

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || JANUARY 2025

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! As we turn the page to 2025, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being an integral part of our Chamber community. Your dedication, innovation, and collaboration continue to strengthen our local economy and make Cape May County a vibrant place to live and do business.

Last year, we celebrated many successes together—whether it was through growing your businesses, connecting at our events, or tackling challenges as a united front. Looking back, it's clear that our collective efforts are shaping a bright future for our community.

In 2025, we're building on that momentum with exciting plans to serve you even better. Some highlights for the year ahead include:

Expanded Networking Opportunities - Look out for new events and programs designed to help you build meaningful connections.

Advocacy for Local Businesses - We'll continue championing your needs at the local, state, and national levels.

Resources for Growth - From workshops to partnerships, our focus remains on helping your business thrive.

As always, our Chamber's strength comes from you—our members. Your voice drives our mission, and your success inspires us to aim higher. We encourage you to stay involved, whether it's attending events, joining committees, or sharing your insights.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for choosing to invest in our shared vision.

**Here's to a successful,
prosperous, and
inspiring 2025!**

***Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford
Jones,
President***



* **UPCOMING EVENTS** *

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

1/22/25—Dale Carnegie Leadership Seminar

2/4/25—Non-Profit Summit—Atlantic Cape Community College

4-Part Small Business Symposium—Atlantic Cape Community College

1/17/25

1/24/25

1/31/25

2/7/25

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and Cape May County bizHub are proud to offer free seminars designed to support and empower our business community. The 4-Part Small Business Symposium features expert-led workshops focused on strategies to enhance and grow small businesses. Topics include: **New Technology & Small Business—Breaking Through the Hype** (Jan. 17); **Growing Engagement & Spreading Awareness with Social Media** (Jan. 24); **Operational Efficiency for Small Business** (Jan. 31); **Growing Sales & Marketing in Your Small Business** (Feb. 7) All seminars will be held from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM at Atlantic Cape Community College—Cape May Campus. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tools to strengthen your business. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ As organizations grow and evolve, the role of leadership becomes increasingly intricate, especially when it involves guiding other leaders. To address this need, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce partnered with Dale Carnegie to present *Leading Leaders Seminar* designed to equip seasoned leaders with the skills and strategies necessary to inspire and empower their leadership teams. This seminar will take place on Jan. 22 at United Methodist Communities – The Shores in Ocean City, NJ. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ Cape May County Chamber Education Foundation Scholarship Applications are now open for a variety of opportunities. These include funding for Dual and Concurrent Credit Programs (deadline Feb. 25, 2025) and 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 Cape May County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that the 2025 Calendar of Events is under production and limited advertising space is now available. This high quality, four color, glossy calendar promotes Cape May County events, concerts and activities, with a distribution of 40,000. With affordable rates, this very popular calendar is a great way to promote your business to visitors and locals all year round. Deadline to reserve space is March 1, 2025. [Learn more.](#)

- ◆ New Jersey's statewide minimum wage officially increased to \$15.49 per hour for most employees, effective January 1. Employees of small or seasonal businesses, direct care staff at long-term care facilities, tipped workers, and agricultural employees are subject to a separate minimum wage scale. [Read more.](#)

- ◆ On December 17, 2024, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) excluded restaurant fees from its proposed "junk fees" ban. This decision means that restaurant service fees, delivery fees, credit card surcharges, and other standard restaurant-related charges will not be included in the final rule. Had these fees been included, compliance could have cost independent restaurant operators approximately 10% of their total income. [Read more.](#)

- ◆ A federal court has halted the new Beneficial Ownership reporting requirements for small businesses under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), so businesses are no longer obligated to file this information. The mandate, which would have imposed penalties on business owners who didn't comply by January 1, 2025, is now suspended pending further legal proceedings. [Read more.](#)

- ◆ The County of Cape May obtained orders ending state and federal litigation connected to the defunct Orsted Ocean Wind One offshore wind project. [Read more.](#)

- ◆ Cape May County Board of County Commissioners Director Len Desiderio and County Office of Emergency Management Director Christopher Leusner met to discuss a response to the recent sighting of military-grade unmanned aerial vehicle drones over parts of New Jersey. [Read more.](#)



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Chamber Event Highlights



December Membership Meeting — December 19

The Chamber's Annual Holiday Luncheon was held at The Lobster House in Cape May on December 19, 2024, generously sponsored by OceanFirst Bank. Santa Claus made a surprise appearance, spreading holiday cheer and adding a festive touch to the celebration. The event also featured lively reindeer games and exciting prizes, creating a joyful atmosphere to close out the year.

