

Heroes with Hometown Heart

Celebration of Business and Community Heroes

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) and the community recognized business and community heroes on October 30 at The Grove at Centerton. "The celebration highlighted

the leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and concern for others of the heroes who demonstrated their "Hometown Heart" and "Love for Where They Live", said Barry Seay, President of BACC.

The 2024 Francis H. Sharp, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award recipients

Gil Walter and Ken Mecouch received ovations from the more than 160 people who attended.

The Gary F. Simmerman Community Leadership Award was presented to James Curtis Edwards. The Business Hero Awards were given to Fralinger Engineering, Inka Chicken Restaurant, Mexico Travel, and Star Bound Gymnastics Academy. Community Hero Awards were presented to Nina Young and Gary Fischer.

Gil Walter's service to Bridgeton began in 2000 when he was chosen to be President and CEO of Community Health Care, Inc. He credits the vision of Community Health Care's late Board Chairwoman Gwen Gould, and her fellow Board members for giving him

the opportunity to lead the organization. He acknowledged the love and support of his wife Betty as he received the award.

Ken Mecouch was honored for a lifetime of service to Bridgeton and Cumberland County during his 42-year career as a public servant and employee of the county. Ken expressed his gratitude to all the public officials he worked with, his fellow county employees, and to his wife and family.



Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce 2024 Business and Community Heroes
Top row, left-right: Amy Middlekauff, Lisa Carroll-Battavio, Lori Carroll-Rieger and Clint Carroll. Bottom row: Gil Walter, Charles Fralinger, Ken Mecouch, Randi Galan (award committee co-chair), Curtis Edwards, Omarey Williams (award committee co-chair), Gary Fischer, Hector Bonilla and Nina Young.

Our thanks to Nikki Halter Photography for the photos from the Chamber Awards Celebration. For information on professional photography service: www.NikkiHalter.com

Curtis Edwards was recognized because of his extraordinary leadership of CompleteCare Health Network, especially during the COVID-19 health crisis, and for his service to and leadership of his community as a school board member and a Bridgeton City Councilman. As he accepted the award, he thanked his wife Dionne and their two children Jada and Jaelynn and everyone at CompleteCare Health Network.

Business Hero Award winner Hector Bonilla of Inka Chicken Restaurant and Mexico Travel was honored for his entrepreneurial spirit, determination, and for being a major investor and

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Shop Local for the Holidays

The Chamber of Commerce and Cumberland Development Corporation wish everyone a happy holiday season, and remind all to Shop Local for winter and holiday needs. See local shopping ideas in this newsletter.

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Business & Community Hero Awards (Continued from page 1)



Ken Mecouch and Gil Walter with wife Betty accept Francis Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award

believer in downtown Bridgeton, including the recent expansion of his restaurant.

Fralinger Engineering, PA received the Business Hero Award for its continued growth and success under the leadership of the

generations of the Fralinger family. Charles Fralinger, President and son of the founder Albert Fralinger, Jr. accepted the award on behalf of his father, the other Fralinger family members active in the company, and all of the officers and employees of the firm.

The Chamber presented the Business Hero award to Star Bound Gymnastics Academy owned and operated by Lisa Carroll-Battavio, Lori Carroll-Rieger, Clint Carroll and Amy Middlekauff. They were recognized for the successful business they created over

the 30 years, built on a foundation of love, dedication, professionalism, and service to students and community. Star Bound thanked their amazing staff and their loyal customers for their contributions to their success.



Above, Charles Fralinger accepts the Business Hero Award with Michael Fralinger. Right, Curtis Edwards receives the Gary Simmerman Community Leadership Award from Bruce Riley and Joseph Cortez.



Above, Gary Fischer pictured with Carol Musso and Nina Young were presented with Community Hero Awards.

