal-trough-style urinal in the men's bathroom is an unforgettable experience. Watch out for splashes.

If you want late-night music that's more sophisticated and can be enjoyed without braving a mosh pit, head to The Lemon Squeeze, a piano jazz bar that's open until 1 a.m. on weekends. It's got a

swanky, upscale ambience, well-crafted food and drink, and generally classy vibes.

Also relaxed, but more rustic-chic is Huckleberry, open until midnight every night, with a kitchen that closes at 10 p.m. Don't miss the kitchen – the food here consists of elevated versions of classic dishes. The craft cocktails are inventive, and there's a lot of great beer on tap.

Huckleberry is something of a model example of the new-school Hudson Valley watering-hole style. A little Catskill Mountains, a little Brooklyn, and a lot of love put into the details.

One of the best parts about being out late in New Paltz is that you can grab a slice of pizza between destinations to fuel your late night. Gourmet Pizza is open super-late and has that old-school pizzeria vibe, but Apizza swerves one of the best pies in the county, so try to make it there before it closes at 10:30 p.m.



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A complete guide to bears

As told in stories about various encounters with them

by Sparrow

EVERYONE HAS A bear story. And they're always good stories. I'll tell you mine towards the end of this article.

At one point it seemed to me that every person I met in Brooklyn would say: "I love Phoenicia! I went for a hike up in the woods."

"What happened?" I would inquire.

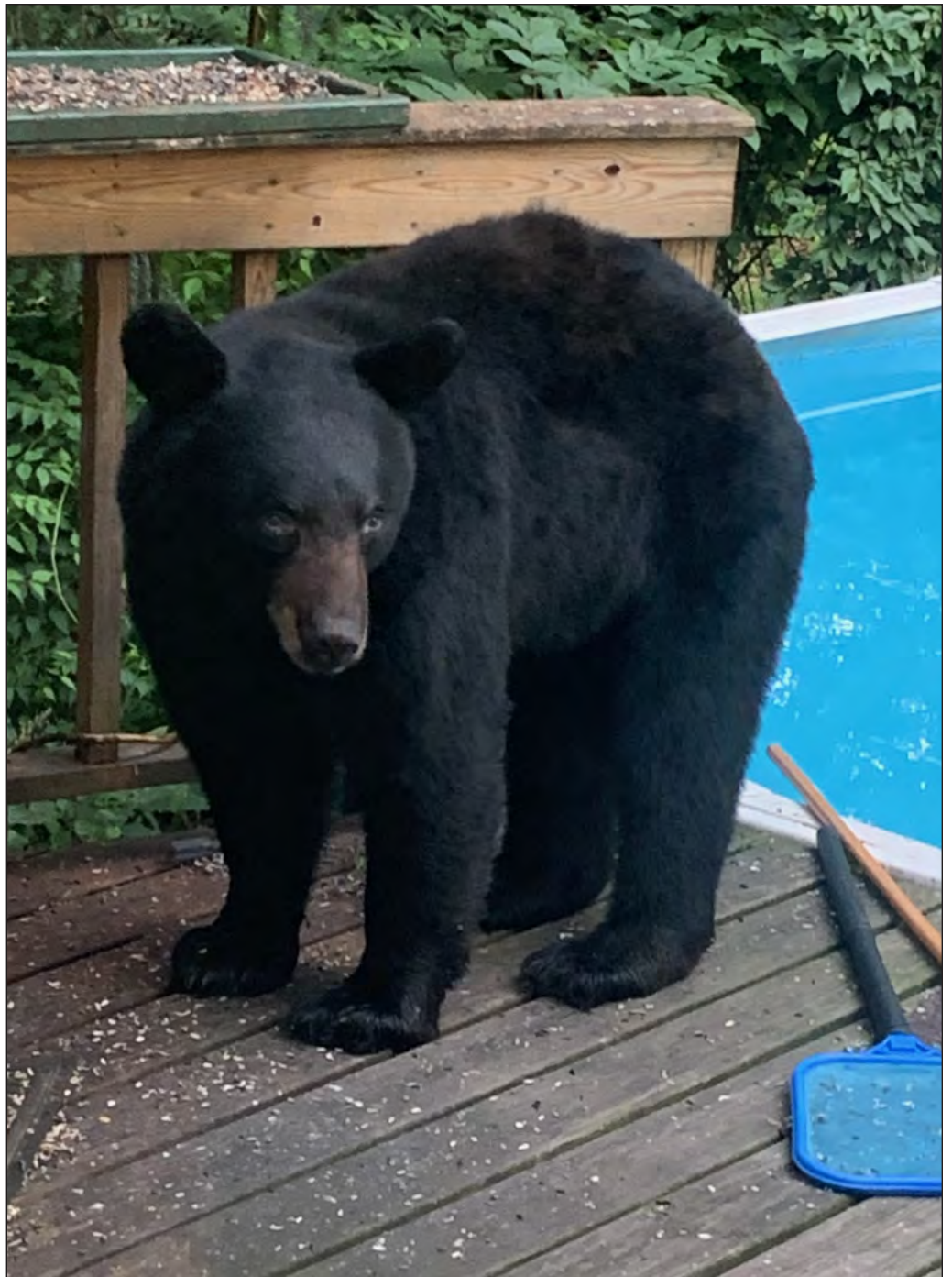
"After five minutes we saw a bear, then turned around and came back."

