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Chamber of Commerce

BRIDGETON

Business & Community News

Spring 2024

Chamber members and women who excel and

inspire, left-right: Ediana Martinez, Meghan

McCormick Hoerner, Catherine Hardy, Patricia

Mooneyham, and April Venable.



Catherine Hardy, (center) owner of A Whiskey Array, historic home rentals, talks about her business journey. Listening are Patricia Mooneyham, and Meghan McCormick Hoerner.

Women in **Business Excel &** Inspire

On March 19, the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated Women's History Month with a panel discussion including owners of

four of the Chamber's women-owned businesses. The meeting was held 5-7 PM at Chamber member - Frightened Turtle Vineyard & Winerv at Sunny Slope Farms in Hopewell.

The meeting was sponsored by Inspira Health, which is led by a successful and inspiring woman, President and CEO Amy B. Mansue. The discussion at the meeting was moderated by April Venable, another ex-

tinez of Essential Senior Ben-

Frightened Turtle Vineyard and Winery at Sunny Slope Farms was welcomed as a new chamber member, and served as host for the meeting. Left-right: Lisa Thomas, Rita Ratliff, and Ron Thomas.

efits, Patricia Mooneyham of The Passion Professor, and Meghan McCormick Hoerner of The Bridgeton Beacon. Venable began the discus-

sion by asking the women to talk about their journey as entrepreneurs and as women who embrace the opportunities of running a business, balanced with all the challenges and responsibilities of life in general.

Ediana Martinez of Essential Senior Benefits said, "it is the passion she has to help others, especially seniors, that drives her to grow her business while handling the role of mother of three children and wife."

Meghan McCormick Hoerner talked about the many twists and turns of a career as a lawyer and entrepreneur recounting her work as a public prosecutor, defense attorney with her own law firm, her desire to tell the positive stories of others in Bridgeton and South Jersey through her nonprofit organization, The Bridgeton Beacon, and her current continued on page 4

traordinary leader of Inspira Health, Senior Vice President for Operations Strategy and Transformation. Chamber members and women business owners who spoke included Catherine Hardy of A Whiskey Array, Ediana Mar-

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Chamber January Meeting: "Here to Help Business

Chamber members and other businesspeople heard from a panel of business assistance providers at the Chamber's January 23rd breakfast meeting held at Chamber member Golden Pigeon Diner and Restaurant at Carlls Corner in Upper Deerfield.

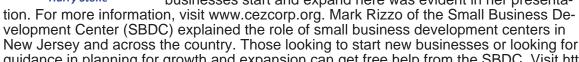
The theme of the meeting, "Here to Help" featured a panel discussion about some of the resources available to businesses. Harry Stone, President and CEO of Cooperative Business Assistance Corporation (CBAC) moderated the discussion and provided a summary

of the services his agency provides to businesses in Cumberland County and throughout South Jersey and Philadelphia.

CBAC has a history of providing loans to businesses in need in our area, direct loans to customers or by partnering with a customer's bank. CBAC is a leading lender in the region of SBA Microloans, and a partner with Bridgeton Area Chamber and Cumberland Development Corp. For information visit www.CBACLenders.com.

Denise Jackson of Cumberland County Empowerment Zone Corp. explained the loans and services available throughout Cumberland County from her agency. Her dedication to helping businesses start and expand here was evident in her presenta-

sources they need to start in NJ, expand here, and stay here. For more information see www.nj.gov/state/bac.



and Jane Asselta, NJ State Director for USDA Rural Development. guidance in planning for growth and expansion can get free help from the SBDC. Visit https://njsbdc.com/njsbdc-at-stockton-university-in-atlanticcity. The other panelists talked about their organizations and how they assist businesses. That included loans, loan guarantees, and in some cases grants, from USDA Rural Development. Jane Asselta, State Director for NJ, covered a variety of loans and programs that are designed to help rural areas grow a stronger economy. See www.usda.gov for more information. Jamila Powell of Latin American Economic Development Association (LAEDA) highlighted the special educational and assistance services available to women entrepreneurs and others. See more about LAEDA

at www.LAEDA.com. Anthony Martinez summarized the many ways his agency, The NJ Business Action Center, helps businesses get the re-





Meeting NJ District 3 Legislators

Speakers at the Chamber's January meeting on business resources to

help businesses, left-right, Barry Seay, Chamber President, Denise Jackson, Executive Director of Cumberland County Empowerment

Zone Corp., Harry Stone, CEO of Cooperative Business Assistance Corp.

