

Shopping Local Builds Business & Community

"We strongly believe that increased local shopping by businesses and residents helps strengthen our economy, and our communities,"
Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service and President of BACC.

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) and its partner - Cumberland Development Corporation (CDC) - continually promote local shopping and investment. "The CDC agrees with the shop local project," said Mayor Abigail O'Brien, Deerfield Township, and Chairwoman of CDC. "We urge all local governments, businesses, schools, and residents to buy local whenever they can," she added.

BACC and CDC send out joint emails to over 600 area business people, government officials, and residents regularly, and all include a shop local message. Chamber meetings include spotlights on local businesses. Its website CumberlandGrows.com includes a member directory where people

can search for products and services from Chamber members. Each newsletter contains a local shopping, member guide to enhance the shop local message.

Cumberland County's Business Expo & Job Fair

BACC, in partnership with Greater Millville, and Greater Vineland Chambers of Commerce, presents the Cumberland County Business Expo and Job Fair annually. It puts the spotlight on local businesses, and local shopping across the county. It is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2023 at CCTEC gym in Vineland.

The Chamber's road sign program, puts the shop local message and promotes local businesses with signs along roads across the Bridgeton area. Those signs have been re-designed and re-installed in recent months.

Now, we can use your help to sharpen the focus on local shopping by taking photos and videos while shopping local and posting them to your social media pages, and sending them to the Chamber at bacc@baccnj.com.

The next time you are at a local business, making a purchase, take a photo or video clip, and post it with one or all of these hashtags: #Bridgetonchamber, #shopcumberland, or #Cumberlandgrows.



BACC President Barry Seay and CDC Chairwoman Mayor Abigail O'Brien point out new road signs promoting local shopping.



Local shopping at Bottino's ShopRite in Upper Deerfield.



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Workforce and Economic Development The Focus of the Bridgeton Area Chamber's January Meeting

Dr. Kim Ayres, Senior Vice President for Economic Development for Cumberland County Improvement Authority (The Authority), and Christy DiLeonardo, Division Head for Cumberland County Workforce Development Department made presentations with valuable and encouraging information for the business community in Cumberland County at The Bridgeton Area Chamber's January 18 meeting held at The Authority's training room in Deerfield Township.



Above: Christy DiLeonardo.
Below: Kim Ayres



Christy outlined services that can help employers find and train employees, to make their businesses stronger, including assistance to help companies pay for training new and incumbent employees. Workforce Development services include job matching and recruiting, career training for those seeking new employment and to upgrade skills to help their existing employers, training grants and tuition waivers, and special services for Veterans.

"We provide businesses with help to build, grow and expand a stronger workforce, and to access a wide array of business assistance and incentive programs," said Christy. For more information call (856) 238-



The flag salute and prayer were led by father-daughter entrepreneurs Antoinette Fralinger, Bunnies by the Bridge, and Rod Mac Donald, The Maria Collection.

6772 or send email to cdileonardo@ccoel.org.

The Jan. 24 meeting was sponsored by SERVPRO of Cumberland County—Team Fabiani. SERVPRO Marketing Development Manager, and Chamber Vice President Minerva Alvarado, spoke on behalf of SERVPRO.

Kim Ayres painted a positive picture of the improving economic development status of Cumberland County, which she said is making a good comeback following a slow down during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Authority has been authorized by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners to serve as the economic development agency

for the county. With Jerry Velezquez, the Authority's President and CEO, she and the team there have assisted many businesses, prospective new businesses, and local municipalities. The efforts have resulted in an improving, lower unemployment rate, and significant growth in public and private investment here.

Kim cited statistics supporting the growth such as \$1.4 billion total estimated investment in new and proposed projects from 2020-2022 including 6 million total square feet approved, constructed or proposed, and 150 mw of solar added to grid. There has been significant growth in the sectors of manufacturing, food processing, cold and other storage, glass production and technology, education, healthcare, and much interest in the Cannabis industry. Visit www.theauthoritynj.com for more information.



Women Business Owners
Tuesday,
March 21, 2023
Breakfast & Program
8:30 AM



On March 21, at an 8:30 AM breakfast meeting at Green Olive Restaurant in Hopewell, the Bridgeton Area Chamber joins in the celebration of Women's History Month

by presenting a panel discussion featuring female business leaders who are chamber members.

