

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



NEWSLETTER || SEPTEMBER 2025

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

As summer gives way to our vibrant shoulder season, I want to thank our members, partners, and volunteers for carrying Cape May County through another strong summer. The work you do, welcoming visitors, employing thousands, and giving back to our communities, drives our county's economy and defines who we are as a region.

Leadership Cape May 2025–26

We're thrilled to welcome the new Leadership Cape May cohort. This year's curriculum expands north–south, with field experiences from Ocean City to Cape May City. Thanks to our partnership with Stockton University, graduates continue to earn advanced standing and an MBA application fee waiver, an important bridge between workforce development and higher education. Thank you to the employers who nominated rising leaders and to our sponsors who make this program possible.

Policy & Advocacy Priorities

Your Chamber remains laser-focused on issues that uniquely affect a tourism-driven county:

- ◆ Occupancy Tax reform - pursuing a fair return to the communities that generate it.
- ◆ NJ PACT & State Plan - ensuring regulatory frameworks reflect South Jersey realities and protect both our environment and our economy.

We'll continue convening local leaders, agencies, and legislators in a solutions-oriented way and will update you as milestones are reached.

Energy & Reliability

Following feedback from our Environment & Legislative and Tourism & Economic Development committees, we have paused and are refining the NJ Vision for Energy forum to deliver a clearer roadmap for reliability, affordability, and sustainability. Thank you to our committee chairs and participating utilities and agencies for leaning in; we'll announce the new date and format shortly.

Member Momentum

Our team is meeting with new and renewing members county-wide, spotlighting success stories and connecting businesses to resources. If your company is hiring, expanding, or celebrating a milestone, send it our way. We love sharing good news.

As always, your voice sets our direction. If there's an issue you want elevated, data you need, or a connection we can make, please reach out. Together, we'll keep Cape May County competitive, collaborative, and welcoming this season and every season.

Warm Regards,

Barbara Stafford Jones,

President



◆ **UPCOMING EVENTS** *

- 9/10/25—Evening Mixer w/ AJ Meerwald & Stowaways—Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal
- 9/17/25—Leadership Cape May County Program Start—Chamber Office
- 9/18/25—Membership Luncheon w/ NJ Legislative District 1—The Flanders Hotel
- 9/19/25—Sunset Cruise w/ Animal House Band—Cape May Whale Watcher
- 9/23/25—Osprey Health Insurance Seminar—Chamber Office
- 10/1/25—Cybersecurity Seminar w/ neKey—Chamber Office
- 10/10/25—Glow Golf Social—Big Little 9 Golf Course
- 10/15/25—81st Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner—Wildwoods Convention Center

