

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

## NEWSLETTER || JUNE 2026

### *President's Message:*

As we welcome June and the beginning of another busy summer season in Cape May County, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we continue to build together as a business community.

The energy throughout our county is undeniable. Our Tourism Conference in May once again demonstrated why Cape May County remains one of New Jersey's premier destinations. The insights shared by Tourism Director Diane Wieland, along with our legislative leaders, reinforced what we already know: our tourism industry remains the economic engine that drives our local economy, supports thousands of jobs, and sustains countless small businesses.

At the Chamber, we continue to advocate aggressively on behalf of our members. Whether it is our opposition to burdensome regulatory proposals, support for transportation and infrastructure improvements, workforce development initiatives, or efforts to ensure Cape May County receives its fair share of state resources, your Chamber is working every day to ensure the voice of business is heard at every level of government.

Our Transportation Subcommittee has begun important discussions regarding critical infrastructure improvements throughout the county, while our Environment & Legislative Committee continues to monitor issues that

directly impact our business community. We remain committed to advancing policies that encourage economic growth, strengthen our workforce, and preserve the unique character that makes Cape May County such a special place to live, work, and visit.

Education and workforce development remain top priorities. Through the Chamber Education Foundation and Leadership Cape May County, we are investing in the next generation of leaders while creating opportunities for current and future employers to connect with emerging talent. Congratulations to our graduating Leadership Cape May County Class of 2025-2026, whose dedication and community-focused projects will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on our region.

I would also like to thank everyone who supported our annual Golf Tournament and scholarship programs. Your generosity helps us continue providing educational opportunities for deserving students throughout Cape May County.

Thank you for your continued membership, engagement, and commitment to our shared success. Together, we are making Cape May County stronger every day.

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



### ◆ **UPCOMING EVENTS** \*

6/4—Non Profit Seminar—Atlantic Cape Community College

6/10—Leadership Cape May County Graduation—The Reeds at Shelter Haven

6/18—Membership Luncheon—Bellevue Tavern

6/25—New Member Reception—Chamber Office

## 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 June Membership Meeting, titled *Community Insights with Our Mayors* on June 18 at Bellevue Tavern. Participating in this roundtable-style discussion will be 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. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from local leaders about current projects, community priorities, and the issues shaping municipalities throughout Cape May County. The June Membership Meeting is proudly sponsored by Atlantic City Electric and Hutchinson. [Learn more and sign up.](#)
- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as the 7th largest chamber of commerce in New Jersey by NJBIZ. With a membership of 965, and growing, the Chamber remains a leading voice for the business community and a strong advocate for economic growth throughout Cape May County. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently adopted Resolution 2026-05-01 expressing concerns regarding the New Jersey Department of Labor's proposed changes to the ABC Test regulations ([N.J.A.C. 12:11](#)), which govern the classification of independent contractors. While the Chamber supports efforts to address worker misclassification, we believe the proposed regulations could have significant unintended consequences for businesses, entrepreneurs, seasonal employers, and independent contractors throughout New Jersey. This issue is particularly important in Cape May County, where tourism-driven businesses depend on workforce flexibility to meet seasonal demands. The Chamber has forwarded its resolution to Governor Mikie Sherrill, the New Jersey Department of Labor, and members of the New Jersey Legislature, urging careful consideration of the economic impacts these changes may have on employers, workers, and the overall competitiveness of New Jersey's business community.
- ◆ The Chamber has recently formed a Transportation Sub-Committee under its Tourism & Economic Development Committee to focus on key regional transportation and infrastructure priorities. The committee will help identify issues impacting residents, businesses, and visitors, including roadway improvements, coastal evacuation routes, public transportation expansion, and more. As part of this effort, 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, at its July 23 Membership Meeting. The discussion will provide an opportunity to address critical transportation needs and explore future opportunities to support economic growth and connectivity throughout Cape May County and the region. The first meeting takes place June 8.
- ◆ 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.](#)
- ◆ On May 29, 2026, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Ed Potosnak announced a proposal to extend the legacy provisions of the Resilient Environment and Landscapes (REAL) rule by one year, from July 20, 2026, to July 20, 2027. The extension would provide additional time for the DEP to engage stakeholders, review the rule, and consider targeted amendments that balance public safety, environmental protection, resilient development, and infrastructure needs. The proposal also allows certain permit applications submitted during the extended period to continue being reviewed under the regulations that were in effect prior to the adoption of the REAL rule. [Read more.](#)