One thing Brooklynites enjoy is a brush with death, plus an excuse to return to their cabin and read *The New Yorker*.

.....
Never turn your back or run from a bear – it sets off an instinct to make them chase you.

Black bears are quite similar to humans. They are at the top of the food chain, can stand on two legs, and have roughly the same hearing and vision we do.

When I first moved to the area, I lived in Shandaken. My landlords were from New York City, and foolishly put out the garbage every night in plastic bags. A bear – or maybe several bears? – would arrive nightly and forage for a meal.



A bear visits a back porch.

TOBI WATSON



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That's when I learned that these forest creatures have the same food preferences as the average American. If our neighbor was eating spare ribs, the ursine thief would enthusiastically chew on the bones; but encountering our leftover millet and lentils she'd contemptuously thrust them aside. As Yogi Bear famously said: "Nuts and berries: yuck!"

I vividly remember one bear pulling a garbage bag backward across Route 42, glaring at me like a bank robber with a revolver backing out of a bank.

Bear stories, bear strategies

My wife, Violet Snow, kindly wrote out this story for me:

"I had to throw away half a jar of spoiled apple sauce. I couldn't put it in the compost because it would attract bears. So I walked up the mountain behind my house, intending to empty it in a remote spot.

However, I was halfway there when I saw a bear walking toward me. I made a loud noise and waved my arms.

"The bear started to walk away, but then changed its mind and decided to walk towards me, perhaps scenting the apple sauce. I panicked for a moment and then uncapped the plastic jar and threw it towards the bear. This strategy worked. The bear stopped to lick up the apple sauce, and I turned



TOBI WATSON

Just like humans, bears can stand on two legs.



and ran down the mountain. The next day I retrieved the empty jar."

The noted poet Mike Topp has a house in Stanfordville. One night in April, his wife went away, and here's what happened:

"I had a bad feeling and played a Trump podcast out the window (bears are said not to like overhearing talk shows). I soaked a bunch of rags in ammonia and put them on our back porch (bears supposedly hate the smell of ammonia).

And I placed some unwelcome mats (boards with nails sticking out of them) in our yard.

"It didn't matter. I sat on our couch twelve feet from our back porch with its

sturdy protection of a sliding glass door to watch a Curb Your Enthusiasm rerun. At 8:32 I glanced out the glass door and saw a large black bear padding around. He saw me, walked over to the glass door,

and stood up on his back legs to get a better look at me.

"Like most people relaxing at home, I was fully dressed, wearing shoes and a coat, with my wallet, car keys and a

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canister of bear spray by my side. I carefully and slowly walked sideways out of the room (never turn your back or run from a bear – it sets off an instinct to make them chase you) and set off our car alarm over and over. I went down to our locked garage and locked myself in the car with bear spray and all the lights on. I stayed in the car until 4 a.m. and then checked the cameras and went to bed.”

Listen to the bear sing

Years go by when I never see a bear, only their scat – which often reveals their



recent dietary decisions. In August, it's common to see wild cherry pits in their droppings. (I asked for bear stories on Facebook, and Deb Medenbach wrote about an intruder who “ate 30 pounds of sunflower seeds off my porch. He gave it back in poop piles in the garden that the birds could forage. Suet, without

**As we watched,
the creature dived
into the swift water
and swam across,
looking exactly like a
floating bearskin rug.**

dead animals.”)

Several years ago I was walking with my friend Norman, who was desperate to see a bear. “I rarely run into them,” I told Norman, but as we were walking across the bridge in Phoenicia, down below was a healthy adult bear, looking into the waters of Esopus Creek, apparently fishing. As we watched, the creature dived into the swift water and swam across, looking exactly like a floating bearskin rug.



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Once I moved up here, and began observing the life of four-legged beasts, I was surprised how well the book *Winnie the Pooh* had prepared me for an understanding of bears. Just like Winnie, they are generally dreamy, plodding, and pleasure-loving.

The second chapter of *Winnie the Pooh*, entitled "In Which Pooh Goes Visiting, And Gets into a Tight Place," begins with the protagonist "humming proudly to himself." Here is the hum:

*Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,
Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,
Rum-tum-tiddle-um-tum...*

If you listen closely to a bear, you will often notice her singing this exact song.

We watch them, they watch us

One Native-American teaching about bears is that they demonstrate how to live a sensible life – balancing rest, survival, and play.

I hate to pollute my essays with useful information, but I feel a responsibility to advise you how to deal with the sudden arrival of a member of the *Ursas americanus*.

First of all, as Violet implies, don't walk around with a pocket full of french fries.

Secondly, stand and face the bear boldly. Do not run, and do not move closer.

Thirdly, make yourself as large as possible, by holding out your arms and expanding your poncho to an intimidating

size (assuming you're wearing a poncho).

