

2023 Membership & Community Guide

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CAPE MAY COUNTY SERVICES

CANCER CARE INSTITUTE

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200 Oncology – Medical & Radiation First Floor

CARDIOLOGY

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Rio Grande 1613 Route 47, Unit G

GENERAL SURGERY

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

NEUROLOGY

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

PULMONOLOGY

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

ROTHMAN ORTHOPAEDICS

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

UROLOGY

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

OB/GYN Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

Rio Grande 1613 Route 47, Unit G

PRIMARY CARE PLUS

Cape May Court House 301 Stone Harbor Boulevard

Ocean City 201 West Avenue

Rio Grande 1613 Route 47, Unit F

Wildwood Crest 6410 New Jersey Avenue

URGENT CARE

Cape May 900 Route 109

WOMEN'S HEALTH - BREAST

Cape May Court House 106 Court House South Dennis Rd. Building 200, Second Floor

TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE To schedule an appointment with a provider or for more information visit atlanticare.org/telehealth.

Upper Township Business Association

The Upper Township Business Association (UTBA) was formed in 2010 to advocate for and promote the business interests of our members.





RECREATION *Recreation opportunities abound in Upper Township*

In its 68 square miles, Upper Township boasts beaches, the bay, the Tuckahoe River, boat ramps, a community center, senior center, myriad youth sports and pickleball.

UPPER TOWNSHIP Important phone numbers, contact information and meeting dates





EMERGENCY SERVICES

When you dial 9-1-1 for an emergency, tell the dispatcher you live in Upper Township!



In conjunction with:

UPPER TOWNSHIP SENTINEL

Nometown People, Bringing You Nometown News 609-399-1220 | 801 Asbury Avenue, Ocean City, NJ



609.390.9864 62 TUCKAHOE RD • WAYSIDE VILLAGE • MARMORA, NJ 08223

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BUSINESS HOURS

Tues. - Thurs. 9 am - 8 pm • Fri. 9 am - 6 pm • Sat. 9 am - 3 pm

dermalogica GOLDWELL

MAYOR JOHN 'JAY' NEWMAN A history of service

For Upper Township's Jay Newman, leadership and serving others has been a way of life.





'WE ARE DIFFERENT WITH A PURPOSE' Beesley's Point Development Group promises to transform B.L. England site into an ecological gem

BEESLEY'S POINT DEVELOPMENT GROUP 'permanent members of the community'





HELP FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

A small business resource center is available for the community. Cape May County BizHub was developed to address the unique needs of residents involved in small business ventures.

KIM HAYES FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY MAYOR

Committeewoman Kim Hayes was elected by her peers as the first female deputy mayor in the history of Upper Township, incorporated in 1798, during the annual reorganization meeting Jan. 6, 2023.





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Preparing students for their next stages and to help make the world a better place

HEALTH CARE

When seeking medical help, Upper Township offers facilities to treat non-life-threatening conditions and therapy for long-term care





BUSINESS PROFILES A sample of new UTBA members

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Businesses listed are members of the UTBA. Visit us at: www.UpperBiz.com





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UPPER TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Welcomes You





The Upper Township Business Association 2023 Board of Directors includes, from left, Pandora Mason, Foglio's Flooring Center, Steve Zellers, President, Upper Township Sentinel, Dana Wilson, Yes She Can!; Marcia McCulley, AtlantiCare; Ralph Cooper, Treasurer, Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township; Liz Foglio, Secretary; Kathy Peaschek, We Shell Travel; Blanche Adams; Christina Tolson, Broadley's Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning.

Steve Zellers has spent his career working in Cape May County after graduating with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration from Rutgers University. Steve has extensive experience in sales, marketing and management and currently works for the Upper Township Sentinel as Advertising Director. He resides in Ocean City with his wife and sons.

This past year the Upper Township Business Association has worked to collaborate with the community in all sectors including businesses, the township, citizens, and leaders. We recognize the possibilities the 10 Villages of Upper Township have to offer and appreciate the opportunity to be an active contributor to the community's successes by supporting businesses and residents in the collective effort to flourish. As Upper Township moves into the future the Business Association looks forward to assisting businesses to offer quality customer service, products, and services for residents and visitors as they work, live and play. For more information about the Upper Township Businesses, how to get involved and much more.

Sincerely, Steve Zellers, President - Upper Township Business Association

Upper Township Business Association

The Upper Township Business Association (UTBA) was formed in 2010 to advocate for and promote the business interests of members. Membership is representative of a diverse group of unique shops, restaurants, professional services, retail stores and community groups in our township. We believe in connecting business and community – because when local government, businesses, community groups and residents support each other, everyone benefits.

The UTBA is committed to providing its members with resources to grow their busi-

nesses. We offer professional networking meetings and events, as well as provide a wide array of marketing tools and promotional opportunities for businesses to generate and drive traffic.

We are advocates. The UTBA proudly supports sustainable business practices via our Green Business Recognition campaign. We keep apprised and inform members of government issues that could impact our local business climate. Not only do we host our own signature community events, but our members support township municipal initiatives. The UTBA will continue to seek new avenues in which we can promote our local business and residential communities.

Want to know more? A full list of meetings, events and opportunities for involvement are listed on our website – UpperBiz. com. Feel free to attend any of our meetings or events to learn more about how the UTBA can promote your business. And remember, please shop local! Look for the UTBA Shop Local banner and decals displayed throughout the township at our members' businesses.

2023 UTBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Zellers, President Upper Township Sentinel

Liz Foglio, Secretary Foglio's Flooring Center

Ralph Cooper, Treasurer Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Christina Tolson, Broadley's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning Kathy Peaschek, We Shell Travel • Pandora Mason, Foglio's Flooring Center Dana Wilson, Yes She Can! • Blanche Adams • Marcia McCulley, AtlantiCare



Contact the UTBA at UpperBiz gmail.com Like us on Facebook @UpperBiz Visit our website at UpperBiz.com

UPPER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS

TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION Holiday Schedule 2023

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Monday	January 2nd	New Year Holiday				
Monday	January 16th	Martin Luther King Day				
Monday	February 20th	Presidents' Day				
Friday	April 7th	Good Friday				
Monday	May 29th	Memorial Day *				
Friday	June 16th	Juneteenth				
Tuesday	July 4th	Independence Day				
Monday	September 4th	Labor Day *				
Monday	October 9th	Columbus Day				
Friday	November 10th	Veteran's Day				
Thursday	November 23rd	Thanksgiving Day **				
Friday	November 24th	Thanksgiving Holiday **				
Monday	December 25th	Christmas Day				

Trash and Recycling Holiday Collection Requirements Should your TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY fall on one of the HOLIDAYS in schedule above, it will be collected on our NEXT WORKING DAY, except for the following:

*Trash and Recycling WILL be collected on MEMORIAL DAY and LABOR DAY. *Trash and Recycling for the THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY will be as follows: Thursday's Trash & Recycling will be collected on Friday. Friday's Trash & Recycling will be collected on Monday.

RESIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING

Paper shredding is for residential use only and is available on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Public Works Yard in Tuckahoe from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Paper should be removed from binders and envelopes. The amount to be shredded shall be limited to one "banker" box or two paper bags.

No paper will be accepted from businesses.

LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Loose leaves will be collected during the months of April, mid-November and ending in December. Leaves may be raked curbside beginning the last week in March for April collection and the first week in November for the mid-November collection. Leaves must be free of sticks and debris. If your leaf pile contains sticks or debris, it will not be collected until the debris is removed. Please be advised that once the leaf crew has gone by your house, to keep to the schedule, we cannot accommodate requests for returns until the next scheduled pick up.

COMPOST COLLECTION

Compost will be collected the second Tuesday of each month and must be placed in **PAPER COMPOST BAGS OR REUSABLE CONTAINERS.** The containers must have removable lids, external handles, have a minimum capacity of 20 gallons and a maximum capacity of 45 gallons, and not weigh over 50 pounds when full. The PAPER COMPOST BAGS must only be filled to a capacity that will allow a single crewmember to lift and load the bags.

BULK WASTE COLLECTION Bulk waste will be collected the first TUESDAY of each month.

Only two bulk items may be placed to the curb each month of collection. A bulk item shall be described as a single item (couch or table, refrigerator, entertainment center or box spring and mattress.) Bulk is to be placed curbside by 6am on the day of collection. For safety reasons, we ask that all doors be removed from refrigerators and freezers. Bulk may no longer be dropped off at the Department of Public Works.

There is no bulk collection during the month of December.

Residential brush collection will be during the following months only:

APRIL & OCTOBER

April collection: Place brush curbside the last week in March for collection beginning April 4th October collection: Place brush curbside beginning the last week in September for collection beginning October 3rd.

Brush will be collected once during the month listed above. Brush piles are to remain 10° away from storm drains.

No debris will be collected in plastic bags.

TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION AREAS

Carts must be curbside by 6 a.m. on the day of collection. Recyclable materials are not to be placed in plastic bags. Please place your loose materials in the blue recycling cart.

MONDAYS – All of Strathmere and Whale Beach, Harbor Road and east side of the Parkway.

TUESDAYS – North side of Church Road and north to the Township line, the Great Egg Harbor Bay.

WEDNESDAYS - Petersburg, Tuckahoe, Marshallville, Head of the River, Steelmantown and Martintown.

THURSDAYS - Hope Corson Road south to the Township line including the Foxborough development and Osprey Point

FRIDAYS - South side of Church Road south to Hope Corson Road excluding the Foxborough development.

