



Hometown Heart with a Global Reach

BRIDGETON AREA Chamber of Commerce



Business & Community News Winter 2020/2021

# Bridgeton Area Chamber Honors Community Heroes

On December 1, on a cold late fall evening, in the parking lot of Cumberland Mutual in Hopewell, the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce gathered with the community in their automobiles, for Covid-19 precautions, to honor community heroes. Carol Musso, Chairperson of the Chamber and Cumberland County Commissioner, opened the event with this quote from Howard Zinn, **“small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”** She said, “tonight, we honor a small number of people who acted and did what they could do to transform the lives of thousands in Cumberland County and beyond. It reminds us that we are blessed to have people and organizations who love where we live and have shown that they have hometown heart.”



*They are your everyday neighbors and friends who may not have superpowers, but they have the power to make a difference in their communities.*

## Bruce Hankins Received The Francis Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award



Paul Ritter, President of Cumberland Mutual, introduced Bruce Hankins, saying, “he has a long record of service to many community and business groups including many years of service on the Hopewell Township Committee, and on the Cumberland Mutual Board of Directors. David Hemple of Century Savings Bank, added, “like Francis Sharp, Bruce Hankins believes that a strong business

*Community Heroes continued on page 2*

**“Please step up as we can always use more volunteers to make our community better.”**



### This Holiday & Winter Season

*Look for local shopping ideas for the holiday and winter season from Chamber Members throughout this newsletter.*

*Make shopping local your priority this season to support our small businesses.*



## Local Business. Local Banking.

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# Celebrating Community Heroes



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

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community, working together, helps build a better community for all."

Mayor Hankins said, "If you are a youth sports coach, a Sunday school teacher, a chamber member, an elected official, a first responder, or anyone who volunteers, you are among the people that make a community work. I thank you for your service. If you are not involved, please step up, we can always use more volunteers to make our community better."



**This Holiday & Winter Season**

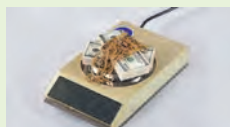
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**"Through our collective acts of compassion, we will not only get through this, we will triumph and be better on the other side."**

## The Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award to Robin Weinstein

Laurie LaTorre, Chamber Board Member, Corporate Secretary and Chairperson of the Heroes Awards Committee, introduced Dr. Robin Weinstein, the founder and President of the M25 Initiative, a nonprofit that works to empower and mobilize individuals and organizations in Cumberland County to transform lives.

"Robin exemplifies the strong community leadership that Gary was known for throughout his life and he has earned this award and the respect and admiration of the community," concluded LaTorre.

"When we go through extremely difficult times as we are now in our community, we are reminded that love is the more *Community Heroes continued on page 3*



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\*No other discounts or insurances apply.



# Community Heroes

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excellent way,” said Weinstein. While we may have a tendency to turn inward, to self-isolate, to protect others, we also recognize we have opportunities for creative acts of love and compassion.” He added, “I do believe that through our collective acts of compassion, we will not only get through this, we will triumph and be stronger on the other side.”

## Angelia Edwards, Martha Price, Manna From Heaven



Angelia Edwards is the Founder/CEO of Manna from Heaven that provides food for the needy in Cumberland and surrounding counties. Angelia and Ms. Martha Price, 80 years old in August, provided home-cooked meals every Sunday to local seniors in the Bridgeton area who could not get out during Covid-19 to shop for food.

**“My mother is my hero! We are humbled by and we are grateful for this award.”**



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

Paul Ritter and Carol Musso presented the award commenting, “they saw a need in the one person, who cares and takes action, can make a difference in the lives of fellow residents.

## Rylee Howerton, Madison Stiles Queens 4 a Cause



Rylee Howerton (left), and Madison Stiles

Rylee Howerton is a 14-year old Vineland resident. She has always had a heart for the homeless and spends her Sunday mornings making, packaging, and distributing pancakes, along with drinks, to the homeless throughout Cumberland County. Rylee co-created Queens 4 a Cause with her friend and fellow pageant title holder, Madison Stiles, a 16-year old sophomore and cosmetology student.

