

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



NEWSLETTER || JULY 2024

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

I am delighted to present to you this edition of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce newsletter. As we embrace the vibrant summer season here in Cape May County, our commitment to supporting and empowering our local businesses is stronger than ever.

In this issue, we highlight some of the incredible achievements within our community, share updates on upcoming events and legislative initiatives, non-profit information, and more. Our collective resilience and innovation have proven time and again that when we work together, we can overcome any challenge.

From the bustling boardwalks to our serene beaches, Cape May County continues to shine as a premier destination for both tourists and locals alike.

Thank you for being an integral part of our vibrant business community. Your dedication and contributions continue to drive our collective success. Let's look forward to a future filled with growth, collaboration, and prosperity ensuring that our beautiful county remains a top destination for travelers and a wonderful place to live.

Barbara Stafford Jones

President



BARBARA STAFFORD JONES

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

7/12/24 - Webinar: Adolescent Mental Health w/ Cape Assist

7/18/24 - Membership Breakfast Meeting— Avalon Golf Club

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

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

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection plans to adopt very significant changes in the coastal regulations by next summer. The Chamber hosted a seminar on this issue last fall with Senator Testa, Senator Polistina, and NJDEP representatives to brief the membership on this issue. Cape May County Government has retained the Lomax Consulting Group to analyze these rules and map the impacts, ***see attached report***. The County is leading the effort to oppose these regulations which would certainly impact future development in our area. Peter Lomax will be attending the next meeting of the Tourism & Economic Development Committee on July 16 and we will continue to keep you informed on these proposed regulations. Op-Ed by Ray Cantor, VP of NJBIA and a past chief of staff at NJDEP, which summarizes the impacts of these regulations can be **[found here](#)**.

- ♦ The Chamber has been collaborating with the Cape May County MUA and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife on the "Shell Recycling Program," an initiative designed to save restaurant owners money, reduce landfill waste, and support local oyster populations. Oysters, a keystone species in local waterways, provide vital habitat for various fish and shellfish species, filter significant volumes of water, and stabilize shorelines. New Jersey Fish & Wildlife's Marine Resources Administration coordinates this free Shell Recycling Program, which collects discarded shells from restaurants and plants them onto local oyster reefs. As the program expands, interest is being gauged among prospective restaurants in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Participation in the program is entirely free, with shell collection bins provided. Partnering restaurants are simply asked to keep oyster and clam shells separate from the regular waste stream. **[More information can be found here](#)**.

- ♦ The Chamber recently joined efforts to oppose **[NJ Bill A-4708/S-3515](#)** to safeguard funding for arts and cultural programs. This bill removes the statutory suspension rule that stops the collection of hotel and motel occupancy fees if the minimum annual appropriation for cultural projects from these fees is not met. By eliminating this "poison pill" provision, the bill ensures that the Director of the Division of Taxation will continue to collect these fees regardless of whether the annual budget allocates the required minimum amount to cultural projects. After several letters to legislators, it has been confirmed that upon the conclusion of the State Budget Process, the dedicated funding formula (also known as the poison pill) will be reinstated into statutory law for future fiscal years.

- ♦ In a significant victory for New Jersey herring fishermen, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* case, overturning the *Chevron* doctrine. This decision restores the balance of power between Congress and the Administration by rejecting the requirement for fishermen to pay for at-sea monitors, which threatened their livelihoods. The Supreme Court found that the *Chevron* doctrine, which allowed federal agencies to interpret ambiguous laws, resulted in governmental overreach. Chief Justice Roberts emphasized that courts, not agencies, should resolve statutory ambiguities. The decision is hailed as a major win for small businesses and the protection of livelihoods against unaccountable bureaucracy. **[More information can be found here](#)**.



The Cape May County Chamber proudly participated in the "Book Brigade" prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new Cape May City Library on June 13. This event featured a symbolic passing of books along a human chain from the old library on Ocean Street to the new location on Franklin Street. Cape May City and County Commissioners held a ribbon-cutting at the Franklin Street School building to mark the long-awaited opening of the library and multi-use center.