Below, Hector Bonilla (center) accepts Business Hero Award from Jon Cummings and Minerva Alvarado. Bottom Star Bound Gymnastics Academy owners Amy Middlekauff, Lisa Carroll-Battavio, Lori Carroll-Rieger and Clint Carroll at the awards celebration

Nina Young, an employee of Gateway Community Action Partnership received the Community Hero Award for her dedicated service to and concern for those in need in our community. Her dedicated service to the community led to her nomination and selection. She thanked mentors, volunteers and staff she works with for making her recognition possible.

Gary Fischer received the Community Hero Award for his commitment to the community by stepping up to serve as Chairman of the Bridgeton Baseball Tournament committee. With innovative ideas, energetic and dedicated leadership, and the support of other leaders, volunteers, teams, and the community, the tournament has continued.



Randi Galan and Omarey Williams, Co-chairs of the celebration summed it up like this: "Each of us has people we consider heroes, everyday people, who do their part to make things better for family, friends and complete strangers in need." They said all of us have the opportunity to do the same.



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Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated by the Chamber

Miembros Empresariales de la Cámara Celebran el Mes de la Herencia Hispana



Left photo: Stephanie Gonzalez received the Bridgeton Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee's first Pioneer of Change Award from Minerva Alvarado. The other photos, left-right, are the speakers at the Chamber's Sept. 17 meeting, Bert Lopez, Jerry Velazquez, Celeste Riley, Hector Bonilla and Nick Acevedo, III.

This article written by Minerva Alvarado, Chamber 2nd Vice President.

On September 17th, the Bridgeton Area Chamber had their annual Celebration Luncheon to kickoff Hispanic Heritage month. It was planned and hosted by the Chamber's Hispanic Business Committee. Networking, lunch and the program was held at the newly-expanded Inka Chicken Restaurant owned by Hispanic Business Committee Member, Hector Bonilla. Inka Chicken is now available for parties of up to 200 with a beautiful ballroom offering a dining area, full bar and raised stage for bands, shows and parties. Hector and his businesses received the Chamber's Business Hero Award in October.

This year's Hispanic Heritage theme was "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together." Minerva Alvarado, Chamber 2nd Vice President and Hispanic Business Committee Co-Chair started the meeting by sharing her professional story including her nomination by the Chamber to participate in Leadership Cumberland County. Minerva is a 2023 graduate of this leadership program and credits this valuable opportunity with solidifying her leadership goals.

Adalberto (Bert) Lopez of Atlantic City Electric once again sponsored the lunch meeting. Both Bert Lopez and Atlantic City Electric have been longtime supporters of the Bridgeton Chamber and Hispanic Business Committee events.

2024 Speakers were: Celeste Riley (Cumberland County Clerk), Nicasio (Nick) Acevedo III, Esq. (Acevedo & Associates Law Firm), and Jerry Velazquez (The Authority of NJ). The Speakers spoke of their contributions, their mentors and how they came to be "Pioneers of Change" for Hispanics and what steps they have taken and will continue to take to "Shape the Future Together."

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Jon Cummings Elected President of the Chamber of Commerce

On December 4, at the Annual Meeting and Celebration of Service at The Grove at Centerton, Jon Cummings, Executive Director of Revive South Jersey, was elected as President of the Bridgeton Chamber of Commerce (BACC) with his term of office beginning in January. Jon will take over from outgoing President Barry Seay of South Jersey Water Conditioning Service. Jon and BACC CEO Tony Stanzione thanked Barry for his two

years as President and his many years of Chamber leadership. BACC also thanked outgoing Board Member Michelle Evans of The Roarke Agency for her outstanding years of service to the Chamber.

