CUMBERLAND



Hometown Heart with a Global Reach



Business & Community News

Winter 2021

Business & Community Heroes



"Our theme for tonight can be summarized in three words: thankful, grateful, and blessed."

Randi Galan, Hero Awards
Committee Co-Chair

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce continued a 35-year tradition of recognizing business and community heroes on December 8 at The Grove at Centerton. More than 200 people joined in the recognition of individuals and organizations who work to sustain and strengthen individuals and organizations.

Throughout the evening, presenters pointed out

these characteristics of the award winners: service, character, dedication, compassion, courage, integrity, and achievement.



Bill Whelan is a man of integrity and faith, who believes in serving others and his community while dedicating himself to his family as continued on page 2



Left-right, the Chamber's Business and Community Heroes, Dustin Turpine of Cedar Rose Vineyards, Jon Cummings, Cesar Morales, Bill Sharp of Tracy's Corner, Dave Wilson of South Jersey Water, Karen Garcia of Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant, Loretta LaTourette of Bridge the Gap Ministry, Luis Berdejo of Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant, Dr. Nauveed Iqbal, Steven Becker of Cedar Rose Vineyards, Ken Freitag, and Bill Whelan.



Bill Whelan accepts the Chamber's lifetime achievement award with three of his grandchildren.

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The Chamber Awards Honored Hometown Heroes

(Continued from page 1)

well," commented Omarey Williams, Co-Chair of the Hero Awards Committee. He and Ed Geletka of Ocean First Bank presented the Francis Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill.

In accepting the award and thanking the Chamber and his family and friends, Bill said, "I am from a family of six and my parents taught us the importance of your relationship with God, your relationship with your family, and then take care of your country."



Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award to Ken Freitag



Ken Freitag with Bruce Riley and Don Daigle, owner of Charles Schwab-Vineland-Millville, a presenting sponsor of the hero's celebration.

Ken Freitag, owner/
manager of Freitag Funeral Home in Bridgeton,
received the Gary Simmerman Community
Leadership Award for his
record of community and
business leadership and
service. He was introduced by Bruce Riley,
Chamber Board Member
and Tony Stanzione,
Chamber Executive Director.

"The service that he and his staff have provided to families in their time of need with heartfelt concern for others was more

important than ever as families struggled with the loss of loved ones during the Covid-19 pandemic," said Riley. Stanzione concluded by saying, "hometown heart" and compassion shines through in all he does for his profession, his community, his family and his friends."

Freitag thanked his family, friends, and co-workers at his business, Freitag Service. He quoted lyrics from the music that accompanied his introductory video. "And when you get where you are going, don't forget to turn back around, and help the next person in line. And always stay humble and kind."



Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award to Bridge the Gap Compassionate Ministry

"Bridge the Gap is dedicated to positively impacting the community with



Loretta LaTourette of Bridge the Gap Compassionate Ministry accepts the award for community leadership from Randi Galan (left) and Carol Musso.

love and compassion by connecting individuals and families to resource opportunities, and encouraging success through a Thrift Store, Learning Center and Community Outreach," commented Randi Galan.

Loretta LaTourette, Director of Bridge the Gap Ministry accepted the award. "I believe we have not only bridged the gap between our church and the city, but we are serving the city with the love of Christ," she explained. She thanked her staff, board members, and all who volunteer to carry out their mission of compassion and service.



Business Hero Awards to

- Tracy's Corner
- South Jersey Water Conditioning Service
- Cedar Rose Vineyards
- Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant

The Chamber's Hero Awards included recognition of Tracy's Corner and Bill Sharp, owner, South Jersey Water Conditioning Service and David Wilson, owner, Cedar Rose Vineyards, Steven Becker and Dustin Tarpine, owners, and Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant, Luis Berdejo, owner.

Randi Galan opened this section of the celebration acknowledging, "dedication, compassion, and courage are among the many attributes of successful entrepreneurs, including tonight's honorees."

Hero Awards Continued on page 3

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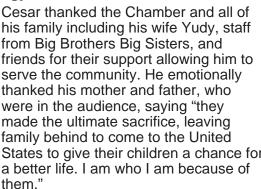
(Continued from page 2)

Community Hero Award Presented to Cesar Morales

Laurie LaTorre. Chamber Member Services Coordinator, and Minerva Alvarado, Chamber Board Member and Corporate Secretary and Co-Chair of the Hispanic Business Committee introduced Cesar Morales and presented the award.

