

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || AUGUST 2026

President's Message:

As we move through another busy summer season, I am reminded every day of the tremendous strength of the Cape May County business community. Our tourism industry continues to welcome visitors from across the country, our businesses are working tirelessly during the height of the season, and our Chamber remains focused on advocating for the issues that matter most to our members and the long-term prosperity of Cape May County.

July was an exceptionally productive month for the Chamber. Our Membership Luncheon featuring Kris Kolluri, President and CEO of NJ TRANSIT and Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, along with Stephen Dougherty, Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and Senator Testa, provided an unprecedented opportunity for our members to engage directly with the leaders responsible for shaping New Jersey's transportation future.

The discussion reinforced what we have long known - transportation is more than moving people from one place to another. It is about connecting our workforce with employment opportunities, ensuring our students can access higher education, supporting our healthcare institutions, strengthening tourism, and creating an infrastructure system that allows our businesses to thrive.

The Chamber will continue working collaboratively with NJ TRANSIT, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, Atlantic Cape Community College, Stockton University, Cooper University Health Care, AtlantiCare, county government, and our many stakeholders to improve regional connectivity and advocate for practical transportation solutions that meet the unique needs of Cape May County.

Our advocacy efforts continue well beyond transportation. One initiative that continues to gain momentum is our work to strengthen the education-to-workforce pipeline. Following our recent discussions with Lieutenant Governor Dr. Dale Caldwell and leaders from K-12 education, higher education, healthcare, workforce development, organized labor, and business, we are committed to building stronger collaboration that prepares our future workforce while addressing the unique challenges facing our region. We appreciate the Lieutenant Governor's willingness to listen and engage with our community, and we look forward to continuing that dialogue.

As always, none of this work would be possible without the dedication of our Board of Directors, committee volunteers, sponsors, community partners, elected officials, and, most importantly, our members. Your willingness to volunteer, share your expertise, attend meetings, and advocate alongside us makes this Chamber one of the strongest business organizations in New Jersey.

As we continue through the summer season, I encourage each of you to support one another, shop locally, dine locally, and continue building the relationships that make our business community so resilient. Together, we are creating opportunities, addressing challenges, and shaping a stronger future for Cape May County.

Thank you for your continued confidence in the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. It is truly an honor to serve this remarkable membership, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford Jones,
President/CEO



◆ UPCOMING EVENTS *

8/20—Annual Legislative Update w/ Congressman Van Drew & Membership Meeting—South 9

