

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || APRIL 2025

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

As we welcome the month of April, I'm reminded of the energy and renewal that spring brings to our businesses and community spirit. Here in Cape May County, we are already seeing the signs of a bustling season ahead: visitors returning, events being planned, and businesses preparing for the warmer months.

Whether you're a year-round staple or gearing up for a seasonal splash, now's the time to shake off the winter cobwebs and dive headfirst into what's next. The Chamber is here to help you do just that—with events that spark collaboration, advocacy that amplifies your voice, and a community that truly cares.

We have two upcoming evening networking mixers; one at a North Wildwood Eatery called Trio and the other at Cape May Seashore Lines in Tuckahoe. Enjoy a train ride and see what this member company has planned for the upcoming season.

We also encourage you to attend our seminar

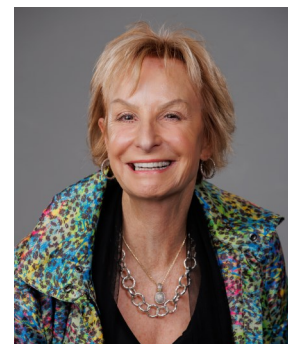
on April 15th at the Wildwoods Convention Center from 3pm to 4pm titled *Storytelling For Impact: Elevate Your Leadership Presence* presented by Anita Zinsmeister, President of Dale Carnegie Training of Central & Southern NJ.

This month, we encourage you to attend our upcoming networking mixers, explore our seminar, and get involved in our efforts to strengthen the local economy.

Together, we continue to build a resilient, innovative, and welcoming business community here in Cape May County!

Here's to a season of bold ideas, renewed energy, and (hopefully) more sunny days than rainy ones. Thank you for your continued partnership and investment in our shared success.

Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford
Jones,
President



* UPCOMING EVENTS *

4/15/25—Business at the Beach Expo—Wildwoods Convention Center

4/23/25—Evening Networking Mixer—Trio North Wildwood

4/30/25—Evening Networking Mixer—Cape May Seashore Lines

5/1/25—NJ EDA Small Business Grants Seminar—Greater Wildwood Chamber

5/8/25—Real Estate Seminar—Avalon Links

5/15/25—Membership Meeting—ICONA Diamond Beach

5/21/25—Evening Networking Mixer—Revolution Rail

5/31/25—Made in CMC Festival—Kindle Auto Fields

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ◆ The deadline for the Cape May County Chamber Education Foundation Scholarship Applications is April 13 for graduating high school seniors pursuing college or trade schools. Since its establishment in 2015, the Foundation has proudly awarded over \$73,000 in scholarships to support students in achieving their educational goals across a range of programs. **Learn more about these opportunities and how to apply.**

- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business at the Beach Expo, the premier networking event in Cape May County, is scheduled for April 15 at Wildwoods Convention Center. This Expo presents an exceptional opportunity for networking and exploring a variety of business goods and services. This year's Expo kicks-off with a dynamic Keynote Presentation at 3:00 p.m. by Anita Zinsmeister, President of Dale Carnegie Training of Central and Southern NJ. Zinsmeister will give an enlightening presentation titled "*Storytelling For Impact: Elevate Your Leadership Presence.*" **Learn more and sign up.**

- ◆ The Chamber sent a letter to Congressman Jefferson Van Drew's office opposing any proposals that would permit offshore oil and gas drilling along the coast of New Jersey. The letter of opposition came as a result of offshore oil drilling being considered by Congress through the Budget Reconciliation process. The Chamber has had a long history of opposing oil exploration along the Jersey coast and adjacent waters. **Read the letter here.**

- ◆ The Chamber has sent a letter to state legislators urging them to revise New Jersey's county aid funding formula, which currently bases allocations solely on road mileage and permanent population. The Chamber proposes incorporating seasonal population data and other factors, such as tourism impact and infrastructure strain, to ensure fair funding for counties like Cape May and Atlantic, which experience significant seasonal surges. **Read the letter here.**

- ◆ The Chamber is excited to launch its *Shop Local Contest*, encouraging the community to support small local businesses in celebration of Small Business Week, which is May 4–10. Shop at small local businesses until May 10 and submit receipts to the Chamber to win a prize. **Learn more.**

- ◆ The Chamber recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for new member Restore Health by Science, who has officially opened its new office on Roosevelt Boulevard in Marmora, bringing a comprehensive approach to wellness to the community. **Read more.**

- ◆ The Chamber is following **Bill S2310**, which "requires transparency concerning compensation with promotional opportunities and in employment listings." This will mandate that certain New Jersey employers disclose wage or salary ranges and general benefits information in each job posting/advertisement. The Bill will go in effect on June 1, 2025. **Read more.**

- ◆ The Chamber is closely monitoring **Bill A5022**, which proposes the establishment of the "Occupational Heat-Related Illness and Injury Prevention Program" under the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. This legislation would require industries, including restaurants, to comply with new heat stress standards. If enacted, restaurant kitchens must implement these measures when indoor temperatures exceed 80 degrees, with non-compliance resulting in fines or stop-work orders.

