

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || AUGUST 2024

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

As we welcome the month of August, I am pleased to connect with you through our County Chamber's monthly newsletter. This time of year, offers us an excellent opportunity to reflect on our progress and look ahead to the exciting initiatives we have planned for the coming months. Our recent networking events and membership breakfasts have seen record participation, highlighting the enthusiasm and collaborative spirit that define our Chamber.

Looking forward, I am excited to share some key initiatives and events that we have planned:

We are excited to announce our upcoming workshops on Leadership/Professional Development with Dale Carnegie and Fisher & Phillips L.L.P. who will give a workshop on "Hottest Legal Topics for Employers in 2024" that were highlighted throughout this year.

We are looking forward to hosting Congressman Van Drew at our annual Legislative Update Membership Meeting on August 15th at South 9 Bar & Grille.

Our Tourism & Economic Development Committee chaired by Jim Rutala, is also

working with the County on getting information to our membership on the NJ PACT REAL Regulations scheduled for publication in the New Jersey Register on August 5th, after which there will be a 90-day public comment period. We are striving to educate our business community in Cape May County on the effects this will have on our local economy.

As always, we encourage you to stay engaged and participate in our upcoming events. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates and announcements. Your active participation is crucial to our success. I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources, events, and networking opportunities offered by the Chamber. Together, we can foster a vibrant and thriving business environment.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and support. It is your hard work and passion that make our community strong and vibrant. Let us continue to support one another and strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

*Together, we can achieve
remarkable things.*

Warm Regards,

Barbara Stafford Jones,
President



*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

8/2/24 - Webinar: Navigating the Surrogate's Office w/ E. Marie Hayes

8/15/24 - Legislative Update Membership Breakfast Meeting—South 9 Bar & Grille

8/21/24 - AMRush Networking Mixer—ICONA Avalon

8/27/24 - End of Summer Evening Networking Mixer w/ Ocean City Chamber—
Yesterday's Creekside Tavern

9/18/24 - Membership Lunch Meeting—La Mer Beachfront Resort

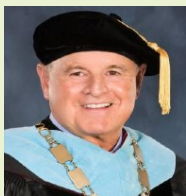
Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation announced open registration for **Leadership Cape May County**. This program is designed to develop informed, committed, and qualified business, community, and civic leaders for the benefit of our area. Leadership Cape May County is a nine-month immersive program that combines in-room course work with field study. Tuition is \$799 and scholarships to qualified applicants are available. **The application and all supporting materials must be submitted by August 15, 2024. To find out more about the program and to register, [Click Here](#).**
- ♦ On July 16, Peter Lomax of Lomax Consulting presented to the Chamber's Tourism and Economic Development Committee on the NJ DEP's upcoming coastal regulations. Cape May County Government commissioned Lomax Consulting to analyze these rules and map the findings, which were shared with the committee. The NJ PACT REAL proposal is scheduled for publication in the New Jersey Register on August 5 with a 90-day public comment period. A document was prepared to highlight the impact of the rules. Please read "**[NJDEP New Rule for Resilient Environments and Landscapes \(REAL\)](#)**" and learn how to take action against the drastic proposed changes.
- ♦ The Chamber has been actively following the Occupational Heat-Related Illness and Injury Prevention Program Bill (**[S2422/A3521](#)**), which aims to establish heat stress standards and prevention programs in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Single Use Plastics Bill (**[S3195](#)**), which restricts food service businesses from providing single-use plastic utensils and condiments except upon request, requiring reusable utensils for on-site dining.
- ♦ On July 26, Cape May County Commissioner Director Leonard Desiderio issued a statement regarding the offshore wind incident in Nantucket, Mass., affirming that Cape May County's opposition to Orsted's offshore wind projects, a stance maintained since 2021, was justified. **[Read the full statement here](#).**
- ♦ Beginning August 1, Letters of Intent for 2025 Art and History Grant Funding will be accepted through September 6. Through funding provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and New Jersey State Historical Commission, the Division of Culture & Heritage provides Cape May County organizations an opportunity to apply for funding for operations and projects that have an art and/or history component. **[Learn more](#).**
- ♦ The Middle Township Board of Education will seek the community's permission to finance school upgrades through a bond referendum on Tuesday, Sept. 17. There will be a Community Q&A at Middle Township Elementary #1 on Aug. 28 at 6:30pm for the public to learn more about the bond referendum. **[Learn more](#).**
- ♦ The Cape May County Government released their Q2 Newsletter. This newsletter is produced quarterly to provide the public with information and events in Cape May County. **[Read more](#).**



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In Memoriam



Dr. Peter Mora Sr., retired President of Atlantic Cape Community College passed away on June 30. Dr. Mora dedicated 41 years to the college, served on the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was honored as the Education Foundation's first FORE Education Golf Tournament Honoree. **[Read more](#).**



Jay Spurl Sr., passed away on July 14. Jay served in the USCG for 21 years, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. He was Chairman of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, a member of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, President of the NJ Campground Association, served on the National Board of Campground's Association and later became Vice President at Seashore Campsites. **[Read more](#).**



Jack Morey, beloved 2nd Generation Partner of Morey's Piers and the creative force behind many of Wildwood's iconic attractions, passed away on July 19. For over three decades, Jack's visionary leadership as Executive Vice President and Chief Creative Officer transformed the landscape of Wildwood, creating memorable experiences for countless visitors. **[Read more](#).**

Chamber Event Highlights



July Membership Meeting— July 18

The Chamber was pleased to welcome Middle Township Mayor Chris Leusner, Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock, Lower Township Mayor Frank Sippel, and North Wildwood Mayor Patrick Rosenello to our Membership Meeting on July 18 at Avalon Golf Club, sponsored by Hutchinson. Each mayor presented updates on business developments, ongoing projects, taxes, infrastructure, and more within their respective municipalities, highlighting both positive advancements and the challenges they continue to face.

