

Business & Community Heroes Celebration is November 1

"We honor their service, character, dedication, compassion, courage, integrity, and achievements to show our gratitude, and to inspire others to support their efforts and to become community and business heroes themselves," said Omarey Williams, Hero Committee Co-Chairman.

Héroes con corazón de ciudad natal

Francis H. Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Awards

Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award

For the 37th consecutive year, the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) will recognize business and community heroes on November 1, 2023 at The Grove at Centerton.

"We will honor and thank a remarkable group of people and organizations who by their leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and concern for others, have helped strengthen our community and economy by showing *"Hometown Heart"* and *"Love for Where They Live"*, said Barry Seay, President of BACC.

This newsletter includes more information about the award recipients, the celebration, sponsorship opportunities, and reservations.

More details are available at www.baccnj.com/hero or by calling 856-455-1312.

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Elmer "Skip" Bowman



Pamela and Wade Sjögren



Bridgeton Public Library

Community Hero Awards



The Dolores Romero Foundation

Business Hero Awards



Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency



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“Day after day, ordinary people become heroes through extraordinary and selfless actions to help their neighbors.” – Sylvia Mathews Burwell



**Francis L. Sharp, Sr.
Lifetime Achievement Award**



We honor three people whose integrity, faith, and service to others over their lifetimes, inspires others and makes our community a better place.

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 selects people who exemplify his record of service to receive the Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award.

A husband and wife team, Pamela and Wade Sjögren, and Elmer “Skip” Bowman, Deputy Mayor of Lawrence Township, will receive the Francis L. Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award, the Chamber’s and one of the community’s most prestigious awards.

Elmer “Skip” Bowman



An extraordinary record of service and leadership, including more than 4 decades of service on the Lawrence Township Committee is just one of the reasons Elmer Bowman has been selected to receive the Francis L. Sharp, Sr. (Binks Sharp) Award.

Skip Bowman is a long-time resident of Cedarville, NJ where he has made a lasting impact on the community through his commitment to public service. Skip was the 5th of 8 children and spent his early years in Vineland assisting his parents along with his siblings, on their gladiolus farm. Skip is known for his dancing talent which he credits to his sister born prior to him who taught him how to dance.

His mother Geraldine was born in Holland. She immigrated through Ellis Island and married Elmer Bowman who pioneered the radio business prior to the Great Depression. The Bowman family moved to Fairton to a larger farm to expand their flower business.

Skip graduated Bridgeton High School in 1957 and married Barbara Mills, his high school sweetheart shortly thereafter in 1958. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary October 11, 2022.

In 1977 Skip and Barbara took over the gladiolus farm upon his parents’ retirement until 1995. Although work continued during the winter months, Skip could be seen plowing out his neighbors’ driveways during snowstorms with his John Deere tractor at no charge.



Skip and Barbara Bowman

In 1979, Skip joined the Lawrence Township Committee. He has served on the Township Committee including several terms as Mayor for nearly 43 years. He was recently installed in the NJ Elected Officials Hall of Fame for his years of service on the Township Committee. He was also a member of the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture.

During Skip’s service on the Lawrence Township Committee, the community has experienced great progress including the opening of the Senior Center in 2000, a new fire department building in 2007, and a new historical society building in 2023. Skip serves on Cumberland Development Corporation Board of Directors where he has served as chairman for several terms.

After Skip stopped farming, he went to work for the Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA) where he received the prestigious Operational Excellence Award from the DRBA. For many years Skip was instrumental in the operation of the Millville Airshow.

Skip is most proud of his family. His wife, Barbara, has been very supportive of the time he has contributed to the community. Skip and Barbara have two children. His son, Ed, is married to Jody Hirata and his daughter, Wendy, is married to Paul Ritter. Skip has four grandchildren and 2 great grandsons. The Chamber proudly honors Skip for a lifetime of service.

Pamela and Wade Sjögren



Wade Sjögren

This dynamic duo are partners in life, business, and outstanding community service. They are the second husband and wife team to receive the Francis L. Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award together following



Pamela Sjögren

Bruce & Debby Riley who were recognized together last year. Faith, family & community, with a love for business. These are the values that Wade & Pam Sjögren hold dear. Wade was raised in Verona, NJ, and Pam (nee Bianca) in Piscataway. They met in college and married in 1987. Wade is an Attorney/CPA and graduated from Rutgers and Georgetown law schools. Pam holds an EdM from Rutgers in Elementary & Early Childhood Education and as a Teacher of the Handicapped.

They have three adult sons. Jeff & Eric hold undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rutgers. Jeff resides in Washington, DC and is an attorney with the US Patent & Trademark Office. Eric holds an MBA, works in the family business, and is also a board member of the Chamber. Putting her special education training to work, Pam home-schools and cares for their autistic son, Christopher.

