

Community Hero Awards Honor Hometown Heroes: Service, Character, Dedication, Compassion, Courage



The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) will continue a 35-year tradition of recognizing business and community heroes on December 8 at The Grove at Centerton. As our community rebounds from the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will honor and thank a remarkable group of people and organizations who have worked to sustain and strengthen people and organizations by demonstrating their "Hometown Heart". Their service, character, dedication, compassion, courage, integrity, and achievements will be spotlighted, not just to show our gratitude, but also to inspire others to support their efforts and to become community and business heroes themselves.

Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award

William Whelan

Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award

Ken Freitag
Bridge the Gap
Compassionate Ministries

Business Hero Awards

Tracy's Corner
Cedar Rose Vineyards
Los Molcajetes Taqueria
Restaurant

South Jersey Water
Conditioning Service

Community Hero Awards

Jonathan Cummings
Cesar Morales
Dr. Nauveed Iqbal

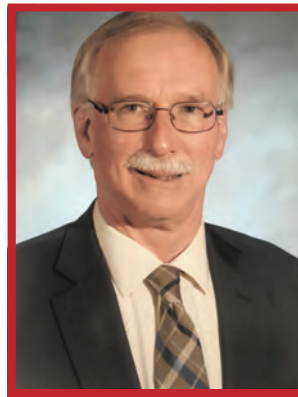
Chamber Chairwoman Carol Musso and Salute to Business Co-Chairs Randi Galan and Omarey Williams are proud to announce this year's winners. "The celebration gives us a special opportunity to show our gratitude and respect for the contributions of these heroes to our economy and community," said Musso.

This newsletter includes more information about the award recipients, the celebration, sponsorship opportunities, and reservations that will also be available at www.baccnj.com/hero or by calling 856-455-1312.

Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award:

William Whelan

Honoring a man of integrity and faith, who believes in serving others and his community while dedicating himself to his family.



The late Francis L. Sharp, Sr. (Binks Sharp) served his community with extraordinary dedication and integrity throughout his life, including a long, esteemed record of leadership of the Chamber of Commerce. To honor his memory, the Chamber has selected people who have followed in his footsteps to receive the Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award.

William (Bill) Whelan will receive the award this year. "Bill is a man of integrity and faith, who believes in serving others and his community while dedicating himself to his family as well. As one of his nominators, I feel strongly that Bill exemplifies what it means to be a community hero," commented Tony Stanzione, Executive Director of BACC.

Bill Whelan and his wife Carole have been married for 44 years. They are continually amazed by their children and their grandchildren. They have had ten children (plus four sons and daughters-in-law) and are awaiting their 12th grandchild soon.

The Whelans are grateful saying "when you have a large family, you meet many wonderful people through your children's activities."



(Continued on page 2)

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Community Hero Awards Honor Hometown Heroes: Service, Character, Dedication, Compassion, Courage

(Continued from page 1) **Whelan to Be Honored**

As a banker of more than 40 years, and as a Vice President at OceanFirst Bank today, Bill takes pride in many business owners, families, schools, and towns he has been able to assist in those years. He has been involved in many roles at his church, The Parish of the Holy Cross, where he currently serves as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. He is the Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Liberty Council 1910 in Bridgeton.

Bill has served his community in many ways including as Cumberland Regional Board of Education president; Cumberland County Commissioner, 2 years as Director; Chairman of the Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce for two years; M-25 Board, and in a four-year hiatus from banking as Executive Director of St. Joseph's Carpenter Society in Camden. He currently is Co-Chair of Economic Development for the Southern NJ Development Council, and serves as member of the Upper Deerfield Planning Board.



Bill and Carole Whelan, a shared legacy of love of family and community.



Bill Whelan and Bruce Riley helped create the Cumberland Grows marketing project.

Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award Kenneth W. Freitag Bridge The Gap Compassionate Ministry

To honor the memory of the late Gary F. Simmerman, who served the Chamber for 40 consecutive years in many leadership roles and was a leader in the business community and community in general throughout his life, the Chamber presents the Gary Simmerman Community Leadership Awards annually.

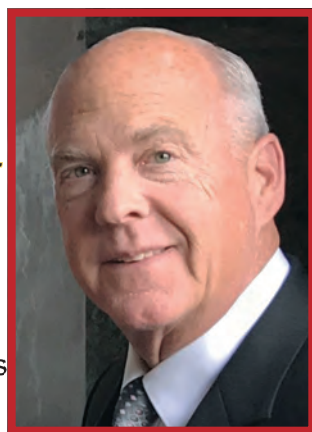


Remembering Gary F. Simmerman

Ken W. Freitag

His "hometown heart" and compassion shines through in all he does for his profession, his community, his family and his friends.

Ken Freitag is the owner/manager of Freitag Funeral Home in Bridgeton, NJ. He is receiving the Gary Simmerman Community Leadership Award for his record of community and business leadership and service, as exemplified by Gary over the years. In particular, the service that he



and his staff have provided to families in their time of need, is carried out by Ken, not just as a part of his profession, but with heartfelt concern for others. His heroic service was more important than ever as families struggled with the loss of loved ones during the Covid-19 pandemic. His "hometown heart" shines through in all he does for his profession, his community, his family and his friends.

Ken is a 1977 graduate of Bridgeton High School where he excelled in academics and sports. His education continued at Franklin and Marshall College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1981, and played varsity football and track and field. He received a degree in Mortuary Science from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1983 where he was valedictorian.

Ken Freitag's legacy of community leadership includes service to Cumberland County Hospice as a Board Member for 20 years, including 3 terms as president; Cumberland County RSVP Board, First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton Ordained Deacon, Trustee and Trustee President; United Way of Cumberland County; Hopewell Township Board of Education, including 11 years as Board President; Cumberland County CEO Group; Cumberland County Guidance Center; Past President of the Bridgeton Lions Club; Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Board Member, and a member of the New Jersey and National Funeral Directors Association.

