

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || JULY 2026

President's Message:

As we celebrate Independence Day and welcome another busy summer season, I want to thank each of you for the commitment, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit that continue to make Cape May County one of New Jersey's most vibrant places to live, work, visit, and invest.

Summer is our busiest time of year. Our tourism industry fuels our economy, supports thousands of jobs, and creates opportunities for businesses of every size. Whether you operate a restaurant, retail shop, professional office, marina, construction company, nonprofit, healthcare organization, or manufacturing business, the success of our visitor economy has a positive impact throughout our county. We wish all of our members a safe, successful, and prosperous summer season.

During the past several weeks, we have been actively engaged in workforce development discussions with educators, business leaders, and state officials to identify the gaps between K-12 education, higher education, and the needs of employers here in Cape May County. We were honored to host Lieutenant Governor Dr. Dale Caldwell, as well as Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, for a productive roundtable discussion with local leaders, and we look forward to continuing this important conversation as we develop practical solutions that strengthen our workforce pipeline.

Transportation and infrastructure also remain top priorities. Our Transportation Sub-committee continues to work closely with regional partners on issues including roadway improvements, public transportation, airport collaboration, and

innovative mobility solutions that will better connect our residents, workforce, students, and visitors. These investments are critical to the long-term economic vitality of Cape May County.

Advocacy remains at the heart of everything we do. Whether it is workforce challenges, tourism funding, transportation improvements, environmental regulations, or proposed labor rule changes, we remain committed to ensuring that the voice of Cape May County's business community is heard in Trenton and Washington.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our upcoming Membership Luncheon on July 23 featuring Kris Kolluri, President and CEO of NJ TRANSIT, together with Stephen Dougherty, President of the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and Senator Michael Testa, Legislative District 1. Transportation affects every sector of our economy, and this discussion promises to provide valuable insight into regional projects and future opportunities for South Jersey.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the support of our dedicated Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, and, most importantly, our members.

As always, I encourage you to stay involved. Together, we are building a stronger economy and a brighter future for Cape May County.

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



◆ **UPCOMING EVENTS** *

7/23—Membership Meeting w/ NJT & SJTA—Avalon Links Restaurant

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

8/26—End of Summer Mixer w/ OC Chamber

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce has announced a modest adjustment to its base membership dues, effective with July 2026 renewals. The annual base rate will increase from \$405 to \$450, marking the first dues increase implemented by the organization in several years. This decision comes in response to rising operational costs and reflects the Chamber's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality programs, events, advocacy, and services to its members. **[Read more.](#)**
- ♦ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce will host its July Membership Meeting on July 23 featuring a special presentation from Kris Kolluri, Esq., President and Chief Executive Officer of NJ TRANSIT and Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority; Stephen F. Dougherty, Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Authority; and Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr., representing New Jersey's First Legislative District. The July Membership Meeting will be hosted by Avalon Links Restaurant and is proudly sponsored by The First National Bank of Elmer, Cape May Seashore Lines, Remington & Vernick Engineers, An Ardurra Company and Artheon. **[Learn more and sign up.](#)**
- ♦ 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. **[Learn more and apply.](#)**
- ♦ The Chamber recently convened a roundtable discussion with New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Dr. Dale Caldwell, as well as Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, bringing together leaders from the education, workforce, business, and economic development sectors. The meeting focused on fostering collaboration between state and local partners to identify strategies that strengthen workforce development, align educational opportunities with employer needs, and support the continued economic growth of Cape May County.
- ♦ The Chamber has expanded its advocacy efforts with the formation of a new Aviation Committee, which evolved from the Transportation Sub-Committee of the Tourism & Economic Development Committee. Bringing together representatives from the Cape May, Woodbine, and Ocean City airports, the committee will collaborate on initiatives that enhance airport operations, strengthen regional connectivity, and support economic development.
- ♦ The Transportation Sub-Committee will continue to focus on broader regional infrastructure priorities, including roadway improvements, public transportation, and other issues impacting businesses, residents, and visitors. As part of these efforts, the Chamber will welcome 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, for a special transportation discussion at the July 23 Membership Meeting. The conversation will explore current transportation priorities and future opportunities to strengthen connectivity throughout Cape May County and South Jersey.
- ♦ The Chamber welcomed its newest members during the quarterly New Member Reception on June 25. The event provided an excellent opportunity for Chamber staff and new members to connect, learn more about one another, and explore the many benefits of Chamber membership. The Chamber was pleased to welcome representatives from Cold Soup Marketing, Coastal Cruiser powered by Metropolis Passenger Logistics, Right to Unite, Tornetta Communications, Vanguard Energy Services, Somers Point Economic Development, NJ Health Hospice & Palliative Care, All Counties Bookkeeping, Post 331 American Legion, and Sturdy Savings Bank.
- ♦ The 2026 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide and Calendar of Events have arrived just in time for the summer season! If your business would like to offer these popular visitor resources, copies are available at the Chamber office, and alternative delivery arrangements can be made upon request. Packed with information on local events, attractions, dining, shopping, and activities throughout Cape May County, these publications are valuable tools for visitors, rental properties, hospitality businesses, and anyone planning their Jersey Cape experience. Advertising opportunities for the 2027 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide will be announced in the coming months. Additional information will be shared as soon as it becomes available. **[Read the Digital Guide Here.](#)**