Whibco (formerly known as Whitehead Brothers Company) was



Francis L. Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award



(Continued from page 2)

founded in 1841 and is America's 1st producer of sand for the metal casting industry. Whibco's headquarters is in the Great City of Bridgeton, with mining operations and investments in Cumberland County, NJ, NY and SC. Under the leadership of Wade's parents Walter Sr. & Jane Beverly Sjogren, the family acquired Whibco in 1980. Today, the business is highly successful and is owned by Wade & his brother Walter. Excellent employees, loyal customers and a supportive community, have all contributed to that success.

Volunteer leadership is a family trait. Wade presently serves as Chairman of the Industrial Sand Division and on the Executive Committee of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association in Washington, DC. He serves on the Cumberland County and Maurice River Township Economic Development Boards and is the Treasurer of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bridgeton. He is a Bridgeton Rotary Club member and Past President. Wade is active with Garden State Council, Boy Scouts of America, and is the father of two Eagle Scouts (Jeff & Eric).

Pam served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Cumberland County College and for their church most recently as a Lay Preacher and Confirmation Class teacher. Pam was a college cheerleader and past cheerleading coach at Cumberland Christian School in Vineland. Congratulations to them for their life of faith and service, in the tradition of Francis "Binks" Sharp.

To honor the memory of the late Gary F. Simmerman, who served the Chamber



Wade and Pam Sjogren



Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award



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 F. Simmerman Community Leadership Awards annually.

Bridgeton Public Library

Bridgeton Public Library has been serving the good people of the city of Bridgeton and the wider community for over 100 years. After 20 years of struggling to support the library with private fundraising and donations,

a referendum for a free library to be operated by the city was placed on the November 1922 ballot. The referendum passed. On January 1, 1923, the Bridgeton Library Association was dissolved and the Bridgeton Free Public Library was formed and its properties absorbed by the City of Bridgeton and operated under the jurisdiction of the Bridgeton City Council, as it continues today.

Part of the original building was constructed as Cumberland County's first bank, Cumberland National Bank, in 1816. There were additions in 1867, 1926, and finally in 1967, the main part of the library was constructed which the public utilizes today.

The 1816 bank building portion of the library is undergoing renovations to improve the appearance, and to restore the building's visual and structural integrity. Save the Library! and their partners



Business and Community Heroes (Continued on page 4)

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

have raised the funds to repaint the bricks and make this project possible.

Their small, dedicated staff and with the help of volunteers, and support of Friends of the Library, Save the Library!, and City of Bridgeton, a wide variety services are provided for their patrons beyond the traditional books and other materials. Through generous funding from grants, the library offers multicultural and diverse programming from African Dance and Drumming, to Japanese/American Culture Day, to their annual Indie Author event, and the annual Teen Writing Competition. Bridgeton Public Library offers many other interesting and free programs and events for people of all ages. The library strives to serve young people and assist in their education with outreach to the Bridgeton Public School District as well as schools in the greater Bridgeton area. The Chamber is pleased to present the Gary Simmerman Community Leadership Award to the library for over a century of community service.



The Library teaches young people.

over the area as well as creating innovative social media events as another avenue to give back to the community.

Her agency is a sponsor of Georgetown Pool, West Cumberland Little League, and the Good Neighbor graduation award at her local grade school which she plans to expand to other area schools as well. Randi is a former board member of the Bridgeton Salvation Army and currently serves as Treasurer of the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce.

She is a graduate of Salem High School and holds a Bachelor of Arts and she is mom to Jordan, a junior at The College of New Jersey and Ava, a freshman at Rutgers University. Randi has been happily married to her husband Mike for 23 years. The Chamber congratulates Randi and her business, and recognizes her success as an entrepreneur, and her service to the community.

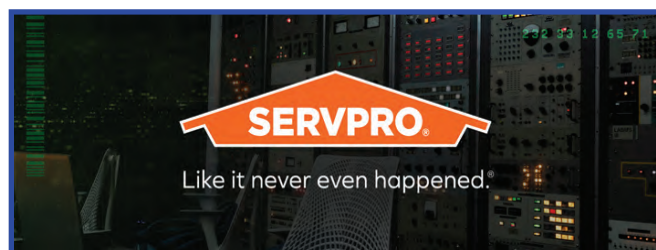
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Although they have operated in the area for many years, ownership changed as of December 2021. Vince Fabiani, who owns seven SERVPRO franchises in the Philadelphia area as well as the Poconos expanded to include the franchises in Cape May and Cumberland Counties. He also acquired the franchises that cover Atlantic County and Haddon Heights/Voorhees.

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SERVPRO, Team Fabiani has a stellar record of community involvement and service. They continue to engage with and contribute to the business and governmental sectors of the Cape May/Cumberland County areas. They are strong, active members of

(Continued on page 5)



Business Hero Awards



Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency

Randi Galan opened the Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency in the Hopewell Galleria in January 2018. Prior to opening her agency, Randi was an Assistant Vice President at MetLife heading up global account management teams in their Multinational and Expatriate division and a





Randi Galan

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Senior Account Manager with Computershare in their Stock Transfer Division. Randi is a South Jersey native and 30-year veteran of insurance and financial services.