The moderators Patricia Mooneyham of The Passion Professor, and Randi Galan of Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency, are also chamber members that are women-owned. The panel includes Debby Riley of Ultra Clean Technologies, Ingrid Hawk of W.W. Manufacturing, Inc., Marlise Counsellor of Marlise Counsellor Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Jill Sungenis of Sungenis Insurance Agency. Other panelists may be added.

The speakers will discuss their experiences as business owners, spotlight their businesses, and provide suggestions for other women or men looking to start their own businesses.



Please register to attend in advance with this link www.tinyurl.com/bacc3-21-23. The meeting fee is \$30. Networking and breakfast begin at 8:30 AM and the program begins at 8:45 AM. You may also call 856-455-1312.



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Tony Novack, CPA on The Relationship Between You, Your Business & Your Money



Tony Novack, CPA, business consultant and entrepreneur, addressed the members and guests at the Chamber's meeting on February 28 at the Green Olive Restaurant in Hopewell.

Novack urged business owners to use their relationship with their CPA as an agent of change to improve their businesses, and to improve the relationship between you, your business, and your money.

His presentation covered the continued changes in businesses, the economy, financing, and taxes through the 1980's to 2023, saying that often much of our financial success, or lack of it, is not related to our personal actions or personal conviction, but to larger economic trends.

Tony following these three points can solve issues and move your business ahead - solve the problem, find the best ways to move forward, grow, prosper, safe-guard, invest and share, and make sure the problem does not recur.

He cited tax mistakes many businesses make

that can be serious setbacks or even business-ending problems. Do not fall behind or fail to charge and remit state sales tax. Do not classify employees as independent contractors, and do not pay employees with cash to avoid taxes.

Novack said to carefully select your CPA, tax preparer, and bookkeeper. Know what you need, and what you are paying for. Follow their advice. To contact Novack, visit www.SouthJersey.cpa.



Barry Seay, President of the BACC, speaks on behalf the Feb. 28 meeting sponsor, South Jersey Water Conditioning Service.



Marlise Counsellor leads opening prayer. Members greet each other at the meeting.



Holiday Meeting with Rotary Club



Carol Musso, Jon Cummings, and Dr. Gladwyn Baptist at the holiday meeting. Below: Chamber and Rotary volunteers collect for the Bridgeton Salvation Army.

The Chamber of Commerce and Bridgeton Rotary Club shared a holiday meeting at Bridgeton High School in December. Members and guests donated toys and food to the Bridgeton Salvation Army, enjoyed music by BHS student musicians, and shared a delicious lunch prepared by the chef and students at the high school. Both organizations were thanked for ringing the bell to benefit those in need served by the Bridgeton Salvation Army.



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The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce presents its 29th annual golf tournament on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove.

"This is our largest fundraiser of the year," commented Chamber President Barry Seay. "We ask for your support, and we invite you to come out for the fun, golf, and networking."

Register to play and sponsor at www.tinyurl.com/baccgolf.

Chamber Foundation Scholarships in Memory of Gus Gosweiler

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation will honor the late William Gus Gosweiler when we present \$1,000 scholarships to one student at each of Bridgeton High School, Cumberland Regional High School, and Cumberland County Technical Education Center. "Gus Gosweiler who passed away recently was a long-time member of the Chamber of Commerce, including service for several years on the Board of Directors," said Carol Musso, Co-Chairwoman of the scholarship committee. He was also a past educator at Bridgeton High School, and an outstanding community servant. Scholarships will be presented to students who are focusing on business education, have shown good academic achievement, and who have made a positive impact on their community.



Gus Gosweiler

The Chamber of Commerce Foundation asks for your support for the scholarships, and the students who will benefit from the scholarships, by donating to the scholarship fund by June 1, 2023.

All donors to the scholarship fund will be acknowledged in communications to the schools and the scholarship recipients, on the Chamber website and social media, and at the Chamber meeting where the recipients will be recognized. In addition to the recognition outlined above, all donors of \$500 or more, will also be recognized as co-presenters of this year's scholarships at presentations at the high school merit award ceremonies if the contributions are received before April 30, 2023. Checks payable to BACC Foundation may be mailed to P.O. Box 1063, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. All funds collected will be dedicated to the scholarships.



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(Continued on page 6)

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Signs of Spring and Progress



As winter turns into spring, there are several signs of the season and of progress in communities in our area.

