

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



## NEWSLETTER || NOVEMBER 2024

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

**Dear Members,**

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and involvement in our Chamber community. Your commitment to fostering a thriving business environment has made our progress possible, and together, we've accomplished a great deal this year.

Thank you all for supporting and attending our Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This event was not only a time to celebrate our achievements and reflect on the year behind us, but also to look forward to the future. We introduced new officers

who will guide the Chamber in the year ahead, and I am confident that their leadership will bring fresh energy and vision to our efforts.

The Annual Meeting was also a wonderful networking opportunity, bringing together members from across our community. I encourage you to participate in all our events, engage with fellow members, and help us build momentum for the coming year.

*Thank you for your  
continued support.*

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



### \* UPCOMING EVENTS \*

- 11/6/24 - Evening Networking Mixer—Surf Dog Bar & Grille
- 11/8/24 - Webinar: Thinking Creatively & Entrepreneurially —  
Zoom
- 11/21/24 - Membership Meeting w/ Cooper University Cape  
Regional Health Care—Port O Call Hotel
- 12/3/24 - Mingle Bells Evening Networking Mixer w/ Greater  
Wildwood Chamber of Commerce—The Station House
- 12/13/24 - Webinar: Money Talk w/ Melanie Collette—Zoom
- 12/19/24 - Holiday Luncheon—The Lobster House

## Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ♦ **Election Day is Tuesday, November 5!** For Cape May County residents, please visit [Cape May County Votes](#) for comprehensive resources on polling locations, local elections, and more. Additionally, the [Cape May County Herald](#) offers free access to election information to help keep you informed.
- ♦ The U.S. Travel Association joined Congressman Jeff Van Drew and Cape May Travel along with legislative and local business leaders for a “[Travel Works for America](#)” Power Hour at the Cape May Winery on October 23. The discussion focused on travel’s essential contributions to the region’s businesses, workforce and economy. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ On October 28, Cape May County Chamber President Barbara Stafford Jones addressed the League of Municipalities at Exit Zero Restaurant, highlighting the Chamber's dedication to promoting local business growth, advocating for fair regulations, and fostering a sustainable future for Cape May County. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Chamber continues to collaborate with officials in Cape May County to raise awareness about the impacts of NJ PACT/REAL regulations during the 90-day public comment period, which has been extended until November 7. To submit comments direct to NJ DEP, [please click here.](#) For the latest updates and information on how to take action, please visit the County’s website by [clicking here.](#) The NJ BIA produced a series of short videos to further explain the impacts, [which can be found here.](#)
- ♦ Cape May County Board of Commissioners announced the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony taking place on Mon., Nov. 11 at 1:00pm at the Gerald Thornton Veterans’ Cemetery in Crest Haven. The ceremony will honor and remember our Veterans. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ New Jersey’s statewide minimum wage will increase by \$0.36 to \$15.49 per hour for most employees, effective January 1, 2025. The minimum cash wage rate for tipped workers will rise to \$5.62/hour from \$5.26, with the maximum tip credit employers are able to claim remaining at \$9.87. [Read more.](#)
- ♦ The Chamber is following [Bill A2369](#), which provides tax credit to businesses supporting pre-employment training programs. Under the bill, a business may receive a credit against the corporation business tax or gross income tax for 100% of the financial assistance provided to support a qualified pre-employment and work readiness training program approved by the DOLWD.
- ♦ The Chamber is monitoring [Bill S3195](#), which aims to ditch plastic utensils in restaurants and schools. The bill, advanced by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on Oct. 10, 2024, says that any "food service businesses" with a seating capacity of 50 or more are not allowed to provide on-site customers with single-use cutlery.
- ♦ The Chamber is tracking [Bill A4683/A4625](#), which mandates transparency in disclosing compensation details in job postings and promotional opportunities.
- ♦ The NJ Economic Development Authority offers three key grants to support small businesses and nonprofits. The **Main Street Acquisition Support Grant**, a pilot under the Main Street Recovery Fund, reimburses eligible small businesses for up to \$50,000 in closing costs related to purchasing a New Jersey commercial property for business operations, requiring applicants to occupy at least 1,000 square feet. The **Small Business Improvement Grant** reimburses 50% of costs, up to \$50,000, for building improvements or purchases of new furniture, fixtures, and equipment, with 40% reserved for businesses in Opportunity Zone census tracts. Lastly, the **Small Business Lease Grant** assists with growth by covering 20% of total annual lease payments for small businesses and nonprofits leasing new or additional space. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ Revolution Rail Co. announces that it has been honored with the 2024 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award for the fourth consecutive year. This prestigious accolade places Revolution Rail among the top 10% of attractions globally, a testament to its continued excellence in customer satisfaction and outdoor adventure. [Read more.](#)



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# Chamber Event Highlights



## **80th Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner — October 16**

The Chamber extends our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the 80th Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner *presented by Simonsen & McClellan Legislative District 1* at the Wildwoods Convention Center on October 16. The participation and support of our community made the night a resounding success. We hope you enjoyed the cocktail networking hour, dinner, raffle baskets and the opportunity to bid on exceptional items and experiences.