Fourthly, make lots of noise – for example, sing "Armageddon It" by Def Leppard.

My favorite bear tale is that of my friend Matt, who planted a pear tree on his property in Mount Tremper. After a few years, the tree bore fruit, which attracted a bear – who uprooted the entire tree, and carried it up the mountain to savor privately.

Last week, my friend Phoebe and I took a long circular walk through Phoenicia Park, and then stopped to sit at a picnic table. Just then, a guy walked in with two dogs, one of which sped off toward the woods. "He's chasing that bear," the man muttered between gritted teeth.

Had an ursine sentry been standing at the edge of the woods throughout our walk? Bears are watching us more often than we know.

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School's out for summer

A half-dozen places in the region to take your kids to

by Cloey Callahan

BETWEEN SUMMER CAMPS and on weekends, it's easy to wonder where you should bring your kids for summer fun that will keep them occupied but not break your bank. The Hudson Valley offers a wide range of options, from back-yard water-parks and resorts to hometown fun at local libraries and zoos.

We compiled a list of six varied kids' activities this summer so you aren't left hanging in the heat. Here are some of the places to go for some summer fun for kids of all ages.

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Fishkill, Dutchess County

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"SplashDown is great to beat the heat on any given summer day," said Steven Vittoria, marketing director of Turk Hospitality Group, which manages SplashDown Beach and Rocking Horse Ranch Resort. "But what's really unique and different about SplashDown is that we really do have something for every age group."

Himself the father of a ten-year-

**Zoom Flume Water Park,
East Durham, Greene County.**



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Dahn Gim, *Names I Had You Call Me?*, 2018, courtesy of the artist

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old, a seven-year-old and a three-year-old, Vittoria has an insider's take on the struggle to satisfy everyone's wants and needs. At SplashDown, activities vary in size and thrill level. That means everything from fun, fast and scary rides to a six-inch pool for infants and toddlers.

On June 20 SplashDown hosted the World's Largest Swimming Lesson, with a host of complimentary swim lessons.

Trevor Zoo, Millbrook School

Millbrook, Dutchess County

THE TREVOR ZOO IS THE ONLY ZOO IN the country located at a high school. The zoo was established in 1936 by its founder Frank Trevor, the school's first biology teacher. Trevor had a passion for sharing his love of wildlife with all people, especially with children.

Trevor Zoo houses more than 170 exotic and indigenous animals and 70 different species, including eleven endangered ones. The facilities extend over six acres. It's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For this kids' trip, you will need to plan ahead. Reservations are required. It costs \$5 for kids and \$7 for adults.

Zoom Flume Water Park

East Durham, Greene County

DAY PASSES RANGE IN COST FROM \$32.99 to \$42.99 (free for children under two years old) at this attraction, which offers over a dozen slides and water attractions to choose from. Kids can have fun on the all-new speed-soaked duo racer slide and the bowl



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PHOTOS BY CLOEY CALLAHAN

Kids are encouraged to observe, explore and have fun at the MidHudson Discovery Museum.

Summer at Belleayre

THE BASE OF BELLEAYRE MOUNTAIN IS 2024 FEET ABOVE sea level, and its peak is at 3429 feet above sea level. That additional 1405 feet of elevation guarantees beautiful views of the Catskill Mountains. The scenic gondolas used in wintertime to transfer eager downhill skiers to the top will provide the same ride for summer visitors on weekends and select midweek days from June 28 through October 13.

A picnic at the peak and a family walk around the area are highly recommended. It's no surprise that the Catskills are often described by admirers as "the land in the sky."

Tickets for the gondola are available online and in person.

Belleayre also boasts a refreshing mountain lake hidden at the foot of Belleayre Mountain, just a stone's throw away from the charming little hamlet of Pine Hill. Belleayre Beach opened for swimming on June 15. Kids can participate in a number of water thrills, from paddleboarding and kayaking to boating, swimming, and picnicking. Vehicles are charged



a day rate to enter, but frequent beachgoers can purchase a season pass. Belleayre also hosts events throughout the summer, including a car show on August 24, movie nights, free live music, and Friday-night food trucks in a vendor village.

— Thea Millenson-Wilen

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slide, or they can head over to the famous Black Vortex, a ride in total darkness that features exciting twists, turns and splashes.

While the kids enjoy their fun, parents can head over to the gently flowing lazy river to relax and recharge. "Many families come every year and have been coming since we opened 44 years ago," said co-owner Sharon Aragona. "This has been a family-run business of three generations since the very beginning. It is a great destination in the Catskill Mountains for all ages, and it is not very far away."

There's a foam party with a DJ every Sunday, and this season there's a new body slide called the Ichabod Run.

Rocking Horse Ranch

Highland, Ulster County

LOOKING FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY staycation? Rocking Horse Ranch offers everything from outdoor pool fun for cooling off to horses to ride or just to admire.

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a one-time rate," said Steven Vittoria. "You don't need to open your wallets once when you're where. It's a stress-free getaway because there is no planning of where we will eat and how much it will

cost. You don't need to pre-plan or book fast passes."

