

CAPE MAY COUNTY CHAMBER



NEWSLETTER || SEPTEMBER 2024

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members,

As we welcome September, we find ourselves at a pivotal point in the year. This month marks a season of change and opportunity for businesses in our community. With fall approaching, it's a time to reflect on our achievements so far and set our sights on the opportunities that lie ahead.

We have several exciting events planned this month, including our membership luncheon at La Mer in Cape May City. Senator Michael Testa along with Assemblymen McClellan and Simonsen will be our keynote speakers, which will be held on Wednesday, September 18th.

On September 13th, we will be co-hosting with the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey the Regional Economic Perspective at Resorts Casino, Atlantic City. Our own Director of Tourism, Diane Wieland, will be representing Cape May County and giving her regional perspective on our season so far.

Our advocacy efforts continue as we work closely with local and state officials to ensure that the

voices of our business community are heard on critical issues. This month, we are particularly focused on NJ PACT/REAL. We will be attending the public hearing at Ocean County College on September 5th at 6:00 PM, supporting our County Commissioners in opposing these revised regulations. Additionally, we will be speaking on behalf of the business community at a press conference on September 6th at 11:15 AM at the County Commissioners Office, 4 Moore Road, Cape May Court House.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their continued support and dedication to our Chamber. Your participation and engagement are what make our Chamber strong and effective.

As we go into the shoulder season, let's make this September a month of growth and success for all our businesses.

Warm Regards,
Barbara Stafford Jones,
President



*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

9/13/24 - Regional Economic Perspective w/ Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ—Resorts Casino

9/18/24 - Membership Lunch Meeting w/ Senator Testa and Assemblymen McClellan and Simonsen—La Mer Beachfront Resort

9/20/24 - Good Morning South Jersey w/ Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ: Cooper University Hospital—The Reeds

9/24/24 - Health Insurance Open Enrollment Info Sessions—Greater Wildwood Chamber Office

9/29/24 - Kindle Oktoberfest—Kindle Auto Plaza Grounds

Chamber & Legislative Updates

The Cape May County Chamber is now accepting nominations for the Annual Excellence Awards to be presented at the 80th Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner on October 16 at the Wildwoods Convention Center. Only member businesses will be considered for these awards. Please refer to the Chamber website for the [full membership directory](#). Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 13, 2024. [Click here to submit nominations.](#)

- ♦ The Chamber, in collaboration with Cape May County officials, has been actively working to raise awareness about the NJDEP's NJ PACT/REAL regulations. An informative and up-to-date webpage detailing the rules and actions is [available here](#). Additionally, the County will host a press conference on Friday, September 6, at 11:15 am to discuss NJ PACT/REAL in detail.
- ♦ In addition to this press conference, Cape May County residents concerned about environmental justice are encouraged to register for the upcoming Environmental Justice Community Engagement Session hosted by the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). The session will feature DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and EPA Region 2 Regional Administrator Lisa Garcia, and will take place on September 17, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Woodbine Community Center or on Zoom. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ On August 28, 2024, the Chamber participated in a roundtable discussion at the Wildwoods Convention Center, featuring Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Rebecca Pasini. The event focused on the cultural benefits of the BridgeUSA Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program, which plays a crucial role in meeting the seasonal workforce needs of the local business community. Attendees, including community leaders, public safety officials, and industry professionals, discussed the program's impact on Cape May County, emphasizing its contributions to tourism, cultural exchange, and economic stability. The discussion highlighted how the SWT Program supports local businesses by filling critical labor gaps during peak tourist seasons and enriches the community through cultural diversity and engagement.
- ♦ The Chamber has been actively following the New Jersey Works Act ([A2369](#)), which provides tax credit to businesses supporting pre-employment training programs. Under the bill, businesses 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 by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- ♦ Cape May County bizHub is offering a series of courses designed to enhance business skills this fall. These include an introduction to business ownership, business plan development, and various Microsoft Excel courses ranging from beginner to advanced levels. Additional offerings cover topics such as target market and marketing plan development, organizational planning, small business accounting, and financial resources. QuickBooks basics and finance for non-financial managers are also part of the curriculum, providing comprehensive support for business professionals at various stages of their careers. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ New Jersey introduced *RetireReady NJ*, a state-sponsored program that helps employees save for the future through Roth (post-tax) IRAs. Most employers, unless exempt, must register, manage contributions, and maintain employee records for this payroll withholding savings plan. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is creating a new grant program to support small businesses with inactive plenary retail consumption liquor licenses, in line with recent legislation. Subject to NJEDA Board approval, the \$10 million program will complement the existing Main Street Recovery programs established by the Economic Recovery Act of 2020. [Learn more.](#)
- ♦ Atlantic Cape Community College Cape May Campus will be hosting TedxCapeMay Salon on Sept. 19. The presentation titled *Sean Burcher: Project Monarch—Pioneering High-Tech Community Science*, will be discussing data and resources needed to protect Monarch butterflies. [Learn more.](#)



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In Memoriam



Roy Gillian, founder of the iconic Gillian's Wonderland Pier on the Ocean City Boardwalk and former Mayor of Ocean City, passed away on August 17. Gillian was an Ocean City commissioner from 1963-67, Cape May County Freeholder from 1971-76, Commissioner of Cape May County Municipal Utilities from 1982-86 and mayor of Ocean City from 1986-90. [Read more.](#)

Chamber Event Highlights



August Membership Meeting— August 15

The Chamber was honored to host Congressman Jefferson Van Drew at our August Membership Meeting on August 15, held at South 9 Bar & Grille and generously sponsored by Triad Associates.