Laurie said, "Cesar Morales has been the wind beneath the wings of others to help them soar to reach their potential. He has a passion to motivate, inspire, and prepare students to pur-







Minerva Alvarado, presents the community hero



Community Hero Award Presented to Jonathan Cummings

Omarey Williams and Colleen Ayala presented the community hero award to Jonathan Cummings. Colleen described Jon this way, "he has

a strong 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."

"I am proud to present this award to Jon Cummings. We have been blessed by his dedicated service to others and his strong efforts to make our community better," added Omarey Williams.

"The biggest factor in being able to make a difference in a

community is the people and organiand work with," said Jon Cum-

zations you partner Jonathan Cummings (center) receives the community hero award from Colleen Ayala and Omarey Williams.

credible partners have given selflessly to serve others. When I see so many people who care and who are vested

in a better Bridgeton. I am hopeful."

(Continued on page 4)



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

Community Hero Award Presented to Dr. Nauveed Iqbal

Laurie LaTorre and Carol Musso, assisted by Dr. Steven Linn of Inspira Health, one our presenting sponsors, made the award presentation to Dr. Nauveed Iqbal.



Dr. Nauveed Iqbal accepts the community hero award from Carol Musso.

Laurie LaTorre began with these words from Confucius, "wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men." She added, "they are also valued traits of an excellent doctor like Dr. Nauveed Iqbal who we honor tonight."

Dr. Linn expressed congratulations from everyone at Inspira Health, where Dr. Iqbal has been a surgeon for many years. "I have never met a more dedicated and hard working surgeon. We are lucky to have Dr, Iqbal practicing in our area, stated Dr. Linn.

"I am honored and humbly ac-

cept this award," commented Dr. Iqbal. "I love helping people and doing surgery. I thank my wife and everyone I work with for their help and support."

The awards celebration was televised live by Quinn Broadcasting on Cable Channel 22 and is available on demand now at Quinn Broadcasting's Facebook page.

The awards celebration was sponsored by several area businesses and individuals. We appreciate their support.

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For more information about the celebration, including a gallery of photos that were taken and provided by Chamber Board member Jamie Bitzer of English Sewage is available at www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero.



Inspira Health was represented at the dinner to honor all the recipients, but in particular Dr. Iqbal and Ken Freitag.

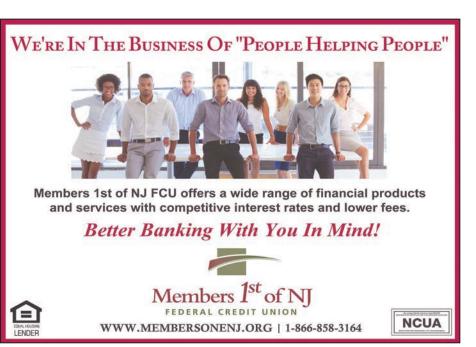
Hero Awards are continued on page 11

New Board Members Elected, Departing Board Members Thanked

The Chamber's annual meeting was held as the hero's celebration began. The annual meeting included election of new Chamber Board Members for 2022. They are Ana M. Saull, Inspira Health

Foundation, Joemy Nunez, Ultra Clean Technologies, Marya Mazzeo, Members First Credit Union, and Mayor Albert Kelly, Gateway Community Action Partnership.

Leaving the Board due to term limits are Bruce Riley, Dotty Robinson, and Chris Jespersen. Carol Musso presented them with certificates and gifts in thanks for many years of outstanding service on the Board.





Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Member Directory

Pages 5-8 are a guide for shopping local in the Bridgeton area. www.CumberlandGrows.com/member-directory New members are in green.

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lelia@fralinger.com, www.fralinger.com/ Civil engineer and land surveying services

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(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6) **Shop Local Guide**

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(Continued on page 8)







(Continued from page 7) - **Shop Local Guide** Power of Positivity 99.9 POP Radio

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PO Box 212, Bridgeton, NJ, (856) 451-0999 melissa.lowell@use.salvationarmy.org, /

www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www_use_nj.nsf Social services and assistance for the needy in the commu-

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Community Organizations to Provide Business Resources This article was contributed to by Minerva Alvarado.



Ray Lamboy of LAEDA speaks at the Chamber's Oct. meeting.

As a follow-up to the well-attended June Chamber Meeting "Hispanic Business: The Power of a Culture," The Hispanic Business Committee (the "Committee") invited keynote speaker, Ray Lamboy, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Latin American Economic Development Association ("LAEDA") to return to provide an update on the developments in the downtown Bridgeton area and how local organizations are working together to provide business resources to downtown merchants in October. Joining Ray Lamboy was Debbi Boykin Greenberg of Bridgeton Main Street Association.