- ◆ The Chamber is closely monitoring **Bill A5433**, which will increase minimum wage for tipped workers. The bill outlines a gradual reduction of the tip credit employers can claim, ultimately eliminating it by 2030. This means that businesses that rely on tipping will need to increase base pay for their tipped employees, which could lead to higher menu prices or changes in tipping culture to offset labor costs.

- ◆ Governor Phil Murphy has proposed the new state budget, which includes \$1 billion in tax increases across various sectors, such as alcohol, cannabis, cigarettes, drones, online gaming, sports betting, firearms, ammunition, and warehouse traffic. Additionally, an expanded range of services and transactions will now be subject to the state's 6.625% sales tax. **Read more.**

- ◆ The State House Commission unanimously granted approval for Cape May City's land diversion proposal, allowing for a much-needed new Police Station. The approval allows the city to exchange 6.607 acres of land for 0.137 acres in Green Acres in order to provide a new facility for the Cape May Police Department and to forever preserve environmentally sensitive land adjacent to the Sewell Tract. **Read more.**

- ◆ Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg was given a key to the city by Woodbine Mayor William Pikolycky during his trip to the area while filming scenes for his new movie, reportedly titled *The Dish*. The movie is set to release in June 2026. **Read more.**

Chamber Event Highlights



March Membership Meeting – March 20

The Chamber was honored to welcome Cape May County Commissioner Director Leonard Desiderio as the keynote speaker at our March Membership Meeting on March 20 at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City, proudly sponsored by **Triad Associates**. Speaking to an engaged audience of over 125 attendees, Commissioner Director Desiderio provided valuable insights on the State of Cape May County, highlighting key initiatives and developments, especially the County’s historic 2025 Budget, saying it “may be the best one ever.” For more details on the budget, [click here](#). The meeting wrapped up with engaging updates from the Chamber and members, highlighting upcoming events and opportunities.

Our next luncheon meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2025 for the Cape May County Tourism Update.

Networking and check-in begins at 11:30am with the program to start at 12:00pm.

20th Annual Women in Business Conference—March 7



On March 7, 2025, on the eve of International Women’s Day, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce proudly celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Women in Business Conference at The Flanders Hotel. Our keynote speakers — Chief Katherine Madden of the North Wildwood Police Department, Maria Grande, Personal Power Speaker, and Christine Winn, PhD., FACHE of Cooper University Health Care — shared powerful insights and stories of perseverance and success. Our engaging panel discussion, “Mentorship Matters”, moderated by Marifrances O’Neill of OceanFirst Bank, featured accomplished leaders: Rita Rothberg, Cape May County Clerk, Debbie Bass, Cape May County Tourism and Nancy Cleaver Bilderback, Crest Savings Bank Board of Directors, who all shared the importance of mentoring throughout their careers. We closed the day with an empowering talk from Priscilla Loomis — Olympian, motivational speaker, and entrepreneur — who left us feeling motivated and ready to take on new challenges. [Click here for more photos](#).

Evening Networking Mixer—March. 26



Harry’s Ocean Bar & Grille in Cape May hosted the Chamber’s evening networking mixer, bringing together a great turnout of members for an evening of connection and conversation. Guests enjoyed exceptional food and beverages in an elegant setting, making for a memorable experience.

Chamber Member of the Month: Atlantic City Jitney Association

The Atlantic City Jitney Association has been a trusted name in transportation for over 100 years, providing safe, convenient, and eco-friendly travel across South Jersey. A proud member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2022, they offer reliable shuttle services for locals and visitors alike.



Beyond their year-round Atlantic City routes, they also operate seasonal summer shuttles in Avalon, Stone Harbor, Wildwood, and Cape May, making it easier than ever to explore the shore towns without the hassle of parking. Their fleet is also available for private charters, group travel, and special events, including weddings, corporate outings, and tours. With a commitment to efficiency and sustainability, their clean-energy vehicles provide a reliable and environmentally friendly transportation solution.

Learn more or book a ride at www.jitneyac.com.

Out on the Town with Our Members



With the recent stretch of beautiful weather, a staff member took a leisurely stroll along the iconic Ocean City Boardwalk and discovered **Stainton's By The Sea** on a delightful Saturday afternoon. This charming shop, reminiscent of Stainton's on Asbury, offers the same curated shopping experience but with the added bonus of breathtaking Atlantic Ocean views. Inside, a thoughtfully selected group of vendors showcased an array of unique finds, including handcrafted jewelry, scented candles, festive holiday décor, Ocean City and coastal-themed keepsakes, stylish apparel for all ages, gourmet treats, and more. The inviting atmosphere made for a relaxing and enjoyable shopping experience.