As a life long New Jersey native, opening her business in the same area where she lives, works and plays is the highlight of her career. Relationships and community are the focus of her agency that partners with customers as a resource for auto, home, life, and business insurance as well as banking products. You can often find Randi and her team supporting and volunteering at events all



(Continued from page 4) - **Hero Awards**

the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce and many Chambers of Commerce in the surrounding areas. They assist the community in many ways including working with local Volunteer Fire Departments and sponsoring many community events. The Chamber is pleased to recognize SERVPRO, Team Fabiani.

★ Community Hero Awards ★

The Dolores Romero Foundation



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The Dolores Romero Foundation was started on July 23, 2021. It is a local non-profit, 501c3 organization that raises money by holding community-based events and fundraisers.

Dolores Romero passed away from complications from cancer on April 23, 2020 after not being able to receive regular treatments due to covid procedures. Once covid restrictions were lifted her niece Melissa decided to have a celebration of life memorial service. During this service a friend of Dolores' approached her niece and informed her of a kind gesture and

secret she was holding onto. This friend who would like to remain anonymous intercepted medical bills and had thousands of dollars paid off for Dolores.

While allowing the friend to remain anonymous, Melissa informed her family of this blessing. In doing so they decided to pay it forward. They immediately got to work and have become the non-profit you know today.



Through the money they raise and the donations they receive, the Foundation is able to assist Cumberland County cancer patients and their families

cover out of pocket expenses. They cover expenses in the areas of rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medication/treatment copays, medical equipment and others.

The Romero family and friends are actively involved with supporting and promoting the foundation. Their teal butterfly logo can be seen around the area on flyers, clothing, and additional merchandise.

The foundation website, TheDoloresRomeroFoundation.com, gives a full description of Dolores' story, as well as the charity's story. They are always looking for ways to collaborate with other local businesses and organizations, supporting the businesses and community that support them.

They operate with this quote at heart— "when you are blessed, be a blessing." -Taraji P. Henson

The Chamber proudly presents this award to this family, its Foundation, and its volunteers and supporters, for being examples of community heroes by paying it forward, in memory of their late family member Dolores Romero.

(Continued on page 6)

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

Olivia A. Cruz

Olivia A Cruz is a dancer, choreographer, and educator. A BFA graduate of The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, she has performed on many stages including Cinderella's Castle in Walt Disney World and on the set of Steven Spielberg's 2021 film adaptation of West Side Story.

Her choreographic works have been seen in theaters throughout New Jersey. Olivia also enjoys sharing the art of dance with her students of all ages. She previously held the title of Miss Cumberland County 2016 & 2018, and placed in the top-10 of the Miss New Jersey pageant.



During her time as a title holder, Olivia founded her nonprofit organization, Love through Laces, which raises awareness as well as funds to purchase new shoes for children in need throughout South Jersey. Over the course of ten years, this project has now raised over \$55,000 and has provided shoes to hundreds of local children



Olivia Cruz



deserving of extra love.

Olivia is a Community Hero. The Bridgeton Area Chamber proudly recognizes her concern for and service to the community.

Edgar Aquino-Huerta

Edgar Aquino Huerta is a community leader, filmmaker, and writer that comes from a small town in Puebla, Mexico called San Nicolas Tolentino. At the age of two, he and his mother came to the United States in search of opportunities. They came directly to Bridgeton, NJ where Edgar eventually started school and adapted to his new life. He enjoyed watching Goosebumps, Power Rangers, and Sponge Bob as that was one of the ways he learned English faster.

Eventually he came across the movie "Scream" which woke up a creative sense in his brain, and his love for storytelling began there. At



Edgar Aquino-Huerta, founder of "Voices of the Soil".

the end of eighth grade, his mother had to return to Mexico due to her sickness. That summer is when his farm working journey initiated since it helped bring money home for his father to have financial support. Edgar was introduced to the backroads of South Jersey, and began appreciating life and the heroes that feed us.

Edgar now dedicates himself to working with the Latino, immigrant community, mainly helping them obtain a NJ driver's license and many other things. He also created a platform called "Voices of the Soil," which is still progressing, where he aims to uplift stories, artists, and heroes that make a difference in the world. He hopes to expand it into an arts institution in the future where he can create opportunities for his community.

The Bridgeton Area Chamber is pleased to honor Edgar Aquino-Huerta as a community hero.

The public is invited to join the Chamber of Commerce at the Business and Heroes Celebration on Nov. 1 at The Grove at Centerton. The fee is \$75 per person. Sponsorships and ads are available.

To get more information and to register to attend or sponsor, go to www.tinyurl.com/bacchero or www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero. Please register by Oct. 24.



Attend the Chamber's Hero Awards

Thank You to Our Celebration Presenting Sponsors



Inspira Health Center Bridgeton Expands Mental Health Facility

Inspira Health expanded its Behavioral Health unit at Inspira Health Center Bridgeton with a new Designated Voluntary Behavioral Health Unit opening soon pending state approval. The new unit has 19 voluntary beds for adults. The unit's programming will focus on the stabilization of the patient's behavioral health needs.