**“Only a life lived for others is worth living.”**

participants to spotlight the ability that area youth have to serve and make a difference within their own communities. Madison recruited other pageant winners to volunteer at local nonprofits in need of help. She created “Walls Have Ears - Understanding Mental Illness,” to raise awareness about mental illness.

In closing, Minerva Alvarado, Chamber Board Member, stated, “These beautiful young people have helped to recruit other teen volunteers to make a big difference. Not all heroes wear a cape, some wear a crown and a gown. Join me in congratulating these amazing young community heroes.”

Howerton and Stiles thanked all the organizations they work with in the community, all of their fellow volunteers, their families, and their friends. Howerton concluded with this quote by Albert Einstein, “only a life lived for others is worth living.”

Community Heroes continued on page 4



Rylee Howerton and Madison Stiles  
Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

Make shopping local your priority this season to support our Chamber Members and all area small businesses.



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# Community Heroes

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## Chris Hannah, Cole the Deaf Dog, The Team Cole Project



Susan Jones, Chamber Board Member, remarked, "after 34 years of presenting awards, we are recognizing the service of a dog, Cole, and his human friend and partner, Chris Hannah. For many people, there is nothing in this world that is purer than the love of a dog. A dog is ultimately selfless, and totally devoted to the humans they live with."

**"For many people, there is nothing in this world that is purer than the love of a dog."**

serve senior veterans and help those in hospice care.

"It takes a team to allow Cole and I to serve so many people in the community," said Hannah as he thanked family, friends, co-workers, fellow volunteers, and students and staff at Dr. Mennies School and Vine-land Public Schools.

Passed up by countless families at the South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter because he was "broken," Cole quickly began his journey to show that a disability is not an inability. Cole works every school day, alongside his music teacher father, Chris Hannah, at Dr. William Mennies Elementary School in Vine-land, developing school togetherness, confidence, and perseverance. They



Chris Hannah and Cole watch video at the Heroes Celebration  
Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

## Marco Cruz

Marco Cruz has been active in Bridgeton, helping with soccer and Police Athletic League (PAL). With the COVID pandemic, Marco stepped up to ensure that farm workers and other immigrant families had access to food, providing

information and deliveries to ensure their needs were met.

He organized a drive by parade to show the workers that they are essential to feeding the community. He organized a rally to help educate the community regarding farmworkers, and individuals without documents, about the many ways they contribute to the community. According to Jon Cummings, Chamber Board Member, "Marco is a shining example of

how one person, who cares and takes action, can make a difference in the lives of fellow residents. He is a community hero."

I thank everyone who helped me to help others. I could not do these things alone. Let's remember this is our community and we should work together to make it better for everyone," said Cruz.



**"One person, who cares and takes action, can make a difference in the lives of fellow residents."**



## Betty Shrouder

Betty Shrouder has selflessly assisted hundreds of seniors. While teaching school remotely, which was challenging enough, during the evenings and week ends, she made cloth masks. She also made hero gifts for the nurses and CNAs that work in a retirement community. She felt she needed to help and do her part.

Community Heroes continued on page 5



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This Holiday & Winter Season

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# Community Heroes

continued from page 4



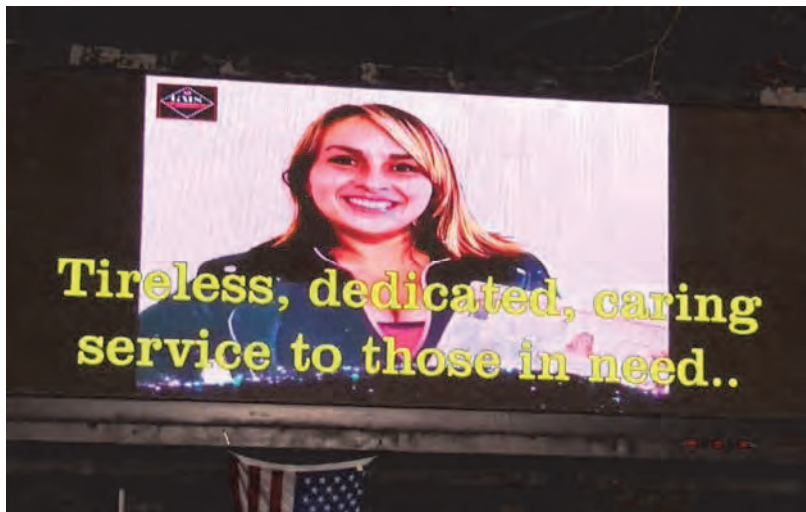
Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

**“What can I do to help? I dusted off the sewing machine and so it began.”**

She helped save the lives of many residents. Laurie LaTorre introduced Shrouder. “It is said that when someone helps the life of even just one person, they help build a better community for everyone. Betty Shrouder brings this sentiment to life,” commented LaTorre.