Jon Cummings and Minerva Alvarado at the town hall meeting in Nov. in downtown Bridgeton.

Bridgeton Main Street ("BMS") revealed their plans for a Downtown Bridgeton Business Directory – a glossy brochure which will include listings of all the downtown businesses and pertinent information about what to see and do in downtown Bridgeton. As an incentive, BMS is offering each downtown business a free listing for

one year. The brochure will show residents and visitors alike that Bridgeton has a unique history and culture and can be a destination city. If you are interested in advertising in the Bridgeton Business Brochure, you may email bridgetonbc@downtownbridgeton.com or call and leave a message at 856-453-8130.

Investing in the Future of **Cumberland County** \$3.6 Million \$615.3 Million \$279.7 Million Shared **New Construction** Economic Service Savings Projects Impact



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Committee members invited the public to a Town Hall Meeting on November 22nd at Sheppard House in downtown Bridgeton. "It's amazing to see how many people come back to continue the conversation," said Minerva Alvarado, who spoke briefly at the meeting.



brochure project.

The Bridgeton Business Cooperative will continue to meet and map out a plan for executing the programs they know will help Bridgeton residents. "We are so happy that you are all here ready to help downtown Bridgeton," said Maria Roman, a Bridgeton resident interested in helping spread the word to her family, friends and colleagues. If you are interested in volunteering for this Committee or for any of the groups in this collaborative, please contact the Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce, 856-455-1312.

Organizaciones Comunitarias para Proporcionar Recursos **Comerciales**

Minerva Alvarado contribuyó a este artículo.

Como seguimiento de la reunión de la Cámara de junio "Negocios Hispanos: el Poder de Una Cultura", que contó con una gran asistencia, el Comité de Negocios Hispanos (el "Comité") invitó al orador principal, Ray Lamboy, presidente y director ejecutivo de Latin American Asociación de Desarrollo Económico ("LAEDA") regresará para proporcionar una actualización sobre los desarrollos en el área del

(Continued from page 9) Organizaciones Comunitarias para Proporcionar **Recursos Comerciales**

centro de Bridgeton y cómo las organizaciones locales están trabajando juntas para brindar recursos comerciales a los comerciantes del centro en octubre. Junto a Ray Lamboy estuvo Debbi Boykin Greenberg de Bridgeton Main Street Association.

Bridgeton Main Street ("BMS") reveló sus planes para un directorio empresarial del centro de Bridgeton, un folleto brillante que incluirá listas de todos los negocios del centro e información pertinente sobre qué ver y hacer en el centro de Bridgeton. Como incentivo, BMS ofrece a cada empresa del centro una cotización gratuita para un año. El folleto mostrará a los residentes y visitantes por igual que Bridgeton tiene una historia y una cultura únicas y puede ser una ciudad de destino. Si está interesado en anunciarse en el folleto comercial de Bridgeton, puede enviar un correo electrónico a bridgetonbc@downtownbridgeton.com o llamar y dejar un mensaje al 856-453-8130.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Noble Senior Living - Providing senior care and memory care services at their new Bridgeton location. Their memory care neighborhoods provide specially trained care staffing and specific life enrichment activi-



Kay Delp and Gil Walter of

Assoc. talk about the pro-

Bridgeton Main Street

motional brochure for

town hall meeting.

downtown at the recent

ties that meet your loved ones where they are. Their cozy neighborhoods and kind staff make residents feel comfortable while socializing and participating in activities. Our Chamber assisted with and attended their ribbon cutting on Dec.

7. 18 Reeves Road, Bridgeton, 856-558-8985, www.nobleseniorservices.com

Alebrijes Restaurante, LLC - Excellent Mexican and Italian cuisine and bright and fun atmosphere await you at Alebrijes in Vineland. Visit our new Chamber member over the holidays and any time. 305 N. Mill Road, Vineland, 856-839-2750 www.facebook.com/alebrijesnj

Cumberland County Clerk - The duties of Celeste Riley, County Clerk, are numerous with special responsibilities including, but not limited to administering the oath of office, certifying notaries, passport services, filing trade name certificates; recording documents

related to any real estate transaction, and more. 60 W. Broad Street, Bridgeton 856-453-4860 www.ccclerkni.com

Salmon Ventures - They provide governmental and regulatory consulting to public and private entities.