That "everything" includes things like horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking, scavenger hunts, mountain tubing,

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Food trucks and housing

THE CITY OF KINGSTON AND THE Kingston House of Culture are hosting a food-truck festival on Friday, June 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 615 Broadway. Showcasing DJs, dancers, food trucks, vendors and fun, the festival will be a great kickoff to a summer weekend.

The currently underutilized lot at 615 Broadway will highlight the planned future development of the site. The City of Kingston has been working with Baxter Development to convert the site into a community asset. The site will add 70 residential units to the Broadway community, along with arts-focused businesses and public open spaces. Construction is expected to begin in 2025.

— Thea Millenson-Wilen



kids' camps & activities



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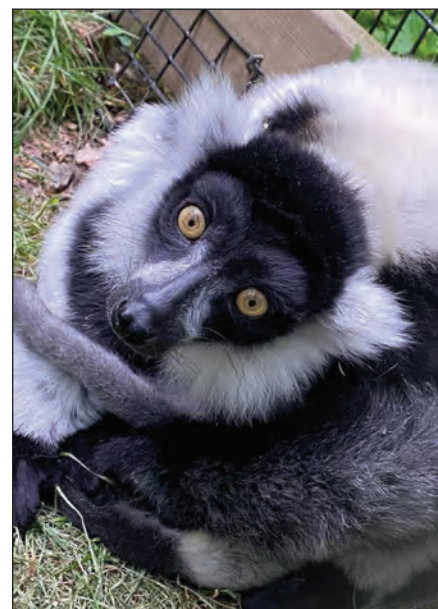
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A resident at the Trevor Zoo at Millbrook School.

and more. It's the horses that are the stars.

"Even if you don't ride, just being able to see them is amazing," said Vittoria. The kids love the horse parade twice a day. Guests line the driveway as over 120 horses go from the ranch back to their pasture.

Bring Your Own Book Club at the Kingston Library

Kingston, Ulster County

THIS UNCONVENTIONAL BOOK CLUB welcomes teens to the Kingston Library to join on the second Wednesday of the month to talk about their favorite books

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The library also hosts other programs for children of different ages, including a Thursday Story Hour in the children's library.

If you aren't in the Kingston area, check out your local library to see what special programming they're offering this summer. Escape the heat and settle in with a good book.

Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum

Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County

THE MID-HUDSON DISCOVERY MUSEUM offers hours of hands-on fun with exhibits and programs that focus on early literacy, art, early STEM, health, and the local community.

"We show that science is fun and engaging and can make a difference in our daily lives," said Jeff Sasson, executive director of the museum. "We encourage children to make observations, experiment, think critically, and formulate conclusions."

Exhibits include a fire station and fire truck with dress-up costumes, a play-

Ashokan Rail-Trail



FAMILIES LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON WILL FIND THE perfect destination in the Ashokan Rail-Trail, an 11.5-mile-long trail along the northern edge of the Ashokan Reservoir that stretches from West Hurley west to Boiceville. The multi-use path is used for biking, walking, bird-watching, and in the winter for cross-country skiing.

During summer, the boisterous wildlife, strategically placed benches, and vibrant reservoir create a rustic paradise. For families hoping to bike, that option is available through Overlook Bike Rentals, directly across Route 28 from the Ashokan Station Trailhead in Shokan. The shop offers a variety of bicycles for any terrain, including hybrid bikes, electric bikes, mountain bikes and road bikes.

— Thea Millenson-Wilen

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pretend market and cafe, a maker studio, a playroom with a train track, and more. Science Revealed! Is an exhibition for those aged four to twelve, with hands-on science exhibits that explore motion, air, forces, fluids and magnetism.

This summer, specifically, has programming that includes outdoor events in their pavilion like the Discover Summer Book Festival, Exploring Living Art: Experience Reptiles, Birds of Prey, and Arm-of-the-Sea Theater. They also have weekly Poughkeepsie waterfront markets on Tuesday afternoons.

"People keep coming back for our engaging, fun, weekly programs like our STEAM Lab, where hands-on activities emphasize core concepts of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math as we experience them in our daily lives. We present live science demonstrations and shows in our portable planetarium, plus our exciting programs in our pavilion," said Sasson.

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PHOTOS BY PHYLLIS McCABE

Bettina opened with the idea of being a meeting spot for locals and visitors to Phoenicia.

Sweet Sue becomes Bettina

A new incarnation for a Phoenicia café

By Violet Snow

WHEN SWEET SUE opened in 1984, the cafe opposite the Phoenicia Library became a focal point for Main Street, providing a brunch nook for residents and a boost to other local businesses from visitors to Phoenicia as they lined up outside on weekends for the pancakes.

The eatery founded by Suzanne Taylor thrived for decades. It also hit bumps — renovations, septic problems, personnel difficulties, and finally the pandemic. The cafe changed hands for a short time but kept the name.

The new owners bought the cafe, keeping the name

Rebecca Shim, owner of Bettina.