“I am truly humbled and grateful to be here tonight,” said Shrouder. When Covid began, residents and staff at nursing homes needed

masks and they were hard to get. I said to my sister, who works in a nursing home, what can I do? She said I have some material. I dusted off the sewing machine and so it began.”



## Millie Irizarry Sanchez

Millie is a natural born humanitarian. She currently works for the Community Food Bank of NJ as an essential worker and supervisor of the Mobile Food Distributions, and has worked throughout the entire Covid-19 pandemic advocating for our community and hosting several food

drives when many were afraid to do so throughout the pandemic.

“Millie went into overdrive and has been a true blessing and hero to our community. The Chamber of Commerce thanks you for your dedication to the community and for being a community hero,” stated LaTorre.

**“What can I do to help? I dusted off the sewing machine and so it began.”**

# CompleteCare Health Network



**“I accept this on behalf of everyone at our organization and our partners who worked so hard and courageously on the front lines.”**

Jean Scarani, Chamber Member and owner of Upper Deerfield Preschool opened the introduction of CompleteCare Health Network with this quote, “It has been written that gratitude will bring the world together and carry us through this crisis.” Tonight, we are sharing appreciation and goodwill for healthcare heroes on the front lines against COVID-19.

“With CEO Curtis Edwards' leadership and with the dedication of his staff, CompleteCare has provided extraordinary community service with hard work and professionalism. They have been integral in Cumberland County's efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus in the area.” said Scarani. “Thank you CompleteCare Health Network for providing care and compassion in these unprecedented times, throughout the Coronavirus emergency.”



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

Curtis Edwards, President and CEO of CompleteCare, accepted the award saying. “Thank you to the Chamber Board and members for honoring CompleteCare. I accept this on behalf of everyone at our organization who worked so hard and courageously on the front lines in the fight against Covid-19. I cannot take the credit but instead stress that we have been able to do our part only with the help of our partners including other health and community agencies, Cumberland County and Vineland health departments, and the Cumberland County Freeholders and staff.”

“With CEO Curtis Edwards' leadership and with the dedication of his staff, CompleteCare has provided extraordinary community service with hard work and professionalism. They have been integral in Cumberland County's efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus in the area.” said Scarani. “Thank you CompleteCare Health Network for providing care and compassion in these unprecedented times, throughout the Coronavirus emergency.”

## Inspira Health

Inspira Health plays a key role in serving those affected by Coronavirus, providing caring and high-quality healthcare services, while keeping their employees and the public as safe as possible throughout the crisis.

During this pandemic, the nurses, doctors, and all Inspira Health's front-line caregivers served at the bedsides of their patients sick with COVID-19. Chamber Board Member Kimberly Wood said in introducing this award, “no amount of training and education



Nick Sena of Inspira Health

could have prepared them for the challenge of caring for patients sick with a disease for which there is no proven treatment. They stood-in for

Community Heroes continued on page 6



# Community Heroes

*continued from page 5*

family and friends, who could not see them in the hospital. In many cases, they shared the last days of their patient's lives, standing in for loved ones. Yet, these healthcare heroes persevered, drawing their strength from their devotion to their patients and from each other."

Nick Sena of Inspira Health accepted the recognition on behalf of the medical staff at Inspira. "I thank you on behalf of our leadership including CEO Amy Mansue, all of our employees, and volunteers. We thank the community for caring and donating to us in these difficult times. 17,000 meals were donated to our employees. 1.5 million pieces of PPE were contributed. \$1.1 million was donated from the community. We thank you and we hope you remain safe and healthy."