8/26—End of Summer Networking Mixer—Cape Square Entertainment

9/16—Leadership Cape May County 2026-27 Program Begins

9/16—Membership Meeting w/ NJ Legislative District 1—The Flanders Hotel

9/18—Sunset Cruise w/ Animal House Band—Cape May Whale Watcher

9/29—Evening Networking Mixer w/ NJLBA—Harpoon's on the Bay

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber 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. Applications are due by August 14. Class begins September 16. **[Learn more and apply.](#)**
- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce will welcome U.S. Congressman Jefferson Van Drew, Representative for New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District, as the featured speaker for its Annual Legislative Update and Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at South 9 Bar & Grille. During the meeting, Congressman Van Drew will provide Chamber members with an update on legislative priorities and issues affecting Cape May County, South Jersey, and the nation. The event is proudly sponsored by Triad Associates, Wiser Insurance, and Atlantic Title Agency. **[Learn more and sign up.](#)**
- ♦ The Chamber is proud to partner with Atlantic Cape Community College and TEDxCapeMay in support of this year's TEDxCapeMay theme, "Vital Signs." Leading up to the main event on October 4, the Chamber is helping present two TEDxCapeMay Salon events at Atlantic Cape Community College's Cape May Court House campus. Join Michael Pellegrino on Thursday, August 20, for *Mental CPR: The Power of the Pause*, and Dr. Monica Amadio on Thursday, September 17, for *Choose What Matters*. Both presentations begin at 5:30 p.m. Salon tickets are \$10 and include a \$10 discount toward admission to the October 4 TEDxCapeMay event. **[Learn more.](#)**
- ♦ Advertising is now underway for the 2027 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide! Reach thousands of visitors planning their Jersey Cape getaway by promoting your business in one of the region's most trusted travel publications. Reserve your space today and take advantage of early advertising discounts through September 30. **[Learn more.](#)** **[Read the Digital Guide Here.](#)**
- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber and the Greater Atlantic City Chamber will once again partner to host the *South Shore Summit: Two Counties, One Future-South Jersey at a Crossroads* on October 28 at Stockton University in Atlantic City. The program will bring together state lawmakers, tourism officials, and industry leaders to discuss the potential impact of proposed North Jersey casino expansion on tourism, conventions, and economic growth in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Grounded in the latest research and expert analysis, the summit will explore strategies to keep South Jersey competitive and thriving. More details to come.
- ♦ The Chamber has been following New Jersey's "**[Skip the Stuff](#)**" legislation since it was first introduced. Beginning August 1, restaurants and food service businesses may no longer automatically include single-use plastic utensils, condiment packets, napkins, or similar disposable items with takeout or delivery orders. The law is intended to reduce unnecessary single-use plastic waste while still allowing customers access to these items when needed. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ The Chamber continues to monitor legislation that would establish a statewide Occupational Heat-Related Illness and Injury Prevention Program. While the original bill did not pass during the previous legislative session, it has been reintroduced for the 2026-2027 session as **[S1447/A1995](#)**. The proposed legislation would require employers to implement heat illness prevention plans, provide water and cooling measures, train employees, and take additional steps to protect workers during periods of excessive heat. The bills remain under legislative review, and the Chamber will continue to keep members informed of any developments.
- ♦ The Chamber's Transportation Committee supports NJ TRANSIT's Southern New Jersey Transit Market Study, which is evaluating transit needs and mobility gaps across Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties. The study will help identify opportunities to improve access to jobs, recreation, and essential services. Chamber members and residents are encouraged to participate in the survey and share their feedback to help shape the future of public transportation in South Jersey. **[Take the Survey Here.](#)**
- ♦ Congressman Jefferson Van Drew announced that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026, approved by the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, includes several South Jersey priorities focused on coastal resilience, shoreline protection, dredging, flood mitigation, and waterway infrastructure improvements. The legislation includes provisions supporting projects in communities such as North Wildwood, the Maurice River, and the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed. The bill now advances to the full U.S. House of Representatives for consideration. **[Read more.](#)**



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County & Member Updates

- ♦ Cape May County's exhibit at the Great American State Fair was recognized with the event's Best in Show award during the Freedom 250 celebration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The award highlighted the county's exhibit, which featured a Cape May County sand sculpture, a promotional video showcasing the region, and the "Where's George" tourism campaign. Over the course of the 16-day event, the exhibit welcomed thousands of visitors while promoting Cape May County as a premier travel destination. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Cape May County Board of Commissioners accepted a grant award from the Corporation for National and Community Service to support the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for fiscal year 2026 and beyond. The grant will provide essential funding to engage seniors in meaningful volunteer service that strengthens the community. The resolution, approved on July 14, accepts the \$130,500 grant for the period of June 24, 2026, through March 31, 2029. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Cape May County Board of County Commissioners and Division of Culture & Heritage is pleased to announce the opening of the 2027 Local Arts Program (LAP) and County History Partnership Program (CHPP) on Monday, Aug 3. Together, these competitive re-grant programs provide more than \$275,000 in funding to support organizations that enrich, preserve, and promote the arts and history of Cape May County. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ Cooper University Health Care has announced a \$100 million philanthropic gift from George E. Norcross III, marking the largest single donation in the health system's history and one of the largest gifts ever made to a healthcare organization in New Jersey. The investment will support initiatives throughout Camden and South Jersey, with a focus on education, workforce development, community programs, and expanding opportunities across the region. The gift recognizes the Norcross family's more than 50 years of service and leadership with Cooper University Health Care. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ Cape May-Lewes Ferry officials announced that the Delaware Bay ferry service has earned the 2026 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award. This prestigious recognition honors businesses that consistently deliver exceptional service and memorable experiences, placing the Ferry among the top 10% of listings globally on the world's largest travel guidance platform. 2026 marks the 15th year that the Ferry service has received this distinguished seal of approval. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Wildwoods Air Show will return to the beaches of Wildwood on September 12-13, 2026, featuring two days of exciting military and civilian aviation performances. This year's event will showcase the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Demo Team, with aerial demonstrations taking place over the ocean between Morey's Mariner's Pier and Adventure Pier. The show is free to attend and can be viewed from anywhere along the island's beaches and boardwalk, with premium viewing options also available for those seeking an enhanced experience. [Read more.](#)