The new unit supplements Inspira's 33-bed behavioral health inpatient adult unit, which is a mix of voluntary and involuntary beds. "Access to behavioral health services is a critical need in many communities across the country, and Bridgeton is no exception," said Amy B. Mansue, President and CEO of Inspira Health.



(Continued from page 8) **Shop Local Guide**

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(Continued on page 10)



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Hispanic Business: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in Bridgeton

This article was contributed by Minerva Alvarado, Chamber Corporate Secretary, and Co-Chair of the Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee.

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce held its Sept. 19th luncheon meeting highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month at Inka Chicken Bar in Bridgeton. The meeting was organized and presented by the Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee. Minerva Alvarado, Co-chair of the Hispanic Business Committee, welcomed business members and encouraged everyone to engage in meaningful conversations to allow the group to nurture the bonds of community. Jon Cummings, Executive Director of Revive South Jersey and co-chair of the Hispanic Business Committee was the event Sponsor.

Bert Lopez of Atlantic City Electric speaks at the Chamber's Sept. 19 meeting.

Guest Speaker, Hector Bonilla, wowed the group with his delicious Peruvian-style rotisserie chicken! As business members enjoyed the delicious food their appetizers, entrees and desserts, Hector took a few minutes to speak about his journey. Born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, he left Puerto Rico and came to live in Vineland. A business opportunity was presented to Hector and he is now owner of Inka Chicken Bar and Mexico Travel, both downtown businesses. He emphasized that business owners should connect with their communities and together downtown Bridgeton could continue to thrive.

Keynote speaker, Bert Lopez, Senior Public Affairs Manager at Atlantic City Electric ("ACE") who recently celebrated 45 years at ACE, is also President and Founder of the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County and Producer/Host of Stockton University's public affairs show "Latino Motion." Bert spoke about his career and the journey of being the only Puerto Rican in the Engineering Dept. through to being appointed to the New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission. The Commission's focus is to advance bilateral trade and investments of mutual interest to New Jersey and Puerto Rico.

Minerva Alvarado described the role of the Hispanic Business Committee and its initiatives including the quarterly "Walk & Talks" conducted as their community outreach to visit and get to know business owners downtown. Conversations are had to include them in chamber events including the recent Downtown Business Expo and Sidewalk Sale which was co-hosted by City of Bridgeton UEZ and Bridgeton Main Street. The event will be held again on June 15, 2024.

The Hispanic Business Committee has the following members: Minerva Alvarado (Essential Senior Benefits) and Jon Cummings (Revive South Jersey), co-chairs; Martha Torres (Century Savings Bank); Jamila Powell (LAEDA); Charlene Rutherford (First National Bank of Elmer); Isis Sosa (Revive South Jersey); Gil Walter (Bridgeton Main Street); Stephanie Gonzalez (City of Bridgeton UEZ); Rosalinda Garcia (Bridgeton Main Street); Joemy

Núñez (Ultra Clean Technologies); Lt. Sahory Montilla (Salvation Army Bridgeton Corps); Joseph Cortez (Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union); Laurie LaTorre (Bridgeton Chamber); and Tony Stanzione, (Bridgeton Chamber Chief Executive Officer).

For more information about joining the chamber or about the Hispanic Business Committee, please email the chamber at bacc@baccnj.com.

Negocios Hispanos: Impulsando la Prosperidad, el Poder, y el Progreso en Bridgeton

Este artículo fue contribuido por Minerva Alvarado, Secretaria Corporativa de la Cámara y Copresidenta del Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara.

La La Cámara de Comercio del Área de Bridgeton celebró su reunión de almuerzo el 19 de Septiembre destacando el Mes de la Herencia Hispana en Inka Chicken Bar en Bridgeton.

La reunión fue organizada y presentada por el Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara. Dirigido por Minerva Alvarado, copresidenta del Comité, dio la bienvenida a los miembros empresariales y alentó a todos a participar en conversaciones significativas que permitan al grupo nutrir los lazos de la comunidad. Jon Cummings, Director Ejecutivo de Revive South Jersey y copresidente del Comité de Negocios Hispanos fue el patrocinador del evento.

¡El orador invitado, Héctor Bonilla, cautivó al grupo con su delicioso pollo asado al estilo peruano! Mientras los miembros del negocio disfrutaban de la deliciosa comida, sus aperitivos, platos principales y postres, Héctor se tomó unos minutos para hablar sobre su viaje profesional. Nacido en Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, dejó Puerto Rico y vino a vivir a Vineland. A Héctor se le presentó una oportunidad de negocio y ahora es propietario de Inka Chicken Bar y Mexico Travel, ambos negocios en el centro de la ciudad. Enfatizó que los dueños de negocios deberían conectarse con sus comunidades y juntos el centro de Bridgeton podría seguir prosperando.

