

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

## NEWSLETTER || JULY 2025

### *From the President's Desk:*

**Dear Members,**

July has arrived, ushering in the height of our summer season and reminding us just how vital tourism is to Cape May County's economy. Our beaches, boardwalks, and businesses are bustling with visitors, and we are grateful for the energy and revenue this time of year brings to our region.

Behind the scenes, the Chamber continues working on behalf of our members—advocating for a strong seasonal workforce, reliable infrastructure, and thoughtful policies that help our businesses thrive. We are also beginning the process of selecting new leadership for our Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee will soon convene to ensure we continue to have a capable, engaged leadership team guiding our organization into the future.

I'm also pleased to announce that registration is now open for our 2025–2026 Leadership

Cape May County program. This signature initiative is designed to develop both emerging and established leaders through direct engagement with the issues, institutions, and resources that shape our region. If you or a team member is ready to grow professionally and contribute meaningfully to the community, I strongly encourage you to apply before the August 15th deadline. ***You can find more information through [this link](#).***

As always, I encourage you to take advantage of the Chamber's many networking and educational opportunities throughout the summer. Your involvement is what strengthens our collective voice and impact.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making Cape May County a premier place to live, work, and visit.

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



### ◆ UPCOMING EVENTS \*

7/16/25—Evening Networking Mixer w/ Middle Township Chamber— Whale Tale Brewery

7/17/25—Membership Meeting w/ South Jersey Transportation Authority—Avalon Links

8/21/25—Annual Legislative Update w/ Congressman Jefferson Van Drew—South 9 Bar & Grille

8/27/25—End of Summer Networking Mixer w/ Ocean City Regional Chamber— The Point, Somers Point

## Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ◆ The Chamber will host its July Membership Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, July 17, at Avalon Links Restaurant, proudly sponsored by DeBlasio & Associates. This presentation will feature Stephen F. Dougherty, Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Authority, along with key members of his team, who will provide valuable insights and updates on current initiatives and developments within the SJTA. [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 15. [Learn more and apply.](#)
- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce has been ranked #8 in New Jersey by NJBiz, the state's leading business journal known for its around-the-clock business news coverage and events that recognize top industry professionals.
- ◆ The Chamber is proud to support the upcoming *TEDxCapeMay Salon* series, featuring two thought-provoking events at Atlantic Cape Community College. On August 21, Ryan Benz will present "Why Being Yourself Takes Courage—and How to Find It," followed by Louis Bezich's "Unleash Your Emotional Force to Live Healthy and Happy" on September 18. These Salons lead up to the main *TEDxCapeMay* event on October 5. [Learn more.](#)
- ◆ In June, the Chamber celebrated grand openings and ribbons cuttings for three new businesses in Cape May County: Live Well Chase Health and Cape May Aesthetics; Madison's Bakery in Ocean View; and Beach Tag Mercantile. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The New Jersey Pay and Benefits Transparency Law, effective June 1, 2025, requires employers to include pay, benefits, and other compensation details in all job postings, including those for transfers and promotions. It also mandates that employers make reasonable efforts to inform current employees about promotional opportunities. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ On the evening of June 30, Governor Phil Murphy signed New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2026 budget into law just before the midnight deadline. The \$58.8 billion spending plan is the largest in state history, which was approved by votes of 26-13 in the Senate and 52-27-1 in the Assembly. Lawmakers added \$728 million to the Governor's original proposal, restoring funding for student financial aid and reversing a proposed \$20 million cut to community colleges. The budget also boosts investments in mass transit, property tax relief, and public school aid.
- ◆ To fund the increased spending, several tax changes were enacted, including raising the tax on internet gaming and online sports wagering to 19.75%, increasing the realty transfer fee on home sales over \$2 million, and raising taxes on cigarettes and liquid nicotine. However, the budget does not include some of the more controversial proposed taxes, such as the \$2-per-truck excise fee, which the Cape May County Chamber has been actively following. [Learn more.](#)
- ◆ The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has announced that unemployment insurance contributions have exceeded initial projections, enabling a reduction in the UI tax rate for businesses beginning with the new fiscal year on July 1, 2025. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The Chamber is following [Bill A5460](#), a bill that would reduce the value of the solar alternative compliance payment, which may be used to satisfy the solar renewable portfolio standard in lieu of purchasing and retiring a solar renewable energy certificate, for Energy Years 2025-2033.
- ◆ Cape May County is listed as one of the top tourism counties in the United States and a powerhouse of the American Travel Economy, according to Travel and Tour World (TTW) digital magazine. The top U.S. counties recognized as tourism titans include Cape May County, New Jersey; Sevier County, Tennessee; Door County, Wisconsin; Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Orange County, Florida; and Holmes County, Ohio. Cape May County stands out as a premier tourism destination in the United States, based on its significant economic impact, high visitor numbers, and diverse appeal. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ Atlantic Cape Community College's Cape May County Campus is now open for summer and fall registration. With flexible class options, affordable tuition, and a supportive campus environment, students can begin or continue their degree close to home. The Third Summer Session begins July 14, and the Fall Semester starts September 22. [Learn more.](#)