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

***"Yet, these healthcare heroes persevered, drawing their strength from their devotion to their patients and from each other."***

## Cumberland County Government and Health Services



"The government is as good as the people running it," commented Karen Hepner, Chamber Board Member, as she began recognizing Cumberland County Government and Health Departments. She continued, "under the leadership of the Director of the Board of County Commissioner's Joe Derella, County Administrator Kim Wood, and Deputy County Administrator Jody Hirata, the County's response to the Coronavirus emergency has been excellent, a true partnership of employees, county and municipal officials, and health department employees across the County."

The county brought leaders of all municipalities together for communications and coordination, provided valuable information for the public, businesses, and government leaders. These heroes include Cumberland



County administrative officials and employees, Cumberland Health officials and staff, Cumberland County EMS, and others.

"I accept this on behalf of dozens of Cumberland County elected officials, ad-

ministrative officials, including Kim Wood and Jody Hirata, health department leaders Megan Sheppard and many others," said Joe Derella, Director of the County Board of Commissioners. Most of all I thank the Mayors, governing body members and administrators of the 14 municipalities in Cumberland County, who worked with us as partners throughout this health and economic crisis."

## The Heroes Foundation and Pepi Dragotta



Bruce Riley, Chamber Board Member, quoted a recent news article: "The key to heroism is a concern for other people in need and taking action to help and doing so without expectation of reward. Pepi Dragotta saw a need and took action."

Pepi Dragotta survived sudden cardiac arrest while playing soccer with his son. After he made his recovery, he decided to start Heroes Foundation NJ. The Heroes Foundation, under the leadership of Pepi, purchases and distributes AED's to sports organizations and non-profits throughout South Jersey. To date, he has provided youth teams with 100 units to save lives across our community. The Foundation has provided scholarship money to high school students who are looking to continue their education going into the medical field.

"The Heroes Foundation NJ is not just Pepi Dragotta. We could not do what we do without a tremendous board, many volunteers, generous sponsors and donors and the support of family and friends. I thank all of them and the Chamber of Commerce for this recognition."



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

***"We could not do what we do without a tremendous board, many volunteers, generous sponsors and donors."***

## The Salvation Army Bridgeton Corps and Lt. Melissa Lowell



"Those who work for and volunteer for The Salvation Army are everyday heroes to those they serve, those in need. In this pandemic, The Salvation Army Bridgeton Corps, demonstrated that they are Community Heroes," stated Barry Seay, Chamber 1st Vice Chairman.

*Community Heroes continued on page 11*





# Support Bridgeton Area Chamber Members

Use this Member List on pages 7-10 as a "pull-out" guide to shopping local in the Bridgeton area. More info: [www.baccnj.com/member-directory](http://www.baccnj.com/member-directory)

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*Government administration and services for Cumberland County*

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3322 College Drive P.O. Box 1500, Vineland, NJ 08362-1500  
856-696-5660 x 3013 [www.ccoel.org](http://www.ccoel.org)  
*Job training and finding services for individuals and businesses*

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
309 Buck Street, Millville, NJ 08332  
856-327-7602 [www.facebook.com/CCDOH/](http://www.facebook.com/CCDOH/)  
*Public health services for 13 of Cumberland County's municipalities, after-hours health emergency phone 856-455-8500*

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**  
745 Lebanon Rd., Millville, NJ 08332  
856-825-3700 x1160 [www.ccia-net.com](http://www.ccia-net.com)  
*Solid waste disposal, recycling, economic development services*

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER**  
3400 College Drive, Phone: (856) 327-7602, NJ 08360  
856-451-9000 x 240 [www.cumberland.tec.nj.us](http://www.cumberland.tec.nj.us)  
*Public school for technical education for young people and adults*

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**  
333 Water Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
856-455-7120 x 121 [www.ccuca.info](http://www.ccuca.info)  
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**CUMBERLAND DAIRY, INC.**  
PO Box 308, Rosenhayn, NJ 08352  
856-451-1300 [www.cumberlanddairy.com](http://www.cumberlanddairy.com)  
*Manufacturer of dairy and non-dairy products*



(Continued on page 8)