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Sweet Sue's. Rebecca Shim, who had been working at high-end restaurants in Brooklyn, worked for them as a consultant for six months. When the business folded, she took over the space.

New proprietor Shim has now shifted the menu focus and changed the name to Bettina in honor of her grandmother, who passed down to her a passion for cooking.

Trained as a chef at the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan, Shim later opened two restaurants in Brooklyn. Wanting to learn more about food and where it comes from, she spent time upstate, intending to work on an organic



PHYLLIS McCABE

farm in the Catskills. Instead, she found a job in Woodstock with chocolatier Oliver Kita.

"I loved the area so much," Shim recalled. "I got into my own vegetable gardening, which evolved into a micro-flower farm in Mount Tremper." The result was the Phoenicia Honey Co., which sells local honey infused with flowers and herbs.

"My restaurants in Brooklyn were fine dining, and I always wanted to do something more community-oriented, where I could have fun with food and be creative," she said, "I wanted to feel like people were coming to my home. I feel like that's happening here."

Beyond the pancakes

Don't worry, there are still pancakes.

"People are saying the new pancakes are nearly as good as Sue's," said Shim, who swears she'll never do the ten varieties



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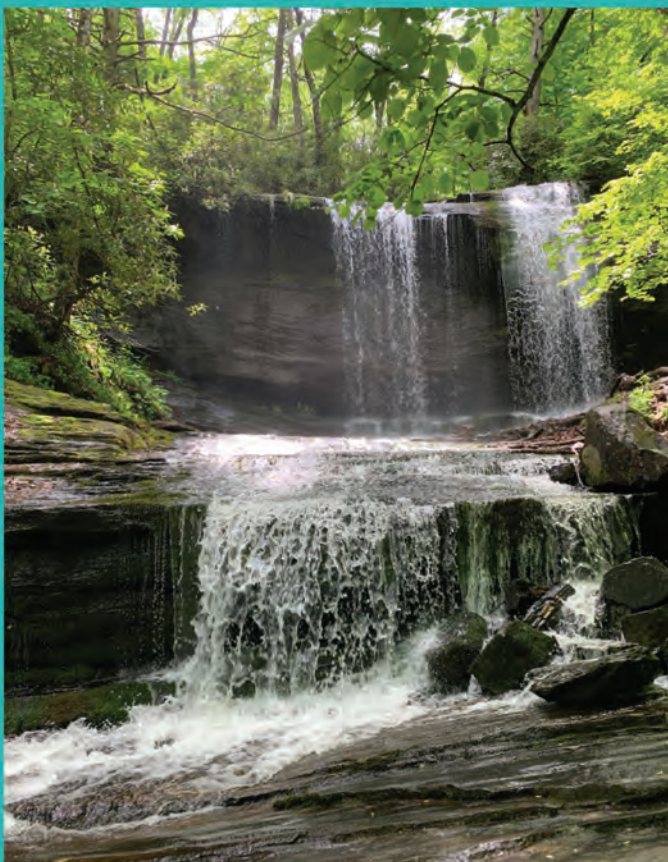
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PHOTOS BY PHYLLIS McCABE

Rebecca named the restaurant Bettina after her grandmother, who taught her the love of baking.

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that Sue was famous for. "What she did was amazing, and she was a pioneer."

Forty years ago, Phoenicia was less a trendy place for refugees from New York City and more the largest hamlet in a rough rural town just west of Woodstock. Sue's customers traveled from far afield

and were willing to wait for a table. The pancakes were the main attraction, along with other breakfast foods and sophisticated lunch options.

With changing times, Shim feels pancakes can no longer hold down the menu. "One of the reasons I decided to



do something completely different is that I don't think anyone can redo what Sue did."

Bettina opened on April 26 with a limited menu of breakfast and lunch options. Among the most popular, Shim said, were "baked French toast, mozzarella panini, the pancakes. And we have a few vegan items. We're also doing a lot of fancy coffees, matcha and cold brew. People grab drinks to go. As the weather gets warm, the salads are selling like crazy."

The menu will continue to shift, as Shim incorporates seasonally plentiful ingredients.