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# Chamber Event Highlights



## **June Membership Meeting – June 18**

The June Chamber Membership Luncheon, held at The Shore Club and generously sponsored by Workplace HCM, was a great success with an outstanding turnout. The Chamber was honored to welcome Mayor Jay Gillian of Ocean City; Laurie Boyd, Clerk & Confidential Aide to Mayor William Pikolycky of the Borough of Woodbine; Mayor Zeth Matalucci of Dennis Township; and Mayor Curtis Corson of Upper Township. Each shared timely and insightful updates on key developments within their municipalities. The program also featured a special presentation by Bob Mullock, President of the Cape May Point Arts & Science Center, who provided an engaging overview of the exciting initiatives currently underway.

**Our next breakfast meeting is Thursday, July 17, 2025 with South Jersey Transportation Authority.**  
**Networking and check-in begins at 8:00am with the program to start at 8:30am.**

## **Evening Networking Mixers—Madison Resort and Jersey Girl**



The Chamber hosted two vibrant networking events to kick off the summer season. On June 3, members gathered for the Kickoff to Summer Mixer at Madison Resort Wildwood Crest—celebrating the resort's 1-year anniversary and its



recognition as USA Today's #1 Best New Hotel in the U.S.—and enjoyed an evening of networking alongside members of the Greater Wildwood Chamber, Greater Wildwood Hotel & Motel Association, and Southern Shore Regional DMO. On June 10, attendees came together for another fantastic mixer at Jersey Girl in Wildwood, where the Morey's Organization graciously hosted an evening filled with lively conversation, new connections, and delicious refreshments.

## **Leadership Cape May County Graduation Dinner— June 11**



Leadership Cape May County of Class of 2025 was honored during a beautiful celebration at The Reeds at Shelter Haven. Surrounded by County Commissioners, family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders, the evening recognized the graduates' dedication, growth, and achievements over the past nine months. The program challenged participants to deepen their understanding of Cape May County and strengthen their leadership skills.

## **11th Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament— June 30**

The Cape May County Chamber Education Foundation hosted its 11th Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament at The Shore Club on June 30,



proudly presented by J. Byrne Agency. With one of the largest turnouts in the tournament's history, golfers enjoyed a fun-filled day on the course—despite the heat and a brief weather delay! The event raised vital funds to support scholarships and educational programs for students and professionals in Cape May County. **Please visit Facebook for more photos.**

## Chamber Member of the Month: Franklin Bank

A respected regional institution, Franklin Bank has been a proud member of the Cape May County Chamber since 2009, actively supporting local business and community initiatives.

Franklin Bank has been providing stable, community-focused banking services for over 160 years. Operating six branches across Salem, Gloucester, and locally in Ocean View, the bank prides itself on a strong financial foundation and taking inspiration from its namesake, Benjamin Franklin. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for its customers, communities, and team members through dedicated financial partnership. Franklin Bank offers personal banking customers a full suite of services including checking and savings accounts, CDs & IRAs, mortgages, credit cards, and secure 24/7 online & mobile access, while business clients benefit from deposit and loan products, merchant services, remote deposit capture, business credit and debit cards, bill pay, ACH, fraud protection, night depository access, and a comprehensive online banking platform.



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

## Out on the Town with Our Members



The Chamber staff recently had the pleasure of experiencing a scenic and relaxing boat tour with **Sandbar Joe's Back Bay Tours**, and it was nothing short of fantastic. Departing from the dock on 26th Street in Wildwood, our group was warmly welcomed aboard by owner and captain Joe, whose laid-back personality immediately set the tone for an enjoyable outing. The boat, styled in what Joe proudly called a "Tommy Bahama, not tiki" theme, offered a comfortable and festive atmosphere as we cruised through the serene back bays of the Wildwoods and Grassy Sound. Throughout the

90-minute nature cruise, Joe shared fascinating local knowledge about the area's wildlife, ecosystems, and hidden waterways, making the tour both entertaining and educational. Sandbar Joe's offers several tour options, including sunset cruises and private charters, and provides a truly unique perspective of the Wildwoods from the water. The team had a wonderful trip and if you are looking for a memorable, easygoing adventure on the bay with a small group, Sandbar Joe's is a must try!