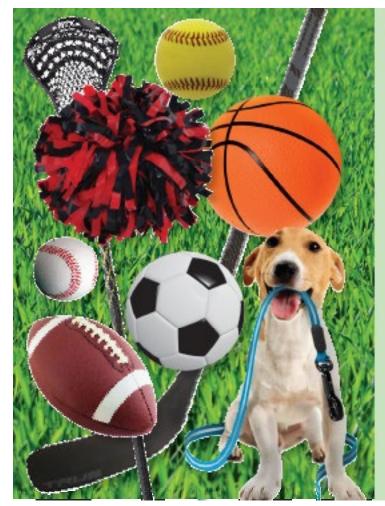


ANNUAL EVENTS HELD AT THE AMANDA'S FIELD RECREATION COMPLEX

1091 NJ Route 50, Petersburg, NJ 08270



www.uppertownship.com/events



UPPER TOWNSHIP SPORTS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

- Upper Township Fall Baseball, Inc. also known as
 Upper Township Baseball, Inc.
- Upper Township Basketball Association, Inc.
- Upper Township Cheerleading Association, Inc.
- Upper Township Dog Park Association a NJ Nonprofit Corporation
- Upper Township Football Association a NJ Nonprofit Corporation
- Upper Township Inline Hockey Association, Inc.
- Upper Township Lacrosse A NJ Nonprofit Corporation
- Upper Township Soccer Association, Inc.
- Upper Township Girls Softball Association a NJ Nonprofit Corporation
- Upper Township Wrestling Association, Inc.
- Upper Township Challenger Sports

ADULT SPORTS

- Basketball
- Pickleball
- Disc Golf

For more information, visit www.uppertownship.com



Upper Township has a wide range of recreational activities, from parks and fields to a wide variety of activities to enjoy from hiking to camping and fishing. If you are trying to locate a playing field, a picnic area, nature trail, tennis court, pickleball court, or boat ramp, there is a map of the township showing all the locations on the township's web site at www.uppertownship.com on the drop-down menu for Departments find Sports and Recreation, then on the right-hand side box, navigate to the Parks and Fields page by clicking on the link. You can also contact the Sports and Recreation Office at (609) 628-2011 Ext. 248 or email recreationdepartment@uppertownship.com with any questions.

Upper Township Youth Sports

All Upper Township sponsored sports organization are independent Non-Profits in which you can join or contribute directly. There is a list of them below with their websites. You can also find them all at www.uppertownship.com on the drop-down menu for Departments find Sports and Recreation and all of the organizations below are listed. Click on their logo to access their website. The Youth Sports Programs are as follows:

- Baseball
- www.uppertownshipbaseball.com
- Basketball
- www.upperbasketball.com
- Challenger Sports
- www.utchallengersports.com
- Cheerleading
- www.uppercheer.com
- Football www.utindians.net
- Girls Softball
- www.tshq.bluesombrero.com/uppertwpgirlssball
- In-line hockey www.upperinline.com
- Lacrosse www.warrior-lax.com/site/
- Soccer www.uppersoccer.com
- Wrestling www.upperwrestling.com

For any additional information or questions regarding Upper Township Sports and Recreation contact the Recreation Office at (609) 628- 2011, ext. 248 or email recreationdepartment@uppertownship.com

Upper Township Parks and Fields

Upper Township provides many active and passive recreational opportunities for our residents. The facilities are spread out across the Township's 68 square miles.

Upper Township Community Center,

1790 Route 50, Tuckahoe

- Sports & Recreation office
- · Open Gym with basketball courts (when available)
- · Community room (available for smaller events)

Caldwell Park,

1016 Stagecoach Road, Palermo

- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Football Field
- Batting Cage
- 4 Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- 2 Basketball Courts

Amanda's Field,

1790 Rt-50, Petersburg

- Playground
- Picnic Area
- 1.3-mile Bicycle & Jogging Path
- •Disc Golf Course
- Skate Park
- Street Hockey Rink
- 4 Baseball Fields
- · Indoor and outdoor batting cages
- Soccer & Multi-purpose Fields
- Tyler Davis Complex
- 2- Softball Fields

Somers Avenue,

- 35 Somers Ave, Seaville
 - 3 Girls Softball Fields
 - Outdoor Batting Cage

Old Tuckahoe Road,

- 301 Old Tuckahoe Rd, Petersburg
 - · Lacrosse & Multi-purpose Fields

Beesley's Pont Beach,

- 9 Harbor Road, Beesley's Point
 - Boat Ramp (Seasonal Permit req'd)
 - Beach (Seasonally guarded)

Mt. Pleasant-Tuckahoe Road

- 1718 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Tuckaho
 - Playground & Picnic Area
 - 2 Baseball Fields
 - 2 Basketball Courts
 - 2 Tennis/ Pickle Ball Courts
 - Dog Park (Permit to access req'd)

Upper Township Neighborhood Parks

- 100 East Golden Lane, Beesley's Point • Playground & Picnic Area Basketball Court Shuffleboard Court 11 Marla's Hill Drive, Marmora Playground & Picnic Area 10 Chadwyn Drive, Palermo • Playground & Picnic Area • Tennis / Pickleball Court 10.5 Brewhaus Lane, Seaville • Playground & Picnic Area Basketball Court 19 Crestview Drive, Seaville • Playground & Picnic Area 3.5 Lauradell Drive, Seaville • Playground & Picnic Area 35 Wexton Drive, Petersburg • Playground & Picnic Area Nature Trail 25 Mockingbird Lane, Petersburg • Playground & Picnic Area Basketball Court Tennis Court 6 Nordic Drive, Petersburg Playground & Picnic Area 3 White Pine Lane, Petersburg
- Playground & Picnic Area
- 2 Deerfield Trail, Tuckahoe
 - Playground & Picnic Area

Strathmere Recreational Attractions

Beaches

- Lifeguard Station at Williams Avenue
- · Seasonally guarded between
- Seaview Ave South to Nelson Ave

Catamaran Beaches

- · Located between Prescott and Nelson
- Seasonal permit req'd

Fishing Beaches

· Located between Whittier Ave to Williams Ave

Surfing Beaches

· Located between Vincent Ave to Sherman Ave.

Playground/Picnic Area

Webster Avenue, Strathmere

Boat Ramp

- Taylor Avenue, Strathmere (no permit req'd)
- 1004 Bayview Avenue, Strathmere



Gift shop focusing on hand crafted gifts, seasonal and home decor, candles, jewelry, handbags, fresh locally roasted whole bean coffee, gourmet food and wine from Natali Vineyards

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Upper Township Town Hall

2100 Tuckahoe Road, PO Box 205, Tuckahoe, NJ 08250 www.uppertownship.com Phone: (609) 628-2011 Fax: (609) 628-3092 Municipal Office Business Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. -Administrator: Gary DeMarzo (609) 628-2011 ext. 300 **Email Address:** administrator@uppertownship.com - Chief Financial Officer: Barbara Ludy (609) 628-2011 ext. 290 **Email Address:** treasurer@uppertownship.com Call the Finance Office with questions about unpaid bills, budget appropriations, payroll, vouchers, purchases, bids, and requests for proposals. - Municipal Clerk: Joanne R. Herron (609) 628-2011 ext. 200 Fax (609) 628-1836 **Email Address:** clerk@uppertownship.com The Municipal Clerk serves as the Secretary to the Governing Body. The Clerk's Office

answers questions and handles matters regarding Vital Records, Dog Licenses, Dog Park Licenses, Kennel Licenses, Open Public Records Requests (OPRA), Board of Health, Municipal Improvement Searches, Elections, Minutes of Township Committee Meetings, Meeting Agendas, Ordinances, Resolutions, Purchase or Sale of Municipal Land, Purchase of Municipal Equipment, MUA Convenience Accounts, Landlord Certifications, Boat Ramp Permits, Charitable Clothing Bin Permits, Limousine and Taxi Cab Licenses, Campground Licenses, Mobile Home Park Licenses, Mining Licenses, Street Opening Permits, Street Light Outage Reporting, Liquor Licenses, Raffle and Bingo Licenses, Notary Public, Certified List of Property Owners, Fish and Wildlife Licenses and general questions about Upper Township.

Township Committee Meeting Dates: 2nd & 4th Monday of each month

Members:

Committee Member Jay Newman, Mayor: jnewman@uppertownship.com

Public Safety, Emergency Management, Division of EMS, Personnel, and Zoning and Planning.

Committee Member Kimberly R. Hayes, Deputy Mayor: khayes@uppertownship.com Sports and Recreational Programs and Public Buildings and Grounds. Committee Member Curtis T. Corson, Jr.: ccorson@uppertownship.com Revenue and Finance, Housing, Engineering, Clerk's Office, Construction Code, and Lifeguards. Committee Member Mark E. Pancoast: mpancoast@uppertownship.com Department of Public Works, Information Technology and Communications. Committee Member Victor W. Nappen, II: vnappen@uppertownship.com Municipal Court and Animal Control. - Code Enforcement: Richard Kaczmarski (609) 628-2011 ext. 357 Email Address: rkaczmarski@uppertownship. com

– Zoning Officer/Secretary Planning and Zoning: Elizabeth Oaks

(609) 628-2011 ext. 245 Email Address: eoaks@uppertownship.com Call or email for zoning answers, questions about land use, zoning requirements, home occupations, zoning applications, help with site plan review for business, subdivisions, and the Master Plan.