His recognitions include Eagle Scout Award, Licensed New Jersey Funeral Director, Licensed New Jersey Insurance Agent and Producer, John Cowan Citizenship Award from Bridgeton Area Conference of Christians and Jews, Bridgeton Area Jaycees Young Man of the Year, NJ Palliative Care Volunteer Award, Freitag Funeral Home Salute to Industry Award from the Chamber of Commerce, and the BaySea Council Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen of the Year.



Ken & Robin Freitag believe in community service

Ken is the son of the late Harry A., Jr. and Carol Wilson Freitag and is a 4th generation funeral director. He is married to Robin Stanger Freitag since 1982. They have three children, Adam J. Freitag (Melissa), Molly Freitag McLaughlin (Joseph), and Abigail Freitag Neff, RN (Jonathan). Abby and Jon are expecting Ken and Robin's first grandchild in February of 2022.

Bridge the Gap Compassionate Ministries

Creating a positive impact on the community with love of God, and love and compassion for others.

The work that this organization and its volunteers have done in downtown Bridgeton stood out when the Chamber was looking for an organization to honor this year. Their "hometown heart" is highlighted by caring, love, and compassion.

Community Hero Awards Honor Hometown Heroes: December 8 at The Grove at Centerton

(Continued from page 2) **Bridge The Gap Receives Award**



Bridge the Gap, Inc. is located at 44 South Laurel Street, Bridgeton. It is a designated 501(c)3 non-profit public charity organization and a compassionate ministry of the Bridgeton First Church of the Nazarene. Bridge the Gap is dedicated to positively impacting the community in love and compassion by

connecting individuals and families to resource opportunities and encouraging success through a Thrift Store, Learning Center and Community Outreach. The Bridge Thrift Store opened for operation in the Spring of 2005 and the Learning Center hosted its first meeting on March 9, 2009.

The store operates solely on donated items which are offered to the community at very reasonable costs. The Bridge Learning Center offers support groups, training and awareness sessions and Bible studies and worship services to the community. Some of the Bridge Outreach opportunities include Backpacks for Bridgeton, Code Blue partnership and volunteer support, Community Assistance (clothing and household donations), Crisis

Care Kits, Disaster Relief Assistance, Good News Clubs, and a School Uniform Program.

The Bridge Compassionate Ministry is led by a volunteer Board of Directors (Pressie Marino, President; Erik Kelly, Vice-President; Marjorie Pierce, Secretary; Trudi Maisano, Treasurer; Oziel Arcia-Cruz, Board Member; Vernon Bennett, Board Member; Donald Cuff, Board Member). Loretta LaTourette has served as the Compassionate Ministry Director since 2008. The Bridge is staffed by an amazing team: Jessica Gandy, Sandy Lupton, Doralene Whitaker, David Gandy, Haylie Porter, and Rosalba Arcia. The Bridge ministry relies heavily on church and community volunteers, program participants and community service workers for their daily operations and special projects.

Business Hero:

Tracy's Corner – William (Bill) Sharp

Hometown boy with hometown heart develops love affair with Bridgeton.

Born in Bridgeton Hospital on September 15, 1951, William (Bill) Sharp began his life's journey and love affair with Bridgeton. As a young boy

living on North Laurel Street, he frequented the playgrounds at Bank Street School and Johnson-Reeves playing horseshoes, checkers, chess and gladiators while meeting lifelong friends. Later, he played baseball in Little League and aspired to one day be a professional pitcher. The Bridgeton City Park was a mecca for Bill where he could fish for carp in the Cohansey, canoe down the raceway and learn how to swim at Sunset Lake.



Bill and Patti Sharp love where they live.

Bill grew up in the Bridgeton High School System and had wonderful teachers who worked hard to give him and his friends a great education and "keep them on track". Fond childhood memories would later inspire Bill to open many businesses related to the charm, beauty and needs of Bridgeton.

At twenty-five, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to buy a small furniture business called Tracy's Corner which at the time was at the corner of Pearl and Myrtle Streets. Later, the business found a special home on the corner of Laurel and Washington Streets at 62 North Laurel Street where the store has been in business for about fifty years showcasing furniture, appliances and formerly antiques and collectibles.

Over the past 50 years, "Mr. Tracy" as he is affectionately known by his store customers, has opened multiple other businesses in the Bridgeton community including the reopening of the Cohansey Canoe House and was instrumental in organizing the first City of Bridgeton Canoe Race. Bill also opened Available Cab Company in 1989.

His hometown heart led to supporting the community. Bill sponsored and coached Bridgeton Little League teams. He even wore the hat of umpire when no one was available. Former players still call him "coach" when they see him in passing. Bill also served as volunteer President of the Cumberland County Fair Board spearheading the organization of the yearly fair and fundraisers that secured arena lights for the 4-H Equestrian Program. He joined the Bridgeton Breakfast Rotary Club in 2010 receiving the Club Service Award two times. Over the years, Tracy's Corner has donated to local fundraisers, programs and those in need.

Today, Bill lives with his wife of forty-one years, Patti. He has a son and daughter-in-law, Jared and Rachael Sharp, two grandchildren, Mackenzie and Weston, and a daughter, Allie Sharp and fiancé, Adam Fishman. Bill is a member of the Crown of Israel Synagogue in Elmer. In his free time, "Billy" enjoys nature walks, biking, tennis and has played cards with the same group of Bridgetonians for over thirty years.

At an early age, "Billy" knew that Bridgeton would forever be in his heart and he would give his heart back to Bridgeton.



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) **Business Heroes Recognized**

Business Hero: Cedar Rose Vineyards – Dustin Tarpine and Steven Becker

A passion for grape growing cultivates the vision that led to Cedar Rose Vineyards.

Steven Becker and Dustin Tarpine grew up as neighbors in rural Rosenhayn, NJ, and attended school together through high school at Cumberland Regional. After graduation they remained friends and kept in contact during summers in college. Steven attended Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, while Dustin attended Clemson University in SC working toward a bachelor's degree in Horticulture.