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The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Cumberland Development Corporation work together to promote shopping and investing locally all through the year. "Local shopping for the holidays is a great way to come up with unique gifts, and to make shopping more convenient and affordable while supporting your local businesses and economy," said Tony Stanzione. Chamber Executive Director.

Shoppers can find unique items along the Rt. 49, Shiloh Pike corridor, from Bridgeton to Stow Creek. At 333 W. Broad St., Bridgeton, is where Frank Burton and Sons is located. From hardware items to beautiful items to

remodel your kitchen or bathroom, stop in, see www.frankburtons.net, or call 856-455-1202. A gift certificate from The Green Olive Restaurant, 610 Shiloh Pike, Hopewell, www.greenolivenj.com, makes a great gift, or meet family and friends there to enjoy a delicious meal and share some holiday spirit.

Our next stop is Greater Bridgeton Amish Farm Market, where dozens of vendors, bring the products of Amish country in Lancaster, PA to South Jersey. Buy fresh foods, unique crafts, Amish furniture, and more under one roof. Be sure to eat at Dutch Family Restaurant for a taste of Lancaster and visit **Dutch Family Furniture** for beautifully crafted furniture. Visit www.bridgetonamishmarket.com.

Just west of Shiloh in Stow Creek is G & M Nursery, 1135 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, www.facebook.com/GMNursery2011, (609) 774-5470, where you can find items to brighten your home and your holidays. This includes wreaths, live Christmas trees, Winter pansies, cabbage and kale, shrubbery, many Christmas crafts, door mats, flags, outdoor/indoor pillows, yard signs, timer candles, gift baskets, Johnson's popcorn, and more.

Our Bridgeton area shopping trip includes the Rt. 77, Carlls Corner area. First stop is a sweet one, the area's most popular bakery, Century Bakery at 525 N Pearl Street, Bridgeton, 856-451-1616, www.CenturyBakery.com. Give the gift of doughnuts filled with sweet delights, cakes, fudgie brownies. ice cream cakes and more. The tour up Rt. 77 passes Bresciano's Florist and Gifts at 653 N. Pearl Street, Bridgeton, for unique gifts, live floral arrangements, and Hallmark cards and items. Stop in and visit www. 856-455-3807, www.brescianosflorals.com. Right nearby enjoy food and drinks at De Olde Towne Tavern, 694 N. Pearl Street, Bridgeton,

www.thetownerestaurant.com. Just a bit north is Spinelli Jewelers, in the Laurel Heights Shopping Center, 1010 N. Pearl Street near Upper Deerfield Shoprite. Beautiful watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings will make a loved one's Christmas so special. See www.spinellijewelers.com. Right across the street is C & J Electronics, 1023B N Pearl Street,

continued on page 12



achieve success.

Wayne H. Triantos, CPA, CVA

Phone: 856-691-9544 Fax: 856-691-0427 whtriantos@triantosanddelp.com

645 South Main Road Vineland, NJ 08360

www.triantosanddelp.com

Business & Community Heroes - continued from page 4



Business Hero Awards to Tracy's Corner, Bill Sharp



Bruce Riley presented the Business Hero Award to long-time friend Bill Sharp and his business Tracy's Corner.

"My friend Billy Sharp is someone who loves where he lives. It shows in the things he does and the way he has invested in his hometown of Bridgeton, said Bruce Riley. "He is a hometown boy with hometown heart, who developed a life-long love affair with Bridgeton."

Bill Sharp commented in his acceptance remarks, "this is a town that I grew up in and that I love. "I want to give a shout out to Mayor Albert Kelly of Bridgeton, who tries so hard to make the city better. I can't tell you how great it was to grow up in and invest in Bridgeton."



Business Hero Awards to South Jersey Water Conditioning Service, David Wilson

Dotty Robinson, Chamber Board Member, and Randi Galan made the

award presentation to South Jersey Water Conditioning Service and David Wilson.

"Dave Wilson, his team of employees, and his family, continue a business that has expanded over more than 50 years, but has never deviated from Dave's promise when he started the business - to provide excellent service to his customers and to do that with courtesy, respect, and honesty," stated Dotty Robinson.



Dotty Robinson (left) and Randi Galan presented the Business Hero Award to Dave Wilson of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service.

Dave said as he thanked

the Chamber, his employees, and his family, "When I started this business it was for some extra income, not to grow a business, but it grew as it became clear that there was a demand for quality water treatment systems and a need for a business that provided them and stood behind them with good service. It made me proud to hear my daughter say back then that my daddy makes bad water good."

