

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



NEWSLETTER || DECEMBER 2024

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

As 2024 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and milestones our business community has accomplished this year. Your hard work, innovation, and collaboration have not only strengthened your individual organizations but have also contributed to the growth and vitality of our entire county.

December is a time for gratitude and celebration. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication to our chamber and for supporting each other throughout the year. From our successful events and programs to the countless connections and partnerships forged, this has truly been a year of progress.

As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited about the opportunities on the horizon. With your continued involvement, we will launch new

initiatives, enhance existing resources, and build an even stronger foundation for economic success.

In the spirit of the season, I encourage you to take time to enjoy the company of family, friends, and colleagues. Let's also remember to support our local businesses during the holiday season and those less fortunate. It's the perfect way to give back and uplift our community.

On behalf of the County Chamber of Commerce, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year. Thank you for being an integral part of our chamber family. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the months ahead.

Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford
Jones,
President



*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

12/3/24 - Mingle Bells Evening Networking Mixer w/ Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce—The Station House

12/13/24 - Webinar: Money Talk w/ Melanie Collette—Zoom

12/19/24 - Holiday Luncheon—The Lobster House

1/16/25—Membership Meeting Luncheon—The Reeds

1/22/25—Dale Carnegie Leadership Seminar

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber Education Foundation is excited to announce that applications are now open for a variety of scholarship opportunities. These include funding for Post-Secondary Education (deadline Dec. 16, 2024), Dual and Concurrent Credit Programs (deadline Feb. 25, 2025), as well as scholarships for graduating high school seniors pursuing college or trade schools (deadline April 13, 2025). 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 Chamber is proud to partner with the Cape May County MUA and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife on the "Shell Recycling Program," an innovative initiative that helps restaurant owners save money, reduces landfill waste, and supports the restoration of local oyster populations. This free program, coordinated by New Jersey Fish & Wildlife's Marine Resources Administration, collects discarded oyster and clam shells from participating restaurants and uses them to enhance local oyster reefs. As the program continues to grow, interest is being gauged among restaurants in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Participation is completely free, with collection bins provided to make it easy for restaurants to separate shells from regular waste. To learn more about this impactful program and how to get involved, **[click here.](#)**
- ♦ The Chamber hosted an insightful Tourism and Economic Development Committee meeting on Nov. 19, featuring presentations by Jane Asselta, USDA Rural Development New Jersey Director, and Jabari Adams of the NJ Economic Development Authority (NJEDA). Jane Asselta provided an overview of USDA programs, including home loans, community facilities grants and loans, environmental initiatives, and more. **[Learn more about the programs here.](#)** Jabari Adams introduced NJEDA grant programs designed to support small businesses and nonprofits including Main Street Acquisition Support Grant, Small Business Improvement Grant and Small Business Lease Grant. **[For more details on NJEDA programs, click here.](#)**
- ♦ New Jersey's statewide minimum wage will increase by \$0.36 to \$15.49 per hour for most employees, effective January 1, 2025. The minimum cash wage rate for tipped workers will rise to \$5.62/hour from \$5.26, with the maximum tip credit employers are able to claim remaining at \$9.87. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ Many companies are required to report information to FinCEN about the individuals who ultimately own or control them by January 1, 2025. In response to inquiries about the Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Rule and the Beneficial Ownership Information Access and Safeguards Rule, FinCEN has prepared a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). **[Learn more.](#)**
- ♦ The New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association announced that thanks to tireless advocacy efforts, **[S3608/A4866](#)** has been signed into law, ensuring outdoor dining remains a permanent fixture for New Jersey's hospitality industry. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ Morey's Piers announced an exhilarating upgrade to one of its most beloved attractions, *The Great White*. In preparation for the 2025 season, this iconic wooden roller coaster will be receiving brand new coaster trains, along with other enhancements designed to improve the rider experience. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ The iconic Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City may be transformed into a seven-story hotel under the Icona Resort brand, retaining its Ferris wheel and carousel to preserve the park's historical significance. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ As 2024 draws to a close, businesses should keep key end-of-year deadlines in mind to ensure compliance and a smooth transition into 2025. Important dates include the NJ Corporation Business Tax 4th-quarter payment due Dec. 15, federal estimated taxes by Jan. 15, and W-2, 1099, and NJ-W3 filings due Jan. 31. Business licenses, permits, and annual reports must be renewed by Dec. 31 if applicable, and 2025 health plan open enrollment should be finalized by mid-December. Additionally, businesses are encouraged to conduct inventory, review finances, and finalize budgets before year-end. For more details, visit the **[NJ Business Portal](#)**.



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Chamber Event Highlights



November Membership Meeting — November 21

The Chamber was pleased to welcome Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional to our November 21 membership meeting, held at Port-O-Call Hotel in Ocean City and sponsored by Petrosch Big Top Tent Rentals. Dr. Christine Winn, Senior Vice President and Chief Regional Officer of Cooper University Hospital, provided an insightful presentation on the merger between Cooper and Cape Regional Health System, which became official on July 1. She shared an overview of Cooper Cape Regional's current structure, outlined their strategic plan, and discussed future initiatives aimed at meeting the evolving needs of the community, healthcare providers, employers, and other stakeholders. It was an engaging and informative session, highlighting the exciting developments shaping the region's healthcare landscape.

Our next meeting is the Annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 19 at The Lobster House in Cape May beginning at 11:00am for networking.

We kindly ask for donations of non-perishable food or personal care item to donate for those in need during this holiday season.