Zoning Board Meeting Dates: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Planning Board Meeting Dates: 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. – *Construction Official:* Theodore Cooper (609) 628-2011 ext. 220 Email Address: constructioncode@uppertownship.com Construction Code Office assists with uniform construction code inspections. – *Court Administrator:* Loren Ready

(609) 628-2011 ext. 235

Email Address:

courtadministrator@uppertownship.com The Upper Township Municipal Court handles motor vehicle and traffic violations, neighbor disputes, small claims, ticket payments, complaints heard by municipal judge. The court serves Upper Township and Dennis Township. - Engineer: Paul Dietrich (609) 628-2011 ext. 244 **Email Address:** engineer@uppertownship.com Engineering can help with subdivision information, project bids, streets and roads, and tax maps. - Tax Assessor: Megan McAfee (609) 628-2011 ext. 230 **Email Address:** taxassessor@uppertownship.com Tax Assessor handles address changes, assessments, deeds, property ownership, farmland assessments, senior citizens/veterans deductions and exemptions. - Tax Collector: Rhonda Sharp (609) 628-2011 ext. 270 Email Address: taxcollector@uppertownship.com Tax Collector answers questions about tax bills and taxes owed, and handles paying taxes. - Public Works: Craig Reeves (609) 628-2011 ext. 350 Email Address: creeves@uppertownship.com Public Works handles trash and recycling collection, roads, and infrastructure. - Division of EMS: Mellissa Coker (609) 628-2011 ext. 381 Email Address: mcoker@uppertownship.com - Personnel Officer: Rhonda Sharp (609) 628-2011 ext. 270

Upper Township Committee Meeting Dates:

	Work Session	Meeting		Work Session	Meeting
January, 9 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	July, 10 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
January, 23 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	July, 2 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
February, 13 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	August, 14 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
February, 27 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	August, 28 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
March, 13 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	September, 11 - Regular Meeting	g 5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
March, 27 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	September, 25 - Regular Meeting	g 3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
April, 3 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	Oct. (Tues), 10 - Regular Meeting	g 5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
April, 24 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	October, 23 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
May, 8 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	November, 13 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
May, 22 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	November, 27 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
June, 12 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	December, 11 - Regular Meeting	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
June, 26 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	December, 18 - Regular Meeting	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.

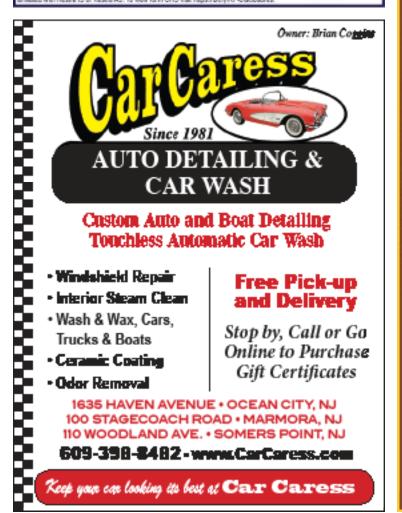
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Emergency Management

Disasters both natural and manmade – such as hurricanes, flooding or terrorist attacks – could devastate communities.

The Upper Township Office of Emergency Management prepares for such events and safeguards the public from harm through constant communication with other emergency agencies on the federal, state and county levels.

"I'm proud of our emergency management operation here and how far we've come," the Upper Township Emergency Management Coordinator said.

"I think we have a good working relationship with all of our emergency services here. They're a very talented group. That is one uniqueness of Upper Township. We have volunteer groups here as opposed to the paid employees over in Ocean City, for example. They are on par with the rest of them. They provide a very valuable service to the residents of Upper Township."

Upper Township Emergency Management has three deputies, one covering the barrier island section of the township called Strathmere; the chief of the Tuckahoe Fire Department; and a Public Works supervisor.

"It's a good diversity when it comes to talents and knowing how to handle emergencies," the OEM Coordinator said. "Each one of them has a pretty strong background in emergency management, in emergency services."

Operationally, emergency management supports Upper Township residents and those of surrounding communities like Ocean City.

Upper Township provides sheltering at its public schools in the event of serious events such as hurricanes.

"We put out the voluntary evacuations when major storms have the potential to impact.



We try to disseminate that information and move those residents elsewhere to other relatives or other pre-planned sites that they've done themselves," the OEM Coordinator said. "We have a smaller portion of the population to deal with as far as sheltering is concerned."

Cape May County Emergency Management and Cape Regional Medical Center assist residents with special needs during evacuations.

"It's a very small percentage of the population, but it's an important percentage of the population that we have to deal with those that have functional needs. Most of them are special health needs, but it goes further than that," the OEM Coordinator said, adding residents without transportation also have to be accommodated.

Special needs individuals, particularly those bedridden or who rely on wheelchairs or walkers, must be handled in a certain way so as not to injure them during the evacuation process. This is where the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training proves invaluable.

Alerting the public of impending emergencies, the township relies on its emergency management website (www.uppertownship. com/oem) and CodeRED.

CodeRED reaches a majority of

residents, sending phone calls, text messages and email blasts to those in harm's way.

"When we're talking about hurricanes and nor'easters, they have the highest potential to displace the highest number of people. We do have some advanced weather information we receive a week out and rely on the media to get that information out," OEM Coordinator said.

Education is the first line of defense when it comes to emergencies.

The CERT, locals trained in first aid and emergency response, assists emergency management officials during crises. CERT volunteers also educate the public on protecting themselves and properties before emergency services arrive.

"If it's a catastrophic emergency, there may be a possibility that some emergency services could potentially be delayed, so you want to be well educated and fend for yourself within a short period (72 to 96 hours) of time until professional emergency services can get to you," the OEM Coordinator said.

The public should heed warnings from state, county and local emergency services personnel.

"Make sure you have a communications plan," OEM Coordinator said. "Make sure you have a plan of where you're going to go in the event of an emergency. Prepare that months before the hurricane season or the winter season when storms can be most severe."

After a catastrophic emergency, the most difficult time for emergency management agencies is the recovery phase.

"We're left to pick up the pieces," the OEM Coordinator said. "We tell everybody to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. If you prepare for the worst, you're going to be well prepared."

After Hurricane Sandy struck the East Coast in 2012, emergency management officials were instructed to prepare for a storm even worse than Sandy. The old benchmark was the March 1962 Storm.

"Some meteorologists say that Sandy was a meteorological fluke. It'll probably never happen again. We never thought it could happen the first time."

Upper Township is fortunate because it is at a higher elevation in Cape May County, but it does have low-lying areas. Low-lying areas are more susceptible to flooding and storm damage.

"You've got to heed the warnings and you've got to get out early or there's a potential to be stuck in some of those areas," the OEM Coordinator said. Have a plan.

Upper Township Emergency Management conducts periodic exercises with the state and county to ensure coordination among departments and agencies. Last year an Active Shooter drill was conducted in Marmora and involved the New Jersey State Police, the Upper Township Chief's Association, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, Upper Township Emergency Medical Services, Upper Township CERT and Upper Township School District.



Upper Township Emergency Medical Services PREPARING FOR AN EMS RESPONSE

Any emergency situation that leads to you needing to dial 9-1-1 can be overwhelming, maybe even a little frightening at times. No one wakes up in the morning expecting to have to call for an ambulance that day. We understand that this can be a stressful time, but we also want to reassure every resident and visitor of Upper Township of the fact that you are not alone when faced with an emergency of any kind. The following information is available to help you become more familiar with the response of Upper Township emergency services and provide you with additional resources to help prepare you for an emergency.

CALLING 9-1-1 Calling 9-1-1 will connect you to a Public Safety Telecommunicator (dispatcher) who will collect necessary information about your emergency and dispatch the appropriate responders within minutes. While we are responding to your emergency, the dispatcher you are speaking to will continue to ask you for more information. It is important to remain on the phone, answer their questions, and follow their instructions. This does NOT delay our response in any way, but provides us with valuable information about your emergency prior to our arrival.

Depending on your location, the type of phone you are using, and the type of emergency you are reporting, your call may be transferred at some point in order to provide you with the specific type of emergency responders that you need. It is very important that you remain on the line and do not hang up. You will always be connected to a dispatcher and even if you cannot hear them, they can hear you. To make sure you get the correct responders, start by telling the dispatcher you are in Upper Township and then give your physical address, not your mailing address.

WHO IS COMING TO HELP? Upper Township's Emergency Medical Services are located at 2028 Tuckahoe Road in Petersburg. This building hosts two seperate emergency service entities that work alongside each other as one unit: Squad 21. The Division of EMS provides Emergency Medical Technicians paid by the Township of Upper to staff basic life support ambulances 24 hours/day, 365 days a year. The Upper Township Rescue Squad consists of volunteer members who provide extra support and specialized resources at times of heightened call volume or during special events. With that, the four volunteer fire departments of Upper Township are also available to be utilized as first responders when multiple 9-1-1 calls are received at once. The fire department closest to the incident will send a fire engine to the scene and provide emergency care until an ambulance arrives.

Depending on the nature of the emergency, a paramedic unit from AtlantiCare will be dispatched alongside our ambulance. EMTs provide basic life support in response to medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, and accident scenes. Paramedics supplement the care of EMTs with advanced life support such as cardiac monitoring and medication administration via IV access. Both EMTs and Paramedics are trained in CPR and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in case of cardiac arrest.

