

Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Tuesday, April 21, Noon
Chamber Luncheon Meeting
New NJ Assemblywoman
Celeste Riley**

Gia's Catering, Mulford Dr., Bridgeton
Register in advance by April 20
856-455-1312

**Wednesday, April 22, 5-7 PM
Chamber Business to Business**

Cousteau Center At Bridgeton
David Sheppard House
31 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton
Register in advance at 856-575-5580
or 856-455-1312

**Wednesday, May 13, Noon
Chamber's 15th Annual
Golf Tournament**

In Memory of Mike Harris

Centerton Country Club
Golfers and Sponsors Welcome
Register at 856-455-1312
<http://www.baccnj.com>

**Monday, May 18, Noon*
Chamber Luncheon Meeting**

Annual Meeting – Elections
Rep. Frank LoBiondo, Speaker
Centerton Country Club
Register by May 15, 856-455-1312
* note special day, Monday

Chamber Gets Look At Bridgeton's Plans

Article by Sandee Rodriguez of D and S Designs, www.dandsdesigns.com

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce met February 17 at Terrigno's Fairfield Inn for its monthly luncheon. Featured speakers were Arch Liston and John Barry, who presented Bridgeton's new master plan to the Chamber. Liston and Barry first solicited input from Chamber members regarding what they view as assets and liabilities for the growth and redevelopment in the city. The assets included: growth in neighboring townships, growth in Millville and Vineland including development of the Motorsports complex, Rutgers Food Innovation Center, defined redevelopment areas which facilitate revitalization efforts and available water and sewer capacity. Many were pleased to hear about the plans which bode well for Bridgeton's future.

School Counts! Program Touted By Bridgeton Schools

Cumberland County College, in conjunction with the county's high schools, wants to increase awareness of the School Counts! Program. According to Bill Waterman, School to Career Coordinator for Bridgeton High School, School Counts! provides students with incentives to strive for success in school and their future.

Dorothy Abruzzo-Klumpp, Assistant Director School Counts! Foundation at Cumberland County College, told Chamber members that the college has issued 7000 certificates in the School Counts! program. See <http://www.cccnj.edu/sc/index.cfm> for more information about this program.



John Barry, left, Bridgeton's Director of Economic and Community Development and Planning and Arch Liston, Bridgeton Business Administrator, present the city's new Master Plan to the Chamber at its February meeting.

Annual Golf Tournament in Memory of Mike Harris

The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicating its 15th annual golf tournament on May 13 to the memory of the late Michael Harris, who passed away this winter. At the time of his death, Mike was a member of the Chamber Board of Directors and its Treasurer.

First National Bank of Elmer, where Mike worked at the time of his sudden death, and P. Austin Insurance Agency, are recognized as founding contributors for the Mike Harris Memorial Fund because they are the major co-sponsors of the 15th annual golf tournament, where funds will be raised, in part, to support the new memorial fund.

"We will dedicate the tournament to Mike's memory and all the proceeds of the putting contest and other donations received in Mike's memory will be contributed to the memorial fund," said Carol Musso, co-chair, along with Jody Hirata, of the golf tournament and the memorial fund committees. "It's our first big Chamber event without Mike and one where he actively volunteered each year so we will take time to remember Mike there," she added.

(continued on next page)

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Annual Golf Tournament in Memory of Mike Harris

The tournament will be held on May 13 at Centerton Country Club with registration at 11 AM and a shot gun start at 12 noon. This great day of golf includes 18 holes, green fees, golf cart, gift, lunch, dinner, beverages, hole-in-one contests, door prizes and awards. Cost per golfer is \$125.00 and special sponsorship packages are available which include foursomes and other benefits.

Golfers and the public are invited to enter the tournament's putting contest to help support the new memorial fund. The public is also invited to the tournament dinner that begins about 5:15 p.m. on May 13 at Centerton. Mike will be remembered at both of these tournament events. Dinner is \$30 per person for guests (included in golf registration). The public may also make contributions to the memorial fund without participating in the golf tournament.

For details on sponsorship packages, to register for the tournament and for information on or to make contributions to the Mike Harris Memorial Fund, call the Chamber office at 856-455-1312 or visit www.baccnj.com.



BRIDGETON AREA Chamber of Commerce

15th Annual Golf Tournament
In Memory of Mike Harris

MAY 13, 2009 — CENTERTON GOLF COURSE PITTSBORO, NJ

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Annual Economic Report and Forecast

Article by Sandee Rodriguez of D and S Designs, www.dandsdesigns.com

On March 17, the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce met for its monthly luncheon at the Green Olive Restaurant in Hopewell and heard an economic forecast from a panel of local business leaders.

Kim Wood, Director of Planning and Development for Cumberland County, stressed collaboration, community and creativity as ways to help the county weather the economic downturn. Ed Geletka, president of Colonial Bank, noted that banks are facing new high expenses like increased FDIC premiums. He noted that people and businesses reducing spending has a circular effect as cuts in spending

cause decreases in business which creates the need for more people to cut spending.