El orador principal, Bert López, Gerente Senior de Asuntos Públicos de Atlantic City Electric ("ACE") quien recientemente celebró 45 años en ACE, también es presidente y fundador de la Asociación Hispana del Condado de Atlantic y productor/presentador del programa de asuntos públicos de la Universidad de Stockton "Latino Motion", Bert habló sobre su carrera y el viaje desde ser el único puertorriqueño en el Departamento de Ingeniería hasta ser nombrado miembro de la Comisión de Puerto Rico de Nueva Jersey. El objetivo de la Comisión es promover el comercio y las inversiones de interés mutuo para Nueva Jersey y Puerto Rico.

Minerva describió el rol del Comité de Negocios Hispanos y sus

continúa en la página 15



Speakers at the Chamber's Sept. 19 meeting included (l-r) Minerva Alvarado, Hector Bonilla, Bert Lopez, and Jonathan Cummings



Hector Bonilla answers a question about his business investments in Bridgeton.

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Cumberland County Business Expo & Job Fair Draws Hundreds Looking for Jobs and Local Businesses

Three Cumberland County Chambers joined forces with five major sponsors to present the Cumberland County Business Expo and Job Fair at Cumberland County Technical Education Center (CCTEC) in Vineland. Seventy-five businesses and organizations participated promoting their products, services, and many were offering jobs.

“This event is one of the ways Bridgeton Area, Greater Millville, and Greater Vineland Chambers of Commerce work to promote local shopping, spotlighting the products businesses and consumers can buy right in our area”, commented Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service, who chaired the Expo Committee. He thanked CCTEC that provided the facility for their help and cooperation.

The main event sponsors were PSEG Nuclear, LLC, Rowan College of South Jersey, and Town Square Media. Grand prize sponsors Atlantic City Electric and South Jersey Water Conditioning Service. Our Public Safety Supporter sponsors were Century Savings Bank, Disney Magic Helper, Marlise Counsellor, Independent Mary Kay Consultant, Members First Federal Credit Union, Ocean First Bank, and Insperty. Media partners were SNJ Today, Pop 99.9 radio, and Quinn Broadcasting. Over seventy businesses participated, forty were there looking for new employees and met with prospective employees looking for jobs and new careers. You may get information on all the expo exhibitors, including the businesses looking for employees by visiting www.CumberlandExpo.com.



Top: Exhibitor ERCO Ceilings and Interiors.
Middle: Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce board members and staff.
Below: Exhibitors Ocean First Bank, Marlise Counsellor Mary Kay Independent Consultant, and Abbiamo Copiers.



Left-right: Tony Stanzone, Bridgeton Area Chamber CEO, Dawn Hunter, Greater Vineland Chamber Executive Director, Barry Seay, Bridgeton Area Chamber President and Chairman of the Cumberland County Business Expo & Job Fair, and Jerry Covella, Greater Millville Chamber Executive Director. They thanked everyone who participated in the expo.

Signs of a Growing Local Economy

New Businesses Open and are Coming to the Bridgeton Area

Family Thrift Stores have opened their first South Jersey store on Route 49, Shiloh Pike in Hopewell. Owner Bob Bassi and his family chose the Bridgeton area because they saw the need for a store like theirs and invested in the former Family Dollar location. They offer the highest quality men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and accessories: handbags, jewelry, belts, hats, ties and comforters.



Hopewell is also home to **Frightened Turtle Vineyard and Winery** at Sunny Slope Farms, Frightened Turtle Vineyard and Winery, located within Sunny Slope Farms,



Frightened Turtle Vineyard and Winery

continued on page 14

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Dog Days of Summer Raised Money for the County Sheriff's K9 Unit



Left: County Sheriff Robert Austino (center) and K9 unit officers and canines accept donation from Chamber Board members Carol Musso, and Patricia Mooneyham. Right: Bruce Riley and his dog Kash, enjoy the fun at Cedar Rose Vineyards.



On July 18, the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation held a fundraiser with food, wine, music, and games. It was held at Cedar Rose Vineyards in Deerfield Township. Called the Dog Days of Summer, the event included bring your dogs as guests, and money raised will be donated to the Cumberland County Sheriff Department's K9 unit. The sponsors included the main event sponsor Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union, and other event sponsors Ocean First Bank, Newfield National Bank, and The Passion Professor.



Deerfield Mayor Abigail Perlstein O'Brien shows off history display as part of Deerfield's 225th anniversary celebration

Deerfield Township Celebrates its 225th Anniversary

Contributed by Dawn Bascelli, Deerfield Township Administrator

Deerfield Day was held August 5, the largest of the 225th anniversary events planned by Deerfield Township Committee in partnership with Rosenhayn Fire Company and their annual, popular chicken BBQ. The day included slides and activities for kids, a trackless train, historical displays with photos, video of seniors' interviews, which was created in cooperation with the Cumberland Regional High School Media Class taught by instructor Ed Sayre.