SQUAD 21 RESOURCES Between the Division of EMS and the Volunteer Rescue Squad, Squad 21, as a whole, houses three (3) BLS ambulances, three (3) quick response vehicles, one (1) off-road UTV, and one (1) special operations / fire rehabilitation truck. Our ambulances are stocked with state-of-the-art life saving equipment and medications such as epinephrine auto-injectors, naloxone, aspirin, glucose, and oxygen. All of our vehicles also have, at the minimum, a first responder medical bag and an AED. We also host a variety of community relations programs as well as public access first aid training opportunities.

PREPARING YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS One of the most helpful things you can do to prepare for an emergency response is to make sure your address number is clearly marked so that it is visible from the street and easy to read at night. With that, you should also make sure your driveway is clear and easily accessible to emergency vehicles. During an emergency, other things you can do to help prepare for our arrival include having someone flag us down at the street, turning on the outside lights, unlocking the door, and putting pets away.

Some people have been concerned that we will not be able to get to them if their door is locked and they are too sick or injured to unlock it. Rest assured, we will get to you if you need us. If you have a spare key hidden on the exterior of your home, you can provide the exact location of the key to the dispatcher over the phone.

PREPARE INFORMATION AHEAD OF TIME Have pertinent information ready for us ahead of time. Consider filling out an INFO 4 LIFE form. This form can be downloaded by visiting www.upperrescue.com/info-4-life. Providing this completed form to us upon our arrival can save us a lot of time; allowing us to spend less time asking extra questions and more time providing care to you or your loved one. It can also provide us with vital information if you are too sick to communicate with us. Place the completed form on your refrigerator and we will know where to find it.

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC SAFETY CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Your safety is important. Always call 811 before you dig or drive equipment into the ground. www.atlanticcityelectric.com/SafetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/CallBeforeYouDig.aspx

STORM RESTORATION PROCESS

When power goes out, the restoration process begins as soon as conditions are safe. We are committed to resolving outages as quickly as possible and technology is helping us do it faster than ever before. www.atlanticcityelectric.com/Outages/StormCenter/Pages/StormRestorationProcess.aspx

ELECTRIC SAFETY

Get tips and information about staying safe around electricity. www.atlanticcityelectric.com/SafetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/ElectricSafety.aspx



When you dial 9-1-1 for an emergency, tell the dispatcher you live in Upper Township!

Confusion over addresses can delay a response; if you can, also tell them what section of town

When you need emergency medical care, you want help to arrive as quickly as possible.

In Upper Township, however, Zip Codes shared with neighboring municipalities can present unique challenges for dispatchers and emergency responders.

That could delay response times.

However, there are things citizens and visitors should remember to ensure that in the event of an emergency, help can reach you quickly and efficiently.

To make that happen, callers should specify that they are in Upper Township and if possible, the section of town in Upper Township.

The township consists of Beesleys Point, Greenfield, Marmora, Marshallville, Palermo, Petersburg, Seaville, Steelmantown, Strathmere and Tuckahoe.

Some of these sections, however, share Zip Codes with other towns.

For example, 08270 is the Zip Code for both Petersburg, which is in Upper Township, and Woodbine. The Zip Code 08230 is used for Ocean View in Dennis Township and portions of Upper Township.

In these cases, the shared Zip Code can cause an Upper Township resident's mail to have an incorrect address.

GPS navigation systems are subject to similar mistakes because of the mailing address. In the event of an emergency, however, it's easy for an Upper Township resident who lives in Seaville to mistakenly give an Ocean View mailing address.

Cell phones compound this problem.

Cell phones are not associated with a fixed address, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the location of the cell phone tower closest to the caller can give a general idea of the area the person is calling from.

Since landlines have a fixed address, it is easier for a dispatcher to know a caller's location.

Officials estimate 70 percent of the 9-1-1 calls received in Upper Township are via a cell phone. Approximately 30 percent of these calls are made from a landline phone.

This Zip Code confusion, coupled with a cell phone muddling a dispatcher's ability to find an exact location, has caused some problems in Upper Township.

The average response time is six to nine minutes in Upper Township.

Upper Township is 68 square miles.

A few years ago there was a complaint about an amublance taking 50 minutes to respond, but it turned out there was confusion over the address.

"We've only had a few (incidents) but one is too many," OEM Coordinator, said about people who have called but whose address has caused confusion.

It's important for a township resident or visitor to know where they are, and to tell a dispatcher they are located in Upper Township and provide the address and cross streets.

This information is just as important for the township's seasonal visitors and vacationers to know.

OEM Coordinator said that "being on vacation and not a resident of the community, I would venture to say that's probably the last thing on their minds."

However, in an emergency, something as simple as a correct address can make a difference in response times.

Secure pets and have medication information available

Officials also recommend that, after calling 9-1-1, people who are able to ready the area for first responders by making sure the door is unlocked and that pets are secured. He also recommended gathering any medication the patient needs.

Having a house number that is easily visible and having a Knox Box, a small safe that holds building keys for fire and emergency medical services staff, also makes things easier for responders.

When responders have all of the correct information, they can reach patients as quickly as possible.

KNOX BOX

According to the Upper Township web site, "The Knox Box is a secured key box that allows public safety personnel to enter a commercial structure after hours in the case of an activated fire alarm. In many cases the owner/occupant of the building might not be available to give firefighters access to investigate the cause of the alarm and mitigate the situation whether it is an actual fire or an accidental trip of the alarm system. This saves the building owner the potential cost of a door or lock replacement if firefighters must gain entry." It also can be used at residential buildings.

To learn more, go to the township's web site at: https://uppertownship.com

Then click on "Upper Township Knox Box Program."



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UNDERSTANDING YOUR CYBER SECURITY EXPOSURE:

Cyber risks are business and at home personal risks. A network intrusion can cause lasting harm to your organization and its stakeholders. It can also affect your reputation, your people, and even your community. No single entity can address the range of cyber threats alone, which is why your local Emergency Management recommends that you educate yourself to protect yourself whether it be at work or on your home network.

RISKS AND THE THREAT:

Over the past month, the NJCCIC (NJ's website for Cyber Security defense) responded to several incidents involving fraudulent websites impersonating legitimate government websites in NJ and other states. A number of these sites were hosted overseas using newly created domains, while others were hosted on hacked websites of victim organizations in the US. Unsuspecting individuals were lured to these sites because of various phishing messages they received. Each of the fraudulent sites convinced unsuspecting victims that they were visiting an official government website and prompted them to enter their login credentials and/or sensitive information. Undoubtedly, that information will be used by the threat actors to perpetrate additional crimes.

UNDERSTAND COMMON RISKS AND CRIMES:

- Ransomware can disrupt business operations and cost millions.
- Data breaches can reveal trade secrets, proprietary material, and costumer data.
- Third party systems can be a vector for malware.
- Business email compromise takes advantage of the way we do business today and can result in huge financial losses.
- Spoofing and phishing schemes are one of the most common ways individuals within an organization are tricked into providing sensitive information, downloading damaging code, or allowing criminals access to their systems.
- Keep up to date with our industry alerts on ic3.gov

KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR THE LATEST CYBER SECURITY INFORMATION:

- NJCCIC New Jersey's Cyber Security site. www.cyber.nj.gov
- Cyber Crime FBI www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber
 - CYBERSECURITY | CISA Cyber Security Infrastructure Security Agency
 www.cisa.gov
 - Cybersecurity | Homeland Security www.dhs.gov/topics/cybersecurity

HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF A PHISHING ATTACK:

• Keep calm if you receive a strange email, such as a receipt for goods you have not purchased. Rather than a sign that your details have been compromised; this is often instead a phishing attack.

• Check the sender address on your received emails. Just because the sender name is Georgia Weidman make sure it is an address with which you have communicated with Georgia previously. If the sender is a business, make sure that the address for the domain is spelled correctly.

• Verify that links go where they say they do, and where you think they should. It is easy to make HTML links appear to point one place when they actually lead somewhere else entirely. Your email client should show you the actual link URL when you hover over it with a mouse or hold it down on a touch interface.

• If an email seems suspicious from someone you do know, follow up using a different medium (phone call, text message, instant message, etc.) to make sure the email is legitimate and not the result of your friend's email account being compromised.

In these days when highly sophisticated attacks using unknown vulnerabilities are in high demand, it is sad that a simple attack that can be carried out for free and with little to no technical know-how is still so successful. Education is the best way to combat phishing scams, and other network intrusions at work or at home, so make sure that end users know what to look for and know how to react when they encounter this sort of attack.

MOBILE 3-I-I Upper Township is using a mobile reporting system so residents can submit work requests to the Public Works Department electronically to fix problems more quickly

The more sets of eyes there are on something that needs fixing, the better it will be.

With this in mind, Upper Township implemented Mobile 311, a program that allows people to submit work requests to the township's Public Works Department electronically.

Mobile 311 is used internally by the Public Works Department to document its activities, show the Public Works Department's workflow, and offer access to spending and workflow reports.

For the public, it's a tool to communicate problems, such as pot holes and trash that was not picked up, to the Public Works Department.

Scott Morgan, the Upper Township administrator, said when a request is made on Mobile 311, it goes into their system and gives public works supervisors the opportunity to assign the job and to notify the person who made the request when that job is done.

The software "better organizes what we do and documents what we do on a daily basis," Morgan said. "It's absolutely a way that we take a look at what's going on within our township, and we can determine how we can manage our workforce and our equipment to get the job done," he said.

Upper Township has used Mobile 311 for about a year.

It can be used by anyone, including summer visitors to Upper Township.

To use Mobile 311 in Upper Township, see http://uppertownship.com/departments/public-works/submit-work-request/.