Others elected include Minerva Alvarado of Essential Senior Benefits, First Vice President, Randi Galan of Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency, 2nd Vice President, Marlise Counsellor of Marlise Counsellor Mary Kay Consultant, Treasurer, and Carol Musso of Century Savings Bank, Corporate Secretary. Denise Jackson, Executive Director of the Cumberland Empowerment Zone was elected to the Board. Board members who were re-elected include Joseph Cortez, CompleteCare Foundation, Randi Galan, Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency, Marya Mazzeo, Members First Federal Credit Union, Meghan McCormick Hoerner, Cumberland Mutual, Joemy Nunez, Ultra Clean Technologies Corporation, and Kathy Shumate, Inspira Health. The Chamber hosted representatives of area fire and EMS units to express gratitude for the service they provide to

the community, saving lives and properties, and aiding people in need of emergency services. The Chamber's Foundation conducted the drawing for its 50-50 cash raffle. First prize of \$1,694 went to Thomas Scott. Second prize of \$726 went to Luis Rivera. Thanks to all who contributed and helped raise \$2,420 for the Foundation.



Chamber Board and Officers elected for 2025 are pictured left-right, Minerva Alvarado, Randi Galan, Marlise Counsellor, Carol Musso, Jon Cummings, Joseph Cortez, Marya Mazzeo, Meghan McCormick Hoerner, Joemy Nunez, Kathy Shumate, and Barry Seay. Not pictured: Denise Jackson.



Jon Cummings (left) was congratulated on his election as President of the Chamber. Michelle Evans (center), outgoing board member, and Barry Seay (right), outgoing president, were thanked for their service.



Barry Seay, left, and Jon Cummings address guests at the Chamber's Annual Meeting.


District 1 and 3 Legislators Attend BACC Breakfast

The BACC Legislative Breakfast held in October gave Chamber members and guests the opportunity to hear from the NJ State Legislators that represent Cumberland County, to talk with them, and to learn how they are working together to do what's best for the people and businesses of the area. Meghan McCormick Hoerner and Catherine Hardy, Co-chairs of the Chamber's Government and Community Relations Committee, and the committee planned and presented this meeting. Meghan thanked NJ State Senators John Burzichelli and Michael Testa, and NJ State Assembly members Heather Simmons, David Bailey, Jr., Erik Simonsen, and Antwan McClellan, and their staffs for their cooperation and participation. She also thanked the breakfast sponsor South Jersey Water Conditioning Service.



Above, left: Assemblyman David Bailey, Jr. Above right, left-right: NJ State Senator Michael Testa, NJ Assemblywoman Heather Simmons, Meghan McCormick Hoerner, co-chair of the BACC Government & Community Relations Committee, and NJ Assemblyman Antwan McClellan.

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Upper Deerfield 856-453-0336 www.printsignsanddesigns.com
Color copying, design and printing of signs, posters, brochures, business cards, banners, direct mail, graphic design, websites and trophies & awards

Quinn Broadcasting, Inc.

Upper Deerfield 856-305-6647 www.quinnbroadcastingnj.com/, www.facebook.com/QBCSJ
Quinn Broadcasting is a family owned and operated media production and broadcasting agency, featuring live broadcast streaming, live streaming, live TV broadcasts, marketing services, and more.



Randi Galan State Farm Insurance Agency

Hopewell 856-453-7000 www.randigalan.com
Full service State Farm insurance agency providing auto, home, life, business insurance & vehicle loans, and deposit products

RDH Lawncare LLC

Stow Creek 856-506-9310 www.facebook.com/pg/RDLawncareLLC
Landscaping, yard cleanup, trimming, mulching, and mowing services

Revive South Jersey

Bridgeton 856-455-2509 www.revivesj.org
Community Development, GED Instruction, Spanish, English, ESL classes, Community facilitator

Ricky Slade Construction, Inc.