The celebration included booths from Inspira, the Cumberland County Sheriff, NJ State Police Mounted Unit and Community Policing Unit, 4H, County Tourism and Cedar Rose Winery. Live music was provided by The Exceptions. The Charlotte Brago Senior Center and Atlantic City Electric had tents as well.

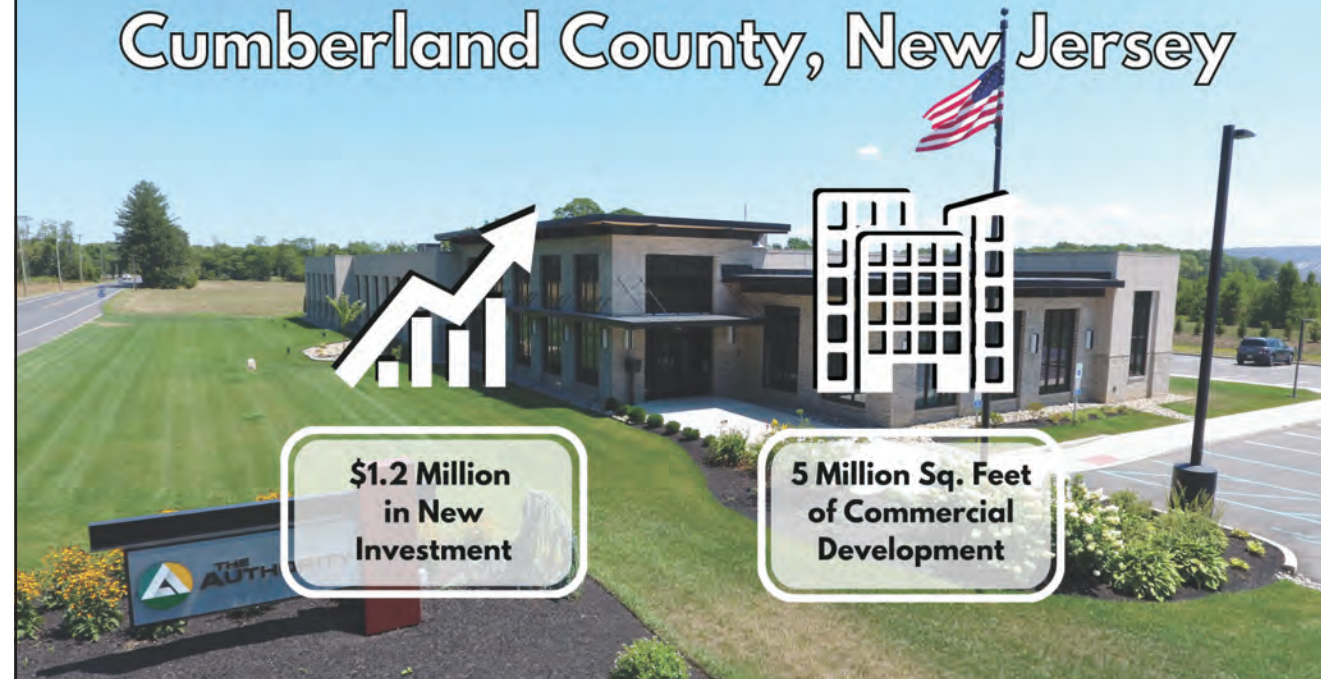
The pie eating contests were definitely a hit with the winners getting their choice of Razor Scooters! \$1,000 was raised for the Hailey McMullen Memorial Scholarship at Deerfield Township School.

continued on page 14



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Laurie LaTorre (left), the Chamber's Member Services Coordinator, welcomes Essential Senior Benefits to the Chamber. Minerva Alvarado, represents this new member.



Keep It Shining Car Wash

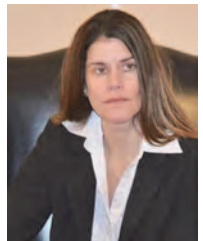
544 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ, Rt. 49 in Hopewell
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WELCOME TO THE NEW CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS

The Chamber welcomes four new Board Members. We thank these members for their willingness to guide and lead the Chamber of Commerce.



Joe Cortez,
Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union
←



Meghan McCormick-Hoerner,
Cumberland Mutual →



Patricia Mooneyham,
The Passion Professor
←



Megan Sheppard, →
Cumberland County Department of Health



SHOP LOCAL WITH ALL OUR CHAMBER MEMBERS. www.CumberlandGrows.com/member-directory NOT A MEMBER? JOIN. www.CumberlandGrows.com/join

Deerfield Celebrates 225 Years *continued from page 13*



The new music area at the park was funded by Intersect Energy and Synagro, and the band was sponsored by The Authority! Other donors were F&S Fresh Foods, Fralinger Engineers, Testa Law, National Refrigerants, and Nutrigen. See more information, photos and upcoming events on the DeerfieldNJ Facebook Page.