While working together with grapes on an internship in the summer of 2010 at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC) in Seabrook, their interest and passion for grape growing would be born, as well as the first sparks of an idea for Cedar Rose Vineyards.

After graduation from college, they worked with friends and family to clear a small plot of land on Steven's mother's property. Without capital or many resources, they began to build a dream. The first vineyard was installed with trellis poles made from red cedar trees logged by hand, and expenses were spared at every possible point. After establishing a flourishing vineyard as a proof-of-concept, Sam Pipitone and Dominic Romano invested and formed the partnership of Cedar Rose Vineyards in 2012, and planned to install a 20-acre vineyard on Kenyon Avenue in Rosenhayn the following spring.



Steven Becker and Dustin Tarpine



The Beckers and the Tarpines



Construction on the tasting room facility began in 2015, but after many challenges, it opened to customers in November of 2018. Steven now serves as General Manager of Vinetech LLC while Dustin works as General Manager for Cedar Rose Vineyards. Vinetech currently manages over 100 acres of vineyards across NJ and has established over 185 acres of client vineyards, with a robust demand for new installations.

Cedar Rose Vineyards has a reputation as a quality wine producer and is now available in over 100 liquor stores across the state. The Tasting Room at Cedar Rose has become a destination for locals and tourists alike.

Cedar Rose plans to keep evolving to improve the experience and continue to raise the bar for fine wine production in NJ.

Business Hero: South Jersey Water Conditioning Service – David Wilson

From the start, Dave's promise was to provide excellent service to his customers and to do that with courtesy, respect, and honesty.

Created in 1967 by founder D. David Wilson, South Jersey Water Conditioning Service has over 50 years of experience in water treatment systems. Under Dave's leadership, and with the support of family and excellent employees, the company has used decades of experience to keep up with the latest in water technology and is fully dedicated to customer satisfaction.

With its main office in Hopewell Township, just west of Bridgeton, they have expanded over the years including adding a second location in Seaville and



Dave Wilson's business now has over 50 years of success.

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(Continued from page 4) - **Business Heroes**



Julia Wilson and Dave (center) celebrate 50 years in business with a donation to Ranch Hope.

providing its products and services to all Southern New Jersey, including Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and Camden counties.

Following Dave's lead, the company remains dedicated to finding the best solutions for home and business and holding themselves to a higher standard. South Jersey Water Conditioning is a licensed and authorized Kinetico Water Systems dealer, proudly offering products that are built to be durable and efficient, including water filters,

softeners, whole-house systems, and special treatment systems for commercial use.

Giving to the community is part of Dave Wilson's character and his faith. He, his family, and his company have supported the Bridgeton Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and dozens of organizations and community projects during its more than 50-year history. Nothing showed their hometown heart more than celebrating its 50th year in business by raising and donating thousands of dollars to support Ranch Hope.

The Chamber recognized South Jersey Water Conditioning during its Salute to Business dinner in 1998. Twenty-three years later, Dave Wilson, his team of employees, and his family, continue a business that has expanded, but has never deviated from Dave's promise -- to provide excellent service to his customers and to do that with courtesy, respect, and honesty. Our economy and our community has thrived thanks to that promise.

Business Hero: Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant – Luis A. Berdejo

Entrepreneurs created an authentic Mexican restaurant with delicious foods and great service and atmosphere.



Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant opened in Bridgeton in February of 2011. The founders were Maria Benites, Elder Garcia, and Luis A. Berdejo.

Elder Garcia and Maria Benites started this journey as a food truck that grew increasingly popular in the area. The food truck started around 2004. Once the opportunity to expand into a traditional



Luis A. Berdejo

restaurant appeared, the owners decided to take a chance on their dream.

They invested in Bridgeton, taking an old, closed gas station on Irving Ave. that was an eyesore and turned it into a beautiful, well-appointed restaurant. Luis A. Berdejo joined them with 12 years in the restaurant industry.

The goal was to provide authentic Mexican cuisine. Los Molcajetes serves delicious tacos, quesadillas and guacamole. Their signature dish is the Moscajete: a tasty dish comprised of your choice of meat: steak, chicken, shrimp or a mix, with guacamole, cheese, and chambray onions.



Los Molcajetes always welcomes everyone with a smile and a nutritious and filling meal. Quality and value have gained them many fans, locally and beyond with reviews like this: *"The most authentic, fresh, delicious Mexican food around. The green salsa is addicting. Be warned that you will want to order some to go. I love the chicken tostadas, steak burritos, and steak tacos. The guac and chips are a perfect complement to every meal."*

The Chamber of Commerce welcomes Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant as the first Hispanic-owned business in the area to receive the business hero award. Much deserved!

Community Hero: Jonathan Cummings

A commitment to serve families and strengthen communities.



Since graduating college in 2000 with a degree in Accounting and Business Finance, Jon has worked nationally and internationally to serve families and strengthen communities. Directly out of college, Jon went to Uganda and worked to help establish medical clinics and fresh water in areas of need. Upon returning from Uganda in 2004, Jon and his family moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, where he worked running a Mexican non-profit. During that time, Jon was able to remodel a school and build it to serve 60 children from 3 years old through 5th grade. Attached to the school was a dental clinic providing services to members of the community and it also served various surrounding communities

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from page 5) **Community Heroes**

through a mobile dental clinic. In addition to this, through the non-profit, he worked to help friends start and establish an orphanage that currently serves nearly 30 children in a family-living environment where whole sibling units are permitted to stay together and live there.

After returning to the states in early 2012, Revive South Jersey was started to specifically target the needs of families in Bridgeton and Cumberland County. Revive South Jersey helped start the Unidos para la Familia collaborative in partnership with the Pascale Sykes Foundation in 2014. Through the work of Unidos and Revive they serve over 150 Hispanic families through Spanish GED test prep, life coaching, conversational ESL classes and various community development activities.