The person submitting the request will create an account the first time they use Mobile 311, so the Public Works Department can provide updates about the work request.

Additional information about how to use Mobile 311 can be found on the Public Works Department section of the Upper Township website.

Are you wondering when your trash will be picked up? The public works section of the Upper Township website has this information as well. The section has a map of the township's trash routes with the days that the trash is collected, holiday trash and recycling schedules for the entire year, trash and recycling requirements, residential paper shredding, how to recycle used clothing, bulk waste collection requirements and schedules, brush collection, electronics recycling and more.

Information about collection of compostable materials, loose leaf collection schedules and requirements, tree trimming and hazardous materials can be found on the website.

The website also has access to a Recycling Coach program, where people can type in what they want to recycle, be it furniture, batteries or other items. The Recycling Coach will give instructions about how to recycle the item and where in Cape May County they can bring the item for recycling.

To see these features and learn more, visit http://uppertownship.com/departments/ public-works.

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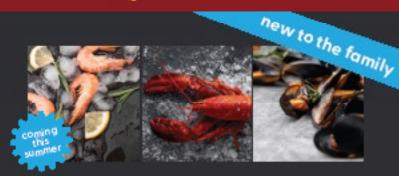


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Flood Insurance: If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood Insurance is required if you have a Federally backed mortgage, which accounts for 95% of all mortgages. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

Flood Awareness: Flooding in our Township is caused by three sources: tidal flooding, tidal flooding influenced by coastal storms and floodwaters from stormwater runoff. Tidal flooding routinely occurs in Strathmere both during severe coastal storms and rain events coinciding with full moon tide cycles. Floodwaters usually may be I-2 feet of water along Bayview Drive and can exceed five feet above the normal high tide. Occasional tidal flooding can occur along the Cedar Swamp Creek and Tuckahoe River. Floodwaters on the mainland may occur after a rainfall of either long duration or high intensity, which may result in flooded streets and yards.

Your property may be high enough that it was not flooded recently. However, it can still be flooded in the future because the next flood could be worse. If you are in the floodplain, the odds are that someday your property will be damaged. This information gives you some ideas of what you can do to protect yourself.

Township Flood Services: The Township Engineer can determine where your property is in relationship to the flood hazard area. Stevens Institute has developed a web-based application that can notify you of an impending tidal flooding event. You can sign up to receive email alerts. Helps to let you know if you need to move your car or plan a trip. These alerts can start warning you of higher than normal tides 3 days in advance. Go to this online address to see the information and sign-up: http:// hudson.dl.stevens-tech.edu/sfas/d/index. shtml?station=U233

The County of Cape May has also released a Tidal Flooding Awareness website (https://cmcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Map-Series/index.html?appid=dfc9972f2f8f4c92 bce2187194d81ff5). This site can give you up-to-date flooding information and show you which streets might be flooded based on the nearest tidal flood gauge. The site also can show you how your neighborhood might flood during different types of flood



events. This site is not mobile friendly at this time and can take several minutes to load all the necessary data. For assistance using this site please call the Municipal Engineer at 609-628-2011 ext. 244.

What You Can Do: Several of the Township's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

• Do not dump or throw anything into the drainage inlets, ditches or streams. Dumping in our ditches and streams is a violation of Township Ordinance 24-4. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. A plugged channel cannot carry water and when it rains the water has to go somewhere.

• If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. The township has a stream maintenance program which can help remove major blockages such as downed trees.

• If you see dumping or debris in the ditches or streams, contact the Public Works Department at (609) 628-2011 ext. 352

Flood Safety

• Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded

area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. When you drive through floodwaters, the wake you create can cause damage to surrounding properties and you could be held personally responsible for that damage.

• Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

• Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.



Check out Tidal Flooding Talk hosted by Dan Skeldon and Palma Accardi, Tidal Flooding Talk is a weekly "Live Feed" that takes place on Facebook every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. and focuses on flood mitigation. Sponsored by and held at The Irish Pub in Atlantic City, Tidal Flooding Talk has a guest each week and the show runs about 20-25 minutes or so. Join the "Live Feed" (Video) or subscribe to the Podcast (Audio)



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MAYOR JOHN 'JAY' NEWMAN A HISTORY OF SERVICE

By DAVID NAHAN The Upper Township Sentinel

For Upper Township's Jay Newman, leadership and serving others has been a way of life.

Long before he was elected to Upper Township Committee and a quarter-century before his peers chose him as mayor to start 2023, John "Jay" Newman was leading the men and women as chief of the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company, responding to fires and accidents across the township.

"What's the number one priority of any kind of executive leader? It's to keep your people safe," Newman said in an interview in his office at the firehouse.

Public safety is one of the other reasons Newman decided to get back involved in Township Committee, where he had served before. "I like to have public safety at the forefront. Not that the previous people weren't focused on public safety; they were great. But it has helped to have somebody who has certain insight into everything that goes on," Newman said. "You're not going to pull the wool over my eyes in public safety."

Newman began his second stint on Township Committee after getting elected with Kimberly Hayes and Mark Pancoast in 2021. But let's start his story almost from the beginning.

BACKGROUND

Born in 1961, Newman was raised on Maple Shade Lane starting around 1967-68. "I do remember growing up in a great neighborhood where all the families had the same values. It didn't make a difference if you were going around the corner to your buddy's house. His mother was going to discipline you the same as your mother would. It was pretty cool doing that," he said.

"I grew up in the shadow of the B.L. England plant. We used to ride our bikes down there and play in the pool and play on the golf course and do things we shouldn't have been doing," he said, laughing and lamenting that playing outdoors "is somewhat lacking today" as kids have gravitated toward video games.

He started in Upper Township schools in second grade and was in the first seventhgrade class at Upper Township Middle School. His parents had bought Seaside Cemetery at Route 9 and Church Road in the early to mid-1970s. Like most of Upper Township students, he went off to Ocean City High School, graduating in 1979.

He attended The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1983. While there, he met his wife, Frances. She was a student at the College of Charleston and went to the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I waited down there for a year or so while she graduated," he said. "We had gotten married in the interim, in 1984, after I graduated from The Citadel."

The couple moved back to Upper Township in 1985. In 1986, his father died and left a portion of the cemetery to him. That's when he began working there, another experience that, like the fire department, informs how he works with people.

He and his wife built a house on Gloria Road, which is still in the family (he sold it to his sister many years ago) and in 1995 moved the house at the cemetery. That's where they raised their two boys, John, born in 1989, and Mark, born in 1992.

Newman's father and others founded the Upper Township Indians football team and he played on the first team when it "was brand spanking new" and there were only 15 to 20 kids. "We lost a lot of games," he said.

He mentions that because by the time his boys were growing up, he wondered what was taking place with recreation and saw they could start playing football at age 7. He was amazed when he went to sign up his son, who wanted to play.

"There were well over 100 kids at four levels. They were playing at Caldwell Park. We used to play behind the elementary school because Caldwell Park wasn't what it is today.

"The rest is history. I got involved in coaching baseball and football and did that for 10-11 years. It's amazing how well the improvements in recreation programs have been over the years, just in the sheer number of kids."

His own sons both went to OCHS. John then went to U.S. Air Force Academy and is currently a major in the Air Force stationed in Guam. His youngest, Mark, went to Liberty University and got his master's in special education at Rowan University and is now a second-grade teacher at Upper Township Primary School.

"It goes full circle," Newman said.



THE FIRE COMPANY AND THE CEMETERY

Newman's work with the fire company and at his family's cemetery figure heavily into views on working together and serving the public.

Newman joined the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company in 1978 as a teenager and rose through the ranks, serving as a captain and a deputy chief. He became chief around 1995-96.

"That is something that dovetails into everything that goes on here," he said. "That cemetery is all about helping people in their worst days, which is just like the firehouse," he said.

Newman jokes about the line about government service: "I'm from the government, I'm here to help. It's some of the worst words you can hear." But he does know about helping from outside his role in local government.

He knows how critically important it is "when you go to someone who is having a medical emergency, or someone whose house is on fire, and they see their life flashing before their eyes or they're in a serious motor vehicle accident. I can't tell you how many times I've had to go knock on someone's door. Having to tell them their son or daughter has been in a serious accident or seriously injured."

That is like what happens at the cemetery.

"You're out there to help people and to do it honestly. Keep your reputation intact. It comes naturally to me. I'm not being a big shot, but it comes naturally to me."

(Newman notes he sold the cemetery in 2019 and, when notifying families after an accident, he does that with consent from the State Police after telling them he knows the families.)

How he works within the fire department and working with the other fire companies in Upper Township – Seaville, Strathmere and Tuckahoe, and Upper Township EMS — is part of what he believes is in the best interest of the community.

While he was being interviewed in late March for this story, members of the Ocean City Fire Department were at the firehouse training with Marmora firefighters.

"We're working together. The whole township works that way," Newman said. "That's one of my goals with public safety and one of the things that's pretty amazing too."



"I'll give credit to my guys, who are Marmora firefighters. We have good leadership here. We have good leadership in the other fire companies and EMS in Upper Township and we deal with Ocean City all the time. They're our dispatch center now.

"Between Strathmere, Seaville, Tuckahoe and Upper Township EMS, we have good core leadership. The Upper Township Chiefs Association meets every other month at individual firehouses," he said. "All the chiefs attend, Deputy Mayor Kimberly Hayes will take part as will the Upper Township Office of Emergency Management.