Mark Rizzo. Director of the Small Business Development Center at

Stockton University, Jamila Powell, Latin American Economic Devel-

opment Association, Anthony Martinez of NJ Business Action Center,

Invited guests joined the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in a breakfast meeting with new NJ District 3 legislators on March 1 at The Bait Box Restaurant in Greenwich. The Chamber's Government and Community Relations Committee, co-chaired by Catherine Hardy and Meghan McCormick Hoerner, presents continued on page 3

Above left photo, NJ State Senator John Burzichelli answers a question at the Chamber's legislative breakfast, as Assemblywoman Heather Simmons and Assemblyman David Bailey, Jr. listen. Above right photo, left-right: Mayor Abigail O'Brien, Deerfield, and CDC Chairwoman, Tony Stanzione, Chamber CEO, Sen. John Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Heather Simmons, Barry Seay, Chamber President, Meghan Hoerner, Co-chair of Government Relations Committee, Assemblyman David Bailey, Jr, and Catherine Hardy, Co-chair of the Government Relations Committee.



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3 Chambers Meet for State of County Report

County Commission Director Joseph Sileo provided an upbeat presentation about the County's progress, including projects that are underway to make the county better.

The Bridgeton Area, Greater Vineland, and Greater Millville Chambers met together on Feb. 22 at Chamber member - The Grove at Centerton to hear a report from Cumberland County government about the state of the county. Joseph Sileo, the new Director of the Cumberland Board of County Commissioners was the keynote speaker. Dawn Hunter, Executive Director of the Greater Vineland Chamber thanked and recognized the meeting sponsors: Charles Schwab Vineland-Millville/Don Daigle, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital Vineland, Focal Point Coaching of South Jersey, and Rowan College South Jersey.

Director Sileo talked about improvements in services, road and other infrastructure projects, growth in economic development, and finding innovative solutions to challenges facing the county. He thanked his fellow Commissioners who were present, and County staff who are key parts of the success the county can achieve.

He added that the county government will cooperate with and work together with the municipalities, and state and federal leaders to accomplish improvements in the county, acknowledging State Senator Michael Testa, who was in attendance.

Meeting Legislators continued from page 2

opportunities like this during the year to maintain good communication with state, county

and local government leaders. This meeting provided the opportunity to hear from and talk with NJ District 3 legislators Senator John Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Heather Simmons, and Assemblyman David Bailey, Jr. New Cumberland County **Cumberland County**

Sheriff Michael Donato and other public officials also attended.



Meghan Hoerner, Barry Seay, and Catherine Hardy welcome everyone to the legislative breakfast.





Above: Joseph Sileo, Director of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, addresses 140 Chamber members and others, at a breakfast meeting presented by Cumberland County's three chambers of commerce.

Left: Dawn Hunter, Executive Director of the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce introduced Joseph Sileo.



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Sheriff Michael

Donato

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Women Excel and Inspire

continued from page 1

employment as an attorney for Cumberland Mutual.

Catherine Hardy, owner of AirBNB known as A Whiskey Array, told her story of living on the West Coast of the U.S. and returning to Bridgeton and Cumberland County, where she was raised and which she loves. "I encourage women and all in business to reach out to others, and to follow the green lights that lead you to where you should be and to people who will love and support you."