Hopewell 856-455-4046
Paving, concrete, road construction

Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard

Upper Deerfield 856-459-2211 www.facebook.com/ritasbridgeton/
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Ron Jaworski's Running Deer Golf Club

Pittsgrove 856-358-2000 www.runningdeergolfclub.com
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Rowan College of South Jersey

Vineland 856-691-8600 x 1500 www.rcsj.edu
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Rutgers Food Innovation Center

Bridgeton 856-391-7603 https://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/
Food research and marketing services

RW Connection, Cumberland Valve Division

Hopewell 856-451-1324 www.rwconnection.com
Sales of hose, valves & fittings

Salmon Ventures

856-825-0500 www.salmonventures.com
Governmental and regulatory consulting to public and private entities

SERVPRO of Cumberland County - Team Fabiani

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24 HR Emergency Disaster Recovery Services including Fire, water, mold biohazard and storm cleanup, restoration and remediation.

Shoppes at Dragon Village

Hopewell 609-381-4462 www.shoppesatdragonvillage.com, www.facebook.com/Shoppesatdragonvillage
A unique village of shops located in the farmland of Hopewell Township, Cumberland County. Visit our merchants and join us for our monthly, family friendly events such as seasonal special events for the holidays, crafts fairs and car shows.



(Continued on page 8)

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Ultra Clean
TECHNOLOGIES CORP

(Continued from page 7) - **Shop Local Guide**



Shoreline Freezers

Bridgeton 856-455-8300
www.shorelinefreezers.com
Frozen products warehousing

Sir Speedy Printing

Vineland 856-691-0741 www.sirspeedy.com/
vinelandnj570
Provide wide range of printing, communications and marketing and is passionate about delivering quality products and providing the best possible service, from idea to final execution quickly and efficiently.

Soroptimist International of Cumberland County

Shiloh www.sicumberlandnj.org
Women using service projects to advance human rights & the status of women

South Jersey Drug Treatment Center

Hopewell 856-455-5441
We provide comprehensive care for individuals with Opioid Use Disorders using medication assisted treatment integrated within a holistic behavioral health approach for overall wellness.

South Jersey Economic Development District, Inc.

Vineland 856-838-3060 www.sjedd.com
Regional Economic Development organization providing grant management services and technical assistance to County and local governments.

South Jersey Eye Associates

Upper Deerfield 856-455-5500
www.southjerseyeye.com
Professional, friendly and comfortable vision and eye care health services

South Jersey Gas

Folsom 856-881-7000 www.sjindustries.com,
www.southjerseygas.com
Natural gas provider

South Jersey Water Conditioning Service

Hopewell 856-451-0620
www.southjerseywater.com
South Jersey Water Conditioning is a licensed and authorized Kinetic Water Systems dealer, so we're proud to offer products that are built to be durable, efficient, and long-lasting. We offer products for both residential and commercial locations, including water filters, softeners, whole-house systems, and special treatment systems for commercial use. Whether you're interested in a free water analysis or want to eliminate a water problem such as hard water, a chlorinated smell, or staining, we can find a product or service that's right for your unique needs.

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Upper Deerfield 856-455-3613
www.sraywebsterfuneralhome.com
Funeral services

Stable Landscaping LLC

Shiloh 856-759-2283 www.stablelandscaping.com
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Sungenis Insurance Agency

Hopewell 856-451-1824 www.sungenisagency.com
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Sussex Irrigation

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SweetThingsWithStyles/
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Technical Xpress

Bridgeton 609-774-1787 www.technicalxpress.com
Technical XPRESS was started in 2000 with a simple idea to provide low-cost computer support for consumers and small businesses. We knew there was a need in the marketplace for a company that could help people who depend on computers daily, but didn't want to worry about them. Technical XPRESS has evolved into a leading provider for Computer Solutions, Network Solutions, Website & App Development

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Deerfield 856-575-1459 www.terrannonno.com
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Terrigno's Fairfield Inn

Fairfield 856-451-7592 www.terrignofairfieldinn.com
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Terry's Custard

Upper Deerfield 856-451-8673 www.facebook.com/
Terrys-Custard-Ice-Cream-225216460829831/
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The Authority

Deerfield 856-825-3700 www.theauthoritynj.com
Solid waste disposal, recycling, economic development services

The Bridgeton Beacon

Bridgeton 609-938-0809 www.bridgetonbeacon.com
Certified Criminal Trial Attorney - Municipal and Superior Courts

The Charlesworth Restaurant & Hotel

856-447-4928 www.charlesworthrestaurant.com
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The Dolores Romero Cancer Foundation

Vineland 609-600-7532 www.thedoloresromerofoundation.com
We are a not for profit that financially assists local south jersey cancer patients with out of pocket expenses related to their illness.