Evening Networking Mixer—Nov. 6

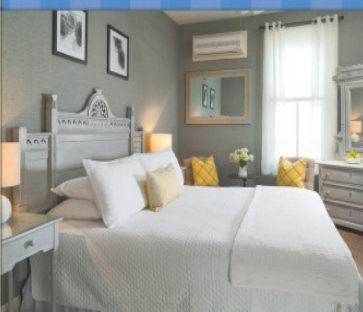
Surf Dog Bar & Grill in Woodbine welcomed Chamber members for an evening of networking and delicious food and beverages at their newly renovated event space. We thank manager Bryan and staff for accommodating our group!

Our next evening mixer is the Annual Mingle Bells on Tues. Dec. 3! It will take place at The Station House in Wildwood from 5-7pm with Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce. We will be taking unwrapped toy donations for the Lunch with Lynch Foundation holiday toy drive.

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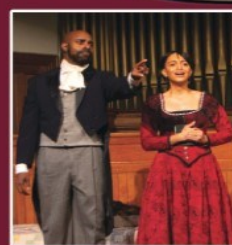


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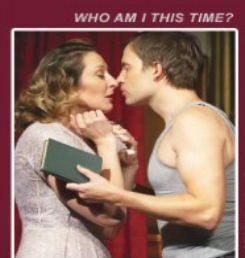
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Supported in part by a grant from NJ Dept. of State, Division of Travel and Tourism

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Out on the Town with Our Members



A staff member and family recently enjoyed a visit to the **Cape May County Park & Zoo**, a year-round destination that offers free admission and a memorable experience for all ages, conveniently located off of Exit 11 on the Garden State Parkway in Cape May Court House. The zoo, home to over 550 animals representing more than 200 species, provides a beautiful environment with shaded walkways and spacious habitats. It features recent additions, such as the adorable red panda, which has quickly become a favorite among visitors. Beyond the incredible animal exhibits, the zoo hosts family-friendly events throughout the year, making it a vibrant part of the community. Whether you're there to admire the African Savanna, explore the reptile house, or attend a seasonal celebration, the Cape May County Zoo has something for everyone.

The Cape May County Park & Zoo, located at 707 Route 9 North in Cape May Court House, is open daily year-round, with the exception of Christmas Day. Winter hours run from 10:00am to 3:30pm, while summer hours extend to 4:30pm. Visit their Facebook page for up to date information and events.

During a recent visit to **Stainton's on Asbury** in Ocean City, our team was delighted to discover a fantastic array of unique gifts perfect for the holiday season and beyond. This downtown gem features an impressive selection of goods from over 100 local retailers, making it an ideal spot to support small businesses while uncovering one-of-a-kind treasures. Among our favorites were the beautifully crafted soaps, vibrant artwork, and intricate handmade jewelry. Beyond its Asbury Avenue location, Stainton's operates additional must-visit properties, including Stainton's by the Sea on the Ocean City boardwalk and the Shoppes at the Asbury, a collection of boutique stores housed in a stunningly restored historic bank building. Each location offers a distinctive shopping experience, showcasing the best of local creativity and craftsmanship.



Stainton's on Asbury is located at 810 Asbury Avenue and is open daily from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Visit www.staintons.com to learn more about their vendors and explore what makes each location so special!



Steaks, Shakes & Cakes, located in Cape May Court House, is a beloved local spot known for its cheesesteaks, signature milkshakes, and specialty baked goods. With over 40 years of culinary experience, the team takes pride in creating food that inspires, offering a menu crafted with quality and care. They provided a delicious lunch for our Leadership Program recently, featuring cheesesteaks, chicken Caesar wraps, and veggie sandwiches, and also created the Chamber's custom cake for our 80th Annual Meeting. They also offer a 10% discount to military personnel, first responders, and municipal workers, as a token of appreciation for their service. They also take custom orders for specialty cakes and baked goods, making them the perfect choice for any occasion.

Steaks, Shakes and Cakes is located at 20 Court House South Dennis Road (next to Cape May Court House Big Lots) and is open Thursday-Tuesday from 11:00am to 8:00pm. Visit www.steaksshakesandcakes.com to see their full menu.



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Sponsorship Opportunities for 2025 are Now Available!

These include signature events such as the Annual Dinner, Women in Business Conference, Business at the Beach Expo, and Made in Cape May County Festival, as well as Mixers, Seminars, and Membership Meetings. Sponsorships for Education Foundation events and programs are also available.

For more information, please reach out to Camille Fitzmartin at membership@cmcchamber.com or (609) 465-7181.

Your sponsorship will directly support the ongoing programs and initiatives central to the Chamber's mission!

Health Insurance Open Enrollment Ends Soon!

Health insurance is essential for fostering a healthy, productive workforce. Through an exclusive partnership with Osprey Health, the Cape May County Chamber offers members access to Fortune 500-level benefits for full-time, part-time, seasonal, and 1099 employees. With options including medical, dental, vision, disability, and financial wellness plans, businesses of all sizes can provide comprehensive, affordable coverage without pre-existing condition exclusions or participation requirements. Members can only enroll through Osprey Health's trusted advisors, ensuring seamless access to these valuable benefits.

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Have events and news to share with the membership and visitors?

As a member, you can easily post news stories, jobs, events, special offers and more to the Chamber's website!

You can also search for services and products from other members.

Your website profile should have info about your products & services, plus your hours of operation.

LOGIN NOW.

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
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Conference Room Rates:

Regular Rate:

Full Day - \$200

Half Day - \$100

Non-Profit Rate:

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Half Day - \$50

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

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

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