We're proud to share that the generous donations of food and personal care items from our members were delivered to The Branches Outreach in Rio Grande, making a meaningful impact this holiday season. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this sell-out event and helped make it a truly memorable celebration!

Our next luncheon meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2025 at The Reeds in Stone Harbor. Networking and check-in begins at 11:30am with the program to start at 12:00pm.

Mingle Bells Networking Mixer—Dec. 3

Mudhen Brewery in Wildwood welcomed members of the Cape May County Chamber and Greater Wildwood Chamber for a festive evening of networking and fun at The Station House, their newest addition. Members donated three boxes of toys for the Lunch with Lynch Foundation Holiday Toy Drive. We thank the Sciarra family and Mudhen Hospitality staff for accommodating our group!



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OUR AGENTS

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
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| / Brigid Smith | / Joanne Kent | / Maggie Sgalio |
| / Debbie Gannon | / Joanne Winning | / Moira Smith |
| / Jason Walawender | / Karen McGlinchey | / Valerie Bell |



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Out on the Town with Our Members



Chamber President Barbara Stafford Jones recently sat down with Gail Kasper of **The Cape May Channel** to highlight the many benefits the Chamber offers to its members and the community.

The Cape May Channel/FerryVision has been an exceptional partner, helping to showcase our initiatives and events to a wide audience, including thousands of travelers on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. Their platform provides a dynamic and engaging way to connect with both locals and visitors, significantly enhancing our organization's visibility. The professionalism and creativity of their team have made this collaboration both seamless and highly effective.

FerryVision reaches over a million travelers annually with videos playing aboard Ferry crossings, in terminals, local Welcome Centers, and on streaming platforms which provides extensive visibility and a valuable marketing resource for businesses. Learn more at www.vatv.net/ferryvision.

Our staff had the pleasure of dining at the **Avalon Brew Pub** at ICONA Avalon with friends, and it was an exceptional experience. As the East Coast's only beachfront microbrewery, located just steps from Avalon Beach, the pub offers a unique and inviting setting. Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted and promptly seated, immersing us in a lively atmosphere with a friendly, upbeat crowd. The restaurant stood out for its cleanliness, and the staff were both welcoming and attentive.



We enjoyed a variety of beverages, including craft beers and wine, which were excellent. The menu offered a broad selection, ranging from casual pub fare to more refined dishes. Our group sampled soup, calamari, fish tacos, the Avalon Burger with truffle parmesan fries, and wings. Every dish was flavorful, hot, and served quickly, reflecting high-quality preparation.

The pricing was very reasonable, given the quality of the food, drinks, and service. This visit confirmed it as a place we'd return to again and again—a perfect destination for craft beer enthusiasts or anyone seeking a great meal and welcoming atmosphere.

Avalon Brew Pub is located at 125 79th Street in Avalon and is open year-round. Visit www.avalonbrewpub.com for menu and specials. Visit www.icona.com for more information regarding all ICONA Resorts properties.



Staff and friends recently enjoyed a delightful breakfast at **Ocean 7**, the charming restaurant at the beautiful Inn of Cape May. From the moment we entered the Inn, the warm and friendly staff made us feel welcome all the way to the restaurant. We were promptly seated at a lovely table with views of the lawn and beach, which truly come alive during the warmer months.

Our breakfast was a treat, featuring perfectly crafted mimosas and Bloody Marys paired with delicious French toast topped with berries and a classic eggs Benedict. We also visited **The Porch** Coffee Bar to grab a quick latte before we embarked on the rest of our day in town.

The inviting atmosphere and exceptional experience left us eager to return and explore their lunch and dinner offerings on our next visit to Cape May.

Ocean 7 & The Porch are located inside The Inn of Cape at 7 Ocean Street in Cape May and is open year-round. Visit www.innofcapemay.com/ocean7 for menu and specials. Visit www.innofcapemay.com for more information regarding stays at Inn of Cape May.

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@cmchamber.com or (609) 465-7181.

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



Advertise in the 2025 Calendar of Events!

This high quality, four color, glossy calendar promotes Cape May County events, concerts and activities, with a distribution of 40,000. With affordable rates, this very popular calendar is a great way to promote your business to visitors and locals all year round.

**Contact Becky Kennedy,
Membership and Marketing Administrator
at (609) 465-7181 or email admin@cmchamber.com
for pricing and availability.**

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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:	Non-Profit Rate:
Full Day - \$200	Full Day - \$100
Half Day - \$100	Half Day - \$50

Contact info@cmchamber.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@cmchamber.com

P: 609-465-7181

W: www.CapeMayCountyChamber.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CapeMayCountyChamber

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