The vegan Bettina Bowl changes composition weekly. In early June, it



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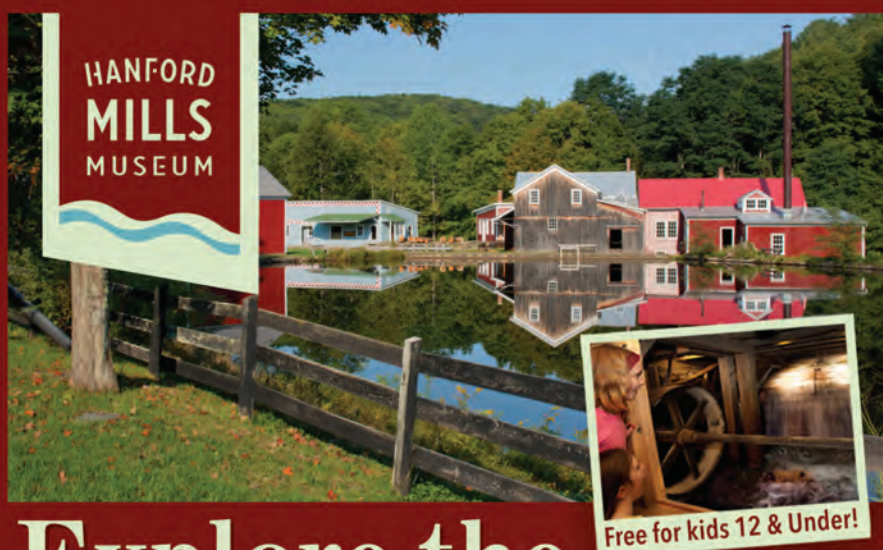
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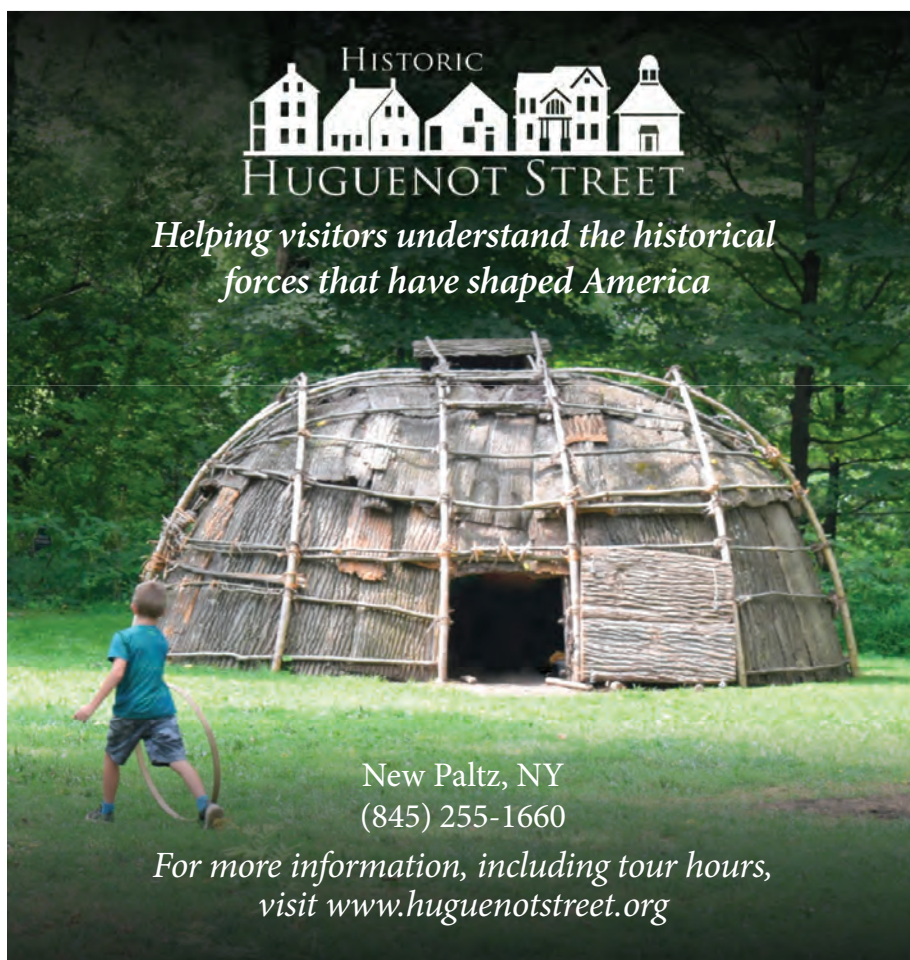


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consisted of quinoa, tabouli, hummus, grape leaves, Kalamata olives and baby greens.

A tempeh reuben uses a product from Hudson Valley Tempeh, made with chickpeas and without “the sour aftertaste that tempeh sometimes has.”

Lorenzina’s Panini, named after Shim’s mother, has been a customer favorite. “She was a tenth child, and my grandfather Lorenzo had to have a name-sake,” she explained,

A small-town anchor

Shim’s mom was not excited about cooking, but grandmother Bettina, who came to the U.S. from Abruzzo, Italy at the age of 16, was an avid cook. “Her love for food is in my DNA.”

Shim’s father, whose family was from Ireland, studied with James Beard and

loved to cook for guests. “I was his little helper at parties.”

In Brooklyn, Shim had apprenticed for chef, teacher and author Edna Lewis, considered the grande dame of Southern cooking, offering farm-to-table cuisine

before it was chic. “She taught me about simplicity and respecting ingredients.”

As the pandemic waned, Shim, who had been earning a living through private chef work, bachelorette parties, and fancy dinners for people from the city, eyed the closed cafe on Main Street and considered renting it. “I hate to see empty storefronts in Phoenicia. I love the town, and it feels important to have a cafe as an anchor in a small town, a place for people to meet, grab something to eat and a coffee. And it should be affordable, so it’s not only geared to tourists.”