Cape May County Veterans Connection

The VA has presumptive conditions for certain toxic exposures. That means they have a list of conditions that are caused for each exposure. Exposures include: Agent Orange, Camp Lejeune contaminated water, Burn pits in southwest Asia (Middle East), and radiation exposures from atomic energy. The VA also considers other toxic exposures like asbestos on ships and occupational exposures while serving. The claim is not the exposure, it is the disability caused by the exposure.

Questions?

Call Cape May County Division of Veterans' Services 609-886-2762 to speak to a VSO.



INDULGE IN AVALON 2026
AVALON, NJ

BUNNY HOP..... April 4
ART & AUTHORS ON DUNE..... May 30
SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL June 20
END-OF-SUMMER SHOP HOP..... September 11-13
ARTS & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL October 10
FESTIVE FRIDAY..... November 27
SNOWFEST SATURDAY..... November 28

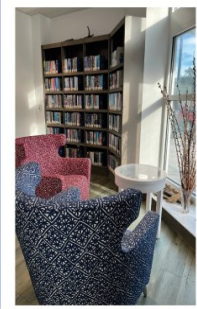
For more 2026 events and announcements, please visit avalonboro.net and visitavalonnj.com



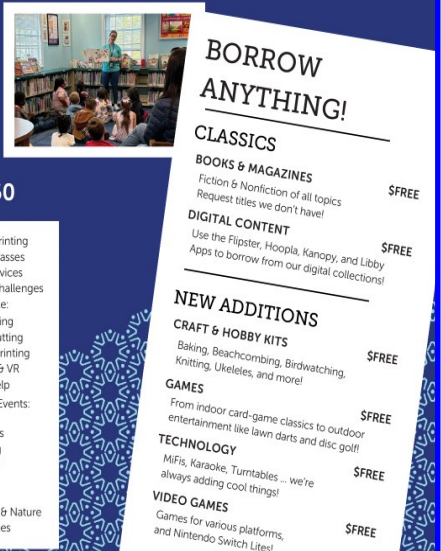
Cape May County Library System



cmcl.org
609-463-6350



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Museum Passes
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Reading Challenges
Makerspace:
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Laser Cutting
Poster Printing
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Chamber Event Highlights

July Membership Meeting – July 23



The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce welcomed a full audience of members and community leaders to its July Membership Meeting on July 23 at Avalon Links Restaurant for a discussion on transportation priorities and infrastructure impacting Cape May County.

The program featured Kris Kolluri, Esq., President and Chief Executive Officer of NJ TRANSIT and Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and Stephen F. Dougherty, Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Authority. The discussion was moderated by Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr., who led an engaging conversation focused on transportation issues affecting Cape May County, including regional connectivity, infrastructure improvements, and future transportation initiatives.



The panel provided attendees with valuable insight into current projects and long-term planning efforts while addressing questions on issues important to the county's residents, businesses, and tourism industry.