Chamber & Legislative Updates

- ◆ The Chamber has been closely monitoring the ongoing development of the NJ PACT/NJ REAL regulations issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). A [Notice of Substantial Change](#) outlining these revisions was published in the July 21 edition of the New Jersey Register. There will be a virtual public hearing on September 3. The 60-day public comment period ends on September 19. [More details on the public hearing and comment period can be found here.](#)
- ◆ The Chamber will host its September Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 18, at The Flanders Hotel, sponsored by Workplace HCM. This presentation will feature Senator Michael Testa, Assemblymen Erik Simonsen and Antwan McClellan from Legislative District 1 to discuss initiatives pertaining to South Jersey and Cape May County. [Learn more and sign up.](#)
- ◆ The Chamber is proud to support the upcoming TEDxCapeMay Salon presentation by Louis Bezich titled “Unleash Your Emotional Force to Live Healthy and Happy” at Atlantic Cape Community College on September 18. The salon leads up to the main TEDxCapeMay event on October 5 titled “Being Human.” [Learn more.](#)
- ◆ The 2026 Jersey Cape Vacation Guide is now accepting advertisers for its 59th edition, highlighting the best of Cape May County with engaging content on attractions, dining, accommodations, and activities. This year’s package includes expanded digital marketing opportunities like a visitor-focused website, email blasts to 7,000+ subscribers, an e-newsletter, and social media features. Lock in the best rates by the early bird deadline of September 19. [Learn more. View the digital version online.](#)
- ◆ The Chamber will host its first Sunset Cruise aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher on September 19, offering guests an evening of scenic views and lively entertainment. Attendees will enjoy live music from local favorite Animal House Band, hors d’oeuvres provided by Mudhen Brewery, and a cash bar while sailing into the sunset. With great food, music, and even the chance to spot dolphins, it promises to be a night of networking, mingling, and unforgettable memories. [Learn more and sign up.](#)
- ◆ Osprey Health will host an informative seminar, “Affordable & Comprehensive Healthcare: It Is Possible to Have Both”, on September 23 at the Chamber office. The session will help business owners, HR professionals, and decision makers better understand health insurance, legislative updates, and cost-effective strategies for employee benefits. Attendees will gain valuable insights on optimizing benefit packages to attract and retain talent while keeping healthcare affordable and sustainable. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The Chamber, in partnership with neKey, will host “Navigating Cyber Threats: Practical Steps to Protect Your Business and Personal Lives” seminar on October 1 at the Chamber office. Led by Russ Abdrakhmanov, Founding Leader of neKey, this engaging session will provide practical tools and insights to help business leaders and individuals strengthen their cybersecurity practices. [Learn more and sign up.](#)
- ◆ Governor Murphy signed [Bill A5687/S4407](#) on August 13, creating a new \$500 million tax credit program that incentivizes manufacturing investment and job creation. The Next New Jersey Manufacturing Program, which will be administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), will encourage growth in New Jersey’s manufacturing sector by offering long-term benefits to manufacturing companies. Senator Michael Testa and Assemblyman Antwan McClellan were key sponsors in this bill. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has introduced the Main Street Acquisition Support Grant, which reimburses eligible small businesses and non-profits up to \$50,000 in closing costs for purchasing an existing New Jersey commercial property. To qualify, applicants must occupy at least 1,000 square feet of commercial space, with mixed-use properties permitted if they meet this requirement. Purchases completed after October 1, 2024, are eligible, and applications must be submitted within one year of closing. [Learn more.](#)
- ◆ Tripadvisor has ranked Cape May as the Best Beach in New Jersey, thanks to its user comments and reviews. Cape May earned the number one spot based on thousands of reviews and ratings from travelers, recognizing Cape May’s unmatched charm, pristine coastline, and consistent visitor satisfaction. [Read more.](#)



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Chamber Event Highlights

August Membership Meeting – August 21



The Chamber hosted its August Membership Meeting at South 9 Bar & Grille, with generous sponsorship from Triad Associates.

Keynote speaker Congressman Jefferson Van Drew (NJ-2) delivered an informative and engaging update on federal legislation and issues affecting South Jersey and Cape May County. His remarks addressed critical topics including beach replenishment funding, rising energy costs, NJPACT/REAL regulations, and federal support for Coast Guard barracks, among others. Congressman Van Drew's presentation provided Chamber members with valuable insight into the work being done in Washington on behalf of our region.

Our next luncheon is Thursday, September 18, 2025 with New Jersey Legislative District 1. Networking and check-in begins at 11:30am with the program to start at 12:00pm.

End of Summer Networking Mixer—The Point



The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce joined forces with the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce to co-host an End of Summer Evening Networking Mixer sponsored by Wisser Insurance and Atlantic Title Agency at The Point in Somers Point. Members from both Chambers enjoyed a lively



evening filled with great conversation, refreshing drinks, and delicious bites in a relaxed, coastal setting. Special thanks to The Point team for their generous hospitality and for welcoming us into their beautiful outdoor tiki space.

CAPE MAY CARRIAGE COMPANY



Part of Victorian Cape May since 1983. Thousands have shared in the beauty of proud horses, fine carriages and our extraordinary tours through Cape May's historical streets. We offer half-hour tours weekends during the spring and fall months, and daily during the summer and during the Christmas season.

All carriage tours leave from the corner of Ocean Street and the Washington Street Mall. Call 609-884-4466

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Chamber Member of the Month: Klenswite Pools & Spas

Klenswite Pools & Spas, a three-generation family-owned and operated business, has served residential and commercial clients in Cape May County since 1965 and have been proud members of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce since 2016.

Based in Rio Grande, the company features the area's largest retail showroom and outdoor pool park, showcasing both in-ground and above-ground pools, spas, hot tubs, and a full complement of accessories and maintenance products, including Klenswite-brand pool chemicals.