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Fax: (856) 455-7825  
Michelle Evans, Broker of Record  
Cell (856) 207-2308  
[www.roarkeagency.net](http://www.roarkeagency.net)

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M. Pizzo LLC t/a  
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(856) 451-9531 Ph • (856) 453-1270 Fax



**CHAMBER MEMBERS**

(Continued from page 7)

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856-451-4200 www.cdcnj.com*Business assistance, economic and community development services for Commercial, Deerfield, Hopewell, Lawrence, Shiloh, Stow Creek & Upper Deerfield***CUMBERLAND EMPOWERMENT ZONE**745 Lebanon Rd., Millville, NJ 08332  
856-825-3700 www.cezcorp.org*Community & economic development services, loans***CUMBERLAND ENGRAVING SERVICE**

127 W. Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-451-5052

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www.cumberlandvalve.rwconnections.com*Sales of hose, valves & fittings***DANONE NORTH AMERICA - BRIDGETON**70 Rosenhayn Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
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chamber Board Member

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856-455-2600 www.freitagfuneralhome.com*Funeral services***G & M NURSERY**1135 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
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856-451-0940 www.goldenpigeondiner.com*Restaurant 24 Hour restaurant and bakery***GREEN OLIVE RESTAURANT**610 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
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856-455-7700*Accounting services***H.H. HANKINS & BRO.**12 West Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
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856-641-8000 www.InspiraHealthNetwork.org*Medical center and various health services***INSPIRA HEALTH FOUNDATION, INC.**2950 College Drive, Suite 1F, Vineland, NJ 08360  
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(Continued on page 9)

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**www.freitagfuneralhome.com**



## CHAMBER MEMBERS

(Continued from page 8)

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# Community Heroes

## The Salvation Army Bridgeton Corps

continued from page 6

Minerva Alvarado praised them saying “a very small group of volunteers and staff quickly adapted to the pandemic to provide services in a safe manner to a growing number of struggling families in our area. I have never been so proud than to present this award to Lt. Melissa Lowell for her hard work and concern for our community.”

“I am amazed every single day just how generous the people, businesses and organizations of this community are,” said Lt. Lowell as she accepted the award for The Salvation Army Bridgeton Corps. “I thank my assistant Rebecca and all of our amazing volunteers.”



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

**“I am amazed every single day just how generous the people and businesses of this community are.”**

## Golden Pigeon Restaurant

“The owner of Golden Pigeon Restaurant, Ozkan Akilli, and his employees provided extraordinary service delivering take-outs to the tenants of Upper Deerfield Estates, once the virus started, and they are still providing this much appreciated service to the residents who live in the nearby complex,” explained Laurie LaTorre.

“The Golden Pigeon, like other restaurants, suffered loss of business during the pandemic, but continued to provide take-outs and stayed open 24 hours a day, providing extraordinary service to the people of the Bridgeton area. Congratulations and thank you to The Golden Pigeon for being a Community Hero,” said LaTorre as she presented the award.

“My family thanks our employees and our customers, who have become like family, for supporting us during these tough times.”

“My family thanks our employees and our customers, who have become like family, for supporting us



**“My family thanks our employees and our customers, who have become like family, for supporting us during these tough times.”**



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

during these tough times,” said Cole Akilli, grandson of owner of Golden Pigeon, Oskan Akilli. He ended with quote, “tough times don’t last, tough people do.”

## Innovation Foods

Bill Whelan, Chamber Board Member and Immediate Past Chamber Chairman, began the introduction of Innovation Foods this way, “the difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones. This is a quote from John Maynard Keynes.”

When the word “innovation” is part of your name, as in Innovation Foods, it is not surprising that this Bridgeton-based company found an innovative and creative way to meet the needs of the community in a health crisis.

Despite the troubling times, it had been business as usual at Innovation Foods. Nick Catalana and his cousin Andrew Catalana, with a passion to help others, developed a plan to produce, package and distribute hand sanitizer that was donated to various hospitals and organizations in the area.

“We certainly don’t consider ourselves heroes, began Nick Catalana of Innovation Foods. “The real heroes are the men and women in scrubs who are keeping us safe and caring for us despite risk to them.”