Revive and Unidos serve families in the community through summer pro-

grams, in partnership with Bridgeton PAL, and have been active in community development through establishing the community garden program in the Bridgeton School District which now has four gardens located at four different schools. In 2017, Revive partnered with the Procacci and Pappas families to begin offering scholarships to students from Bridgeton High School to attend Rowan College of South Jersey-Cumberland on full-ride scholarships. There are currently 13 students that are attending Rowan College SJ, Stockton and Rowan University on these scholarships. Jon proudly serves the Bridgeton Rotary and Chamber of Commerce to help our community.



Jon is thanked for his service to the Chamber by Dotty Robinson.

Community Hero: Cesar Morales

A passion to motivate, inspire, and prepare students to pursue a career in technology.

Cesar Morales is an accomplished healthcare technology leader with over 20 years of experience in the healthcare payer sector. He currently serves as Director of



Information Solutions at AmeriHealth Caritas and is also the Founder and Executive Director of Jana Solutions, a South Jersey based agency specializing in web design.

Cesar is also the founder of

Launch Your Tech Career, a social network group that motivates, inspires, and prepares local students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue a career in technology. To further achieve this goal, Cesar founded the annual CAM Tech Scholarship for students interested in pursuing STEM careers at Rowan College of South Jersey. Cesar often volunteers his time as a guest speaker at local radio/television stations, high schools and universities where he shares his personal story, highlights emerging technologies, and prepares students on how to break into the IT field. In 2020, Cesar adopted a graduating high school senior from the Class of 2020 who is pursuing an IT career to coach and celebrate his achievements amid the pandemic.

Cedar Morales and Other Awards
continued on page 11

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www.legacylanesbridgeton.com

Bowling, pro shop, bar/lounge & driving range

Carmelo's Ristorante & Pizza

31 East Broad Street, Unit 6, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 453-0023
www.carmelos.net Lunch, dinner, eat in, take outs, delivery

Carolyn Heckman Community member

Cedar Rose Vineyards

431 Kenyon Ave., Millville, NJ, 08332, (856) 466-0871
info@cedarrosevineyards.com,
www.cedarrosevineyards.com

Vineyard and winery with tasting room open to the public offering entertainment such as music. Private events.

Centerton Nursery

345 Woodruff Road, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-0926
tammy@centertonnursery.com
www.centertonnursery.com

Commercial producer of nursery stock

Century Bakery

525 N Pearl St, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 243-5810
www.centurybakery.com

Baked goods, the area's most popular bakery for decades

Century Savings Bank

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cmusso@centurysb.com, www.centurysb.com
Banking services, checking, savings, loans and more

Chance & McCann, LLC, Attorneys at Law

201 W. Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-5227
Sheilamccann@chancemccann.com,
www.chancemccann.com

Founded in 1978, with a heritage in Bridgeton dating to 1903 with a Woodstown office. Kevin P. McCann and other lawyers and staff provide all types of legal services.

Charles Schwab

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https://client.schwab.com/Public/BranchLocator/
branchdetails.aspx?branchid=1957

The Charles Schwab Corp. is an American multinational financial services company. Don Daigle is your investment executive for The Charles Schwab office in Millville.

Colson & Gosweiler Insurance

1099 Highway 77, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-0550
ggosweiler@colsoninsurance.com,
www.colsoninsurance.com Insurance Services

Comcast

1191 Fries Mill Road, Franklinville, NJ, (856) 740-4103
Kathy.Friaraccio@comcast.com, www.comcast.com
Utilities

CompleteCare Health Network

53 South Laurel Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-4700 x 2071
jedwards@chcinj.org, www.chcinj.org
Health services for the community

Shop Local for the Holidays

(Continued on page 8)

50th Anniversary

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200 Cubby Hollow Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Hopewell Township)
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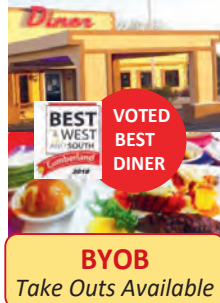


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Fax: 856-453-9916



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(Continued from page 7) - **Shop Local Guide**

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328 Market Street, Camden, NJ, 08102, (856) 966-8181
hstone@cbaclenders.com, www.cbaclenders.com
Business loans and business assistance services

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1709 South Burlington Road, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-9450
gino.caselli@crestwoodlp.com, www.crestwoodlp.com
Transports Propane / Butane/PPMIX Rail Term Propane

Cumberland County

164 West Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 453-2175
kimwo@co.cumberland.nj.us, www.co.cumberland.nj.us
Government administration and services for Cumberland County

Cumberland County Dept. of Workforce

3322 College Drive P.O. Box 1500, Vineland, NJ, (856) 696-5660 x3013 cdleonardo@ccoel.org, www.ccoel.org
Job training and services for individuals and businesses

Cumberland County Health Department

309 Buck Street, Millville, NJ, (856) 327-7602
healthadmin@ccdo.org, www.facebook.com/CCDOH
Public health services for 13 of Cumberland County's municipalities

Cumberland County Technical Education

3400 College Drive, Vineland, NJ, 856-451-9000 x 240
delliott@cumberland.tec.nj.us, www.cumberland.tec.nj.us
Public school for technical education for young and adults

Cumberland County Utilities Authority

333 Water Street, Bridgeton, NJ, 856-455-7120
smick@ccua.info, www.ccua.info
Sewage treatment services for the Bridgeton area

Cumberland Dairy, Inc.

PO Box 308, Rosenhayn, NJ, (856) 451-1300
fcatalana@cumberlanddairy.com, www.cumberlanddairy.com
Manufacturer of dairy and non-dairy products

Cumberland Development Corporation

590 Shiloh Pike, PO Box 1063, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-4200 cdc@cdcnj.com, www.cdcnj.com
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Cumberland Empowerment Zone

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jeanninec@cezcorp.org, www.cezcorp.org/
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smcgee@cumberlandmutual.com, www.cumberlandmutual.com/
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9 Washington Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-5555
cumberland.tire@verizon.net, www.cumberlandtire.com
Tires, sales and services for consumers and for commercial companies

Cumberland Valve, Inc.