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## County & Member Updates

- ◆ Cape May County became the top leisure destination in New Jersey for the first time in decades. The County reported a 4.2% increase in visitor spending over the year prior, bringing in a total of \$8.44 billion. The County is using this momentum to launch a multichannel campaign to promote FIFA and America's 250th in Cape May County this summer. The 12 million visitors supported over 42,000 jobs in Cape May County last year. Over recent years, the Cape May County Tourism Department has seen success in marketing the fall and winter season, to increase year-long numbers. This success can be seen in metrics like more than half, 52% of visitors, report coming to the County two or more times a year, according to the Department's Visitor Survey. **Read more.**
- ◆ Cape May County's tourism campaign to celebrate America's 250th anniversary was presented at May 12's meeting of the Cape May County Board of Commissioners. Tourism Director Diane Wieland presented the campaign that runs from June through the peak summer season under the banner "Celebrate America's 250th in Cape May County. All Season Long. Every Shore Town. One Celebration." The "George Washington Crossed the Delaware, why don't you?", tagline invites visitors to follow the Father of our Country's path to the Jersey Cape. **Read more.**
- ◆ As summer hiring ramps up, New Jersey employers are reminded that all workers under the age of 18 must have approved working papers before they begin employment. Employers hiring minors must register with the state and provide their Employer Unique Code to prospective employees as part of the application process. Businesses should also be aware of restrictions on work hours, meal breaks, and permitted job duties for young workers. **Read more.**
- ◆ Sturdy Savings Bank is helping students build a strong financial foundation with a special Student Checking Account promotion. Eligible students can receive \$150 when they open a new student checking account, use their debit card six times or complete one direct deposit, and enroll in online banking and e-statements. Visit any of Sturdy Savings Bank's 13 branch locations to get started and learn more about this opportunity to begin your financial journey with a trusted community bank. **Read more.**
- ◆ Atlantic Cape Community College celebrated the achievements of its Class of 2026 during its 59th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 21 at Ovation Hall in Atlantic City. The graduating class included 872 students, ages 17 to 71, who earned more than 900 associate degrees and certificates. Among the graduates were 47 high school seniors from local schools, including Middle Township and Lower Cape May Regional, participating in the college's Early College Program, highlighting Atlantic Cape's continued commitment to expanding educational opportunities throughout the region. **Read more.**

## Cape May County Veterans Connection

Veterans pension is monetary payments to war time Veterans and their spouses. It is a needs-based benefit, meaning eligibility depends on income and net worth limits. Income is considered after medical expenses (nursing home, home health aide, payments to family caregivers, etc.) Veterans who require assistance with daily activities or are homebound may qualify for higher pension levels under Aid & Attendance (A&A) or Homebound thresholds.

VA Pension is different from VA disability compensation, which is based on service-connected disabilities rather than financial need. *Questions?*

**Call Cape May County Division of Veterans' Services 609-886-2762 to speak to a VSO.**

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# Chamber Event Highlights

## May Membership Meeting – May 20



The Chamber's May 20th Membership Meeting & Annual Tourism Conference, proudly presented by Delaware River and Bay Authority, Cape May Seashore Lines, The Authority, and Harris Technology Services, at La Mer Beachfront Resort in Cape May was the perfect way to kick off the summer season in Cape May County.

Members heard from Assemblyman Bill Moen and Assemblyman Antwan McClellan of the New Jersey Tourism, Gaming & the Arts Committee, who shared valuable updates on tourism initiatives and priorities at both the state and local South Jersey levels.

Attendees also heard from Diane Wieland, Cape May County Tourism Director, who presented a recap of the 2025 tourism season and an exciting outlook for 2026, including upcoming marketing efforts surrounding the World Cup and America 250 celebrations. We were especially excited to hear the official announcement that Cape May County is now the #1 tourism destination in New Jersey, surpassing Atlantic County!