“We are blessed in our company to have people who care. The hand sanitizer project was a way for us to give back to a community that has given so much to us, to my family, since we started doing business in Bridgeton many decades ago. Earlier I heard the slogan ‘love where you live’. We love Bridgeton and we are grateful to the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce for this recognition, concluded Catalana.



**“The hand sanitizer project was a way for us to give back to a community that has given so much to us.”**



Photo by Colleen Kuzniasz Photography

### Community Heroes Celebration Major Sponsors



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners  
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Revive South Jersey  
Rowan College of South Jersey  
Pop 99.9 FM Power of Positivity  
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Quinn Broadcasting



# Cumberland County Expo and Job Fair Held in October



The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Millville Chamber worked together to present an outdoor version of the Business Expo and a job fair on October 7 at the NJ Motorsports Park. 50 businesses and organizations participated. In this photo, Sue Hoffman, President of the Millville Chamber, (left), and Carol Musso, Chairperson of the Bridgeton Chamber presented door prizes at the Expo.

We can all agree that 2020 has been an interesting year. We all learned to adapt to change which led to the re-scheduling of this event. Following social distancing and all COVID-19 guidelines, the exhibitors and public came out and enjoyed this year's Expo and job fair. Despite the event's changes, many came out, learned about local businesses, completed job applications, and left with information regarding the 2020 Census.

The Business Expo included a visit from South Jersey's Water Conditioning's mascot Drip who walked around and greeted attendees. Some lucky people also left with great door prizes provided by local businesses and the community.

"We are grateful to have held this event safely, outdoors, for businesses to promote themselves to each other and the public," said Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service, Chairman of the Expo. "I thank everyone who attended, those who helped put this event together, including our partner in the event, Greater Millville Chamber of Commerce."

We appreciate the support of Rowan College of South Jersey, Holly City Development Corp., and Connecting Families to Communities for sponsoring the job fair portion of the Expo. Thanks to the Cumberland County Complete Count Committee and the County Board of Commissioners for supporting the Expo. Special thanks to Barry Seay, who chaired the Expo, and the committee members and volunteers from both chambers. See a list of all Expo exhibitors and sponsors at [www.CumberlandExpo.com](http://www.CumberlandExpo.com).



Patricia Mooneyham talks to walker as they relax outdoors at Cedar Rose Winery.



## K9's and Wines Walk

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Cedar Rose Winery hosted the K9 and Wines Walk on Nov. 22. About 40 walkers and dozens of their dogs joined the event that raised just over \$3,000 for the Cumberland County Sheriff Department's K9 Unit.

"We thank all of the sponsors and the walkers for making this event fun and a success," said Patricia Mooneyham of Rowan College of South Jersey, who organized the walk.

Hosted by  
 BACC Foundation Cedar Rose Winery  
 BRIDGETON AREA Chamber of Commerce BA CC  
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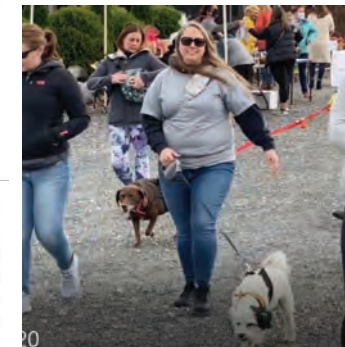


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## Chamber's Fall Golf: A Hit

The Bridgeton Area Chamber's golf tournament took place at Running Deer Golf Club on a warm, beautiful, fall morning on Oct. 15. More than 100 golfers, our sponsors, and volunteers helped raise more than \$25,000 for the Chamber and enjoyed a day of golf and networking.

We appreciate everyone's support, including tournament co-chairs Sam Pitipone, III and Nick Sena, the event committee, sponsors, and volunteers.