- ◆ **Rita's Italian Ice and Frozen Custard and Landis Links Mini Golf Course** on Rt. 56, Landis Avenue in Upper Deerfield, are re-opened. These Chamber members are ready to help you and your family enjoy the warmer days ahead.

- ◆ In April, stop by **Terry's Custard** on Park Drive in Upper Deerfield and **D's Fruta** (formerly Trolley Barn) on Washington Street in Bridgeton, next to the Washington Street bridge over the Cohansey River.

- ◆ **Sweet Things with Styles**, which is open all year on Buck Road in Pittsgrove, near Schalick High School, offers relaxing outdoor seating for ice cream and more. These are popular spots for cool treats owned by Chamber members.

- ◆ **Bridgeton Baseball Tournament's Spring Classic** brings the fun of family-friendly baseball games by talented local and regional players back to Alden Field in Bridgeton City Park on May 20 to May 28. The legacy of this tournament played each year since 1967 includes use of the designated hitter rule, and the pitch clock, now part of major league baseball this year. Special guests, fireworks and concessions are a few of the highlights of this event. Get more information at <https://bridgetoninvitationalbaseballtournament.sportngin.com>.

- ◆ **BPAZ—Bridgeton Park and Zoo**, open all year, is a great destination during the warmer days of spring and summer. From the amazing free kid-friendly Cohanzick Zoo, to walking and mountain bike trails, to picnic areas on the shores of Sunset Lake, to play fields and courts, to special events, to playgrounds, to kayaks on the raceway, to boating on the Cohansey River, to entertainment, and to events on the Riverfront in downtown Bridgeton, Bridgeton City Park is ready and open for fun and exercise.

- ◆ **Upper Deerfield Community Day** is April 29, 10 AM to 4 PM, on the grounds of the Upper Deerfield Township municipal building. For information, including sponsorships, visit www.UpperDeerfield.com or call 856-451-3811.

- ◆ **New retailers will be coming to Upper Deerfield** including a **package goods liquor store** opening in the Carlls Corner Shopping Center, and construction will begin on the **Chipotle Mexican Grill** and **ModWash car wash** on and near the site of the former H & R Hardware. Hopewell will welcome **Family Thrift Store** to Rt. 49, Shiloh Pike. Look for more businesses coming soon!

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SWEET THINGS WITH STYLES



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Co-founded by Linda Shaw and her daughter Meredith Shaw, All That Dance Studio provides dance and related wellness classes for children and adults. The studio also provides dance parties, summer dance camps and classes, and guest artists'



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Bridgeton Rotary Club's 100 Years of Service Commemorated on Mural



The Bridgeton Rotary Club dedicated its 100th anniversary mural on February 9 at the Executive office of CompleteCare Health Network in Bridgeton. Officers and board members of Bridgeton Rotary Club and CompleteCare Health Network led the ceremony outdoors on the north side of the CompleteCare building. Past Rotary Club President Mark Wiley led the ceremony, thanking CompleteCare for allowing the mural on their building, Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission and County Commissioners for providing funds for the mural, the muralist, and those who helped plan the mural project.

Commissioners for providing funds for the mural, the muralist, and those who helped plan the mural project.



Century Savings Bank Promotes Joseph Rehm

Century Savings Bank (CSB) announced the appointment of Joseph F. Rehm to the Bank's Board of Directors, in February. Mr. Rehm joined Century Savings Bank in February 2020 and currently serves as Executive Vice President,

Chief Lending Officer. He is responsible for the strategic growth of the lending division of the Bank. Mr. Rehm has more than 25 years of commercial banking experience. Century Savings' President and CEO Dave Hanrahan commented on the announcement, "I've had the pleasure of working with Joe for more than 20 years. He is a banker second-to-none. We are lucky to have his leadership at Century Savings Bank."

Century Savings' Hemple Retires



Thank you

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the recent retirement of David Hemple past President and

CEO of Century Savings Bank. "We thank Dave for his support of our Chamber of Commerce, and for a stellar career in banking, and for his strong leadership of our community," commented Tony Stanzione, the Chamber's Chief Executive Officer.



Message From Chamber President Barry Seay

Barry Seay took over as the Chamber's President in January 2023, succeeding immediate past president Carol Musso. Barry has served as Vice President, Board Member, and a Committee chair for the Chamber. He represents South Jersey Water Conditioning Service on the Chamber Board.