Business Hero Awards to Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant, Luis Berdejo



Minerva Alvarado and Colleen Ayala of SERVPRO of Cape May and Cumberland County presented the award to Los Molcajetes Taqueria Restaurant. Minerva said, "we add our thanks and gratitude to Los Molcajetes and to owners and founders Maria Benites, Elder Garcia, and Luis A. Berdejo for their dedication and courage in opening their business in Bridgeton. Agregamos nuestro agradecimiento y gratitud a Los Molcajetes y a los propietarios y fundadores María Benites,

el élder García y Luis A. Berdejo por su dedicación y coraje al abrir su negocio en Bridgeton. We are happy that you are the first Hispanicowned business to receive this award from our Chamber."

Luis Berdejo thanked the Chamber and everyone who has supported and helped his business. Karen Garcia, representing Maria Benites, added, "it all started as dream, but that is why we and others come to the United States, it is the soil from which we can grow businesses here in Cumberland County like my family's restaurant. We thank you all so much. As the introductory music for this award said, ""Gracias un millón, gracias un millón, Thank you a million, thank you a million."

Business Hero Awards to Cedar Rose Vineyards, Steven Becker &

Dustin Tarpine

Colleen Ayala and Carol Musso introduced Cedar Rose Vineyards. Carol remarked, "I can attest to the determination, work ethic, dedication, passion, expertise and belief in a dream shared by these business owners as I watched them transform their dream to reality."

Colleen said, "A passion for grape growing cultivated the vision that led to Cedar Rose Vineyards that produces delicious wines and offers locals and tourists, a popular destination."



Colleen Ayala (left) and Carol Musso, present the business hero award to Dustin Tarpine and Steven Becker of Cedar Rose Vineyards.

"When Steven and I started Cedar Rose ten years ago, we had no idea where this would take us. After some struggles, we are proud to provide a nice venue for people to enjoy wine and fun, and we are happy to show that South Jersey and the Garden State can produce great crops and great wines. We thank the Chamber, our spouses, families, customers, and everyone who has supported us."

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information about Chamber events and to register and pay: www.CumberlandGrows.com/Events • 856-455-1312

Thurs., Dec. 16, 2021, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce / Bridgeton Rotary Club, Other Service Clubs Holiday Luncheon -The ALMS Center, \$20 per person. Holiday ceremony, music by high school musicians, community giving. Register and pay: www.cumberlandgrows.com/events.

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- Tues., Jan. 25, 2022, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber Education & Networking meeting. \$25 in-person with lunch, \$10 Zoom. Location to be announced. Sponsor is Charles Schwab-Vineland-Millville www.Schwab.com/vineland-millville. Topic: Making sense and use of the many business resources available in Cumberland County.
- Fri., Jan. 28, 2022, 6 PM, Bridgeton Rotary Club's 100th niversary Celebration. Music, food, fun, memories, and more at Seabrook Fire Co. Banquet Hall. Save the date. More information to come.
- Tues., Feb. 15, 2022, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber Education & Networking meeting. \$25 in-person with lunch, \$10 Zoom. Location to be announced. Topic: Community heroes and Women who are Business & community leaders.
- Tues., March 15, 2022, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber Education & Networking meeting. \$25 in-person with lunch, \$10 Zoom. Location to be announced. Topic: Shop local in the spotlight featuring local businesses and the announcement of new Shop Local incentives.

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED. SHOP LOCAL.

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repairs to FedEx shipping, Chris Jespersen is ready to serve you. Call 856-455-0086 or visit www.candjelectronics.com.

Your local shopping tour continues online where you can see our Bridgeton Area Chamber directory of businesses for more shop local ideas for the holidays and every day,

www.CumberlandGrows.com/ member-directory.





P.O. Box 1063. Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856•455•1312 bacc@baccnj.com www.BACCNJ.com Executive Director: Tony Stanzione

Member Services Coordinator:

Laurie LaTorre

Officers

Carol Musso, Chairwoman Barry Seay, 1st Vice Chairman John Cummings, 2nd Vice Chairman Sam Pipitone, III, Treasurer

Minerva Alvarado, Secretary

thank you **CENTURY SAVINGS BANK**

"On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Foundation, I thank Dave Hemple, Dave Hanrahan, Debbie Holman, Carol Musso, Mike Rothman, and everyone from Century Savings Bank for their long history of support of the Chamber in so many ways," said Tony Stanzione, Chamber Executive Director. "As 2021 is coming to a close, the bank is donating \$10,000 to our Foundation. We will put that money to work in special and unique ways to help the business community and the community in general in the years ahead."