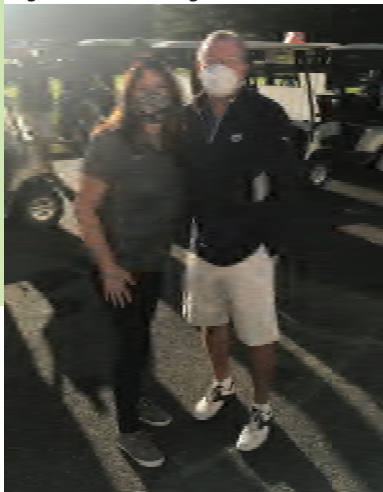
**Thanks to our main tournament sponsor and golf cart sponsor, Century Savings Bank.**

Other top sponsors included:

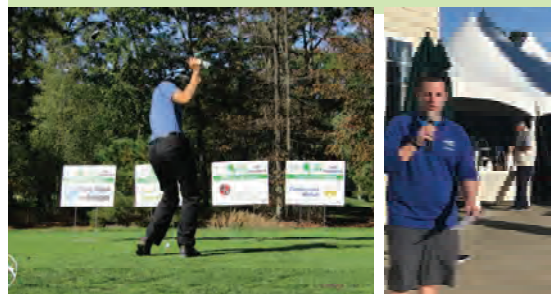
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Above: Volunteers, Susan Jones and Karen Hepner greet golfers. Below: Carol Musso (left) thanks Gary Galloway of Rental Country for his generous beverage host donation.



Left: Chamber Golf Tournament Co-Chairman Nick Sena of Inspira Health welcomes everyone to the tournament.



Carol Musso,  
 Chamber Chairperson

## From the Chamber Chairperson

As we come to the end of this unprecedented and very difficult year, I am sure we are all happy to see 2020 go. This year has presented many hardships to our families, friends, neighbors and businesses. Our hearts go out to all who have been ill or have lost loved ones due to COVID-19. For all those currently suffering from the Coronavirus or caring for loved ones who are sick, we hope and pray for a full and speedy recovery.

Despite the many challenges COVID-19 has created, our community has repeatedly risen to the occasion. Our local businesses, represented by the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, have stood strong in the face of enormous obstacles with steadfast determination to service the needs of their customers and enable our community to endure this crisis. Our Chamber members will lead the way to recovery and prosperity in 2021.

Along with our businesses, our Chamber member non-profits have mobilized to meet the many challenges COVID-19 has presented. We are truly blessed with a remarkable spirit of volunteerism that allows us to shoulder any burden, no matter its weight. Our first responders, our medical providers and our community support organizations have worked tirelessly throughout this crisis. We were deeply gratified to honor many of these heroes and their organizations at our Heroes Celebration on December 1, 2020. Their stories of sacrifice make us proud of our community and inspire us with hope that better days are ahead.

Our Chamber of Commerce has been blessed with exceptional leadership over its long history. This year, due to term limits set forth in our bylaws, our Chamber will see the departure of four remarkable women from its board of directors. Susan Jones, Laurie LaTorre, Karen Hepner and Kim Wood have devoted countless hours and their amazing talents to the support of our local businesses and our economic prosperity. We cannot thank these four heroines enough for their tireless commitment to service to our community.

As we enter 2021, we welcome four new board members, Clair Miller, Don Fauerbach, Omarey Williams and Randi Galan. Each brings special talents and a fresh perspective that will help our chamber grow and prosper.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our chamber members, our board and staff. Your hard work and resilience has seen us through a historically trying time. With your leadership, we will emerge from this crisis as a stronger, unified and more prosperous community.



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# Signs of Progress Even in Tough Times

Even in this difficult year for the economy here, and across the country, there are signs of progress in the Bridgeton area.



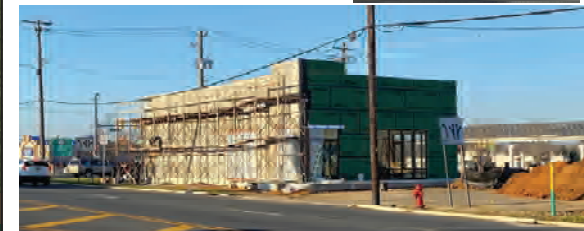
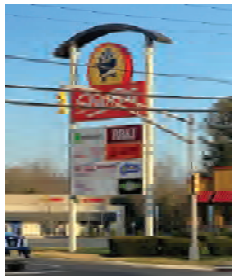
## Downtown Bridgeton

Left, new businesses have opened downtown as Mexican and other Latino entrepreneurs continue to expand and building facades are revitalized. Right, the Cumberland County Improvement Authority manages the construction of a new office building on Pearl Street, Rt. 77, that will be the new corporate headquarters of CompleteCare Health Network. Right, below, Cumberland Dairy has completed its multi-million dollar expansion in Bridgeton, and development of a Wawa Convenience Store on Rt. 49 has resumed.



