

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER || MAY 2026

President's Message:

As we move into May, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has already been a dynamic and impactful spring for our Chamber and our county. April showcased the very best of who we are, collaborative, forward-thinking, and deeply committed to the success of Cape May County's business community.

Our Leadership Cape May County class delivered outstanding capstone presentations at the Wildwoods Convention Center, addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our region, from housing and workforce challenges to infrastructure and public health. Their work reinforces why investing in leadership development remains a cornerstone of our mission.

That same day, the Business at the Beach Expo brought together businesses from across the region, creating valuable opportunities for networking, visibility, and growth. The energy in the room was a reminder of the strength and diversity of our membership, now over 930 businesses strong, and the importance of coming together to support one another.

We were also honored to welcome Brian Tierney, CEO of Brian Communications, as our keynote speaker. His perspective on leadership, communication, and navigating today's business landscape resonated with many of us and provided practical insights we can apply in

our own organizations.

As we look ahead, May continues our momentum with a focus on tourism and economic development. Tourism remains our economic engine, and as we approach the summer season, we are mindful of both the opportunities and challenges that come with it. From workforce availability to infrastructure demands, the Chamber remains actively engaged in advocacy and collaboration at the local, regional, and state levels to ensure our businesses are supported. Please join us at the Tourism Conference at La Mer on May 20th featuring our Director of County Tourism Diane Wieland, Assemblyman Bill Moen, and Assemblyman Antwan McClellan.

None of this work happens without our members. Your engagement, participation, and commitment are what make this Chamber not just an organization, but a powerful voice for Cape May County.

As always, I encourage you to stay involved, attend our upcoming events, and share your perspectives. Together, we will continue to advocate, innovate, and lead. Wishing you a successful and prosperous month ahead.

Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford Jones,
President/CEO



◆ **UPCOMING EVENTS** *

- 5/7—Real Estate Panel—The Grand Hotel
- 5/13—FORE Education Golf Tournament—Union League National Golf Club
- 5/20—Membership Meeting & Tourism Conference—La Mer Beachfront Resort
- 6/2—Kickoff to Summer Mixer w/ GWCOG—Madison Resorts
- 6/10—Leadership Cape May County Graduation—The Reeds at Shelter Haven
- 6/18—Membership Luncheon—Bellevue Tavern

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 2026 Real Estate Panel, *Continuing the Conversation: Realtor Insights on Today's Market*, marks the return of this respected and informative program, bringing together experienced Realtor® professionals to share timely insights on current market conditions, emerging trends, and the factors shaping homeownership in New Jersey. Building on the success of last year's discussion, the panel offers updated analysis and expert perspectives on housing, lending, and consumer behavior, helping to foster informed conversations and confident decision-making. The panel includes Dutch Dechert, Broker Owner, Ferguson Dechert Real Estate; Rachel Mammele, Broker-Associate, Freda Real Estate; Kathleen Satt, Broker-Associate, deSatnick Real Estate; Micah Yerk, Managing Broker, deSatnick Real Estate Lower Township Office, and moderated by Patricia Gray Hendricks, President of the Cape May County Association of Realtors. The event will take place on May 7 at The Grand Hotel. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ The Chamber, in partnership with the Cape May County bizHub, is offering a free Virtual HR Seminar Series led by Kim Kerrigan of Pinnacle People Leadership. Held on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom beginning May 8, sessions include Recruiting & Hiring the Right People, Retaining Employees & Reducing Turnover, The Top 10 Employment Laws You Need to Know, and Influential Leadership. Participants may register for individual sessions or attend the full series, gaining practical tools to strengthen their teams and lead with confidence. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and Education Foundation is proud to announce the 12th Annual FORE Education Golf Tournament, presented by Reich Asset Management, taking place on May 13 at Union League National Golf Club. This premier event brings together business and community leaders for a day of networking, friendly competition, and philanthropy, all in support of educational initiatives. This year, the tournament will honor the McMahan family for their longstanding commitment to the Cape May County community and their continued support of local businesses and organizations. The tournament is sold out, however, there is space for Ladies' Only Clinic and the Reception. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the County of Cape May, will host the Annual Tourism Conference and May Membership Meeting on May 20 at La Mer Beachfront Resort. Diane Wieland, Cape May County Tourism Director, will present key tourism statistics from 2025 and provide an outlook for the 2026 season. The program will also include an update from the New Jersey Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee, presented by Committee Chair Assemblyman William F. Moen Jr. and Assemblyman Antwan McClellan. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

- ◆ The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has released guidance for small businesses following a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down certain tariffs imposed under emergency powers. The decision opens the door for potential tariff refunds for eligible importers, but the process is still being developed and may require businesses to take action to confirm eligibility and submit claims through Customs and Border Protection systems. Refunds would apply only to specific tariffs deemed unlawful, not all import duties, and businesses are encouraged to work closely with customs brokers or trade professionals to prepare documentation. The Chamber emphasizes that while refunds could provide meaningful financial relief, the administrative process is expected to be complex and time-sensitive. [Read more.](#)