403 Heron Drive, Suite A, Swedesboro, NJ, (856) 451-1324
tom@cumberlandvalve.com, www.cumberlandvalve.rwconnections.com
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Danone North America - Bridgeton

70 Rosenhayn Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 459-3890
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David L. Construction

1391 Bridgeton Road, Greenwich, NJ, (856) 455-0477
davidlconstruction@live.com, www.davidlconstruction.com
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De Olde Towne Tavern

694 N. Pearl St, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-3474
www.thetownrestaurant.com Restaurant, bar, catering, package goods

Deerfield Township

PO Box 350, Rosenhayn, NJ, (856) 455-3200
ksreifrit@deerfieldtownship.org, www.deerfieldtownship.org
Local government and services

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dmcsupplies@verizon.net, www.dmcsupplies.com/
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55 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-1008
carolyn@dtbsi.com, www.dominiontitlebridgeton.com/
Title insurance services

Dotty Robinson - Community member



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jbitzer@englishseptic.com, www.englishseptic.com
Sewer and septic system services

Enrico's Italian Cucina

986 Main Street, Salem, NJ, 08079, (856) 455-4759
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29 Landis Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-0933
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office@freitagfuneralhome.com, www.freitagfuneralhome.com Funeral services

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Gateway Community Action Partnership

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akelly@gatewaycap.org, www.gatewaycap.org
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Give Something Back Foundation

31 West Commerce St, Bridgeton, NJ, (609) 221-2040
mhelmbrecht@giveback.ngo www.giveback.ngo
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Golden Pigeon Restaurant

39 Landis Ave, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-0940
ozkanaki@yahoo.com, www.goldenpigeondiner.com
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ggarton@garton-cpa.com, www.garton-cpa.com
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brent@hhhb.com, www.hhhbro.com
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(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 9) **Shop Local Guide**

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40 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 243-5810
info@hopeloft.com, www.hopeloft.com
Community Development, GED Instruction, Spanish, English, ESL classes, Community facilitator

Hopewell Township

790 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-1230
clerk@hopewelltwp-nj.com, www.hopewelltwp-nj.com
Local government and services

Inspira Health

2950 College Drive, Suite 1E, Vineland, NJ (856) 641-8000
pr@ihn.org, www.inspirahhealthnetwork.org
Medical center and various health services

Inspira Health Foundation, Inc.

159 Bridgeton Pike, Mullica Hill, NJ, 856-535-9405
www.inspirafoundation.org
Not-for-profit organization that raises money and awareness in support of the Inspira Health Network and its services to the communities it serves

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Farm

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mikeandwan93@comcast.net,
www.linkedin.com/in/mike-carlaw-74b88610b
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Newfield National Bank

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Ocean First Bank

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tjenkins@oceanfirst.com, www.oceanfirst.com
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Orr's Flooring Center

1526 Rt. 77, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-1126
floorsbyorrs@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/
OrrsFlooringCenter
Retail floor covering sales and installation

Overdevest Nurseries

578 Bowentown Road, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-3179
ejo@overdevest-nurseries.com,
www.overdevestnurseries.com/
Commercial grower and distributor of nursery stock

Padgett Funeral Home

1107 State Highway 77, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-1999
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john@popfm999.com, www.popfm999.com
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288 Willis Road, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 506-9310
rdhlawncare@gmail.com,
www.facebook.com/pg/RDHLawncareLLC
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Community Development, GED Instruction, Spanish, English, ESL classes, Community facilitator

Ricky Slade Construction, Inc.

54 Slade Lane, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 455-4046
ricky@rickysladeinc.com,
Paving, concrete, road construction

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ritasice215@gmail.com,
www.ritasfranchises.com/bridgeton
Water ice and ice cream

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1111 Parvins Mill Road, Pittsgrove, NJ, (856) 358-2000
miranda@runningdeergolfclub.com,
www.runningdeergolfclub.com

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3322 College Dr, Vineland, NJ, 856-691-8600 x 1500
mgoodnight@cccj.edu, www.cccj.edu

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Rowan College of South Jersey - Foundation

3322 College Drive P.O. Box 1500, Vineland, NJ,
(856) 200-4556 www.rcsj.edu/cccef

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Rutgers Food Innovation Center

450 East Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 391-7603
craig.peck@njacs.rutgers.edu,
www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu
Food research and marketing services

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malvarado@servpro9011.com,
www.servprocapemaycounty.com

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info@shoppesatdragonvillage.com,
www.shoppesatdragonvillage.com

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Deerfield Township commemorated the 20th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks with a moving display of American flags.

Comcast Expands Internet Essentials

Comcast recently announced that Internet Essentials – the nation's largest, most successful, and most comprehensive broadband adoption program for low-income households – will now expand eligibility to Federal Pell Grant recipients.

In addition, Comcast pledged to donate \$15 million worth of Internet service and equipment, including more than 25,000 laptops, to low-income students, seniors, veterans, and adults. **www.comcast.com**

Community Hero Awards Honor Hometown Heroes

continued from page 6 - Cesar Morales and Other Awards

Cesar is the Secretary of the Executive Board and mentor at Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Cumberland and Salem Counties where he was selected Big Brother of the Year for BBBS.

Cesar serves as an Advisory Board Member at Cumberland County Technical Education Center (CCTEC) and for the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA) where he offers technology career guidance, shares insights on industry trends, and provides input on curriculum planning.

He is an active member of his community. His efforts garnered recognition by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties, Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland, and Project Thanksgiving.



