

THE BRIDGETON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 40th ANNUAL SALUTE TO BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY HEROES AWARDS CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 28, 2026



The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, which has recognized businesses and community leaders for 40 years with its **Business, and Community Heroes Awards**, will honor and thank area businesses and community heroes when it holds its **awards celebration on October 28, 2026 at The Grove in Centerton.**



The Chamber is asking the community to nominate individuals, groups of individuals, organizations and/or businesses who have worked to sustain and strengthen people, other organizations, our economy, and/or our community by demonstrating their "Hometown Heart." **Please make nominations by June 5.**

The Chamber will join with the community to honor their service, character, courage, and achievements, not just to thank them but to inspire others to support their efforts and to become community heroes and/or entrepreneurs themselves.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HERO!

A community hero is anyone who works hard and comes up with innovative and successful ways to improve the quality of life of a person, a group, or of the community. This could be a public official, a community leader, a concerned citizen or group of citizens, a healthcare worker, a volunteer, a first responder, the police, firefighters, a non-profit organization, or a local business.

Some community heroes work with or for an organization or initiative. Others start their own ways to help others. They are the definition of being a good citizen, being a good person, having hometown heart, and loving where they live.

Here are some examples, but all possibilities are welcome.

- Healthcare providers and caregivers
- Public safety workers and first responders
- Educators and education professionals
- Community and neighborhood organizations
- Individual citizens who display caring and concern for others
- See other information at www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero

We are seeking nominations for **community heroes, area businesses, and our 2 memorial awards – The Francis "Binks" Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award and The Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award.** The criteria for these awards are found on the nomination form. Your nominations are welcomed.

BRIDGETON AREA CHAMBER BUSINESS & HEROES AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominations may be made online at www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero or you may use this nomination form. To assist the nomination committee, a brief description of your reason for nominating an individual or organization is **REQUIRED** for the nomination to be considered. The committee will use its discretion in selecting the recipients. If more room is needed to describe the nominee and reason for recognition, please attach a page with more information or a resume and/or biography for your nominee. You may submit additional nominees on additional forms.

Return completed nomination form and any attachments by June 5 to: Bridgeton Area Chamber, PO Box 1063, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. Nominations will also be accepted online until June 5 by visiting www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero. You may also see the list of past award winners at www.CumberlandGrows.com/hero.

Optional Assistance to Your Nominees – The cost to attend the dinner is \$85 per person. Are you willing to help pay for the cost of your nominee and/or guests to attend the celebration event if that assistance is needed? __Yes __No If yes, which nominee(s) & how many people would you be willing to pay for? _____

Nominator's Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Criteria for Community Hero Awards: Anyone who comes up with innovative and successful ways to improve the quality of life of a person, a group, or of the community. This could be a public official, a community leader, a concerned citizen or group of citizens, a healthcare worker, a volunteer, a first responder, police, firefighters, and/or a non-profit organization. Some heroes work with or for an organization or initiative. Others start their own ways to help others. They are the definition of being a good citizen, and they have hometown heart.

Name of Community Hero _____
Description of what makes them a community hero:

Name of Community Hero _____
Description of what makes them a community hero:

Name of Community Hero _____
Description of what makes them a community hero:

Name of Business _____
Description of what makes them a business worthy of recognition: _____

Name of Business _____
Description of what makes them a business worthy of recognition: _____

Name of Business _____
Description of what makes them a business worthy of recognition: _____

Criteria for The Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Respected individual of the community who has a record of meritorious service to the greater Bridgeton Area promoting economic progress and contributing to the quality of life of the community at large. Someone who maintains high ethical standards in conduct of business, civic and community activities.

Criteria for The Gary Simmerman Leadership Award:

- An individual, group of individuals or an organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the past year or so, that has made a positive impact on the Chamber, an organization, and/or the community in general.

Name of Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award Nominee: _____
Why this person should receive this award: _____

Name of Gary Simmerman Community Leadership Award Nominee: _____
Why this person, group or organization should receive this award: _____

