

James Lane

— POST —

Summer Party: Southampton Hospital Foundation's Annual Gala Returns

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Photo by Sean Zanni/PMC



On Saturday, August 3, philanthropists, full-time and part-time residents, celebrities, and influencers will gather under the elegant tents on Wickapogue Road in Southampton to celebrate one of the Hamptons most anticipated fundraisers: Southampton Hospital Foundation's 66th Annual Summer Party, which will benefit Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

This year's theme "is embracing our legacy and envisioning our future," said Julia McCormack, the new President of the Southampton Hospital Foundation and Chief Development Officer for Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. McCormack is an accomplished non-profit leader with over thirty years of experience in fundraising, specializing in medical research, education, and community development.

"It's been a really good season for us. And as you know, it's my first year here, so every event that we're doing is an experience. I thought the East Hampton Luncheon was really a huge success." The fourth annual East Hampton Emergency Department fundraiser luncheon offered a conversation with iconic makeup artist Bobbi Brown and BookHampton owner Carolyn Brody at the Maidstone Club. The new East Hampton Emergency Department is set to open next spring. "The construction will be finished in October, and then there's all the very expected logistics of licensing and certifications... We fully anticipate opening in the spring of 2025. We're thrilled about that. Of course, we're still seeking funding for it, and we would be really delighted to talk to anyone who's interested in supporting."

This summer, the Southampton Hospital Foundation also hosted its Summer of Wellness series, with workout classes to benefit the foundation. Classes have included Isaac Boots, Yoga at Mecox Bay Dairy with David Marshall, and a tennis clinic at The Racquet Lounge at Southampton. The series will conclude with a DanceBody class in Bridgehampton on August 10.

"I'm really so pleased to see what's happened with that. And that's a program that's overseen for us by our vision board, which we believe is our next generation of leaders for the hospital," said McCormack.

The upcoming Gala is co-chaired by Elena A. Ford and Sarah Wetenhall, two accomplished businesswomen and passionate supporters of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. This year marks 66 years of raising vital funds to support healthcare from Westhampton to Montauk.

"Stony Brook Southampton Hospital is a cornerstone of our community, providing exceptional healthcare services. It's an honor to support this institution and its mission," said Ford, who is on the Southampton Hospital Association board. "This event embodies the spirit of community and philanthropy, bringing together individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact."

"Stony Brook Southampton Hospital is an essential institution in our community, providing services that affect all of us at some point. I am grateful for the opportunity to support such an important cause," added Wetenhall, who is on the Southampton Hospital Foundation board. "The summer gala represents a powerful testament to our collective impact when we come together for a common cause. I look forward to an unforgettable night brimming with joy, generosity, and inspiration."



Joey Wolffer, Tamron Hall, Sarah Wetenhall and Rachel Zoe at last year's event. Photo by Sean Zanni/PMC

At 6 PM, guests will be welcomed into a captivating experience featuring breathtaking floral designs by DeJuan Stroud, cocktails and canapés curated by Elegant Affairs. Wölffer Estate Vineyard will return as the title sponsor again, offering guests the chance to savor the winery's world-class wines. Guests will mingle with notable attendees and enjoy the enchanting ambiance.

"American Idol" alum Christiaan Padavan will serenade guests with lounge-style tunes during the cocktail hour, followed by a sit-down dinner at 7 PM. After the delectable meal, celebrity auctioneer Lydia Fenet will lead a paddle auction. A dessert bar and dancing to That 70s Band will complete the fun.

Honorees for the night are Father Alexander Karloutsos and Dr. Daniel Van Arsdale. Father Alexander Karloutsos, recently retired, served as the Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Special Assistant to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.

Dr. Van Arsdale has dedicated over 15 years to medicine, bringing extensive experience and expertise to his various roles. He is the Director of Medical Education and Site Designated Institutional Official at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

“It’s a very exciting time at SBSH with a new President, Emily Mastaler, and a new head of our Foundation, Julia McCormack,” noted Jim Forbes, board chairman of the Southampton Hospital Association. “We look forward to seeing everyone at the 66th Annual Summer Party and introducing Emily and Julia to our largest donor event.”

Hollis Forbes, Sheila Fuchs, Jean Shafiroff, Melanie Wambold, Cindy Willis, and Joey Wölffer serve as Summer Party Vice Chairs. Rachael Zoe serves as Fashion Chair, while Gregory D’Elia, Norah Lawlor, and Lisa Tamburini are Publicity Chairs. Nancy Stone serves as Corporate Partnership Chair.

Tickets are available here: <https://bit.ly/SBSHSummerParty2024>. For the Summer of Wellness, tickets are available here: <https://bit.ly/SummerofWellness24>