Mayor Leusner discussed redevelopment efforts in Middle Township, the beautification projects led by the Garden Club, and the development of workforce housing. He also introduced new Chief of Police Tracey Super and touched on the challenges of hiring police officers. Additionally, he mentioned the launch of a new monthly newsletter for Middle Township residents.

Mayor Mullock reported no tax increases for Cape May City this year and noted the addition of more parking meters in town. He highlighted the opening of the new Fire House and Cape May Library on Franklin Street. Similar to Mayor Leusner, he acknowledged difficulties in hiring police officers but announced the successful recruitment of five new full-time officers. He also addressed infrastructure and water system issues, detailing budgeting efforts for these projects and the city's purchase of a new building to be converted into a theater.

Mayor Sippel began his presentation by explaining the composition of Lower Township and noted a 0% tax increase for residents over the past three years. He discussed the pros and cons of short-term rental properties and shared the township's honor of receiving the "Community Veterans Award" this year, emphasizing the extensive application process involved. Being a veteran himself, Mayor Sippel concluded by outlining initiatives for veterans, including designated parking spaces, discounts, street renaming, and more.

Mayor Rosenello closed the program by addressing an ongoing issue since he took office in 2014 – North Wildwood beach replenishment. He shared his experiences with the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor's Office, mentioning that the N.J. Department of Transportation added 2.2 billion pounds of sand to North Wildwood's beaches in 21 days.

A common theme among all the mayors was the impact of the N.J. D.E.P.'s Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJ PACT) regulations, which will affect all areas in Cape May County. All mayors and Chamber President Barbara Stafford Jones encouraged our members to learn more about these regulations and attend related presentations.

The next Chamber membership meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15 at South 9 Bar & Grille in Cape May Court House. The meeting will feature Congressman Jeff Van Drew for the Annual Legislative Update.

Striking Up Connections Evening Networking Mixer—July 23

The Chamber joined forces with Middle Township Chamber of Commerce and Cape Square Entertainment to host a unique networking mixer involving bowling, golf and business connections.

We thank Cape May Par 3 and Driving Range for sponsoring this event!

Our next mixer will be on Tuesday, August 27 from 5:00-7:00PM at Yesterday's Creekside Tavern in Marmora for our Annual End of Summer Mixer with Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Out on the Town with Our Members

The Environmental and Legislative Committee had an enlightening field trip to the **Cape May Point Science Center** during their monthly meeting. CMPSC President Bob Mullock led a tour of the iconic building and grounds, offering a captivating history of Cape May Point.

Now in its second season, he detailed the Science Center's mission to advance environmental education and research. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the Center hosts numerous events to support and promote its mission.



Cape May Point Science Center is located at 101 Lehigh Avenue, Cape May Point and offers tours every day, except Tuesdays, in season. Visit them online at www.capemaypointsciencecenter.org. We thank Bob for the tour!



Members of our Environmental and Legislative Committee recently enjoyed a lunch gathering at **Harpoon's on the Bay** in North Cape May. This get-together provided an opportunity to reconnect with fellow committee members and the restaurant's owner, Brady Schoenrock. We chose to dine in the air-conditioned dining area, where we were treated to stunning views of the Delaware Bay just outside the window.

Our meal included a delicious selection of dishes such as the crab cake sandwich, cheeseburger, BLT, and a variety of appetizers. Each dish was perfectly cooked and served with a smile by Harpoon's friendly waitstaff. This summertime destination is a must-visit for its refreshing drinks, tasty food, and the best spot to watch the sunset!

Harpoon's on the Bay is located at 91 Beach Drive, North Cape May and is open 7 days a week in season for lunch, dinner and cocktails! We thank Brady & Harpoon's staff for their hospitality!

We recently partnered with **Allegra Print & Marketing** in Marmora to create sponsorship golf hole signs and flags for the Education Foundation Golf Tournament, and we couldn't be more delighted with the results! Allegra delivered high-quality, beautifully designed signs and flags that truly elevated our event's appearance. Owners Nick and Denise Wieand guided us through every step to ensure our complete satisfaction.

In addition to their exceptional print services, Allegra offers a variety of solutions including graphic design, marketing consultation, signs, banners, and more. Their strategic approach and commitment to customer satisfaction are truly impressive.



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For large quantities, contact the Chamber office at admin@cmcchamber.com to arrange a pick-up.

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Contact admin@cmcchamber.com or call 609-465-7181 for more information and to book.

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