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County & Member Updates

- ♦ Roughly 60 Cape May County veterans and their spouses were provided free legal services in an innovative program called “Wills for Warriors.” Cape May County Surrogate Judge E. Marie Hayes and the Surrogate’s Office, in partnership with the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Cape May County Bar Association, and the Citizen/Veterans Advisory Committee (CVAC) introduced the program on June 4 at the Ocean City American Legion Morvay-Miley-Cruise Post 524. More than 20 attorneys donated their time to prepare a will, power of attorney, and health care directive free of charge to the Veterans who attended. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ Cape May County acquired property in Rio Grande through its Open Space Program. The 3.2-acre parcel is located at 3110 Shunpike Road in Rio Grande. The property was acquired for \$520,000 to preserve the land long term. The project had the support of the Township of Middle, even though the area was under the Town Centers designation, which helps municipalities ensure orderly growth of mixed-use development. The County is continuing its commitment to balancing responsible growth with environmental stewardship and quality of life initiatives throughout Cape May County. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ Steven Spielberg's newly released film Disclosure Day generated an estimated \$34 million in qualified film production expenses during its 23 days of filming in New Jersey, including scenes shot in Woodbine and along the historic Cape May Seashore Lines in Upper Township. The production brought significant economic activity to the region while showcasing South Jersey locations as part of Spielberg's celebrated return to filming in his home state. Since its release, Disclosure Day has become a major box-office success, grossing more than \$160 million worldwide. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation, in collaboration with the Cape May County Women’s Commission, is accepting nominations for the 2026 Women of Wonder Award. Deadline for nominations to be accepted is July 27. The recipients of this year’s Women of Wonder Award will be honored during a celebratory luncheon on Nov. 12. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ Cape May Whale Watcher continues to lead the way in making maritime experiences accessible to everyone. The company recently expanded its accessibility efforts by adding ADA-compliant ramps to its fishing vessels, building upon a long-standing commitment to accommodating guests with mobility challenges. For more than 30 years, Cape May Whale Watcher has offered wheelchair-accessible boarding on its sightseeing and whale-watching vessels, and now anglers can enjoy the same level of access. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Cape May Point Arts & Science Center will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with a free community event on July 3, from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. The evening will feature the unveiling of the Center's new Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Exhibit, a presentation on America's national symbol, and a special Fourth of July stargazing program led by astrophysicist Dr. Frank Toriello. [Learn more.](#)

Cape May County Veterans Connection

The State of New Jersey offers many benefits to NJ Veterans to include:

- Free parking meters to disabled Veterans · Free hunting and fishing license to disabled Veterans · \$250 off property tax for all Veterans, free property tax to 100% disabled Veterans · NJ state Vineland Veterans’ home for long term care (with spouse) · “Veteran” designation on NJ driver license

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



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Chamber Event Highlights

June Membership Meeting — June 18



The Chamber welcomed members and guests to its June Membership Meeting, *Community Insights with Our Mayors*, held at Bellevue Tavern on June 18. The event was proudly sponsored by Hutchinson and Atlantic City Electric.