Stainton's By The Sea is located at 1216 Boardwalk, Ocean City. They are open weekends until the summer season. For more information on all of the Stainton's shops, visit their website at www.staintons.com.

A staff member and some friends recently visited **Jester's Dive Bar** in Rio Grande for a casual night out, and it did not disappoint! Known for its laid-back atmosphere, great food, and lively entertainment, Jester's is a local favorite for good reason. They kicked off their visit with an order of Jester's wings tossed in the house sauce—a perfect balance of flavor and heat—followed by juicy, handcrafted burgers that were cooked to perfection and paired perfectly with a refreshing pomegranate crush! This dive bar is also a go-to spot for live music, trivia and bingo nights throughout the week, creating an energetic vibe that keeps guests coming back.

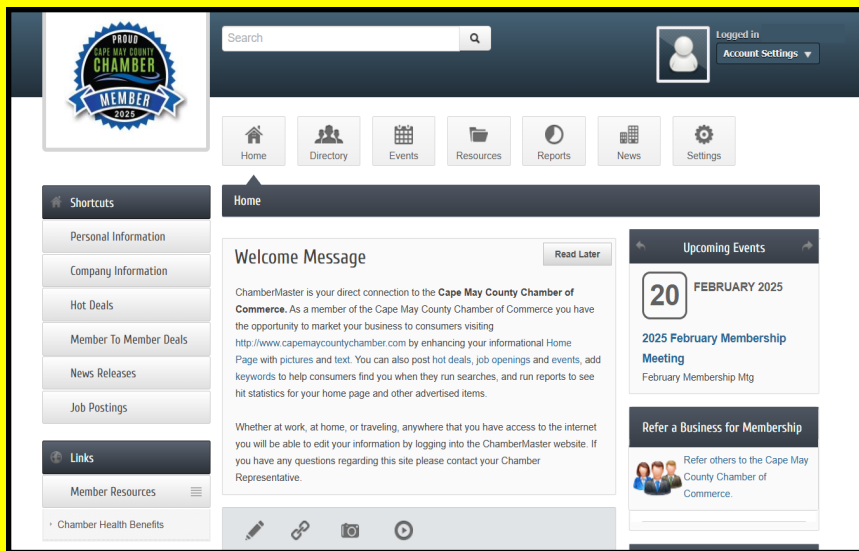


Jester's Dive Bar is located at 3505 Route 9 in Rio Grande. Visit www.jestersdivebar.com for hours, menu, specials and events.

Maximize Your Membership: Share, Connect, and Shine!

Did you know your Chamber membership gives you a platform to amplify your business?

- **Spread the Word:** Post your events, news, job openings, and special offers directly on the Chamber's website and membership portal—it's easy and effective!
- **Boost Your Visibility:** Keep your member profile updated with your products, services, hours, and more to help potential customers find you.
- **Shop Local & Save:** Discover products, services, and exclusive member-to-member deals and discounts from fellow Chamber members.



Don't miss out—make the most of these benefits and let your business shine!

LOGIN NOW.

THE CARE YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT.

Primary, Specialty, Urgent Care,
Cancer Care and more.



CAPE MAY COUNTY SERVICES

Cancer Care Institute Oncology – Medical & Radiation	OB/GYN
Cardiology	Primary Care
Endocrinology	Pulmonology
General Surgery	Urgent Care
Neurology	Urology

To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-569-1000
or visit AtlantiCare.org/BookOnline.



INDULGE IN AVALON 2025

AVALON, NJ



- ART & AUTHORS ON DUNE..... May 31
- SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL June 21
- END-OF-SUMMER SHOP HOP.... September 5-7
- ARTS & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL October 11
- FESTIVE FRIDAY November 28
- SNOWFEST SATURDAY..... November 29



For more 2025 events and announcements, please visit
avalonboro.net and visitavalonnj.com

SHOP LOCAL!

Support Small Local Businesses during
Small Business Week (May 4–10) and enter our Shop Local Contest!

* Shop small local businesses now through May 10

* Submit receipts by May 12

* Highest spender wins a \$100 gift card

* Winner announced May 15

Let's celebrate and support our amazing local businesses!

Reach out to the Chamber at 609-465-7181 or
membership@cmccchamber.com for more info!

Hold your next business meeting, seminar,
workshop, board retreat, client appointment
at the Cape May County Chamber



Convenient Location | Free Parking | Wi-Fi access | Video Conferencing Capabilities
Complimentary coffee, tea and water | Comfortably seats up to 20 people

Conference Room Rates:

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

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

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

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

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