Other events included Movie In the Park, Inspira Health program, Township Yard Sale, Music In The Park, and Dedication of Carmel Park. Coming up: September 30 - Car Show, October 15 - Eagles/Jets Tailgate at Township Building, November 11 - Veterans Day Service, November 16 - Friendsgiving at Charlotte Brago Senior Center, December 1 - Holiday Tree Lighting and December 2 - Breakfast With Santa.



Frightened Turtle Winery offers beautiful tasting room and delicious wines.

Signs of a Growing Economy

continued from page 12

has a beautiful tasting room open Thurs. - Sunday, from 11am to 5pm. For more information, 856-451-0022 and see them on Facebook.



In Upper Deerfield, national restaurant **Chipotle** is under construction, and **Express Liquor Store** is under pre-opening renovations in the Carlls Corner Shopping Center.



In downtown Bridgeton, **Taco Bell** is under construction on Rt. 49, Broad Street at Laurel Street.



Reunión del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

continuación de la página 11

iniciativas, incluyendo las "Walk y Talks" trimestrales realizadas como su alcance comunitario para visitar y conocer a los dueños de negocios en el centro. Se tienen conversaciones para incluirlos en eventos de la cámara, incluida la reciente Downtown Business Expo y Sidewalk Sale, que fue coorganizada por la Ciudad de Bridgeton UEZ y Bridgeton Main Street. El evento se realizará nuevamente el 15 de junio de 2024.

El Comité de Negocios Hispanos tiene los siguientes miembros: Minerva Alvarado (Essential Senior Benefits) y Jon Cummings (Revive South Jersey), copresidentes; Martha Torres (Century Savings Bank); Jamila Powell (LAEDA); Charlene Rutherford (First National Bank of Elmer); Isis Sosa (Revive South Jersey); Gil Walter (Bridgeton Main Street); Stephanie González (Ciudad de Bridgeton UEZ); Rosalinda García (Bridgeton Main Street); Joemy Nuñez (Ultra Clean Technologies); Sahory Montilla (Ejército de Salvación de Bridgeton); Joseph Cortez (Cooperativa de Crédito Federal Bridgeton Onized); Laurie LaTorre (Cámara de Bridgeton); y Tony Stanzione, (Director Ejecutivo de la Cámara de Bridgeton).

Para obtener más información sobre cómo unirse a la cámara o sobre el Comité de Negocios Hispanos, envíe un correo electrónico a la cámara a bacc@baccnj.com.



Alan Woodruff Passed Away in Sept.

The Chamber of Commerce marks the passing of Jon Alan Woodruff with prayers and sympathy for the Woodruff family, and with respect and admiration for his life of service and success. Alan received the Chamber's Francis "Binks" Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, joining his mother Anne Woodruff and his brother Bob Woodruff as recipients of this award. "We thank and honor Alan for the outstanding contributions he made to our area's economy, and to the community," said Tony Stanzione, Chamber CEO.

Events to Brighten the Bridgeton Area

From October to December, the Chamber and other community and civic organizations are presenting events to entertain residents and visitors, setting the stage for a festive fall and holiday season.

Hopewell Township's 275th Anniversary and Hopewell Day Celebration on Sept. 30, 10 am to 5 pm,

on the grounds of Hopewell Senior Center, Business Park, and Greater Bridgeton Amish Market. This free admission event, rescheduled due to rain on Sept. 23, includes live music by Jack Neff Band and Whiskey Sunset, craft and community exhibits, bounce houses, corn maze, ax throwing, stilt walker, dance, police, and fire demonstrations, face painting, and lots of great food and beverages. Info: Facebook, [HopewellTownshipCumberlandCountyNJ](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellTownshipCumberlandCountyNJ).



5K Run / Walk for the Animals at Bridgeton's Cohanzick Zoo on Sept. 30, 9-11 am.

Register to run or walk and to donate. <https://runsignup.com/runfortheanimalscohanzickzoo>

Mystic Bowie Reggae Concert at Bridgeton Riverfront on Oct. 7, 6-8:30 pm.

Free admission with \$5 donation suggested. Food and beverages available for purchase.

Info: www.facebook.com/revivesouthjersey/



Boo at the Zoo at Cohanzick Zoo in Bridgeton on Oct. 28, 11 am to 2 pm. Join some scary good fun! Dress the family in your best costumes and come out for a spook-tacular trick-or-treat event at the Zoo! This is a free event.

First Friday at Gallery 50, 50 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton on Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1, 6-8 pm.

Enjoy beautiful artwork, friendly conversation, entertainment, talk with artists, and light refreshments at these free monthly events. Info: www.gallery50.org, 856-575-0090



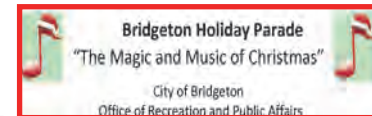
Bridgeton Historic Holiday House Tour on Dec. 2, 3-7 pm.

Begins with wrist-band pick up at Bridgeton Main Street office 31 W. Commerce St. Then enjoy historic homes and buildings, holiday décor, entertainment, art, history, music, and more. Info: www.DowntownBridgeton.com; downtownbridgeton@gmail.com 856-453-8130



It's Back! City of Bridgeton Holiday Parade in Downtown Bridgeton on Sat., Dec. 9, at noon.