The Cape May County Board of County Commissioners held a ribbon cutting to commemorate the completion of Phase 1 of the Gerald M. Thornton Veterans' Cemetery Enhanced Beautification Project on June 27. Phase 1 improvements included a new entryway, enhanced landscaping, and new walkways to ensure safe navigation and accessibility throughout the grounds. The multi-year Veterans' Cemetery enhancement project focuses on both aesthetics and accessibility.



The Cape May County Chamber attended a ribbon cutting for new member, *Stowaways Restaurant and Bar*, located at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal on June 28. Stowaways offers a diverse menu and exceptional service as a restaurant, bar, café, and catering/event space right. They are now open seven days a week. More information can be found on their website: www.stowawayscapemay.com

A BUSY MONTH OF EVENTS!

The Cape May County Chamber and Education Foundation enjoyed an incredible month of June filled with exciting events! Take a look at our highlights below!

(More photos can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages)

June Membership Meeting— June 20

The June Membership Meeting, presented by Sturdy Savings Bank, at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City saw a great turnout. Christy DiLeonardo, Director of the Cumberland Salem Cape May Workforce Development Board & Business Services, presented on the vital services of the One-Stop Career Centers and resources for employers and jobseekers. We also welcomed local meteorologist Nor'Easter Nick Pittman, who discussed the new Chamber Partnership and Sizzle Reel opportunities for our members.



Gospel Brunch— June 2

The Education Foundation and Greater Cape May City Chamber hosted their inaugural Gospel Brunch at The Inn of Cape May. Local musicians provided music for an uplifting atmosphere for a sold-out crowd.

Save the Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025!

New Member Reception— June 4

Chamber Staff and Ambassadors welcomed some of our newest members at the Chamber office to network.



Leadership Cape May County Graduation— June 12

The Education Foundation graduated 14 participants from its Leadership Cape May County Program at The Reeds. Leadership Cape May County is a program designed to develop informed, committed, and qualified business, community, and civic leaders. *Applications for 2024-25 Leadership Program will be open soon!*

Non-Profit Summit— June 12

Atlantic Cape Community College, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, ACENDA Integrated Health and Cape May County Women's Commission welcomed several local Non-Profits for the summit at the Atlantic Cape Community College-Cape May campus. It was a great networking opportunity and space for each organization to share its mission and initiatives.



FORE Education Golf Tournament— June 25

The Education Foundation held its 10th Annual Golf Tournament, presented by ICONA Resorts at Avalon Golf Club, honoring Mr. Jim Ridgway of Lower Township. Over 100 golfers participated in the event, which also featured a ladies' clinic, as well as prizes and a live auction during the dinner portion. This year, over 60 sponsors supported the event in various tiers. All proceeds benefited scholarships for Cape May County students.



Summer Kickoff Networking Mixer— June 26

The Chamber partnered with the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce for a Summer Kickoff Networking Mixer at Splash Zone Waterpark. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for members of both Chambers to connect and form new relations going into the summer season.





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Out on the Town with Our Members



We recently attended **Cape May Whale Watcher's** Business Appreciation Night. Captain Jeff Stewart and his team welcomed us and other local businesses aboard for a two-hour tour around Cape May harbors, where we saw plenty of dolphins and were educated about marine life in our waters. It was a fantastic evening of mingling with our local community as we head into a busy 2024 summer season! They also have tickets for their July 3 & 4 Fireworks sailings!

We thank everyone at Cape May Whale Watcher for the invite! Book your excursion now at www.capemaywhalewatcher.com

Summer nights on the Ocean City Boardwalk wouldn't be complete without a visit to one of its most iconic spots: **Johnson's Popcorn**. The enticing aroma of hot caramel popcorn has drawn millions of visitors to Johnson's storefronts, easily recognizable by their red and white awnings. Beyond their famous popcorn, they offer a variety of apparel, keepsakes, and other snacks that appeal to everyone with a sweet (or salty!) tooth. **Visit them at their various locations in Ocean City, where they mix their popcorn year round!**



A few of us staff members spent a weekend afternoon at Willow Creek Winery in Cape May. As we made our way down the winding road of the gorgeous estate, we couldn't help but feel a sense of enchantment. We decided to start our adventure with a flight of Willow Creek's finest wines and a glass of their famous "Willow Whips" (think wine-infused non-dairy soft serve with sangria!) and a charcuterie board while we listened to live music. It was a perfect (local) getaway.