We welcomed Eli Massood as the new Chamber Chairperson and thanked Amy Mahon for her years of dedicated service as Chairperson. The Chamber also warmly embraced our new Board of Directors and Executive Committee members and extended hearty congratulations to all those who emerged as winners of the Annual Excellence Awards. **A full list can be found [here](#).**

We extend our special gratitude to Cape May County Commissioner Vice Director Andrew Bulakowski for overseeing the installation of our new 2024-25 officers, Wildwoods Convention Center Sales and Entertainment Director John Lynch for the wonderful invocation and for hosting our auction, Angelic Health's John Prutting for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Lower Cape May Regional High School's Bella McKeown for singing the National Anthem, the United States Coast Guard for the presentation of colors, Steaks, Shakes and Cakes for providing the special cake for the evening and Shaun Reilly Photography for capturing the event through photo.

At this meeting, the Chamber honored the late Jack Morey of the Wildwoods and Morey's Piers with a beautifully produced video by Shaun Reilly Photography. **To view the video tribute, please click [here](#).**

**The Chamber extends its gratitude to all sponsors and community members who made this event possible! More photos along with a complete list of award winners and sponsors can be found on [our Facebook Page](#).**



## **New Member Reception — Oct. 1**

The Chamber welcomed new members to our office to meet staff and board members and to learn more about what the Chamber had to offer for its members.



## **Legal Topics Seminar—Oct. 9**

The Chamber partnered with Leanne Lane Coyle of Fisher Phillips LLP to present “Hottest Legal Topics” Seminar to our members at Reich Asset Management.

The seminar provided participants with essential updates on emerging employment law trends, gained insights into the latest litigation patterns, learned best practices for fostering a safe and inclusive workplace and more.

## **Evening Networking Mixer—Oct. 23**

Ludlam Island Brewery welcomed Chamber members for an evening of networking and delicious food and beverages at their newly remodeled facility in Woodbine.

# Out on the Town with Our Members: 80th Annual Meeting Edition

The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce's 80th Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner on October 16, 2024 would not have been possible without the support of our vendors! Please click the images below for more information.

*Photos by Shaun Reilly Photography.*

## Venue: Wildwoods Convention Center



## Celebration Cake: Steaks, Shakes, & Cakes, Cape May Court House



## Floral Arrangements: Barbara's Seashell Florist, Villas



## Invitations & Program Books Printing: Copiers Plus, Egg Harbor Township



## Awards: M.S. Brown Jewelers, Wildwood & Cape May Court House



## Photography & Videography: Shaun Reilly Photography, Northfield



## Raffle Baskets & Live Auction Items: Various Community Businesses





## Advertise in the 2025 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide & Online Guide Website!

***\*Limited Spots Remain!\****

Now is the time to secure your **2025 multi-media marketing package**. The Jersey Cape Vacation Guide remains in demand and is a trusted source of information. The 2025 Vacation Guide will continue to have clean design, rich photography and features designed to attract visitors. Online, there's a suite of digital opportunities to reach the visitor.



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

## 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@cmcchamber.com](mailto:membership@cmcchamber.com) or (609) 465-7181.**

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

## ***Health Insurance Open Enrollment Starts Now!***

Health insurance is essential for fostering a healthy, productive workforce.

Through an exclusive partnership with Osprey Health, the Cape May County Chamber offers members access to Fortune 500-level benefits for full-time, part-time, seasonal, and 1099 employees. With options including medical, dental, vision, disability, and financial wellness plans, businesses of all sizes can provide comprehensive, affordable coverage without pre-existing condition exclusions or participation requirements. Members can only enroll through Osprey Health's trusted advisors, ensuring seamless access to these valuable benefits.

**LEARN MORE.**

## ***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  
Complimentary coffee, tea and water | Comfortably seats up to 20 people

### **Conference Room Rates:**

Regular Rate:

Full Day - \$200

Half Day - \$100

Non-Profit Rate:

Full Day - \$100

Half Day - \$50

Contact [admin@cmcchamber.com](mailto:admin@cmcchamber.com) or call 609-465-7181 for more information and to book.

## **Cape May County Chamber of Commerce**

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