Congressman Van Drew highlighted the impactful work his office has accomplished in Cape May County, securing vital funding for key projects such as Atlantic Cape Community College, Cape May County bizHub, beach replenishment in Stone Harbor, Avalon, North Wildwood and Strathmere, infrastructure improvements in Lower Township and Cape May, enhancements at Woodbine Airport, Cape May Coast Guard barrack upgrades and much more. He also discussed his legislative efforts, offshore wind developments, and the extensive planning behind the Trump Rally in Wildwood. The presentation concluded with a dynamic Q&A session, engaging our members in meaningful dialogue.

The next Chamber membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at La Mer Beachfront Resort in Cape May from 11:30am-1:30pm. The meeting will feature Senator Michael Testa, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan and Assemblyman Erik Simonsen.



AM Rush Networking —August 21

The Chamber hosted AM Rush Networking on August 21 at ICONA Avalon, which brought together dynamic professionals for a productive session of structured networking. With the generous support of Atlantic Title Agency and Wiser Insurance Agency, participants had the opportunity to make valuable connections and explore new opportunities.

End of Summer Evening Networking Mixer— August 27

The Chamber teamed up with the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce for the annual End of Summer Mixer at Yesterday's Creekside Tavern on August 27.

Members from both chambers eagerly gathered to network, celebrate the successes of the summer, and discuss plans for the upcoming fall season.



Please join us for the **80th Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner**

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Out on the Town with Our Members



A few staff members recently enjoyed an evening at **Cape May Stage**, a nonprofit theater, where we saw *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson, Apt. 2B*, a modern twist on the classic detective duo. The play offered a delightful mix of mystery, drama, and humor, keeping the sold-out crowd engaged and laughing throughout the performance. The intimate 124-seat Robert Shackleton Playhouse provided the perfect setting for the show. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the play's director, Roy Steinberg, who greeted each guest with enthusiasm. Although *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson, Apt. 2B* has concluded its run, Cape May Stage, now in its 35th season, has a fantastic lineup of upcoming plays just in time for the holidays.

Cape May Stage is located at 405 Lafayette Street, Cape May. View their 2024 show line-up online at www.capemaystage.org.

During our recent visit to **The Chalfonte Hotel** in Cape May, we had the pleasure of attending the *Howard Street Ramble*, a lively gathering of local musicians who perform on the hotel's porch. Every Thursday night during the summer, this event draws a huge crowd, creating a vibrant atmosphere where neighbors and visitors come together. As we sat on the lawn, enjoying delicious food and drinks, the music provided the perfect backdrop for a memorable evening of connection and community.

The Chalfonte Hotel also offers other amenities such as the King Edward Bar and the Magnolia Room, where guests can enjoy fine dining. In addition to the *Howard Street Ramble*, the hotel features live music on other nights of the week, making it a perfect spot for relaxation and entertainment.



The Chalfonte Hotel is located at 301 Howard Street, Cape May. Visit their website www.chalfonte.com for accommodations, live music, menus and more.



We recently visited **The Anglesea Pub** in North Wildwood for their popular Tuesday Night Wing Night and had an excellent time. The Guinness BBQ wings were a standout, offering a delicious blend of flavors that paired perfectly with a cold beer. The pub's warm and welcoming atmosphere made it the ideal spot to unwind after a long day. The Pub has been a local favorite for years, known for its great food, lively crowd, and friendly service in part by Sean McMullan and staff. In addition to its popular wing night, they offer live music, Quizzo and is a hot-spot for the North Wildwood Irish Fall Festival (save the dates: Sept. 19-22!) Keep an eye out for their exciting new building addition, opening soon.

The Anglesea Pub is located at 116 West 1st Ave, North Wildwood. Check out www.theangleseapub.com for their menu and live entertainment schedules.

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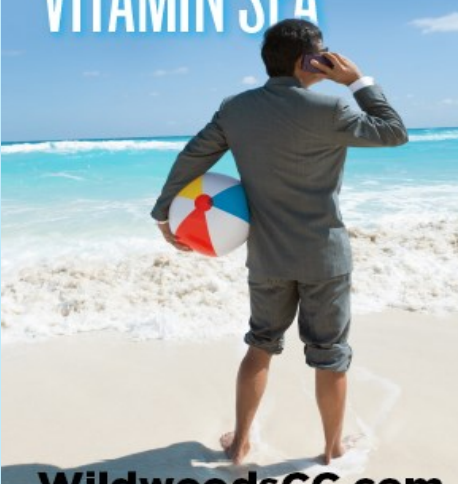
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Contact admin@cmcchamber.com or call 609-465-7181 for more information and to book.

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

13 Crest Haven Road
PO Box 74
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
E: info@cmcchamber.com
P: 609-465-7181
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