Patricia Mooneyham, owner of The Passion Professor, began her presentation by pointing out some of the important words she heard from her fellow panelists and how they define women in business - courage, empowerment, passion,



Marlise Counsellor, local Mary Kay Independent Consultant

drive, empathy, relationships, and service. She talked about her career path which took turns along the journey, from mission work, to education, and to opening her own consulting business, to announcing that she is running to be a U.S. Senator for New Jersey this fall.



April Venable of Inspira Health

The meeting included recognition of Women's History Month with stories of women sometimes overlooked in history, and successful female entrepreneurs. Frightened Turtle Vineyard & Winery owners Ron and Lisa Thomas were welcomed as new chamber members and hosts for the meeting. April Venable provided an update on the growth and services of Inspira Health, the sponsor of this meeting. Karen Clementon, owner of Gather to Graze, which specializes in creating abundant graze boxes, charcuterie boards, tables, and more, provided a



Laurie LaTorre and **Barry Seay**

complimentary beautiful and delicious charcuterie board for the meeting.

Share Holiday Meeting



www.GathertoGrazeMullicaHill.com

In December, the Chamber of Commerce joined Bridgeton Rotary Club in its decades-long tradition of

> enjoying holiday music provided by the singers and musicians of Bridgeton High School. The meeting was hosted by Bridgeton High School and food was prepared and served by the high school culinary staff and students. Toys, food and monev were donated to the Salvation Army in Bridgeton.



Mayor Paul Ritter, III was thanked for his years of service to CDC and Hopewell by Mayor Skip Bowman, Mayor Mike Vizzard. Committeeman Dave Shivers, and Mayor Jim Crilley.



Remembering Nancy Sungenis and David Wilson

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Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Member Directory & Shop Local Guide

Use pages 5-8 as a shop local guide. ♦ New members are in red. ♦ Premier Chamber Partners in blue. ♦ www.CumberlandGrows.com/member-directory

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Carolyn Heckman

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Cumberland County Health Department

Millville 856-327-7602 www.ccdoh.org Public health services for 13 of Cumberland County's municipalities

(Continued on page 6)

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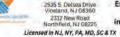
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Vineland 856-451-9000 x 240 www.cumberland.tec.nj.us

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Upper Deerfield (856) 451-0940

www.goldenpigeondiner.com Restaurant 24 Hour restaurant and bakery

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Community Development, GED Instruction, Spanish,

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Local government and services **Inka Chicken**

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(Continued on page8)



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(Continued from page 7) - **Shop Local Guide** The Guidance Center

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Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara

Minerva Alvarado (center with cap) talks with downtown merchants and visitors at the Downtown Sidewalk Sale last summer. Minerva Alvarado (en el centro con gorra) habla con comerciantes y visitantes del centro de la ciudad en la venta en la acera del centro el verano pasado.

Thank you Minerva Alvarado for contributing this article. Gracias Minerva Alvarado por contribuir con este artículo.

The Bridgeton Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee held its first meeting of 2024 recently. El Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara de Comercio de Bridgeton celebró recientemente su primera reunión de 2024. Co-chairing together once again are Jon Cummings (Ranch Hope), 1st Vice President of the Bridgeton Chamber and Minerva Alvarado (Essential Senior Benefits), 2nd Vice President of the Bridgeton Chamber.

The 2024 committee consists of Hector Bonilla (Inka Chicken Bar), Joseph Cortez (Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union), Rosalinda Garcia (Bridgeton Main Street), Stephanie Gonzalez (City of Bridgeton UEZ), Mariana Hinojosa (Latin American Economic Development Assoc.), Laurie LaTorre (Bridgeton Chamber), Joemy Nunez (Ultra Clean Technologies), Jamila Powell (Latin American Economic Development Assoc.). Charlene Rutherford (1st National Bank of Elmer), Barry Seay (South Jersey Water Conditioning), Tony Stanzione (Bridgeton Chamber) and Martha Torres (Century Savings Bank) and they're excited for what's next in Downtown Bridgeton and with the Bridgeton Chamber!