The program featured presentations from Mayor Tim Carney of Stone Harbor, Mayor John McCorristin of Avalon, Mayor Don Cabrera of Wildwood Crest, Mayor George Dick of West Cape May, and Mayor Christopher Leusner of Middle Township. Each mayor provided updates on current projects, community priorities, economic development efforts, and plans for the busy summer season.

In addition to discussing initiatives within their respective municipalities, the mayors shared information regarding preparations for the upcoming America 250 celebrations and highlighted opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in commemorative events. Throughout the discussion, each mayor expressed optimism about the summer season and the continued strength of their communities. The meeting provided Chamber members with a valuable opportunity to hear directly from local leaders and gain a better understanding of the issues, projects, and initiatives shaping Cape May County.

Our next Membership Meeting is on Thursday, July 23 at Avalon Links Restaurant for Transportation Update with New Jersey Transit & South Jersey Transportation Authority. Learn more and sign up.

Evening Networking Mixer — June 2

The Cape May County Chamber and Greater Wildwood Chamber welcomed members to the annual Kick-Off to Summer Mixer on June 2 at Madison Resort in Wildwood Crest. Set against the beautiful beachfront backdrop, the mixer provided an excellent opportunity for business professionals from both organizations to connect, network, and celebrate the start of the summer season. Special thanks to the team at Madison Resort for their exceptional hospitality and to event sponsors Atlantic Title Agency and Wiser Insurance for their generous support in helping make the evening a success.



Leadership Cape May County Graduation—June 10



The Leadership Cape May County Class of 2025-2026 was honored during a special graduation celebration held on June 10 at The Reeds at Shelter Haven. The evening brought together County Commissioners, family members, friends, colleagues, and community leaders to recognize the accomplishments of the program's 24 graduates.

Over the past nine months, participants engaged in an immersive leadership development experience designed to deepen their understanding of Cape May County, explore key community issues, and strengthen their leadership skills. Through educational sessions, networking opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences, class members gained valuable insight into the people, organizations, and industries that help shape the county.

The graduation ceremony celebrated not only the completion of the program, but also the commitment each

participant demonstrated to personal growth, community engagement, and leadership excellence. The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and Education Foundation congratulate the 24 graduates of the Leadership Cape May County Class of 2025-2026 and look forward to their continued contributions to the future of Cape May County.

Applications for 2026-27 Class are now being accepted! Learn more [here](#).

Chamber Member of the Month: 3'R Premium Cleaning Services

A member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2024, Three R Premium Cleaning Services provides professional residential and commercial cleaning solutions throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties. With more than 15 years of combined experience, the company offers a wide range of services including office cleaning, vacation rental turnover services, residential cleaning, carpet cleaning, pressure washing, and move-in/move-out cleanings. Known for its highly trained staff and commitment to quality, Three R Premium Cleaning Services helps homeowners and businesses maintain clean, healthy, and welcoming environments.



Learn more at www.threerclean.com.

Out on the Town with Our Members



The Chamber was proud to celebrate to **Sandbar Joe's** newest vessel, the Sandbar Social, on June 12 in Stone Harbor with the Sandbar Joe's team, family, friends, and supporters. Known for creating unforgettable experiences on the waters of Cape May County, Sandbar Joe's has grown from the area's first floating food boat into a premier provider of private charters, scenic cruises, sandbar adventures, and custom events. The addition of the Sandbar Social expands their ability to welcome larger groups and provide even more opportunities for visitors and locals to enjoy the beauty of the Jersey Cape from the water.

Sandbar Social launches from the bay on 96th Street in Stone Harbor. To learn more about the vessels and to book a sailing, please visit www.sandbarjoes.com.

The Chamber was proud to attend **Children's Fresh Air Home's** ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on June 13 in North Wildwood alongside the dedicated volunteers, supporters, and community leaders who help make this remarkable mission possible. For more than a century, The Children's Fresh Air Home has provided children from underserved communities with meaningful experiences at the Jersey Shore, offering opportunities to enjoy the beach, build friendships, explore nature, and create lasting memories in a safe and welcoming environment. Today, the organization continues its mission of restoring hope and creating joyful experiences for young people through day visits, group programs, and summer activities in the Wildwoods.



Children's Fresh Air Home is located on Surf Avenue in North Wildwood. Please visit their website at www.freshairhome.org for more information.

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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

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