

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

## NEWSLETTER || JANUARY 2026

### *President's Message:*

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. Your engagement, advocacy, and investment in this organization allow us to remain a strong, unified voice for business across our county.

Cape May County enters 2026 with both opportunity and challenge. As a tourism-driven economy, we are uniquely impacted by workforce shortages, infrastructure demands, rising energy costs, and the need for thoughtful public policy that recognizes our seasonality and environmental sensitivity. These realities require constant advocacy, and your Chamber is fully engaged at the local, county, and state levels to ensure our voice is heard.

This year, we will continue to prioritize key initiatives that matter most to our members:

\* **Economic and tourism advocacy**, including occupancy tax transparency and fair reinvestment back into our communities

\* **Workforce development**, with strong partnerships across education, training, and veteran services

\* **Energy and infrastructure discussions**, ensuring South Jersey's needs are not overlooked.

\* **Leadership development and education**, through our Education Foundation and Leadership Cape May program.

We are particularly excited to welcome **Lieutenant Governor Dale Caldwell** to Cape May County this February, underscoring the importance of bringing state leadership directly to our business community. Opportunities like this reinforce the Chamber's role as a convener, connector, and advocate for our more than 920 members.

The strength of this Chamber lies in our members, board, volunteers, and partners, who understand that collaboration is essential to progress. Together, we are not only responding to challenges, but shaping the future of Cape May County's economy.

I look forward to working alongside you throughout the year ahead and encourage you to stay engaged, attend our events, and continue sharing your insights with us. Your Chamber is strongest when your voice is part of the conversation.

**Wishing you a healthy, successful, and prosperous New Year.**

*Warm Regards,*

*Barbara Stafford  
Jones,*

*President/CEO*



### ◆ **UPCOMING EVENTS** \*

1/15—Membership Luncheon—The Reeds at Shelter Haven

1/21—Evening Networking Mixer—Cold Spring Brewery

1/29—AI: Beyond the Hype Seminar—Chamber Office

2/4—South Shore Transportation Summit w/ Greater AC Chamber—The Flanders Hotel

2/19—Membership Luncheon—ICONA Avalon

## Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ◆ The Chamber's first Membership Meeting of 2026 will feature an insightful program titled "Community and Commerce – A Dialogue with the Federal Reserve," scheduled for January 15, 2026 at The Reeds. The session will be led by Ryotaro Tashiro, Outreach Economist and Advisor with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, who will offer an economic outlook and discuss key trends shaping both local and national business environments. The event is sponsored by Reel Fire Protection and Sturdy Savings Bank. **[Learn more and sign up.](#)**
- ◆ The Chamber, in partnership with neKey, will host "AI: Beyond the Hype" seminar on January 29, 2026 at the Chamber office. Led by Russ Abdrakhmanov, Founding Leader of neKey, this engaging session will provide a balanced look at AI and how AI serves as a tool to enhance your capabilities and make you better, both personally and professionally. **[Learn more and sign up.](#)**
- ◆ The Greater Atlantic City Chamber and the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce are proud to present the South Shore Transportation Summit on Feb. 4 at The Flanders Hotel, featuring a timely panel discussion, "Bridging the Gap: Transportation Solutions for Atlantic & Cape May Counties." The Summit will bring together business and community leaders from across the South Shore of South Jersey to examine key transportation challenges and opportunities impacting regional economic and community growth. Panelists will explore regional connectivity, public transit access, infrastructure investment priorities, and workforce mobility—highlighting the critical role transportation plays in supporting tourism, workforce access, business investment, and long-term sustainability for both counties. **[Learn more.](#)**
- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber Education Foundation scholarship applications are now available, which include funding for Dual and Concurrent Credit Programs (deadline Feb. 25) and graduating high school seniors pursuing college or trade schools (deadline April 13). The Foundation provides scholarship opportunities to students in Cape May County who themselves, or whose parents or guardians are employed by, or own a business that is a member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. 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 is pleased to announce that production is underway for the 2026 Calendar of Events, with limited advertising space now available. This high-quality, full-color glossy calendar highlights events, concerts, and activities throughout Cape May County and is distributed to 40,000 visitors and residents. With affordable advertising rates, this popular publication offers year-round exposure and is the most requested brochure at the popular Ocean View Travel Plaza Visitor Center. The deadline to reserve advertising space is February 28, 2026. **[View rates and learn more.](#)**
- ◆ On January 6, an overflow crowd of family, friends and supporters were on hand at the Cape May County Administration Building for the Reorganization of the County Commission Board for 2026. Commissioners Bobby Barr and Andrew Bulakowski, both reelected in November, were sworn in for three terms. **[Read more.](#)**
- ◆ A recent feature in Travel Trade Today, a leading international tourism publication, spotlights Cape May County as one of America's fastest-growing travel destinations, placing it among just five U.S. counties. Visitors are increasingly seeking authentic, meaningful travel experiences, and Cape May County delivers on every level. **[Read more.](#)**
- ◆ The Cape May County Division of Veterans' Services, established shortly after World War II by the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners, is dedicated to supporting veterans, widows, and their families throughout the county. The Division provides local access to essential veterans' benefits and services, eliminating the need for individuals to travel long distances for assistance. Its staff offers guidance with a wide range of federal and state benefits, including disability compensation, pensions, healthcare services, survivor benefits, burial benefits, tax deductions, and veteran identification programs. **[Read more.](#)**
- ◆ Cape May County bizHub offers a series of monthly seminars designed to support and educate local business owners and entrepreneurs. These sessions cover a wide range of practical topics, including business ownership, business plan development, target marketing strategies, financial resources, and other tools for growth and sustainability. **[Read more.](#)**