The Committee will continue their efforts in conducting periodic "Walk & Talks" where committee members

pair up and visit downtown businesses to continue to build strong relationships with downtown merchants and share information about chamber events and chamber initiatives.

In 2023, the Chamber partnered with the City of Bridgeton UEZ, Bridgeton Main



Representatives of the host organizations are pictured at the 2023 event. This year, the Downtown Bridgeton Sidewalk Sale will be expanded with more fun and activities for kids, families, and shoppers, and will take place Saturday, June 15, 10 AM to 6 PM. Visit www.CumberlandGrows.com/ BridgetonSidewalk for more information.

Street Association and Bridgeton Rotary to host the Downtown Bridgeton Sidewalk Sale. Businesses throughout downtown set up their own tables outside as shoppers walked the sidewalks to see what the stores had to offer. Nonprofits were set up at the Pocket Park and fun was had by all. This year, the event will be

held on Saturday, June 15th. Details will be released soon. In the meantime, check the Chamber's website (www.cumberlandgrows.com/events) or their Facebook Page

(@BridgetonAreaChamberofCommerce) for updates.

Business professionals are invited to a B2B Networking Event at the Bridgeton Public Library on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 from 5 to 7pm. This event is being held during National Library Week, and the library is also celebrating 100 years of service to the Bridgeton area. A special tour of the Woodruff Museum (museum is located inside the Library) is included and continued on page 10 Continúa en la página 10

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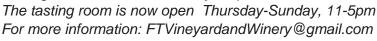
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Informes del Comité de Negocios Hispanos

continuación de la página 9

in this special business networking event. For more information please email the chamber: bacc@baccnj.com. This event is free, but you must register to attend via the chamber website.

The Hispanic Business Committee is excited for 2024 and getting back out to visit downtown business merchants. Maybe we'll see you downtown!

El Comité continuará sus esfuerzos para realizar "Caminatas por el centro de Bridgeton" periódicas donde los miembros del comité se reúnen y visitan los negocios del centro para continuar construyendo relaciones sólidas con los comerciantes y también para compartir

información sobre eventos e iniciativas de la cámara.

Los miembros del Comité de Negocios Hispanos son nombrados en los dos primeros párrafos de este artículo en la página 9.

En 2023, la Cámara se asoció con la UEZ de la Ciudad de Bridgeton, la Asociación de la Calle Principal de Bridgeton y Bridgeton Rotary para organizar la Venta de la Acera del Centro de Bridgeton. Los negocios en todo el centro de la ciudad instalaron sus propias mesas afuera mientras los compradores caminaban por las aceras para ver lo que las tiendas.

Visit the Downtown Bridgeton Sidewalk Sale on June 15 and shop at stores like these filled with a wide variety of items. Visite la venta en la acera del centro de Bridgeton el 15 de junio y compre en tiendas como estas llenas de una amplia variedad





Los profesionales de negocios están invitados a un evento de B2B networking en la biblioteca pública de Bridgeton el miércoles 10 de abril de 2024 de 5 a 7 p.m. Este evento es durante la Semana Nacional de la Biblioteca y la biblioteca también celebra 100 años de servicio en el área de Bridgeton. El evento incluye un recorrido especial por el Museo Woodruff (el museo está ubicado dentro de la biblioteca). Para obtener más información, envíe un correo electrónico a la cámara: bacc@baccnj.com. Este evento es gratuito, pero debe registrarse a través del sitio web de la cámara.

El Comité de Negocios Hispanos está entusiasmado con volver a visitar a los comerciantes del centro de la ciudad en 2024. ¡Tal vez nos veamos en el centro de Bridgeton!

Welcome New Chamber Board Member Kathy Shumate

In February Kathy Shumate of Inspira Health Network was elected to the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Foundation Board of Directors. She is Community Benefits Coordinator for Inspira Health. She replaces Ana Saull of Inspira Health on our Board. Ana is filling other community involvement re-

sponsibilities for Inspira. We thank Ana for her excellent service to the Chamber, and we welcome Kathy.