Known for its exceptional customer service, knowledgeable staff, and commitment to quality, Klenswite is widely valued by the local community as a one-stop source for pool and spa needs.

Learn more at www.klenswitepools.com.



Out on the Town with Our Members



Chamber staff and friends recently enjoyed a wonderful evening at **Beach Creek Oyster Bar & Grille** in Wildwood, taking in the restaurant's elegant outdoor waterfront setting on a cool summer night. With twinkling lights, lush tropical foliage, and teak décor, the atmosphere felt like a true vacation escape. The group sampled specialty cocktails, including the refreshing Dark and Stormy and the tropical Pain Killer, while sharing delicious appetizers such as the Banging Calamari and freshly shucked oysters. Live music provided the perfect backdrop for conversation and relaxation, and the attentive, friendly staff made the experience seamless from start to finish. Beach Creek's combination of coastal elegance, fresh seafood, and vibrant energy made for a memorable summer evening. Be sure to check out their other two properties, Boathouse Restaurant and Uries Waterfront while you're over there!

Beach Creek Oyster Bar & Grille is located at the foot of the George Redding Bridge heading into Wildwood at 500 West Hand Avenue. Please visit their website at www.beachcreeknj.com for more information.

The Chamber team recently visited **We Make It Personal** on Asbury Avenue in Ocean City, a charming gift shop specializing in unique keepsakes and custom designs. Owner Joy warmly welcomed the team and shared how the shop helps customers transform everyday items into one-of-a-kind treasures. With all personalization completed on-site by knowledgeable staff, shoppers can choose from a wide variety of gifts ranging from cutting boards and glassware to ornaments and home décor and watch as their selections are customized with names, dates, or meaningful messages. During the visit, a family engraved their name onto a cutting board as a lasting memory of their time in Ocean City. For anyone seeking a special, locally personalized keepsake, We Make It Personal offers the perfect blend of creativity, craftsmanship, and shore-town charm.

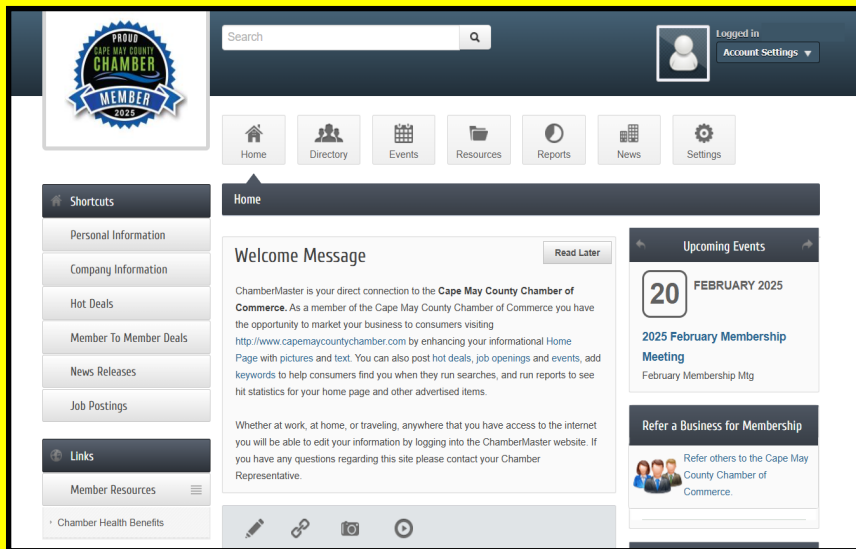


We Make It Personal is located at 852 Asbury Avenue in Ocean City. Please visit their website at www.wemakeitpersonal.net for store hours and inventory.

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!***

Please join us for the

81st Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner

OCTOBER 15, 2025
WILDWOODS CONVENTION CENTER
5-8:30 PM

Register Now!

Conference Room Rental

Convenient Location | Free Parking | Wi-Fi access | Video Conferencing Capabilities
Complimentary coffee, tea and water | Comfortably seats up to 22 people

Host your next meeting, seminar, workshop, board retreat, client appointment, or even just enjoy a quiet, professional space to be productive.

With modern amenities, a convenient location, and a professional atmosphere, the Chamber is your go-to destination for business success.



CONTACT US FOR RATE INFORMATION

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