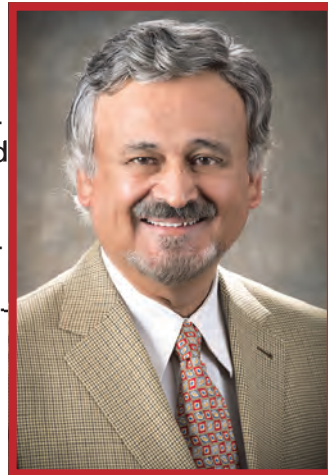
Community Hero: Nauveed Iqbal, MD

Using compassion, innovation, knowledge, and prayer, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic, to make his patients and the community healthier and better.

Nauveed Iqbal, M.D., a general, bariatric and vascular surgeon, has been caring for the communities of Southern New Jersey for over 25 years. He is a general, bariatric and vascular surgeon at Inspira Medical Center Vineland and Inspira Medical Center Elmer. Dr. Iqbal earned his medical degree from King Edward Medical University and completed his residency and fellowship training at St. Francis Medical Center. He is double board certified in general and vascular surgery by the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Iqbal specializes in treating vascular and endovascular conditions and performs procedures such as gastric sleeve and lap band surgeries, gastrointestinal endoscopies, stereotactic breast surgeries and chronic wound care. Dr. Iqbal has authored numerous articles and medical presentations on various subjects, while also teaching at the Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions for several years.

He has come to be recognized by his patients, his fellow doctors and



medical staff, and the community as a doctor who not only provides professional, experienced surgical procedures, but as a person who cares about his patients and does all he can to serve them and make them feel comfortable as he strives to make them healthy. He is available to see patients in his offices at 1206 W. Sherman Ave., Suite 2A, Vineland and 10 Magnolia Ave., Bridgeton.

Dr. Iqbal is dedicated to taking care of every patient to the best of his ability using compassion, innovation, prayer, and knowledge.



Hopewell Welcomes Chamber and CDC

Mayor Paul Ritter, Hopewell, CDC Chairman and Lawrence Committeeman



Skip Bowman, and Bridgeton Area Chamber Chairwoman, County Commissioner Carol Musso, cut the ceremonial ribbon on Sept. 8, welcoming the Chamber and CDC to office space in the Hopewell Township Municipal Building, 590 Shiloh Pike in Hopewell.

“We are pleased we could partner with these two community organizations, the Chamber and CDC, to provide office space and meeting space in our municipal hall,” commented Mayor Ritter. “In Hopewell we have many shared services relationships with the CDC member communities, Bridgeton and others. By working together, we are more efficient and effective. Hopewell welcomes you.”

Carol Musso, Skip Bowman and Tony Stanzone expressed thanks to Hopewell’s leaders and staff and agreed that working together is important.

Century Savings Bank Announces Promotions

Joseph F. Rehm, who joined Century Savings Bank in Feb. 2020 as Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending, has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer. Rehm is responsible for the strategic growth and direction of the commercial lending division of the Bank as well

(Continued on page 14)

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The Chamber is Working on Building Better Relationships with the Hispanic Business Community

This article contributed to by Minerva Alvarado.

The Hispanic Business Committee of the Chamber, headed by Minerva Alvarado and Jonathan Cummings, continued its work to build relationships and trust with the Hispanic businesses downtown by participating in the Mexican Independence Day Celebration, hosted by Unidos para la Familia along the Bridgeton Riverfront on Sept. 18th. Each year, families are invited to join the day-long celebration honoring Mexican Independence Day. This event



takes place during Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 through October 15) and people of all cultures come out to celebrate as a community.

Several hundred people attended this year. There's something for everyone, whether you like live music, ceremonial Mexican dancers and entertainment or the fabulous authentic Mexican cuisine – everyone that comes out to celebrate truly has a great time with their families and friends! “This event really brings people together,” said Jonathan Cummings of Revive South Jersey and Unidos para la Familia. Jonathan also serves as 1st Vice Chair for the Bridgeton Chamber and co-chairs the Chamber’s Hispanic Business Committee. “The Hispanic Business Committee started



Joemy Nunez of Ultra Clean and Sophie Werner of LAEDA help the Chamber at Mexican Independence Day.

their outreach efforts in early summer. It’s exciting to see everything coming together!”

“It was very important for the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce to be a sponsor this year,” said Executive Director, Tony Stanzione. “We’re here to help downtown business merchants, and we’re here today to recognize and support the Hispanic community. Hispanics are one of the fastest-growing segment of business owners and new entrepreneurs in this region. We know that by working together, the positive impact will help the economic development of the greater Bridgeton area.”

Teams from the Hispanic Business Committee, including Alvarado, Colleen Ayala, Jon Cummings, Ileana Burgos, Jasmine Velazquez, Sophie Werner, and Tony Stanzione, have visited with downtown businesses. The “Walk and Talks” as they are called, are meant to introduce the Chamber to business merchants and their employees, to provide information that may be helpful to them, and to let them know about Chamber events.

The Hispanic Business Committee will soon be helping spread the news about a new joint project led by Bridgeton Main Street Association that will help promote business downtown. Partners with Main Street in the proposed Bridgeton Business Cooperative are Revive South Jersey, Latin American Economic Development Assoc. (LAEDA) and the Chamber of Commerce. More information about this project will follow.

La Cámara está trabajando para construir mejores relaciones con la comunidad empresarial hispana

Este artículo fue aportado por Minerva Alvarado.

El Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara, encabezado por Minerva Alvarado y Jonathan Cummings, continuó su trabajo para construir relaciones con las empresas hispanas en el centro de la ciudad al participar en la Celebración del Día de la Independencia de México, organizada por Unidos para la Familia a lo largo de la orilla del río Bridgeton el

(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 12) **Mejores relaciones con la comunidad empresarial Mexicana**

18 de septiembre. Cada año, se invita a las familias a unirse a la celebración de un día en honor al Día de la Independencia de México. Este evento se lleva a cabo durante el Mes de la Herencia Hispana (15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre) y personas de todas las culturas salen a celebrar como una comunidad. Varios cientos de personas asistieron este año. Hay algo para todos, ya sea que te guste la música en vivo, los bailarines ceremoniales mexicanos y el entretenimiento o la fabulosa cocina mexicana auténtica: ¡todos los que salen a celebrar realmente lo pasa muy bien con sus familias y amigos!