***Sandbar Joe's is located at 626 West 26th Street in Wildwood. Please visit their website at [www.sandbarjoes.com](http://www.sandbarjoes.com) for all excursion information.***

Members of the Chamber team and friends recently spent a divine evening at **Jay's on Third**, and it's easy to see why this Stone Harbor gem is one of the area's most sought-after dining destinations. Located at the corner of 99th Street and Third Avenue, Jay's offers an upscale yet inviting atmosphere that perfectly complements its creative cuisine. From the moment we walked in, the warm hospitality of the Jay's team made us feel right at home, and that thoughtful service continued throughout the evening. We began with a variety of appetizers, including their famous sticky ribs, which lived up to their reputation, and fresh bread that set the tone for a fantastic meal. For entrées, the standout was the Pad Thai, expertly prepared with bold, balanced flavors. And of course, we couldn't leave without indulging in dessert, which was just as impressive as the rest of the meal. Jay's on Third is a seasonal favorite, open spring through Thanksgiving weekend, and with food and service this exceptional, it's no wonder the restaurant stays booked throughout the busy summer months so reservations are a must!



***Jay's on Third is located at 9836 Third Avenue in Stone Harbor. Please visit their website at [www.jaysonthird.com](http://www.jaysonthird.com) to book a table and view the menu.***

# THIS IS WHERE WE OOO (OUT OF OFFICE)

## Small Businesses Are a Big Deal at Morey's Piers!

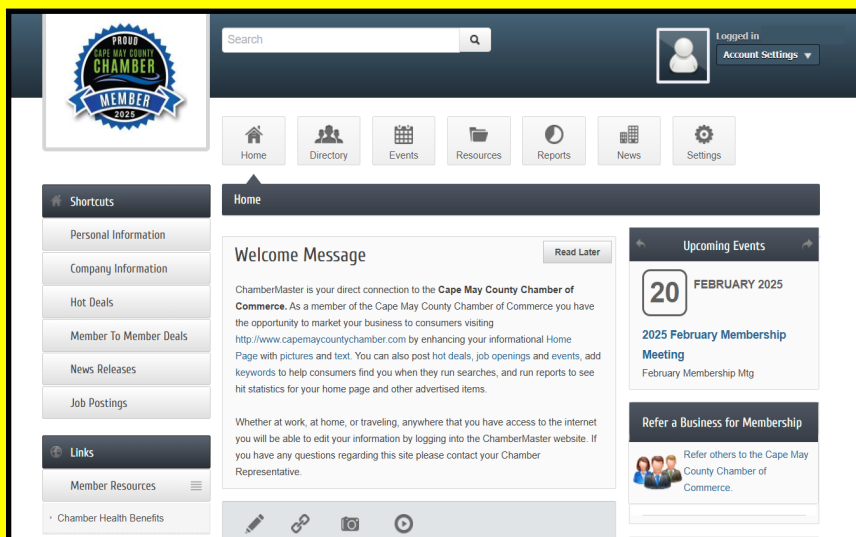
Treat your team to a well-earned celebration before summer ends—think great food, cool drinks, and unforgettable fun. Host your team event at one of our vibrant venues and let us take care of the rest!

Learn More: <https://www.moreyspiers.com/groups/catered-events-group-dining/>

## Maximize Your Membership: Share, Connect, and Shine!

*Did you know your Chamber membership gives you a platform to amplify your business?*

- **Spread the Word:** Post your events, news, job openings, and special offers directly on the Chamber's website and membership portal—it's easy and effective!
- **Boost Your Visibility:** Keep your member profile updated with your products, services, hours, and more to help potential customers find you.
- **Shop Local & Save:** Discover products, services, and exclusive member-to-member deals and discounts from fellow Chamber members.



*Don't miss out—make the most of these benefits and let your business shine!*

**LOGIN NOW.**

# 2025 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide & Calendar of Events



**Now available at the Chamber office,  
online, and visitors center near you!**

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Full Day - \$100  
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Contact [admin@cmccchamber.com](mailto:admin@cmccchamber.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@cmccchamber.com](mailto:info@cmccchamber.com)

P: 609-465-7181

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

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