- ◆ New Jersey's new e-bike regulations will take effect in July 2026, introducing significant changes for riders and businesses alike. Under the law, e-bikes will be more closely regulated, requiring registration, liability insurance, and proper licensing for operators, along with new age and helmet requirements. These updates are designed to enhance safety as e-bike usage continues to grow across the state. Chamber members, particularly those in tourism, rentals, and delivery services, should be aware of these changes and begin preparing for compliance ahead of the enforcement deadline. [Read more.](#) [*NJ E-Bike Law Impact Survey for Small Businesses.*](#)



KEEPING YOU COOL.
HVAC Services | Energy Solutions
888-777-4501 • HUTCHBIZ.com

County & Member Updates

- ◆ Former North Wildwood Mayor Patrick Rosenello was sworn in as a Cape May County Commissioner to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Commissioner Melanie Collette. Rosenello, who was endorsed by the Cape May County Republican Organization, took the oath of office administered by former New Jersey Superior Court Judge Michael Donohue prior to the Board's 2 p.m. caucus meeting on April 14. Rosenello will serve the remainder of Collette's term, which expires December 31, 2026. **Read more.**
- ◆ The Cape May County Board of Commissioners has authorized the award of \$248,346 in matching grants to all sixteen municipalities under the "CMC Land of the Free, Celebration 250" Grant Program. The grants will help local communities create memorable, family-friendly patriotic celebrations honoring the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States while preserving each town's unique Independence Day traditions. The Commissioners unanimously approved the awards at their April 28th public meeting. **Read more.**
- ◆ Veterans can be compensated monetarily for any accident, illness, injury, toxic exposure, or mental health stressor that still impacts them today. Receiving compensation does not negatively affect other "Veterans who deserve it more." Getting "in the system" actually helps other Veterans by showing a greater need for all Veterans and thus providing more resources to Veterans. All VA payments are tax exempt. Questions? Call Cape May County Division of Veterans' Services 609-886-2762 to speak to a VSO.
- ◆ The Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation recognized nine members of the College's family of alumni during the Annual President's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on April 20 at Carême's, student-run gourmet restaurant on the Mays Landing campus. Honorees included: Distinguished Alumni Award recipient William Davenport '84 and Community Service Award recipient Rita Rothberg '91, among others. **Read more.**
- ◆ Atlantic Cape Community College announced on May 4 that its Board of Trustees has appointed Jason Abreu, Ed.D., as the College's next president. Dr. Abreu will succeed Dr. Barbara Gaba, who will retire on June 30, 2026, following nine years as president and a distinguished 40-year career in higher education. **Read more.**
- ◆ The Wildwood Business Improvement District announced the addition of a new public parking lot in Downtown Wildwood, providing approximately 70 new parking spaces to better serve visitors. This strategic addition is part of WBID's ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and enhance the overall visitor experience in Downtown Wildwood. **Read more.**
- ◆ Flying Fish Studio recently relocated from West Cape May to the Cape May County Airport, 348 Ranger Road #7, and celebrated its grand opening on May 1. The new space features a print shop and petite retail outlet, open on weekends throughout the spring and summer. In addition, their online store relaunched on May 1, offering customers special discounts and fresh seasonal offerings. **Read more.**
- ◆ Coastal Cruiser is launching Memorial Day weekend, offering a seasonal hop-on, hop-off shuttle experience designed to showcase the best of Lower Cape May County. Departing from Atlantic Ave & E Cedar Ave in Wildwood, the route connects riders to popular destinations including local vineyards, breweries, and wineries such as Hawk Haven Vineyard, Cape May Winery, and Willow Creek Winery, along with stops at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry and Cape May Rotary Park. With one daily pass, guests can easily ride, sip, and explore throughout the day without the hassle of driving or parking, creating a relaxed and convenient way to experience the Shore's local flavor and attractions. **Read more.**



AQUA BEACH HOTEL

COASTAL CHARM AWAITS
AT YOUR PERFECT SOUTH JERSEY SHORE RETREAT

AQUABEACH.COM • 609.522.6507 • 800.247.4776
5501 OCEAN AVENUE, WILDWOOD CREST, NJ 08260



Keep Trash and Recycling
in its Place
"Know It Before
You Throw It!"

Don't Take
A Vacation
From Recycling

Visit www.cmcmua.com
For the CMCMUA Recycle
and Disposal App



Download the CMCMUA Mobile App

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



Chamber Event Highlights

Business @ the Beach Expo — April 22

The Chamber welcomed a strong turnout of local professionals and businesses to the 2026 Business at the Beach Expo, held at the Wildwoods Convention Center on April 22. The annual event once again brought together the regional business community for an evening of networking, collaboration, and discovery.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with fellow business leaders, explore a wide range of products and services, and strengthen valuable professional relationships in a dynamic and engaging setting.

The Chamber was honored to host keynote speaker Brian Tierney, CEO of Brian Communications. His presentation, *Courageous Storytelling: The Narrative That Drives Business Growth*, offered meaningful insights on leadership, communication, and navigating change. He left attendees with a powerful message: "Leadership is driven by the stories we tell ourselves and others."