Sidna Prickett, owner of Roarke Agency, said that after a spike in prices in 2006, the market seems to be stabilizing. While sales are down, Roarke sees reason for optimism over the next 12 months. Ed Overdevest of Overdevest Nurseries talked about agriculture, noting that although consumers have cut back spending, they are still eating so agriculture has not been as hard hit as other industries. He talked about how biomass shows great promise in energy yield to help keep our energy dollars at

home while boosting our agricultural economy at the same time.

Chet Kaletkowski, CEO of South Jersey Healthcare, noted that some hospitals are putting off capital projects. People are delaying elective procedures. The state has cut funding to charity care. All of these issues are causing hospitals to lose money.



Ed Geletka, President of Colonial Bank, addressed the Chamber members at the March meeting, assuring them that their local area banks are doing well and encouraging everyone to do their part as consumers and business owners to get the economy moving again.

South Jersey Healthcare had a healthy 2008 operating budget but broke even because funding from investment sources fell off when the stock market dropped.

The overall feeling is that Cumberland County should not fare as badly as some areas of the country because it was not overvalued at the start and because the county knows how to pull together in tough economic times.



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Office Administrator: Linda Randazzo

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Grow your business...join the chamber!

Bridgeton Cindo de Mayo Cultural Fest

Article by Carola Hartley, Executive Director of Bridgeton Main Street Association

Bridgeton Main Street Association is planning a Cinco de Mayo Cultural Celebration in Downtown Bridgeton on Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 1:00PM to 8:00PM. The 2009 Cultural Festival includes music, arts and crafts, food and other refreshments, family activities and downtown store specials.

"Our goal is to have this festival grow and become better each year. As this event grows, we will not only attract more citizens and tourists to downtown Bridgeton, but positive attention as well. This will help to stimulate the local economy and the businesses in downtown Bridgeton," says Carola Hartley, Main Street executive director.

Main Street is looking for sponsors to help underwrite the cost of the event. They are also looking for vendors and entertainment for the event. For more information on sponsorships, activities, entertainment, or to obtain a vendor application, please contact the office of Bridgeton Main Street at 856-453-8130 or 973-864-4001 (cell).



Business to Business Events

Cousteau Center at Bridgeton

**Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve,
Rutgers University**

David Sheppard House, 31 West Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 - from: 5:00-7:00pm

The Center is new to Bridgeton and conducts a variety of research and education programs in the marine and estuarine sciences. Education programs include public outreach, K-12 enrichment programs, professional development for educators, and a Coastal Training Program for coastal decision makers and resource managers. Due to limited parking on the street, The Salvation Army has extended permission to park in their lot directly across the street from the Sheppard House. Please RSVP for the Business to Business in advance. Call Lisa Calvo, Watershed Coordinator at 856-575-5580 or contact the Chamber office at 856-455-1312.



With spring in the air and Rita's Water Ice re-opened for the season, Tony Sbarro and Luann Flacco, owners of Rita's Water Ice and Landis Links Mini Golf, opened their doors at 73 Landis Avenue in Upper Deerfield to a Chamber Business to Business event on Tuesday, March 31, 5-7 PM. Tony provided tours of the facility including the room where all delicious water ice flavors are made fresh daily. For more information call 459-2211. Pictured at the event are left-right, are some of more than 20 people who attended: Becky and Wayne Sabota, Sandee Rodriguez, Tony Sbarro, Jody Hirata and Rod Mac Donald.



The Chamber of Commerce held a business to business event at S.R. Riley's Musical Cafe on Feb 19. Several chamber members and others attended the event sponsored by Sandy Riley. Participants enjoyed light foods and beverages as they learned more about the restaurant. For more information on the café, call 856-459-1109 or stop by 101 E. Commerce Street in Bridgeton.

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SJ Eye Associates
SJ Healthcare Foundation
South Jersey Healthcare
Susquehanna Bank
Thompson Realty
Upper Deerfield Estates
White Wave Foods Company

Reaching Out for New Members

The Chamber's Membership Committee and some board volunteers met on March 25 at the chamber office to make phone calls to prospective new members. Those present were Carolyn Heckman of South Jersey Healthcare, Fran Spinelli of First National Bank of Elmer, Karen Hayes of Susquehanna Bank, Tony Stanzione of Cumberland Development Corp. and Jody Hirata of Colonial Bank, Membership Committee Chairperson.

55 phone calls were made in about an hour. Two new members were signed up, Upper Deerfield Pre-School and Santoro's. More than a dozen membership packets were sent out to interested businesses. Several more new members should result from these calls and additional follow-up calls. There is a long list of businesses in the Bridgeton area to call so board members and other members are invited to help at future events like this.

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