A corner of Bettina’s main room displays products on sale from local businesses, 80 percent of them run by women. Weathertop Farm offers switchels, shrub, and bitters that can be used to make sodas or added to cocktails. Other items include fine teas, maple syrup, tahini, halvah, date butter, and chocolate-covered dates.

Shim plans to branch out into catering. The side dining room will become available as a party space, and eventually will open on weekend evenings.

“As somebody who’s lived here for 25 years,” she said, “I’m trying to understand what the town really needs, and it’s more than just pancakes. I’m trying to fill a niche with all-around food options.”

Bettina Cafe and Market is located at 49 Main Street, Phoenicia. Hours are currently Friday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See <https://www.bettinacafe.com> for up-to-date information.



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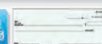
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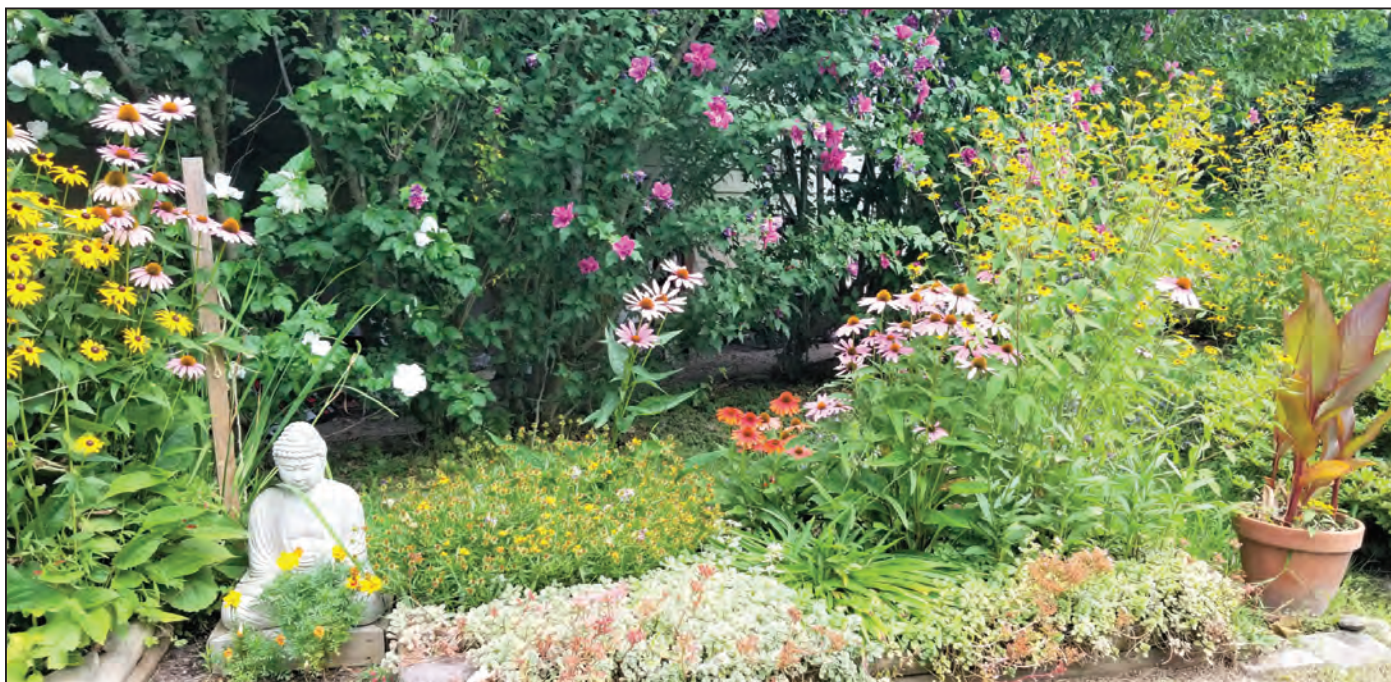


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Invest in your garden

The value is immeasurable



Creating little nooks with flowers and statues helps to create your own little oasis.

by Francesca Ortolano

PLANTING AROUND YOUR home isn't just about adding beauty to your surroundings. Your garden is

an investment that can significantly increase the value of your property. A well-maintained garden can create a positive impact not just for you but the neighborhood as well, making your property more attractive and desirable.

A good garden provides so much more. Gardens not only enhance curb appeal and increase property value but also provide environmental benefits, improve air quality, offer privacy and tranquility, create outdoor living spaces, and foster

an emotional connection with nature. Whether you're looking to sell your home or simply enhance your living environment, investing in a garden is a decision that pays off in more ways than one.

Studies have shown that homes with beautifully landscaped gardens tend to have higher property values compared to those without. The added aesthetic appeal and functionality of a garden can increase the perceived value of your home in the eyes of potential buyers.



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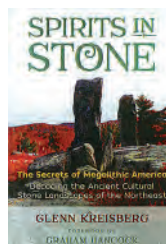
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electric), then added a bench to create a serene place to sit quietly and enjoy nature.