## Upper Deerfield

Photo on right, is the revitalized and expanded Bottino's ShopRite and shopping center. First photo, below, long-time empty building at Carlls Corner, where Rt. 56 meets Rt. 77, is being replaced by the construction of a new AT&T wireless store. The second photo below, is the Mavis Discount Tire Center, coming to Rt. 77.



# Investing in the Future of Cumberland County

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*Green Olive has a variety of menu selections such as fine Italian cuisine, seafood, pizza and home-style meals. If you're planning a celebration or event, look no further.*

*Green Olive: Where family, friends and community gather.*

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## Enrico's Restaurant

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*St. John's is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We believe that through the power of our Baptism and the Holy Spirit we are able to show Christ's love to those that surround us. We seek and desire to shine His light to the world.*

*Thank you to our members who have renewed their membership throughout this challenging year.*

### Not a member of the Chamber?

*Membership in the Chamber of Commerce is an investment that will help build and grow your business while working together with other area businesses for a stronger local economy.*

[www.baccnj.com/join](http://www.baccnj.com/join)

## Chamber of Commerce Elects Officers, Board Members

The Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting on Dec. 1, during the outdoor Heroes Celebration. Don Fauerbach, Cumberland County Department of Health, Omarey Williams, Cumberland County Government, Clair Miller, Cumberland Mutual, and Randi Galan, Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency were elected and will begin their terms in January 2021.



Elected as officers were Carol Musso, Century Savings Bank, Chairperson, Barry Seay, South Jersey Water Conditioning Service, 1st Vice Chairman, Jon

Cummings, Revive South Jersey, 2nd Vice Chairman, Sam Pipitone, III, F & S Produce, Treasurer, and Minerva Alvarado, SERVPRO of Cape May & Cumberland Counties, Secretary.

Four outstanding Board Members, who because of term limits, will be leaving the Chamber Board at the end of this year, were recognized for their service at the annual meeting. They are Laurie LaTorre of Cumberland Mutual, Kim Wood of Cumberland County Government, Susan Jones of Print, Signs and Designs, and Karen Hepner of Dutch Neck Landscaping.

### Honoring Police, Fire & EMS Heroes

Representatives of our police, fire, and EMS personnel were part of the Heroes Celebration on Dec. 1. They and their fellow first responders provide heroic service everyday for our communities. When you think of community heroes, they come to mind. Let them know they are appreciated.



**This Holiday & Winter Season**

*Make shopping local your priority this season to support our Chamber Members and all area small businesses.*



## CAMPANI'S LEGACY LANES

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# Calendar of Events

[www.baccnj.com/chamber-events-home](http://www.baccnj.com/chamber-events-home)

Tues., January 26, 2021, Noon  
Virtual Chamber Meeting - \$10  
Register in advance.  
Speakers to be announced.

Tues., February 23, 2021, Noon  
Virtual Chamber Meeting - \$10  
Register in advance.  
Speakers to be announced.

Tues., March 16, 2021, Noon  
Virtual Chamber Meeting - \$10  
Register in advance.  
Speakers to be announced.

Other Spring and Summer events will be announced as the dates are set.

We will return to hybrid in-person and virtual online meetings as soon as health conditions permit us to do so. Until then, stay safe and healthy! We will get through this together.

For updated information, visit our website or call our office.  
[www.baccnj.com/chamber-events-home](http://www.baccnj.com/chamber-events-home)  
856-455-1312

## Chamber Foundation's 50-50 Raffle

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation held the drawing for its raffle on Dec. 1. Thanks to our members who bought and sold tickets, \$3,300 was raised for the Foundation. Our two prizes winners won \$3,300 between them.



### Bridgeton Main Street's Winter Wonderland

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce decorated a tree in the downtown park's "winter wonderland" with lights and ornaments honoring our community heroes and reminding everyone to shop local.

*From Our Heroes Celebration*



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