**WINTERIZE YOUR SYSTEM**  
Protect Your Investment from the Harsh Weather Ahead  
888-777-4501 • HUTCHBIZ.com

# Chamber Event Highlights

## Holiday Luncheon – December 18



The Chamber's Annual Holiday Luncheon, sponsored by OceanFirst Bank, was a festive and well-attended celebration, bringing members together at The Lobster House to mark the season. The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to all who contributed food and personal care item donations, which were distributed to local charities in support of our community. We are also grateful to the members who helped raise funds for the Chamber's Education Foundation Scholarship Fund, and Santa Claus for adding a touch of holiday cheer. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the luncheon such a meaningful and joyful event. It was a wonderful way to close out 2025, and we look forward to the opportunities the new year will bring for our business community.

**Our next Membership Meeting is on Thursday, January 15 at The Reeds at Shelter Haven. Learn more and sign up.**

## Mingle Bells Networking Mixer — Dec. 3



The Chamber's Mingle Bells Networking Mixer aboard the Santa Express on December 3 was a festive and well-attended celebration. Members enjoyed a scenic train ride enhanced by holiday-themed activities throughout the journey. We extend our sincere appreciation to Cape May Seashore Lines for hosting and providing seasonal entertainment, including live accordion music and appearances by Rudolph and the Grinch; to Harris Technology for their generous sponsorship; to Ludlam Island Brewery for offering specialty beverages; and to the Upper Township Historical Society for sharing an informative tour of their facility. It was a perfect way to usher in the holiday season.



**WISER INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC**

THE RIGHT PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHT PRICE

**Home | Flood | Car | Business | Life**

**609-601-5339**

**Atlantic Title Agency, LLC**

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE – ONE TITLE AT A TIME

**609-317-5017 | Dino Fanzo**

718 Shore Road, Somers Point NJ 08244



**Want to bring a Chamber event to your location? Reach out to [events@cmchamber.com](mailto:events@cmchamber.com) to inquire about host venue opportunities!**

## Chamber Member of the Month: The Flying Fish Studio



A proud Chamber member since 1998, The Flying Fish Studio has been a creative staple in West Cape May since its founding in 1990. Family-owned and operated by Sue Lotozo, the studio is known for its handcrafted, screen-printed apparel, with every design thoughtfully created and printed by hand. Inspired by the surrounding coastal and agricultural landscape, their work features fish, surf, vegetable themes, and uplifting messages that celebrate Cape May

life and traditions. Committed to sustainability and artistic integrity, The Flying Fish Studio also offers custom printing for businesses and events on shirts, hats, and bags, delivering high-quality, original products with heart and soul in every piece.