The Grove at Centeron

Pittsgrove 856-358-3325 www.groveatcenteron.com
The largest event venue South of Atlantic City and features five multifunctional spaces including the all-new Garden Room that leads to a 3,000 sq. ft. outdoor firepit lounge for an indoor / out door event experience unlike any other.

The Guidance Center

Millville 856-825-6810 www.ccgcnj.org
Community mental health services

The Off Broad Street Players

Bridgeton 856-455-1615 www.obsp.org
Community theater productions

The Original Canal's Discount Liquors

Bridgeton 856-451-0998 www.facebook.com/The-original-canals-217301291756341/
Wines, beer and liquors

The Passion Professor LLC

Upper Deerfield 856-430-4274
Coaching, consulting, education and related services to transform you and your organization.

The Reminder (Cohansey Cove Publishing)

Millville 856-825-8811 www.reminderusa.net
Newspaper, ads, digital ads & more

The Ritter Law Office

Bridgeton 856-451-3030 www.ritterlawoffice.com
Legal services

The Roarke Agency, LLC

Upper Deerfield 856-455-6660 www.roarkeagency.net
Real estate sales, rental, services

The Salvation Army of Bridgeton

Bridgeton 856-451-0999 www.facebook.com/NJSABridgeton/
Social services and assistance for the needy in the communities

The Voice Radio Wilmington

Wilmington 302-858-5118 www.thevoicerradionetwork.com
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Tim Trimble State Farm Insurance

Upper Deerfield 856-451-6340 www.timothy-trimble.com
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T-Mobile

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Tower Hospitality

Vineland 856-691-1300 www.towerhospitality.com

Township of Downe

Downe 856-447-3100 https://downetwpnj.org
Local Government

Triantos and Delp, CPA'S, LLC

Vineland 856-691-9544 www.triantosanddelp.com
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Trinity United Methodist Church

NEW Bridgeton 347-517-8461
Community engagement, spiritual and emotional care, marriage, crisis and trauma counseling all ages, enrichment of life, etc.

Trout's Power Equipment

Bridgeton 856-451-3535
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Ultra Clean Technologies Corp.

Upper Deerfield 856-451-2176 www.ultracleanetech.com
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Upper Deerfield PreSchool

Upper Deerfield 856-455-7975
Daycare and Pre-School and teaching supplies online

Upper Deerfield Township

Upper Deerfield 856-451-3811 www.upperdeerfield.com
Local government and services

USDA Rural Development

Bridgeton 856-787-7700 www.usda.gov
USDA Rural Development - New Jersey is committed to improving the lives of homeowners, businesses, and communities within the Garden State

Valcar Distribution LLC

Upper Deerfield 856-455-5939
Commercial trucking company

W.W. Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Bridgeton 856-451-5700 www.wwmfg.com
Tools manufactured and sold, welding, plasma cutting

WHIBCO, Inc.

Bridgeton 856-455-9200 www.whibco.com
Producer of sand, gravel, & other materials for use in construction & industry

Whimsey Hut

Hopewell 609-381-4462 www.facebook.com/WhimseyHut
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William R. Mints Insurance



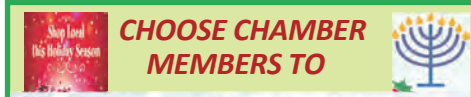
Millville 856-825-2880 www.mintsinsurance.com
Since 1934, our neighbor and your hometown independent insurance agent, assist with insurance needs, dedicated to customers, representing over 20 companies to find the best companies at a fair price for customers.