**Our next Membership Meeting is on Thursday, June 18 at Bellevue Tavern for Community Insights with Our Mayors luncheon. Learn more and sign up.**

## Real Estate Panel — May 7

The Chamber held the 2026 Cape May County Real Estate Panel titled "Continuing the Conversation: Realtor Insights on Today's Market", presented by South Jersey Gas, Crest Savings Bank, Clark's Moving & Storage and Harris Production Services on May 7. It was a great morning hearing valuable perspectives from our local realtor professionals on current market trends, homeownership, and the overall impact of real estate on our local economy. Special thanks to our outstanding panelists Dutch Dechert (Broker Owner - Ferguson Dechert Real Estate), Rachel Mammele (Broker-Associate - Freda Real Estate), Kathleen Satt (Broker-Associate - deSatnick Real Estate) and Micah Yerk (Managing Broker - deSatnick Real Estate), and moderator Patricia Gray Hendricks (President - Cape May County Association of Realtors) for your insights, our sponsors, The Grand Hotel for hosting, and all who attended for contributing to an informative and engaging discussion.



## 12th Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament—May 13



The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and Education Foundation proudly hosted its 12th Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament on May 13 at the beautiful Union League National Golf Club. Despite a breezy day on the course, golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters enjoyed an outstanding event filled with networking, camaraderie, and community spirit on one of New Jersey's premier golf destinations.

The tournament featured 18 holes of golf, a ladies clinic, and a special reception honoring the McMahon family. The event brought together members of the local business community in support of the Chamber's ongoing programs and Education Foundation initiatives that continue to benefit Cape May County.

The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to all golfers, volunteers, sponsors, and businesses who contributed to the success

of the tournament. Special recognition goes to presenting sponsor Reich Asset Management for their continued support, as well as the exceptional staff at Union League National Golf Club for their hospitality throughout the day. Most importantly, the Chamber thanks every participant whose support helps fund valuable educational and business-focused programs that make a lasting impact throughout the community. The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation is grateful for another successful year and looks forward to welcoming everyone back for next year's tournament. **[Visit our Facebook page for more photos!](#)**

## Chamber Member of the Month: Dink-It Pickleball



Dink-It Pickleball has been a valued member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2025 and is celebrating its first year in business. Located in the Mayville area of Middle Township, the indoor pickleball facility offers players of all skill levels a fun, welcoming, and active environment to enjoy one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. With court rentals, lessons, leagues, clinics, and community events, Dink-It

Pickleball has quickly become a popular destination for recreation, fitness, and social connection in the region.

*Learn more at [www.dink-it-pickleball.com](http://www.dink-it-pickleball.com).*

## Out on the Town with Our Members

The Chamber team was proud to assist **Cape May Stage** in celebrating the ribbon cutting for their newly renovated front doors and the kickoff to another exciting show season. Held on May 24, recognized as “Cape May Stage Day”, the event brought together board members, supporters, sponsors and community members to celebrate the theater’s continued impact on the arts and culture community in Cape May.

As South Jersey’s premier professional Equity theater, Cape May Stage has been entertaining and inspiring audiences for decades through high-quality live performances, educational programming, and community engagement. Located in the historic Robert Shackleton Playhouse, the organization is known for bringing nationally recognized actors, diverse productions, and thought-provoking performances to Cape May each season.



*Cape May Stage is located at 405 Lafayette Street in Cape May. To see the complete season show line-up, please visit [www.capemaystage.org](http://www.capemaystage.org).*



The Chamber team was proud to be part of **Coastal Cruiser’s** special ribbon cutting celebration in Wildwood alongside local dignitaries, the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority on May 28 as they officially launched its new service for the season.

Coastal Cruiser is a seasonal hop-on, hop-off shuttle experience that makes it easy to explore the best of Lower Cape May County without the stress of driving or parking. Beginning in Wildwood and ending in Cape May, the route features popular local destinations including wineries, breweries, distilleries, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, and more. Riders pay one daily fee for unlimited access throughout the day, creating the perfect way to sip, explore, and discover more at the shore.

*Please visit Coastal Cruiser’s website at [www.thecoastalcruiser.com](http://www.thecoastalcruiser.com) for more information and to book tickets.*

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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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