*Learn more at [www.theflyingfishstudio.com](http://www.theflyingfishstudio.com).*

## Out on the Town with Our Members

The Chamber staff recently enjoyed an informative visit to **NBC 10 Philadelphia**, one of the Chamber's newest members. The afternoon included a behind-the-scenes tour of the NBC 10 news studio and the iconic Comcast Technology Center, led by Chamber contact Jules Quinones, who provided insight into the station's daily operations and broadcast process. Staff had the opportunity to learn more about how NBC 10 serves South Jersey communities through local news coverage, storytelling, and regional outreach. It was a valuable and engaging visit that strengthened the Chamber's connection with a new member while offering a closer look at the role media plays in informing and supporting our region.



*NBC 10/ NBC Universal is located at 1800 Arch Street in Philadelphia. To learn more about advertising opportunities, please contact [Jules Quinones](#).*



Recently, one of our team members decided to enjoy a little "staycation" at **The Reeds at Shelter Haven** in Stone Harbor. When the kids had a Thursday night off from school, they thought it would be the perfect opportunity for a quick overnight getaway. After a fun stop at the local playground, they headed to SAX Restaurant for dinner, where the entire family enjoyed a delicious meal and some great live music. The evening was relaxing, the atmosphere was lively, and the kids were thrilled to have the adventure of spending the

night in a hotel. The next morning, everyone had a cozy breakfast at SAX before strolling through town for a bit of shopping and another visit to the park. It was the perfect little escape of relaxing and family-friendly fun. The staycation at The Reeds was such a treat for all and they are looking forward to the next one!

*The Reeds at Shelter Haven is located at 9601 Third Avenue in Stone Harbor. Please visit their website at [www.reedsatshelterhaven.com](http://www.reedsatshelterhaven.com) for more information.*

# Maximize Your Chamber Membership in 2026

Your Chamber membership is more than a listing: it's a powerful platform to promote your business, build relationships, and stay connected to Cape May County's business community.

With **900 members and growing**, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce offers countless opportunities to increase your visibility and engagement:

⇒ **Spread the Word**

Share your events, news, job openings, and special offers directly on the Chamber's website and member portal.

⇒ **Boost Your Visibility**

Keep your member profile up to date with your products, services, hours, and contact information to help potential customers easily find you.

⇒ **Attend Chamber Events**

Network and build meaningful connections at our monthly luncheons and mixers, signature events, educational seminars, and more. We proudly host events throughout Cape May County to showcase the diversity of our membership.

⇒ **Join an Action Committee**

Share your expertise and get involved by joining one of the Chamber's Action Committees. Some meet year-round, while others convene just a few times per year—there's an option for every schedule.

⇒ **Ribbon Cuttings**

Celebrate new beginnings or milestones with a Chamber-hosted ribbon cutting for your new or existing business.

⇒ **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Support the Chamber while promoting your brand through sponsorships of Chamber and Foundation signature events, membership meetings, advertising opportunities, and more.

⇒ **Advertising Opportunities**

Promote your business in the annual *Jersey Cape Vacation Guide* and *Calendar of Events*, a highly visible resource for visitors from across the region. A variety of ad options are available to fit all business types and budgets.

⇒ **Email Blasts**

Reach our database of more than 1,000 email addresses to promote your events, specials, or important announcements.

⇒ **Conference Room Rental**

Host your next meeting in the Chamber's beautiful, newly renovated conference room, accommodating up to 20 people and equipped with modern video conferencing technology.

**Don't miss out on the full value of your membership. We encourage you to reach out to the Chamber staff to learn how we can help you get the most out of your membership and make meaningful connections in our growing business community.**

## Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

13 Crest Haven Road || PO Box 74

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

E: [info@cmcchamber.com](mailto:info@cmcchamber.com) || P: 609-465-7181

W: [www.CapeMayCountyChamber.com](http://www.CapeMayCountyChamber.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CapeMayCountyChamber](http://www.facebook.com/CapeMayCountyChamber)

Instagram: [@cmcchamber](https://www.instagram.com/cmcchamber)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/cmcchamber](http://www.linkedin.com/company/cmcchamber)