The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce extends its sincere appreciation to all attendees, exhibitors, and partners who contributed to the success of this year's Expo. The continued support and participation of the business community make this event a cornerstone of regional economic engagement.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Platinum:

Wildwoods Convention Center; J. Byrne Insurance; Harris Technology Services; Coastal Broadcasting Systems

Gold Sponsors:

South Jersey Gas; Copiers Plus; TD Bank; Fisher Phillips; The First National Bank of Elmer; Atlantic Cape Community College

Silver Sponsors:

AdvantageSave Business Solutions; Atlantic City Electric; Cape May County bizHub; Crest Savings Bank; Drain Doctor; Growth Properties Hospitality Management; Jersey Shore Federal Credit Union; Kindle Auto Plaza; South Jersey Water Conditioning; Workplace HCM

Hospitality Sponsors: Atlantic Title Agency & Wisser Insurance Agency

Photography by: Marconi Photography. **Videography by:** Shaun Reilly Photography.



Evening Networking Mixer — April 29



Nauti Spirits Distillery in North Cape May hosted the Chamber's Evening Networking Mixer on April 29. We had a great time connecting with our members while enjoying a behind-the-scenes tour of this unique farm-to-bottle distillery. Guests learned how Nauti crafts its award-winning spirits, from growing ingredients right on their coastal farm to distilling, aging, and bottling on site. We're grateful to Nauti Spirits for hosting such a fantastic evening. We extend our sincere appreciation to our event sponsors, Atlantic Title Agency and Wisser Insurance, for their support.

Non-Profit Summit — April 30



The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic Cape Community College, Cooper University Health Care, and the Cape May County Women's Commission hosted the 2026 Cape May County Non-Profit Summit on April 30. The event brought together local organizations for a morning focused on networking, collaboration, and shared learning. Attendees had the opportunity to highlight their missions, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections with fellow nonprofits and community partners making an impact throughout Cape May County.

Workplace Compliance Seminar — April 30

The Chamber was pleased to host a strong turnout this morning for "Workplace Compliance Made Practical: The Policies, Training, and Documentation That Protect Your Business" seminar. Attendees gained valuable, real-world insight from Leanne Lane Coyle of Fisher Phillips, whose expertise provided practical strategies for navigating today's evolving workplace landscape. The session offered meaningful takeaways for employers of all sizes.



Chamber Member of the Month: ERCO Ceilings & Interiors

ERCO Ceilings & Interiors has been a valued member of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2015. A family-owned business founded in 1963, ERCO specializes in providing interior construction solutions including ceilings, window treatments, wall protection, restroom partitions, and more. Serving residential and commercial clients throughout New Jersey and the surrounding region, the company is known

for its full-service approach that includes expert installation, responsive customer support, and customized interior solutions tailored to each project.



Learn more at www.ercointeriors.com.

Out on the Town with Our Members



On a recent visit to Cape May, a Chamber staff member was walking along the shops just behind the Washington Street Mall when they decided to step into **Cape May Peanut Butter Company** for a quick stop. The moment you walk in, you're greeted by a rich, warm aroma of freshly ground peanuts and baked treats, as the shop features small-batch nut butters made in-house and an impressive variety of creative flavors. From classic Natural Peanut Butter made with dry roasted peanuts and salt to unique options like Cappuccino and Butterscotch, there is something for every taste preference. They chose a few jars to take home, including the classic Natural, a smooth and simple staple, and the bold Cappuccino flavor with hints of coffee and cocoa, along with a fun seasonal favorite. The store itself is small but full of character, with shelves lined with specialty spreads, sweets, and gift items that make it hard to leave empty-handed. For anyone visiting Cape May, especially those who love peanut butter in all its forms, this is a must-visit stop tucked right into the heart of town.

Cape May Peanut Butter Company is located at 516 Carpenters Lane in Cape May. To see hours and order online, please visit their website at www.capemaypeanutbutterco.com.

A Chamber staff member recently participated in the 11th Annual Walk for Autism, presented by **SOAR Church**, on April 18. Held at the Wildwoods Convention Center, the event brought together a large and supportive crowd who walked the Wildwoods Boardwalk to raise awareness and funds for autism programs. Proceeds from the walk, along with raffle prizes, benefit the Cape May County Special Services School, where donations help provide essential equipment and tools for autism classrooms. This annual event continues to make a meaningful impact, supporting students and promoting awareness throughout the community.



SOAR Church is located on DeHirsch Avenue in Woodbine. Please visit their website at www.thesoarchurch.com for more information.

COPIERS PLUS
www.copiersplus.com
609-645-7587

• Managed Services • Commercial Printing
• Office Equipment • Graphic Design
• Sales - Leasing • Vehicle Wraps



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@cmccchamber.com || P: 609-465-7181

W: www.CapeMayCountyChamber.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CapeMayCountyChamber

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

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/cmccchamber