"Este evento realmente une a las personas", dijo Jonathan Cummings de Revive South Jersey y Unidos para la Familia. Jonathan también se desempeña como 1er Vicepresidente de la Cámara de Bridgeton y copreside el Comité de Negocios Hispánicos de la cámara. "El Comité de Negocios Hispánicos comenzó sus esfuerzos de alcance a principios del verano. ¡Es emocionante ver que todo se une!"



Harry Paraison de DH/Perfil Latino TV Inc., Tony Stanzione, y Sophie Werner de LAEDA se reúnen en el Día de la Independencia de México en Bridgeton.

Era muy importante para la Cámara de Comercio del Área de Bridgeton ser un patrocinador este año", dijo el Director Ejecutivo, Tony Stanzione. "Estamos aquí para ayudar a los comerciantes de negocios del centro de la ciudad y estamos aquí hoy para reconocer y apoyar a la comunidad hispana. Son uno de los segmentos de más rápido crecimiento de propietarios de negocios y nuevos empresarios. Sabemos que trabajando juntos, el impacto positivo ayudará al desarrollo económico del área de Bridgeton".

Equipos del Comité de Negocios Hispánicos, incluyendo a Minerva Alvarado, Colleen Ayala, Jon Cummings, Ileana Burgos, Jasmine Velázquez, Sophie Werner y Tony Stanzione, han visitado negocios del centro de la ciudad cada mes desde de mayo. Los "Walk and Talks", (Caminando y hablando) como se les llama, están destinados a presentar la Cámara a las empresas, proporcionar información que pueda ser útil para ellos y también noticias de eventos en Bridgeton.

Bridgeton Main Street Association que ayudará a promover los negocios en el centro de la ciudad. Los socios de Mian Street en la propuesta Bridgeton Business Cooperative son Revive South Jersey, Latin American Economic Development Assoc. (LAEDA) y la Cámara de Comercio. Más información sobre este proyecto seguirá.

**Somos más fuertes trabajando juntos.
We are stronger working together.**

Thanks to All Who Supported the Chamber's Golf Tournament



Carol Musso, Sam Pipitone, and Christy DiLeonardo at the BACC Golf event.

Sam Pipitone, III of F & S Produce and Christy DiLeonardo of Cumberland County Workforce Development Department, co-chaired the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at Running Deer Golf Club in July. They thank all the sponsors, players, and volunteers who helped make the event a success. It



is the largest fundraiser of the year to support the services and mission of the Chamber and is recognized as one of the area's best golf events filled with networking, golf, food, contests and fun.

and is recognized as one of the area's best golf events filled with networking, golf, food, contests and fun.

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CENTURY BANK PROMOTIONS *continued from page 11*

as the development of new and expansion of existing loan products and services and exploration into new markets.

Debbie Holman, a 29-year banking industry veteran, has been with Century Savings Bank since 2007. She was appointed as Senior Vice President, Director of Marketing and Retail Banking, overseeing all retail banking operations, deposit operations and retail training; while continuing to supervise the bank's marketing, public relations, and community servicing efforts. For more information about Century Savings Bank see www.CenturySB.com.

Cumberland County Hiring & Business Expo is a Success with Over 100 Exhibitors

On Sept. 22, the Bridgeton Area, Greater Millville, and Greater Vineland Chambers of Commerce presented the largest hiring and business expo, transforming parking lots at Rowan College of South Jersey into a place where businesses and residents were able to shop local and seek employees and find new jobs.

"The partnership of our three chambers, and the need for businesses to find employees, combined to draw over 100 businesses to the event, with over 70 of them looking for employees," said Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning, who chaired the expo committee.

Hundreds of visitors attended, looking for new careers and also looking for local products and services. The expo website remains live as a resource for people and businesses looking to shop locally, and as a resource for people looking for jobs. It includes a list of all businesses and organizations who participated, contact information, ads, photos, and a link to Quinn Broadcasting videos recorded at the expo. Check out the website. www.CumberlandExpo.com



Above left-right: Chamber leaders Dawn Hunter, Greater Vineland, Carol Musso, Bridgeton Area, Jerry Covella, Greater Millville, and Tony Stanzione, Bridgeton Area



Above left-right: Chamber members Christy DiLeonardo, Ivonne Walker and Expo Chairman Barry Seay welcome exhibitors and visitors.



CompleteCare Invests Downtown

CompleteCare Health Network now occupies the first new major office building built in downtown Bridgeton in many years. The project cleaned up an environmental hazard, beautified the heart of downtown Bridgeton, and retained many jobs downtown.



Congratulations to Jerry Velazquez, CEO of The Authority, Bridgeton Mayor Albert Kelly, Bridgeton City Council, CEO Curtis Edwards and everyone at CompleteCare.

Inspira Health's CEO Speaks at Multi-Chamber Meeting in Sept.



Led by Greater Millville Chamber of Commerce, members of Bridgeton Area, Chamber of South Jersey, Greater Millville, Greater Vineland and Salem County Chambers, met in September at Running Deer Golf Club to have breakfast with and hear from Inspira Health's CEO Amy Mansue.

She highlighted the growth and continued high quality of health care provided by the team of healthcare professionals at the many facilities and service of the health care system. She talked about the continuing challenges they and the community faces from the continued spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19. She praised the compassionate care her team has delivered to those hospitalized, their families and friends, and those being tested and vaccinated at Inspira.

Mansue spoke of her belief that despite we seem divided in so many ways, that the people of our area and the nation will unite and pull together as they have done in past challenges. Her positive attitude and leadership bodes well for the continued success of Inspira Health.