"We'll set things up for the year as to what public safety has to do, has to provide. We take care of things now instead of when they pop up. If we have a problem with communications, we take care of it. If we have a problem with State Police, which we don't, we'll get it (solved) now," he said. "We have a couple of events coming up that we're in the planning stages now."

The idea, Newman explained, is to put all kinds of egos and differences aside and act as one public safety unit. That also includes putting together standard operating guidelines each company adopted. Even though each department has a specific area of responsibility, they can often overlap with different ones responding, so it is clear what each is doing.

"It's amazing because we do have the best

Chief Newman poses with the members of the Marmora Volunteer Fire Co. celebrating the company's 75th year in 2022.

possible guys and girls who said, "We're going to do this, let's just do it right. Quit worrying about what the name on the fire truck is or the color of the firetruck. Although we will continue to tease Seaville about having yellow fire trucks," he said, laughing.

PRIORITIES AS MAYOR

"Obviously, one of the big issues on the table is the what's going to happen at the site of the former B.L. England Generating Station," Newman said. "We are working with the Beesleys Point Development Group that currently owns the site and is working to clean it up.

"That will be one of our number one priorities in the township moving forward over the next year or several years, whatever the case may be." (See related story about the Beesleys Point Development Group in this magazine.)

Newman said there are other priorities as well. The township early this year passed a bond ordinance and will use money to pave some streets, do beach replenishment and put toward recreation and public safety. "It will be a priority this year to get that money where it should be, but to spend it wisely and get some of our infrastructure back up to where it needs to be."

Beach erosion has taken a toll along the Jersey shore, especially in Cape May County communities. Neighboring Ocean City completed a north-end beach replenishment project at the beginning of the year and a multicommunity project that includes the south end of Ocean City, Strathmere and Sea Isle City is planned later this year.

The erosion in Strathmere has closed several crossovers to the beach. Newman said others may be closed or opened as needed, depending on when the replenishment begins and is completed. Right now they're on schedule for mid-July to mid-August.

"We took a big hit with the storms, but we've been through it before and we'll get through it again," he said. "The beaches will be open this summer." The mayor noted he has "talked to old-timers who said, 'It's bad, but it's not the worst it's been. We've gotten through it before."



DIFFERENT VOICES

In addition to Newman, Hayes and Pancoast, Township Committee includes former mayor Curtis Corson and the newest member, Victor Nappen. They don't always see eye to eye on various votes, but Newman believes that is a strength.

"Right now we bring a lot of diverse ideas. We're all in the same political party but it doesn't mean we can't have disagreements, which we do," he said. "We have them behind the scenes and in front of the scenes. We have disagreements. It's good to have political discourse. It's good to have different ideas and different angles on things."

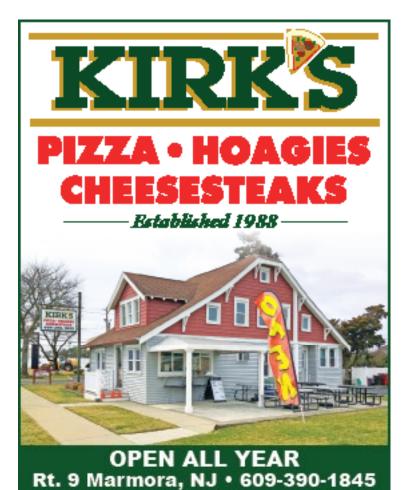
Newman said he enjoyed his time serving on Township Committee before and after a few years it is constituted in a different way.

"It's a different team, but it's still a good team and we each have our own little niches we've carved out and we're working toward common goals most of the time," he said.

Robust debate on issues isn't a bad thing.

"That's why you have political discourse that's honest, civil. It shouldn't be uncommon, but unfortunately it is uncommon in today's world. It doesn't mean we're not unified. ... It just means we have differing opinions and we're coming at it from different angles."

Newman said he very much appreciates being chosen as mayor among his colleagues.



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"I've been here for a long time. Responsibility is not new to me. Being the head honcho is not new. I've been sitting in this chair (as Marmora fire chief) for over 25 years, I've been in the firehouse for over 40 and you just go step by step."

What matters, he said, is "being a good person and doing the right thing even when no one is looking. That's what I keep on doing.

"I use my faith in God and prayer and my moral values, the way I was brought up, the way my wife and I brought our kids up and we move forward.

"That's what leadership is. You do the right thing even when no one is looking."

HE KNOWS ALL 10 VILLAGES

Newman said he not only knows all 10 villages in the township, including the smallest, but also one more familiar to older residents.

Upper Township has 10 villages. Do you get to all 10?

He knows Steelmantown and Marshallville, where his parents live (his mother got "Beesleys Point is near and dear to my heart," he said from growing up there and moving back there now to a home on Diane Avenue.

He knows Greenfield, Seaville, Palermo. "I can tell you where Palermo begins and ends, I can tell you where Greenfield begins and ends. I own a house in Petersburg that I rent out. I can tell you where Tuckahoe begins and ends. I can tell you about Middletown, which I don't think people talk about too much. Steelmantown. Marshallville. I know where they are. I might get some dispute from some real oldtimers, but it is what it is," he said, laughing.

Middletown, he said, "is actually kind of between the Tuckahoe line and where Levari's Seafood is. They used to call that Middletown. Where the Community Center is. Those are really undefined lines but years ago, before the 911 system, a fire call would come in and they would say, 'Tm in Middletown.'"

Back then, he said, fire department dispatchers had the phones in their own homes. "You call the Marmora or Tuckahoe fire company, it rang at somebody's house. That was years ago," he said.

"You have to know the villages and where you're at."

LOVING UPPER TOWNSHIP

"Upper Township to this day remains a great place to live, work, raise a family. We have great education, we have great public safety. We have great recreation programs and it's a safe community if you get down to it," Newman said. "Despite all of our faults, which every town has, people still want to move here and want to live here. You can raise your kids. Most of the people have the same values that you do.

"That's what makes me happy. That makes Upper Township the great place to go."

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'WE ARE DIFFERENT WITH A PURPOSE'

Beesley's Point Development Group promises to transform B.L. England site into an ecological gem

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK The Upper Township Sentinel

"There is going to be a very noticeable difference from the road over the next year," Chris Wilson said of the 350-acre property at the northern tip of Upper Township.

Wilson and his partners in the Beesley's Point Development Group — David Kreutz, Tim Niedzwiecki and Chad Parks — bought the property in 2021 from RC Cape May Holdings with plans to develop a hotel, marina, retail shops and housing.

For nearly 60 years, the site was home to the B.L. England Generating Station, a source of jobs, electricity and funding through energy tax receipts that made up a large portion of the township's annual budget. It included a ninehole golf course, fishing pier and public swimming pool at one point.

Located along Great Egg Harbor Bay, the site includes sections of wetlands, lowlands, uplands and maritime forest — criss-crossed by multiple natural and man-made paths that are home to numerous species of plants and animals.

The BPDG, which specializes in redeveloping obsolete and often-abandoned sites, has grand plans for boosting the ecology of the site, which they hope in turn boosts the economy of the entire township.

"There will be a direct connection to current town parks, beautiful walking and biking trails, nature observatories and programs to help the site be an ambassador for nature and native species of plants and wildlife we are in the process of restoring," Wilson said. "We are different with a purpose."

Kreutz said the site is a wonderland of nature.

"Once the golf course closed, nothing has

ever been touched so there is scientifically significant stuff going on out there, which is the recapture of land by nature. There are very, very fascinating native and nonnative species of plants."

He said they are going to get involved with state universities such as Stockton, Rutgers, Monmouth and Temple.

"We'll get some people that are way smarter than we are to come here and look around and find out what is here, whether it needs to be saved or brought back," Kreutz said.

He said one plan is to create a migrant bird trap since the area is on the Atlantic Flyway.

"I've had experience in birding community and know there is an opportunity for us to improve the site to make it attractive for birds to stop and rest, which is key," Kreutz said.

In addition to the other elements, the group is planning to build a boardwalk, an expanded fishing pier, nature features, park areas, sports facilities and an amphitheater for events.

"The ability to combine business with the love of nature absolutely exists at BPDG and will be a feature of our development," Wilson said.

He said the company's projects usually are off in the middle of nowhere instead of in a beautiful setting at the shore near residential development.

"When we saw this years ago, we decided it was worth going after it and figured out how to get it," Wilson said. "No one is going to spend a fortune on doing this but us."

He said incorporating green space in their projects started as a major hurdle but "we turned it into a huge advantage."

"We guarantee communities to do this un-

dertaking and there is no better example than the controlled burn we recently conducted," he said, noting they are working with top experts in the field to eradicate invasive species and restore the natural habitat.

He said things such as keeping existing fresh-water pools would revive natural habitat, letting wildlife return and thrive.

"We are super proud of our track record," Wilson said, noting they are working with agencies such as the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association.

Kreutz said they would focus on ecotourism and provide educational opportunities, especially to children around the community.

"Education is really, really important to us. The kids in the community are going to get something really special here," Kreutz said.