Wingate by Wyndham

Vineland 856-690-9900 https://towerhospitality.com/hotels/wingate/
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Woodruff Energy

Bridgeton 856-451-1111 www.woodruffenergy.com
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310-694-1941
www.facebook.com/awhiskeyarray
Catherine Hardy offers short-term rental of two, restored, historic homes in the Bridgeton area from AIRBNB, perfect for visiting business people, wedding parties and more.

Bunnies by The Bridge, The Maria Collection
Upper Deerfield 856-696-3600
www.Facebook.com/bunniesbythebridge
This little boutique, owned by Antoinette MacDonald Fralinger, features classic clothing and gifts from newborn to toddler, perfectly wrapped and ready to pass down through the generations.

Join Bridgeton Area Chamber
www.CumberlandGrows.com/join



Cumberland County Business Expo & Job Fair Showcases Business and Opportunity



Co-presented by the Greater Millville, Greater Vineland, and Bridgeton Area Chambers of Commerce, the Cumberland County Business Expo and Job Fair, held at Cumberland County Technical Education Center in September, attracted over sixty exhibitors and more than 600 people. It promotes sales, builds relationships, and matches job hunters with new career opportunities. For a list of exhibitors, many who may

still be looking for new employees, see the expo website www.CumberlandExpo.com.

Thank You to Our Event Main Sponsors



Thank You to Our Grand Prize Sponsors



Left-right: Greater Millville Chamber, Bridgeton Area Chamber, job seekers meet with employers, Greater Vineland Chamber. The Expo was held at Cumberland County Technical Education Center Gym. Thank you to CCTEC for its cooperation.



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Chamber Bowling Night

17 teams competed for prizes including high team scores, team uniforms, and team spirit when the Bridgeton Area Chamber held its Thanksgiving themed bowling night on Nov. 20 at Campani's Legacy Lanes in Deerfield Township. The 1st place bowling team was from Ultra Clean. 2nd place was from Cumberland County Tourism, and 3rd place was



Best team uniform prizes went to Cumberland County Workforce Dept. above, and Cumberland County Health Dept. below.

from First National Bank of Elmer.

Highest individual bowling score prizes went to Matt Hunzer and Tyler Slobota.

Below: Chamber volunteers Kathy Shumate, Laurie LaTorre and Carol Musso.



MEMBERS FOCUS

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Hopewell 856-369-5977 kielscleaningservices@gmail.com

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110 Cornwell Drive, Upper Deerfield
856-378-7588

MaxxFitPerformance@gmail.com www.maxxfithealth.com
www.MaxxFitPerformance.com

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Trinity United Methodist Church

14 Fayette Street, Bridgeton 347-517-8461

The church offers community engagement, spiritual and emotional care, marriage, crisis and trauma counseling for all ages, enrichment of life, etc. Contact Pastor Christiane Depestre for more information.



Message from Chamber President Barry Seay

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

To Our Chamber Members and the Community:

As my two years as your Chamber President come to a close on December 31, I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunity to lead the Chamber, and to work with so many other business-minded people to make our local economy stronger, to strengthen relationships, to improve the Chamber, and to make our community better.

I thank my fellow Board Members, officers, committee chairs, committee volunteers, and our Chamber Members for all of your support. I wish much success and offer my support to incoming President Jon Cummings, and all of the officers.

I offer a special thank you to Laurie and Tony, who run the Chamber day to day. They are keys to our success as a Chamber, and do all they can to assist us as volunteer leaders, and as Members.

I also acknowledge the help and support of the team that make South Jersey Water Conditioning Service a success. They, including my wife Laurie and my son Ryan, made it possible for me to serve the Chamber.

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation have a good future as we continue to work together to provide

education, information, marketing, and networking opportunities for our Members, and as we continue to contribute to our economy and to our community. If you are not a member, please contact us and join the Chamber soon. Check us out at an upcoming meeting or event, and online at www.CumberlandGrows.com/Join.