Chamber Fall Events Include: Dogs, Wine, Downtown, Halloween, Bowling

The Bridgeton Area Chamber scheduled three events set for October featuring fundraising for the Sheriff's K9 Unit on Oct. 17, a meeting focusing on downtown revitalization on Oct. 19, a social with wine and a Halloween theme on Oct. 28, and a Thanksgiving themed bowling night on Nov. 17.

On Oct. 17, 11 AM, people and their dogs gathered for the "Wine, Walk & K9's" fundraising walk for the Cumberland County Sheriff's K9 Unit at the beautiful vineyards of Cedar Rose in Rosenhayn. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped support the service dogs of the K9 unit.



On Oct. 19, the Chamber networking meeting focused on downtown Bridgeton revitalization progress and future possibilities with presentations by Ray Lamboy of LAEDA, and Deborah Boykin Greenberg of Bridgeton Main Street Association, Mayor Albert Kelly and other city officials. Sunigenis Insurance



sponsored the meeting at Terrigno's Fairfield Inn. **A new event we call "Wine and Boos"** invites Chamber members to enjoy food, wine, networking, and Halloween fun at Terra Nonno Winery in Deerfield Township, Oct. 28, 5-7 PM. The fee is \$20 per person, 21 years and older. Register in advance at www.baccnj.com/events or 856-455-1312.



The Chamber's Bowling Challenge is Nov. 17, 5:30 PM at Campani's Legacy Lanes on Rt. 56 in Deerfield Township. Chamber members will form teams of 5 and compete for prizes while having fun, food and beverages. Sponsors and teams can register at www.baccnj.com/events.



Message From the Chamber Chairwoman Carol Musso

Carol Musso is in her second year as Chamber Chairwoman and more than 2 decades of leadership of the Chamber. She is Vice President, Business Development Officer for Century Savings Bank, a Cumberland County Commissioner, and volunteers for many community causes and activities.

Gratitude is a key word for me and our Chamber as we plan the celebration of business and community heroes that will be presented on Dec. 8. It is our

Chamber's 30th annual award presentation to businesses, organizations, and individuals, who have demonstrated their heroism and hometown hearts. It is our opportunity to say thank you and to spotlight the great people who love what they do and willingly serve others.

I appreciate the service of our members, board members, officers, and volunteers as the Chamber provides events and services to help strengthen our economy and our community by bringing our Chamber mission to life.

Please check our website and Facebook page for news and events from the Chamber, and its members - www.CumberlandGrows.com/events. Help our businesses grow, help our Chamber, help the community, and help yourself by getting involved and joining the Chamber.

HOLIDAYS FEATURE FUN, SHARING, SHOPPING



The Bridgeton Main Street Association presents two of the Bridgeton area's traditional Christmas holiday events - The Bridgeton Historic Holiday House Tour on Dec. 4, and The Bridgeton Holiday Parade on Nov. 28.

The parade with a theme of "The Joy of Giving" is scheduled for Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 28, along Commerce St. from West Ave. and through downtown with a return to a 2 pm start time. Share your joy, love of community,



and holiday spirit by entering the parade soon with this link: <https://forms.gle/ZTVp9me1gxDFrdZXA>. **The House Tour will feature historic homes and buildings,** holiday décor, entertainment, history, food and drinks. Buy tour tickets at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bhht21>. COVID-19 precautions will be followed when entering homes.

Minerva Alvarado: Woman of Achievement

SERVPRO of Cape May & Cumberland Counties proudly announces that their Business & Marketing Development Coordinator, Minerva Alvarado, has been selected for the 2021 Women of Achievement Award for Cumberland County by the Garden State Council, BSA. The wine reception and dinner is Nov. 10 at Auletto's in Deptford. Honorees are selected based on the respect and esteem of their colleagues with a focus on character, leadership and service. Other honorees are: Joanne Carrocino, Anne Caruso, Joanne Connor, Christina Renna and Theresa Widger. The Woman Scouter of the Year is Vivian Badon.



"This is an amazing accomplishment for Minerva," said SERVPRO owner, Barbara Stafford-Jones. "Minerva is truly a philanthropist and is very deserving of this award, and we are very happy for her." The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce joins in congratulating our Board member Minerva and the other honorees. For information email patrick.linfor@scouting.org.

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CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Thurs., Oct. 28, 2021 5-7 PM - Wine & Boos! - Terra Nonno Winery, Garrison Rd., Rosenhayn, \$20 per person. Chamber's meet & greet social time with wine, food, Halloween fun & networking. 21 years old and up. **Register, pay:** www.CumberlandGrows.com/events.

Wed., Nov. 17, 2021 5:30-9 PM - Chamber Bowling Challenge - Campani's Legacy Lanes, Rt. 56, Deerfield Township, \$200 per 5-person team. Includes bowling, shoe rental, cash prizes, other prizes, food & beverages, & Thanksgiving fun. **Register, pay:** www.CumberlandGrows.com/events. Lane sponsors available.

Sun., Nov. 28, 2021 2 PM - Bridgeton Christmas Parade - W. Commerce St., West Ave. to downtown, Parade entries needed. Presented by Bridgeton Main Street Assoc.

Register online: <https://forms.gle/ZTVp9me1qxDFrdZXA>

Sat., Dec. 4, 2021 3-7 PM - Bridgeton Holiday Historic House Tour - \$20 per person. Presented by Bridgeton Main Street Assoc., Enjoy holiday décor, entertainment, history, food and drinks. **Buy tour tickets at this link:** <https://tinyurl.com/bhht21>

Wed., Dec. 8, 2021, 5 PM, Cash Bar; 6 PM Dinner - Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce 30th Salute to Business & Community Heroes - \$75 per person. Honorees recognized in this newsletter. **To sponsor, attend, and pay,** www.Cumberlandgrows.com/hero.

Thurs., Dec. 16, 2021, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce / Bridgeton Rotary Club, Other Service Clubs Holiday Luncheon - Bridgeton High School, \$20 per person. Holiday ceremony, music by high school musicians, community giving. www.CumberlandGrows.com/events.



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Minerva Alvarado, Secretary



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