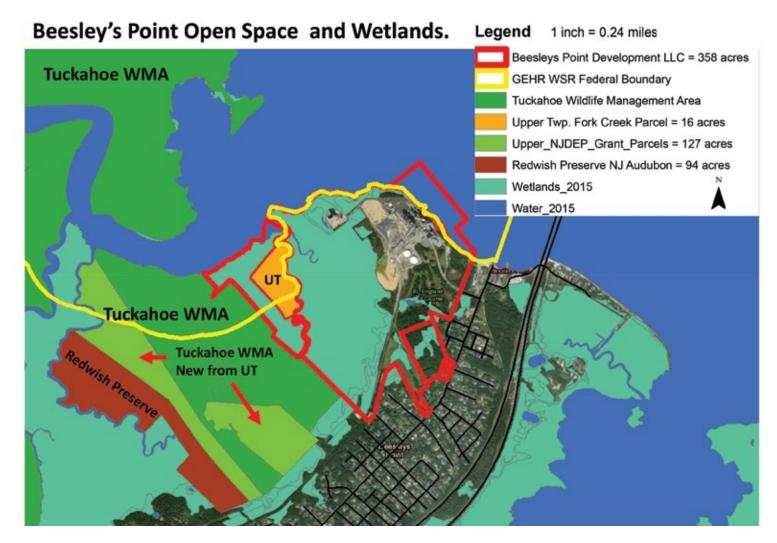
The BPDG said public access and a variety of outdoor experiences are "paramount to our development."

"We understand the development will be a draw for people across the state, but we are committed to Upper Township and will be sharing plans for a variety of programs and specific areas of enjoyment for everyone to take advantage of year round,"Wilson said.

Kreutz said almost everyone he has met from the community has a story about the former power plant, noting some toured the plant as Boy Scouts and will never forget the experience.

"That's the kind of thing we are going to create with the green space here. It's about the kids when they leave and go to college or go off in the world, when they think back on growing up in this area I want them to think about this place. This has to be that place for them or we

In this wide-angle view, David Kreutz and Chris Wilson of the Beesley's Point Development Group pose in front of what remained of the old B.L. England Generating Station in March, not long before the smokestack was to be brought down as part of the cleanup of the entire site.



are not doing our job," he said.

The company will be seeking input from the community on the types of recreation programs they would like to see.

"This is a complicated and significant development, but we will be involving the local community and asking for their ideas to help us develop something magical for generations of local residents," Wilson said.

He said the development should benefit the existing businesses in the area — Beesley's Point Sea-Doo and the historic Tuckahoe Inn are both on the bay — as well as the greater township.

"The natural attraction of both will be perfect for the waterfront resort portions of the project we are working on," Wilson said.

DEVELOPMENT TIMEFRAME

Last year, the public saw the first sign of the development when the cooling tower was reduced to rubble through a series of implosions Sept. 29. Several dozen people — local and state safety inspectors, firefighters and EMS personnel, township officials and others — gathered at the viewing site just outside the blast zone as a crew from Controlled Demolition Inc. conducted a two-stage implosion that brought the tower down.

Dozens more gathered on the pier that used to connect to the Beesleys Point Bridge and others stopped on the Garden State Parkway walkway to watch the spectacle.

The team has worked steadily since to remove the cooling tower debris and begin dismantling other structures and is gearing up for another big step forward.

Controlled Demolition is scheduled to return April 21 to bring down the smoke stack — used by many as a navigational aid because of its height. Wilson said the site should be cleared and the team ready to build in six to 10 months.

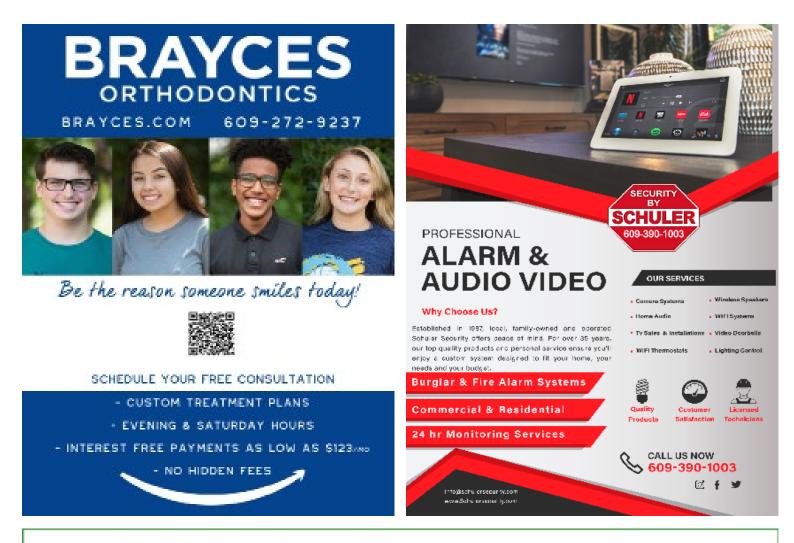
"It's about to get hot and heavy," Wilson said. He said the demolition of all structures, eradication of phragmites and restoration of the upland forest should all be completed by year's end.

WIND FARM PROPOSAL

Wilson emphasized that the group is not associated with the Ocean Wind 1 wind farm project. However, Danish wind-power developer Ørsted does plan to connect to the power grid at a substation on the property.

The offshore wind proposal includes construction of as many as 98 wind turbines 15 miles off Cape May and Atlantic counties to generate 1,100 megawatts of power. Multiple other projects are also in various stages of development for a large area stretching from the northern coastal tip of North Carolina to just south of Massachusetts.

As part of the project known as Ocean Wind 1, a joint venture between Danish company Ørsted and PSEG, transmission cables would run under the beach and streets



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Wilson said it took close to three years to close on the property with the former owner, which he said disclosed the agreement for a substation "at the 11th hour."

He said they were not to be deterred.

"We wouldn't let go," he said. "We saw this as a terrific property. I knew we could do something magical here that other developers wouldn't do because of the hurdles."





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David Kreutz

Chris Wilson

Chad Parks

Beesley's Point Development Group principles moved to the area to be 'permanent members of the community'

The Beesley's Point Development Group bought the 350-acre industrial property at the northern tip of Upper Township in November 2021 with plans for developing it into something more suitable for its surroundings.

For nearly 60 years, the site was home to the B.L. England Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant.

Located along Great Egg Harbor Bay, the site has various types habit that are home to numerous species of plants and animals. There's also a former nine-hole golf course. However, it has been the site of a coal-fired power plant with all of the negative effects that come along with that and in need of remediation.

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK The Upper Township Sentinel

The BPDG, which specializes in redeveloping at-risk sites, has grand plans for boosting the ecology of the site, which they hope in turn boosts the economy of the entire township.

The sale cleared the way for a proposal that may lead to construction of a hotel, marina, restaurants, retail shops and homes, but also a strong environmental education aspect with public access and interpretive signage. The group consists of co-founder Chris Wilson, co-founder Tim Niedzwiecki, Executive Vice President of Real Estate and Development Chad Parks and Executive Vice President and Director of Economic Development David Kreutz.

Wilson moved to Upper Township from Long Island, N.Y., and Parks purchased a home in Marmora. Kreutz relocated from California to Ventnor, where Niedzwiecki often stays.

"We are permanent members of the community," Wilson said.

The four primary owners each has distinct

individual skills ranging from contracting and financing to environmental sustainability through government relations.

"Our skills as individuals range in focus and allow us to attack and control things in a very positive fashion, from analysis through site work," Wilson said.

CHRIS WILSON

Wilson, the managing member, earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1991.

He is engaged, has three children and moved to the shore to make this his primary home after the property became the firm's top objective.

He conceived the business model using an innovative solution for brownfield recovery and development as the building block for the company's market approach.

Wilson's expertise has been in complete re-zoning and redevelopment with a focus on power- and transportation-based properties. He has spent the bulk of his career returning obsolete, often abandoned sites to productive use and specializes in projects that require intimate municipal involvement from the beginning to be successful.

He has spent more than 20 years pioneering the industry of redeveloping heavy industrial properties with his firm ERS Investments. He has spent time developing specific sites for regional industrial and niche-based developments.

ERS acquired, reclaimed and redeveloped sites with industrial developers including Berkshire Development, Millennium Acquisitions and P&L Investments. These opportunistic acquisitions were based on each group's predicated site type. Target property profiles included ground-up industrial, manufacturing and distribution development opportunities, brownfield redevelopment and new construction opportunities, underperforming assets and properties with below-market in-place rents. The concentration has been on industrial and environmentally impaired properties.

Wilson also has more than 20 years of experience in commercial real estate development and has an extensive history in the environmental field. He is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, Mortgage Bankers Association, Environmental Assessment Association and Environmental Bankers Association, and has completed courses in environmental research and due diligence practices in the United States and England.

Wilson has years of technical and handson experience in both domestic and international business development in the environmental industry, as well as creating and managing a successful real estate research firm that revolutionized the information gathering process and changed the national standards for ESA reporting and information sources.

TIM NIEDZWIECKI

Niedzwiecki is co-founder of BPDG as well as owner of ERSI, a development, abatement and decommissioning contractor.

Niedzwiecki has grown ERSI into a strong national contracting firm and provides BPDG a complete backstop for all required site work for the Beesleys Point property.

Wilson said his attention to detail has led to numerous awards in the industry and he prides himself on completing projects that most companies hesitate to undertake.

Decommissioning and demolishing roads and bridges, power plants, high-rise structures, chemical facilities, hospitals and largescale retail/office complexes are all areas in which ERSI excels, Wilson said.

He is married with two daughters and commutes from Syracuse, N.Y., often staying locally.

CHAD PARKS

Parks spent years managing projects in the contracting field before moving into real estate development. He applies his expertise in both fields to provide BPDG a unique advantage while advancing the property through entitlement.

His attention to detail and direct interaction with community directors continually increases goodwill with the municipal agencies at every level, Wilson said.

Parks is married with two school-age chil-

dren and purchased a home in Upper Township minutes from the property.