It is my great honor to serve as the President of the Chamber, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members, officers, board members, and staff for their unwavering support. Together, we can achieve incredible things in the coming year, fostering a spirit of teamwork and dedication that will drive the growth of our Chamber of Commerce and enhance the quality of service we provide to our members and community.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud of how we have come together to deliver crucial information and services, emerging from this crisis stronger and more resilient than ever before. Looking ahead, June 10, 2023 marks a significant milestone for our Chamber, as we celebrate 60 years of serving our community as the corporation named the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce. Our history of serving the business community goes back many years prior to 1963. We honor the visionary leaders who have guided us to this point, while also committing ourselves to building an even stronger Chamber and economy in the years to come.

To that end, I urge each and every one of you to join us in this celebration by helping us lead the Chamber, attending our meetings and events, and supporting our fundraisers, including donating to our scholarship fund. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to join us this year by visiting our website or contacting me or any board member directly. Together, we can achieve great things and make our community an even better place to live and work.

THOMAS DAVIS
GENERAL MANAGER
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Bridgeton, NJ 08302

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BRIDGETON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Tues., March 21, 2023, Chamber Education & Networking Meeting, "Woman Owned Businesses", 8:30 AM breakfast & networking, 8:45 AM program begins, Green Olive Restaurant in Hopewell. Featuring panel of woman who own their businesses. Moderators are Patricia Mooneyham of The Passion Professor and Randi Galan of Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency. \$30, www.tinyurl.com/bacc3-21-23.



Fri., March 31, 2023, 6 PM, doors open 6:30, The Jason Bishop Show, Bridgeton High School, free admission by advance registration required. Tickets from Jon Cummings, jon@revivesj.org. Sponsored by TD Bank, Fulton Bank, and Revive South Jersey.

Tues., April 18, 2023, Chamber Education & Networking Meeting, "Shoppes at Dragon Village, a Shopping and Event Destination" 97 Trench Road Bridgeton, in Hopewell Township. Networking and tours 11:30 AM. Lunch & meeting begin at 12:15 PM. \$30, www.tinyurl.com/bacc4-18-23.

Thurs., April 27, 2023, Cumberland County Legends Celebration, Greenview Inn, Vine-land, 6 PM. Contact CompleteCare Family Health Foundation for sponsorship and tickets, 856-391-4815, ktweed@chcinj.org. Honorees: Gil Walter, Mary Gruccio, and Nancy Sungenis.

Sat., April 29, 2023, Upper Deerfield Community Day, 10 AM to 4 PM, Upper Deerfield Municipal Building & grounds, Seabrook. Free general admis-

sion. Family fun, entertainment, history and tours, and more. 856-451-3811 www.UpperDeerfield.com

Tues., May 16, 2023, Chamber Education & Networking Meeting, Message from Amy Mansue, CEO, Inspira Health, 11:30 AM lunch & networking, Noon program begins, Green Olive Restaurant in Hopewell. \$30, www.tinyurl.com/bacc5-16-23.



Sat. May 20 - May 28, 2023, Bridgeton Baseball Tournament's Spring Classic, Alden Field in Bridgeton City Park. Family-friendly baseball games by talented local and regional players, special guests, fireworks food concessions, and more. Get more information <https://bridgetoninvitationalbaseballtournament.sportngin.com>.

Tues., May 23, 2023, Chamber Business to Business (B2B) Meeting, 5-7 PM. A Whiskey Array is hosting this free event. 421 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton. Pre-registration with the Chamber is required by May 19. www.tinyurl.com/baccb2b.



Thurs, June 15, 2023, Chamber Education and Networking Meeting, 11:30 AM networking and lunch, program begins at noon, INKA Chicken on Bridgeton Riverfront, "Downtown Sidewalk Sale and Expo" 11 AM to 5 PM. Joint meeting with Bridgeton Main Street Assoc. & Bridgeton Rotary. www.tinyurl.com/bacc6-15-23.

Wed., June 28, 2023, Our Chamber Golf Tournament, Centerton Golf Course, 11 AM networking and lunch, 12:00 PM shotgun start. 856-455-1312 www.tinyurl.com/baccgolf



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Laurie LaTorre

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