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Gardens contribute to environmental sustainability by providing habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Sustainable landscaping practices can further enhance the eco-friendly appeal of your property, which is increasingly valued by environmentally conscious buyers. Trees, shrubs and other plants in your garden act as natural air purifiers by absorbing carbon dioxide and

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such as tall hedges, strategically placed trees, and secluded seating areas can make outdoor space feel like a private oasis. When my husband and I purchased our home ten years ago, I went right to work digging in the dirt. I had no experience in planting gardens before. I just knew that if I took some time and a little bit of money

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Gardens have a remarkable ability to evoke positive emotions and create a sense of connection with nature. They offer a space to unwind and reconnect with the natural world. Some people drive down the road where Susan and Dennis live they stop each spring to marvel at the cherry tree on their front lawn. It uplifts anyone living near them or driving by their home.

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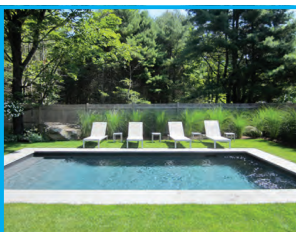
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Three varied new Kingston summer markets

by Karlie Flood

Half Moon Rondout Café & Adelaar Farm Market

Biweekly market
Wednesdays
and Sundays

HALF MOON RONDOUT Café at 83 Broadway, best known all over the county for its babka, will soon be one of the only twice-a-week markets in the Hudson Valley. In its new space just up the street from its old location, it will be offering fresh pastries, sandwiches, locally roasted coffee and made-to-order hot donuts every day.

Half Moon and Adelaar Farms, a local family-owned-and-operated farm which utilizes all-organic practices to grow its produce and flowers, will collaborate to make use of Half Moon's alleyway to distribute fresh produce and flowers. Blueberries, strawberries, lettuce, herbs, and dozens of flower varieties will be available throughout the summer. There will be potatoes and other vegetables in the fall. Seedlings, seed starter kits, herbs, and meal kits will also be



Half Moon's spacious new dining room, with big windows.

KARLIE FLOOD

available.

In addition the spacious new dining room with big windows, will hold monthly workshops and events like seed planting, bouquet arranging, flower pressing, natural dying, crocheted flowers, donut painting, and other crafts and activities.

Half Moon Rondout Café is very active on the social media. Go to Instagram at @halfmoonrondoutcafe & @adelaarfarms for weekly updates on produce availability. You can also find Adelaar Farms produce at Chleo, Camp Kingston, Blue Mountain Bistro-To-Go, Woodstock Meats, Sunflower Market and Davenport Farms.

PonckHockie Market

Last Saturday of every month

THE PONCKHOCKIE MARKET, A community food co-op at 75 Lindseley Avenue, incorporates culture and community in a new grassroots market intended as a cornerstone for community development and engagement. The first market in May celebrated Native-American, Haitian-American, and Jewish-American heritages, with vendors offering a wide range of food, programming including a doctor and a chef, and produce like local eggs, local chicken, apples, greens, pork chops, ribs, beets, and more.

“The PonckHockie Market is not just a grocery store, It’s a community revolution, born from the need for accessible, healthy food in Ponckhockie, a neighborhood in Kingston recognized as a food desert,” according to the founders.

The market sets prices based on what customers can afford, and all profits made go back to local nonprofits chosen by the market’s members. Created by Community Action of Ulster County and Thrive On! Network and supported by food from The Farm Hub, the market features a new curation of local flavors and cultures each month.

A community block party is scheduled for noon on June 29.

Red Owl Flea Market

First Sunday of the month

OVER 70 VINTAGE SELLERS, LOCAL makers, antique dealers, pickers, collectors, and food vendors gather in the Red Owl parking lot in Midtown King-



COURTESY OF RED OWL COLLECTIVE

Red Owl's Sunday Flea Market.

ston each month until October. Make a day of stopping at 25 Cornell Street in some of the many new vintage and thrift shops, restaurants, bakeries, and breweries surrounding the antiques mall. It's open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

The lofty mission of the location is “to provide an organized, beautiful and dynamic environment to sell antiques, vintage, design; to provide the best customer service to our vendors and customers.”

The 10,000-square-foot space, once a bowling alley, then a warehouse, after that for many years the iconic home of Wonderly's window treatment business (with its distinctive minimalist sign lettering), is now the location of the Red

Owl Collective (notice how all six of the letters in the Red Owl are the same six in the name Wonderly).

A couple of elsewhere

Oh Boy Market Fare in Andes

OUTDOOR SUMMER MARKET ON JULY 6 and 7 featuring 20+ artists, musicians, makers, retailers, food and drinks from the Catskill area. With no admission fee, this market is worth the scenic drive.

Cirque de Creep Market in Beacon

Thus new alternative night market on June 28 will feature dark art, oddities, tarot, reiki, taxidermy, crystals and vintage. Admission is free. The Yard in Beacon will host dozens of vendors offering their most creepy selections.

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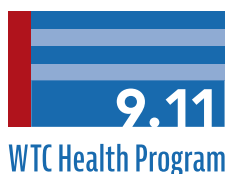
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