I extend best wishes for a Happy Christmas and holiday season, and for a new year filled with success and happiness.



4 Chambers Use Zoom to Network

In November, Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce members gathered on Zoom for a free 4-chamber networking session. The Chamber of Commerce of Southern NJ led the meeting attended by members of our chamber and Greater Vineland, Greater Millville and Southern NJ chambers. There was Thanksgiving trivia mixed with breakouts into small groups where those who participated exchanged information about themselves and their businesses and organizations. For more information on upcoming Bridgeton Area Chamber meetings and opportunities for networking, see www.CumberlandGrows.com/Events.



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Love Where You Live Beacons of Pride

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation has received its first applications for Love Where You Live Beacons of Pride Grants and is working on charter projects.

A grant was approved for enhancements to the Peace and Tranquility Garden in Bridgeton City Park. It was submitted by Soroptimist International of Cumberland County to improve the garden their organization created in the park.



"This small grant amount of just under \$400 is a modest beginning, and an example that Love Where You Live projects can be all sizes and in all dollar amounts," said Tony

Stanzione, CEO of the Chamber Foundation. The goal of the Love Where You Live project is to encourage multiple beautification projects that will build community pride and community involvement.



Bridgeton to beautify the train bridge and its

The Love Where You Live Committee also approved a \$10,000 grant to provide seed funding for plans led by the City of

approaches over NJ Rt. 77. "This project is a large and complex project involving NJ DOT, OmniTrax railroad, City of Bridgeton, Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Love Where You Live, NJ UEZ, and other possible partners," explained Ed Overdevest, Chair of the Love Where You Live Committee.

Other applications under review include one from Deerfield Township for beautification with signage and landscaping on Rt. 56, and one from Bridgeton Rotary Club for a beautification project in Cohanzick Zoo.

One privately funded beautification project has been completed. Overdevest Nurseries, in cooperation with Hopewell Township Committee and Public Works employees, provided new landscaping on township land in front of the municipal building. They are also working with City of Bridgeton and County officials to beautify the Sunset Lake frontage on Park Drive.



For information on Love Where You Live, see www.CumberlandGrows.com/BACCLWYL and [www.Facebook.com/LWYLCC](https://www.facebook.com/LWYLCC).



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Get information on Love Where You Live

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Cedar Rose Winery
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Terra Nonno Winery
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www.CumberlandGrows.com/Member-Directory

BRIDGETON AREA Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1063, Bridgeton, NJ 08302
856-455-1312 bacc@baccnj.com
www.CumberlandGrows.com

Chief Executive Officer:
Tony Stanzione

Member Services Coordinator:
Laurie LaTorre

President: Barry Seay

1st Vice President: Jonathan Cummings

2nd Vice President: Minerva Alvarado

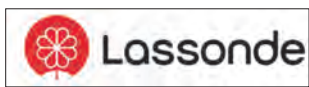
Treasurer: Randi Galan

Corp. Secretary: Marlise Counsellor

Sika and Lassonde Pappas Choose Our Area



Upper Deerfield Township officials recently visited the construction site of Sika's 250,000 square foot state-of-the-art mortar production plant on Rt. 77 near Big Oak Road. The construction of the \$80 million facility has a completion target date of late 2025. Sika officials and representatives of Stanker & Galetto, the local general contractor led the tour of what Sika calls its North East Anchor site that is expected to employ 50 people initially with plans for future expansion. The Executive Vice President and Operations Head for the Region Americas will speak at the Bridgeton Area Chamber's January meeting. More information on this meeting will be announced.