Big Brothers Big Sisters Opens New Center



Bridgeton Area Chamber joined more than 100 people to welcome Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties to its new offices and service center in Upper Deerfield on March 15. Congratulations President/ CEO Donna Bennett and everyone at BBBS! www.SouthJerseyBigs.org

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Chamber Offers 3 Free Meetings

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce is presenting three free meetings for members and others in April, May, and June.

Celebrando la Semana Nacional de la Bibliotecas y ¡100 Años de Servicio en Bridgeton! ¡Preparados, Listos, biblioteca! ¡redes B2B GRATIS en la biblioteca! 10 de



abril de 2024, 5 - 7 pm. On Wednesday, April 10, the Chamber and its Hispanic Business Committee in cooperation with the Bridgeton Public Library, presents Ready, Set, Library!, a business to business (B2B) meeting, 5-7 PM at Bridgeton Public Library. The event is sponsored by Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union, and celebrates National Library Week by showcasing the programs and services of the Bridgeton Public Library.

¡Refrescos, frigerios ligeros y excursiones especiales! Light refreshments & snacks, plus Special Tours! The public is invited. Please register in advance: www.tinyurl.com/BACCLibrary.

On Wednesday, May 8, the Chamber and Cumberland Development Corp. present Free Business Networking and Information Meeting, 5-6:45 PM at Frightened Turtle Vineyard & Winery at Sunny Slope Farms in Hopewell. The meeting includes showcasing selected businesses from Hopewell, Shiloh, and Stow Creek, economic development and municipal government updates, a brief marketing workshop, food, and beverages. Newfield National Bank is the sponsor of this free meeting. Register: www.tinyurl.com/BACCFreeBusinessMeeting.

On Tuesday, June 11, it's a Free Zoom Networking Meeting presented by the Chamber, noon to 1 PM. This fast-paced meeting will include small group breakouts to enhance networking opportunities. Chamber members and all area business people are invited. Please register in advance: www.tinyurl.com/
BACCNetworkZoom.

Bridgeton Alive! More People Downtown

Bridgeton Alive! is a new partnership created to help area organizations collaborate to foster quality events in Bridgeton that promote local business, family fun and culture. The partners are Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, United Advocacy Group, Gallery 50, the City of Bridgeton, Bridgeton UEZ and Revive South Jersey. In 2024, four major events will



Message from Chamber President Barry Seay

Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service is President of the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, thanks to our Board members, officers, members, staff, volunteers, and sponsors, has many meetings, events, and projects planned and underway in 2024 to provide our members many opportunities for networking, education, new business, and involvement in our community.

We have already partnered with Greater Vineland and Greater Millville Chambers to host over 140 people as we heard from our Cumberland County government, presented a panel of people who assist businesses in many ways, held a meeting with our new NJ District 3 Legislators, and celebrated how women in business excel and inspire.

We launched fundraising for our Chamber Foundation to serve youth in the Bridgeton area, including seeking donations for our Chamber Foundation scholarships, which this year will be presented in memory of two outstanding community leaders — Nancy Sungenis and David Wilson. You can donate by mail or online to the scholarship fund and to support the BHS Senior trip using this link: www.tinyurl.com/BACCDonations.

We have even more networking, education, and fun meetings and events planned throughout the year including a free networking meeting at Bridgeton Public Library on April 10, an area economic development update from area mayors on April 16, a free business information and networking meeting on May 8, and a presentation from Dr. Fred Keating, President of Rowan College of South Jersey on May 14. Check out more to come on our calendar of events at www.CumberlandGrows.com/events.

Join the Chamber if you are not a member – www.CumberlandGrows.com/Join. To our members, I can't thank you enough for supporting the Chamber and working together with us and our members to make our economy stronger and our community better.

get kickoff the partnership with more to come in the future. The events this year are Downtown Bridgeton Sidewalk Sale (June), Hispanic Heritage Day (September), UAG Theater Shows (fall series) and the Bridgeton Christmas Parade (December). The partnership seeks businesses that care about the area to be the presenting sponsors for the all four of the events. Contact Jon Cummings, Revive South Jersey, jon@revivesj.org.