The Chamber extends its appreciation to the event sponsors: The First National Bank of Elmer, Cape May Seashore Lines, Remington & Vernick Engineers (An Ardurra Company), Harris Technology Services, Harris Production Services, and Artheon, whose support made the program possible.

SUPPORTING ARTICLES:

OCNJ DAILY: [Major road and airport projects coming to South Jersey.](#)

CAPE MAY STAR & WAVE: [Micro-transit future for southern N.J., officials say](#)

Our next Membership Meeting is on Thursday, August 20 at South 9 Bar & Grille for the Annual Legislative Update with Congressman Jefferson Van Drew. Learn more and sign up.

SAVE *the* DATE

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



82nd Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner

5:00-8:30PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

WILDWOODS CONVENTION CENTER

Chamber Member of the Month: South Paw Animal Hospital



A valued member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2003, South Paw Animal Hospital has been providing compassionate, high-quality veterinary care to pets and their families throughout Cape May County for more than 25 years. Located in Cape May Court House and led by Dr. Theresa Marks, the privately owned practice offers a full range of services, including wellness care, dentistry, surgery, digital radiology, laser therapy, and in-house diagnostics. Known for its personalized approach and dedicated team, South Paw Animal Hospital is committed to treating every pet with the same care and compassion they would give their own.

Learn more at www.southpawanimalhospital.com.

Out on the Town with Our Members

The Chamber was proud to celebrate the official ribbon cutting of **Down the Shore Steamers** on July 16 alongside members of the Wildwoods community. Conveniently located at the corner of 25th and New Jersey Avenues in North Wildwood, Down the Shore Steamers offers fresh, made-to-order seafood steam pots, homemade crab cakes, sandwiches, salads, appetizers, and other coastal favorites designed for easy take-home meals or a quick bite. Chamber staff enjoyed sampling one of the signature mini steam pots and the restaurant's delicious homemade crab cakes during the celebration. Whether you're heading home from the beach or looking for a fresh, hassle-free summer meal (with online ordering convenience!), Down the Shore Steamers is a great new addition to the Wildwoods dining scene.



Down the Shore Steamers is located at 2501 New Jersey Avenue in North Wildwood. To see the full menu and store hours, please visit www.downtheshoresteamers.com.



A recent visit to **Yes She Can!** Professional Bra Fitting in Marmora was a great reminder of the value of personalized service. Owner Dana provides a welcoming and comfortable experience, taking the time to carefully assess each customer's needs and help find the perfect size and style for every body. The boutique offers private fittings by appointment during the week and welcomes walk-ins during regular business hours. In addition to professional bra fittings, Yes She Can! carries a variety of bras, swimwear, shapewear, lingerie, athletic apparel, and specialty products, making it a trusted destination for comfort, confidence, and the perfect fit.

Yes She Can! is located in Wayside Village Shopping Center in Marmora. Please visit their website at www.yesshecannj.com for more information.

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Midway Through 2026: Are You Getting the Most Out of Your Chamber Membership?

Now is the perfect time to make sure you're taking advantage of everything your Cape May County Chamber of Commerce membership has to offer. With more than 965 members and growing, there are countless opportunities to get involved.

Promote Your Business

Share your events, news, job openings, and special offers through the Chamber website and member portal.

Keep Your Profile Current

Make sure your business listing includes updated contact information, hours, services, photos, and links.

Build Your Network

Attend Chamber membership meetings, networking mixers, educational programs, and signature events held throughout Cape May County.

Get Involved

Join one of our Action Committees and help shape initiatives that support the local business community while expanding your professional network.

Celebrate Your Success

Planning a grand opening, anniversary, renovation, or expansion? Let us help you celebrate with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting.

Increase Your Exposure

Take advantage of sponsorships, advertising opportunities in the Jersey Cape Vacation Guide, and dedicated email blasts to showcase your business to our members and visitors alike.

Use Chamber Resources

Need a meeting space? Members have access to our newly renovated conference room, complete with modern video conferencing technology and seating for up to 20 guests.



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