Willow Creek Winery is located at 168 Stevens Street, West Cape May and is open daily, year-round.

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4

Non-Profit News

Are you a Non-Profit Organization looking for fundraising assistance, networking opportunities, and grant research?

Atlantic Cape Community College offers Candid Community, a free public access database filled with valuable applications and resources to support your needs. This program is funded by Cape May County bizHub, Atlantic Cape Foundation, and Thrive AC and can be found at the Atlantic City and Cape May County Campuses.

For more information or to get assistance from a librarian, please email: fin@atlantic.edu.

This summer, **Family Promise of Cape May County** is very excited to be hosting its first Online Auction Fundraiser starting from July 7 to July 20. All proceeds will support their mission that serves homeless families with children.

All donation information can be found at: www.familypromise.org/events.

Habitat for Humanity Cape May County is hosting their Home-In-One Golf Outing on July 8 at The Shore Club. Golfer registrations are sold-out, however, they are other ways to support the event including attending the after-party, donating items to their auction and sponsoring a hole. More information can be found at www.habitatcapemaycounty.org/golf.

Cape May County 4-H Foundation's Annual 4-H Fair and Chicken Bar-B-Que returns July 18-20 from 3pm-10pm Thursday and 10am-10pm Friday and Saturday at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Cape May Court House by Atlantic Cape Community College. This year's theme is "Oh the Places You'll Go with 4-H!" and provides a showplace for the project work and accomplishments of the youth members of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program and a fun, family-oriented community gathering. The event is planned, managed, and operated by volunteers, 4-H members, and their parents and friends and includes numerous agencies and organizations from throughout Cape May County. More information can be found at www.cmc4h.com.

Lazarus House, an ecumenical food pantry located in Wildwood, welcomes all in need of food. Always seeking donations of boxed or canned food products, juice, coffee, stews, personal care items, and more, Lazarus House has been serving the community since September 2010 under the guidance of The Greater Wildwood Ministerial Association. Staffed by over 50 dedicated volunteers from various congregations, they provide a warm welcome, friendly smiles, nutritious food, and other essentials to over 1,500 guests monthly. More information can be found on their website: www.lazarushouseministries.org.

The Branches Outreach, located in Rio Grande, relies on donations and volunteer support to serve the Cape May County community. Financial contributions, food, and clothing donations are essential for their programs, which include a food pantry, warm meal services, and a mobile grocery delivery program. They also provide personal care items and advocate services. Volunteers are needed for various roles, from managing food donations to assisting with Code Blue operations during extreme weather. Donations can be dropped off at specified locations, and more information is available on their website: www.thebranchesoutreach.org.

Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Inc. (CCWI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1988, dedicated to the social and economic development of Whitesboro residents. CCWI collaborates with local non-profits to provide support services for families, focusing on youth development and improving residents' quality of life. They offer various programs, including a scholarship program, the Whitesboro Reunion Festival, and an annual golf tournament, aiming to foster community engagement and leadership. For more information, visit their website: www.concernedcitizensofwhitesboro.com.

Upper Township Business Association (UTBA), established in 2010, promotes business and community prosperity by supporting economic programs that enhance opportunities for all township businesses. UTBA collaborates with local businesses, government, and community groups, offering benefits like networking events, business directory listings, and educational resources. They emphasize "neighbors helping neighbors," fostering a supportive environment where everyone benefits. For more information, visit their website: www.upperbiz.com.

These are just a few of the many non-profit organizations located in Cape May County and the surrounding areas. To discover more organizations that are making a positive impact in our community, visit our Chamber Directory under "Non-Profit Organizations."



2024 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide & Calendar of Events are Now Available!

Pick up your copies at the
Chamber office today or
view [online](#)!

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

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workshop, board retreat, client appointment
at the Cape May County Chamber



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Conference Room Rates:

Regular Rate:
Full Day - \$200
Half Day - \$100

Non-Profit Rate:
Full Day - \$100
Half Day - \$50

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

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
13 Crest Haven Road
PO Box 74

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
E: info@cmcchamber.com
P: 609-465-7181

W: www.CapeMayCountyChamber.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CapeMayCountyChamber
Instagram: [@cmcchamber](https://www.instagram.com/cmcchamber)