Mayor James Crilley of Upper Deerfield announced recently that Lassonde Pappas, a food processor of juices, ready-to-drink teas, enhanced waters, isotonic, and cranberry sauces, with a long history here in Cumberland County and a large employer and contributor to the area's economy, has chosen to build new production facilities here in Upper Deerfield. The investment of approximately \$200 million for the 200,000 sq. ft. facility to be built over an estimated two-year period will replace buildings constructed in the 1920's and 1930's. "This is good news for our Township, County and State, and most importantly for nearly 200 employees, and other people and businesses who rely on their relationships with Lassonde Pappas", said Mayor Crilley. He added, "The Township Committee and other municipal, county and state officials worked with Lassonde Pappas representatives to offer them the incentives that come with building new facilities in the township's redevelopment area."



BRIDGETON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

Thurs., Dec. 19, 11:45 AM, Holiday Meeting with Rotary, Other Service Clubs, Bridgeton High School, Lunch, music, and community donations.
www.tinyurl.com/BACCRotary

Tues., Jan. 28, 8:15AM, Chamber Lunch Meeting, Why Sika Chose NJ and Upper Deerfield, Getting to Know Sika, The Grove at Centerton, Herbert Zwartkruis, Sika Exec. VP Head of Operations for Region Americas,
www.tinyurl.com/BACCSika

Sat., Feb. 22, 6 PM, Teal Butterfly Charity Gala, Eastlyn Golf Course - Greenview, Vineland, Fundraiser for The Dolores Romero Foundation,
609-600-7532, www.TheDoloresRomeroFoundation.com

Tues., Feb. 25, 11:30 AM, Chamber Lunch Meeting, Succession Planning - Sustaining Family-Owned Businesses into the Future, Green Olive Restaurant, Hopewell, www.tinyurl.com/BACCSuccession

Tues., March 18, 5-7 PM, Chamber Dinner Meeting, Spotighting Women Business Owners and Leaders , Frightened Turtle Winery, Hopewell,
www.tinyurl.com/BACCWomeninBusiness

Tues., April 15, 11:30 AM, Chamber Lunch Meeting, Climate Change Impacts in NJ: Considerations for Local Businesses, Terrigno's Fairfield Inn, Fairfield www.tinyurl.com/BACCClimate

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

continued from page 3

The Hispanic Business Committee named the first recipient of the Pioneer Award. An award given to a trailblazer who positively impacts the community and encourages others to follow in their footsteps. Stephanie Gonzalez, UEZ Coordinator for the City of Bridgeton and Hispanic Business Committee member was honored for her outreach efforts in downtown Bridgeton and for her work in coordinating monthly “merchants meetings” to share resources with merchants. Stephanie works closely with the Latin American Economic Development Association (LAEDA), the Cumberland Empowerment Zone, and the Hispanic Business Committee to positively impact Bridgeton City, Cumberland County and Southern New Jersey.

El 17 de septiembre, la Cámara del Área de Bridgeton tuvo su almuerzo de celebración anual para dar inicio al mes de la Herencia Hispana. Fue planeado y organizado por el Comité de Negocios Hispanos de la Cámara. La creación de redes, el almuerzo y el programa se llevaron a cabo en el recientemente ampliado Inka Chicken Restaurant, propiedad del miembro del Comité de Negocios Hispanos, Héctor Bonilla. Inka Chicken ahora está disponible para fiestas de hasta 200 personas con un hermoso salón de baile que ofrece un área de comedor, bar completo y escenario elevado para bandas, espectáculos y fiestas. Héctor y sus empresas también recibieron el Premio al Héroe Empresarial de la Cámara en octubre. El tema de la Herencia Hispana de este año fue "Pioneros del Cambio: Dando forma al futuro juntos". Minerva Alvarado, 2ª Vicepresidenta de la Cámara y Copresidenta del Comité de Negocios Hispanos, comenzó la reunión compartiendo su historia profesional, incluida su nominación por parte de la Cámara para participar en el Liderazgo del Condado de Cumberland. Minerva se graduó en 2023 de este programa de liderazgo y atribuye a esta valiosa oportunidad la consolidación de sus objetivos de liderazgo.



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