Chamber Foundation Raising Funds for Scholarships & BHS Senior Trip

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation is raising funds to support the Bridgeton High School Senior Trip to Disney World, and donations for scholarships to students graduating this year from Bridgeton and Cumberland Regional High Schools and Cumberland County Technical Education Center.

The annual scholarships that the Chamber of Commerce Foundation provides to three students from our community, totaling \$3,000 will be presented this year in memory of Nancy Sungenis and David Wilson, long-time Chamber and

community leaders who passed away recently.

You may make your donation by debit or credit card, or be invoiced for this donation, Use this link www.tinyurl.com/BACCDonations or scan the QR code. Please make contributions by April 15, 2024. Make checks payable to BACC Foundation. Mail to PO Box 1063, Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Dave Wilson Nancy Sungenis



Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Events



Wed., April 10, 2024, 5 PM, Free Business to Business Meeting at Bridgeton Public Library. This free information & networking meeting celebrates national library month. Sponsor: Bridgeton Onized Federal Credit Union. Register www.tinyurl.com/ B2BLibrary.



Tues., April 16, 2024, Noon, Signs of Economic Development,

luncheon meeting at Terrigno's Fairfield Inn. Learn about growth and development in Bridgeton, Deerfield, Hopewell, Upper Deerfield and the area. \$30, Sponsor: Charles Schwab Vineland-Millville. Register www.CumberlandGrows.com/BACC04-16-24.



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Vice President Branch Manager



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ness and community displays, children's fun, music, and food. There will be other events in the area, too, so make it a Bridgeton area day! Participating business and organizations are asked to register in advance. No registration needed for the public. More information: www.CumberlandGrows.com/BridgetonSidewalk.

Wednesday, June 26, 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM, 30th Bridgeton Area Chamber Golf Tournament at Centerton Golf Club. A day of golf, prizes, networking, food, and fun. Sponsors and golfers welcome!

Register: www,tinyurl.com/BACCGolf.

ter: www.tinyurl.com/BACCNetworkZoom

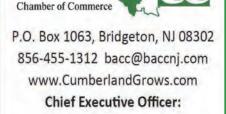
Saturday, June 15, 2025, 10 AM to 6 PM, Down-

town Bridgeton Sidewalk Sale. Sales, prizes, busi-

tion and Cumberland Sheriff's K9 Unit - Summer Party at Terra Nonno

Vineyard, Fri., July 26, 5-9 PM, www.tinyurl.com/BACCSummerParty.

Dog Days of Summer at Cedar Rose Vineyard, Tues., Aug. 13, 5-7 PM. Help the K9 unit. www.tinyurl.com/ BACCDogDays



BRIDGETON

AREA

Tony Stanzione Member Services Coordinator:

Laurie LaTorre

President: Barry Seay

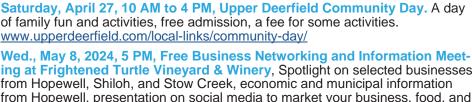
1st Vice President: Jonathan Cummings

2nd Vice President: Minerva Alvarado

Treasurer: Randi Galan

Corp. Secretary: Marlise Counsellor









of family fun and activities, free admission, a fee for some activities.

www.upperdeerfield.com/local-links/community-day/



Tues., May 14, 2024, 11:30 AM, Chamber Luncheon Meeting at Terrigno's Fairfield Inn, featuring Dr. Fred Keating, President of Rowan College of SJ. Sponsor: Rowan College of South Jersey. \$30. Register: www.tinyurl.com/BACCRowanSJPresident

Bridgeton invitational Tournament May 17 to 26. 9 days of exciting 18 -Over Semi-Pro baseball action right here. Family fun, food, & baseball. Info: https://bridgetoninvitationalbaseballtournament.sportngin.com/

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, Noon, Free Networking on Zoom. Free