The City of Bridgeton will re-launch the Annual Holiday Parade, planned and managed by the Department of Recreation and Public Affairs. The theme is "The Magic and Music of Christmas" Please participate in building a new tradition for the great City of Bridgeton and the area. Enter by mail 35 Mayor Aitken Dr., Bridgeton, NJ 08302 or by email to RecDept@cityofbridgeton.com by the November 20 deadline.



Message From the Chamber President Barry Seay

Barry Seay is an active board member of the Chamber, serving as President. He is General Manager / Sales Manager for South Jersey Water Conditioning Service, a long-time, strong supporter of the Chamber

As the Chamber and community heads into the busy and eventful fall and holiday seasons, I am happy to report that the Chamber is busy, too, presenting meetings, events, and projects to promote and inform our members with the goal of a stronger economy for our area.

In July, we had a fun fundraiser for the Chamber Foundation at Cedar Rose Vineyard, raising over \$1,000 that will be donated to the K9 unit at the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department. Thank you to Patricia Mooneyham, new Chamber Board Member, for heading this event.

Working with Rowan College of South Jersey, we offered a free two-day online workshop on efficient and innovative use of social media to promote your business.

On Sept. 19, the Chamber's Lunch meeting was dedicated to recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month with our Chamber Hispanic Business Committee, leading the successful event at our Chamber member Inka Chicken Bar. Then on Sept. 21, working with Greater Millville and Greater Vineland Chambers, we presented the well-attended, successful Cumberland County Business Expo and Job fair.

On Nov. 1, our Chamber honors business and community heroes at our annual awards celebration. I congratulate all of the recipients and look forward to celebrating the ways they have made their businesses, organizations and communities better.

Visit www.CumberlandGrows.com/events for the full list of events, for more information and to register to attend. Help our businesses, help our Chamber, help the community, and help yourself by getting involved.

BRIDGETON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WWW.CUMBERLANDGROWS.COM/EVENTS • 856-455-1312 • JOIN THE CHAMBER WWW.CUMBERLANDGROWS.COM/JOIN

Mon., Oct. 16, 2023, 5:30-7 PM - Multi Chamber Networking Event at Inspira Health LIFE Center - Grant Ave. and Delsea Dr. Vineland. Greater Millville, Greater Vineland and Bridgeton Area Chambers of Commerce present this after-hours mixer and tour at Inspira's LIFE Center. Register with the Greater Millville Chamber who is leading this event.

Tues., Oct. 17, 2023, 8:30 AM, - Chamber Meeting - It's in the Wind! NJ Wind Port Project - The Authority's Training Center, 745 Lebanon Rd, Millville, in Deerfield Township. Get latest information on the multi-million dollar Wind Port project and the outlook for jobs and business opportunities from NJ EDA speaker Monica Coffey, and others. Networking and breakfast from 8:30

AM to 9 AM. The speakers start at 9 AM and conclude at 9:45 AM. \$30. Register and info: www.CumberlandGrows.com/events.

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023, 5 PM Cash Bar; 6 PM Dinner - Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce 32nd Business & Community Heroes Celebration - \$75 per person.

Honorees recognized in this newsletter. For information, sponsor, attend www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero.

Mon., Nov. 20, 2023, 2-3 PM - Networking and Trivia Fun Online - Four Chambers are participating. Members only. Registration details to be announced.

Wed., Nov. 29, 2023, 11:30 AM - Chamber Annual Meeting & Service Recognition - The Grove at Centerton, Pittsgrove, \$35 per person. Honoring service and recognizing Chamber leaders and members. Networking followed by lunch at noon. Register, pay: www.tinyurl.com/bacc11-29-23.

Wed., Dec. 6, 2023, 5:30 PM - Chamber Bowling Challenge - Campani's Legacy Lanes, Deerfield Township, \$200 per 5-person team. Includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, cash prizes, other prizes, food & beverages, & holiday-themed fun. Lane sponsors available. Register, pay: www.tinyurl.com/baccbowling.

Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023, Noon, Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce / Bridgeton Rotary Club, Other Service Clubs Holiday Luncheon at Bridgeton High School, \$25, holiday ceremony, music by high school musicians, community giving. Register www.CumberlandGrows.com/events.

More events are listed on page 15.



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Tracey Jenkins
Vice President
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Hankins Family Picnic Park

Citing the history of service to Hopewell, Mayor Paul Ritter, III, presided over a ceremony recently, naming the picnic park there after the Hankins family. Family members who attended the ceremony, and expressed humble thanks for the honor included past mayor Bruce, Brent, and Jane Hankins, and Alaina Hankins Pillsbury.

BRIDGETON AREA Chamber of Commerce

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www.CumberlandGrows.com

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Tony Stanzione

Member Services Coordinator:
Laurie LaTorre

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2nd Vice President: Minerva Alvarado

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