He began his career in 2004 working for ERSI in upstate New York, from Albany to Rochester, with overall revenue of \$5 million annually. Over the course of the ensuing 10 years, ERSI grew into a top demolition contractor nationally with offices in Boston, Houston and Los Angeles touting revenue of nearly \$40 million annually with the best contractor safety rating in the industry, Wilson said.

Business development and client relationships were his primary focus, with oversight of the company coming after his promotion to vice president in 2015.

"Chad's unique ability to understand client needs, end goals and critical path, while applying to the very front end of the project, was a key component to company growth," Wilson said.

His forward-looking approach to business development continued in 2014, when he met Wilson who was seeking a venture partner to pursue liability transfer real estate opportunities.

DAVID KREUTZ

Kreutz, along with his wife and daughter, purchased a home in Ventnor so he could be close to the project. He is responsible for locating and negotiating local and state incentives as well as working with government agencies and community leaders to maximize future development potential.

His relationships in the business community are robust and span many sectors.

Kreutz has hands-on expertise in effecting best/intended use as well as the shaping of community understanding and opinions toward intended projects.

Wilson said his operation and management skills include both detailed community outreach and oversight of in-house legal issues.

He also is an avid birder and will be bringing his knowledge of that field to bear on the project, focusing on the return of native species at the site.

The company recently conducted a controlled burn to eradicate large swaths of phragmites reeds.



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The township's website offers information, weather warnings, CodeRED registration and a whole lot more

S ome municipal websites can tell you When the next city council meeting is. Upper Township's website will show you when township events are happening, video recordings of township committee meetings, local emergency weather warnings, when quarterly taxes are due and gives residents the ability to pay them online. It also offers a link to report that a street light is out or that a pothole is on a local roadway.

The website – uppertownship.com – was redesigned to offer more information to residents with a more user-friendly presentation.

In February of this year, Upper Township announced that it launched a redesigned website, with information about the Township's departments, boards and commissions, and emergency management, among many other things.

Scott Morgan, the township administrator and Office of Emergency Management coordinator, said township officials are trying to encourage residents and visitors alike to visit the website to make their tasks easier.

"We're still developing it, but in the future, we're going to have areas where you'll be able to fill out particular digital forms, (and) pay things online," he said.

The website redesign will also be used to help promote Upper Township.

"To get the word out that Upper Township is here and it's a great place to live and also to visit," he said.

The township's Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) also used the website to conduct a digital survey. Morgan said additional surveys will be run through the website.

The surveys will get feedback from residents about what they would like to see in the township, including new restaurants.

Morgan described Upper Township as a kind of gateway to the barrier island communities and said that they want to have the township seen as a great stopping point. "From an EDAC standpoint, we wanted a website that would sell what we have here, what we have to offer," he said.

The new website, part community resource and part promotional tool, includes tabs for the township's departments, board and commissions, emergency management, information about Township Committee meetings, agendas, and Township Committee members, and general information about the township.

There are tabs on the website for animal control, clerk and registrar, construction codes, township engineering, financial documents, municipal court, employment opportunities, planning and zoning office, public safety and public works, purchasing, sports and recreation, and taxes.

A tab for the Office of Emergency Management has extensive information about how to prepare for disasters and weather emergencies.

Under that tab on the website, people can sign up for CodeRED, a mass notification system the emergency management office uses. In the event of an emergency, those who have signed up for CodeRED will receive emergency messages to a landline or cell phone, or by text and email.

It is free to sign up. Residents can sign up either online or by calling (609) 628-2011 ext. 200. Notifications, according to the township website, are sent out for criminal activity, boil water notices, evacuation notices, fires, floods, missing person cases, shelter in place and weather emergencies.

While CodeRED will tell you when an emergency situation is happening, the emergency management tab on the website will help you plan for one in advance.

It has links to information about hurricane preparedness, storm surges, flash floods, fire preparedness, camping tips, shelter training, beach and boating safety tips, and mosquito safety tips.

There are also links to the local fire compa-

nies and the Upper Township Rescue Squad, the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management and a weekly Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) newsletter.

Through the website's engineering department tab, people can access flood maps for several areas of the township, floodplain certificates the engineering office has on file, tax maps, information about road construction projects in the township, information about auctions, bids, and requests for proposals, and information about gypsy moths and when the township sprays for them.

An application to volunteer with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a group of volunteers trained in basic disaster response who respond during emergencies and assist with local events, is also on the Upper Township website.

Through the Sports and Recreation tab, residents can find a list of sports associations, links to their websites and registration forms.

The Upper Township Municipal Hall is also a passport acceptance agency. Information about making an appointment to process passport applications can be found on the website.

The township's municipal code is on the website, as are: information about the Upper Township/Ocean City Municipal Alliance, budget documents, a link to pay for traffic tickets, employment opportunities with the township, construction permit applications, applications to serve on a township board/ commission, a trash route map, a trash and recycling collection schedule, and an application for the township's dog park.

Upper Township is on social media. The website includes links to its social media pages and a link to the Upper Township School District website.

To learn more, log on. To access the township website, see www.uppertownship.com or, for more information about Upper Township, call (609) 628-2011. **Our events** revolve around advocacy for our business members, business to business networking and community outreach. Here are some things we have done over the past year:



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Time:_____

Place:

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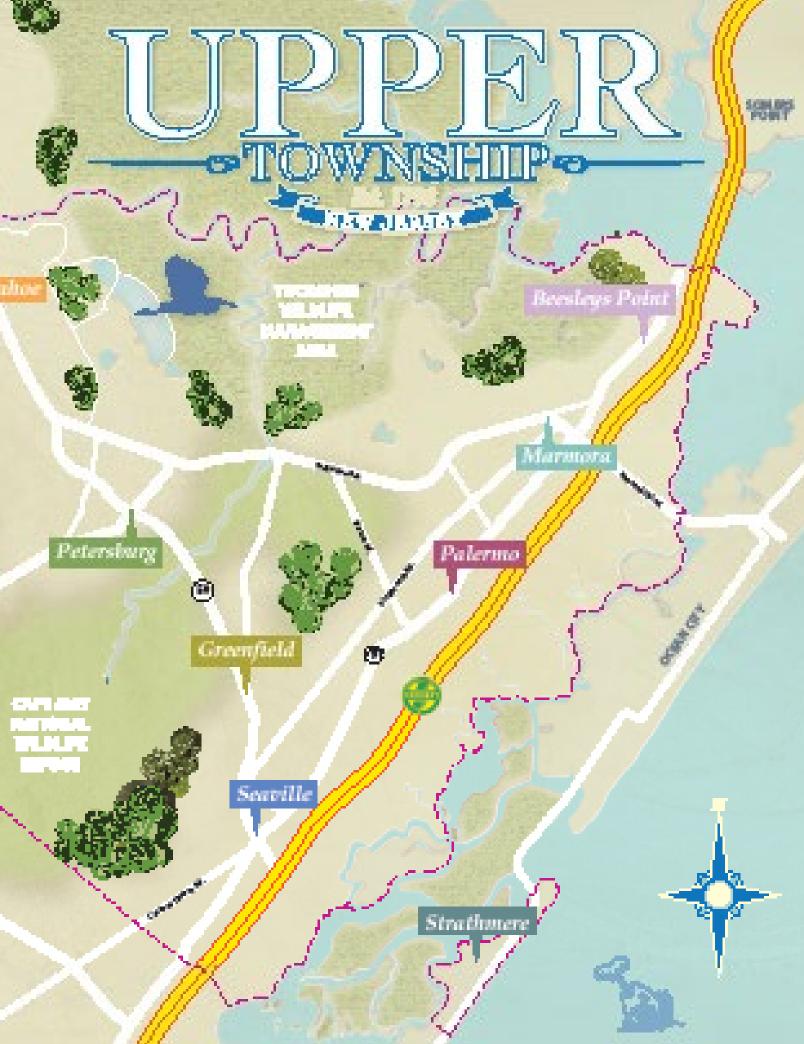
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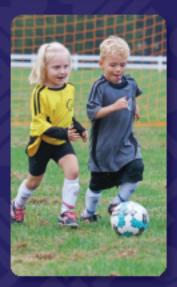
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HELP FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

By RACHEL SHUBIN Special to the Upper Township Sentinel



A small business resource center is available for the community. Cape May County BizHub was developed to address the unique needs of residents involved in small business ventures. The BizHub is located on the Cape May County Campus of Atlantic Cape Community College in Cape May Court House.

"[This concept] began a few years ago with the understanding that there was a big need for small business development centers with the seasonality of the opportunity here," Cape May County BizHub Director Christopher Stenger said.

BizHub leadership includes Cape May County government, County Commissioners E. Marie Hayes and Will Morey, Atlantic Cape Community College, community leadership and others.

"With New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) grants, [the leadership was] able to create a focus group," Stenger said. "BizHub leadership and the focus group came to the conclusion that a place was needed for people to be able to meet one-on-one to discuss business."

The program has been in the works for several years and is now fully operational. The onset of the pandemic delayed BizHub's plans, initially making it difficult to get the center up and running. Despite the setback, work continued to lay the foundation and establish the organization within Atlantic Cape Community College.

The BizHub is open to the entire small business community to take advantage of the free one-on-one consults to get future and present business owners moving in the right direction.

"Whether that's an existing owner trying to expand, an entrepreneur moving to the area, or a resident wanting to create a startup from scratch," Stenger said. "From there with grant funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the [leadership] was able to get things rolling."

The path for funding the business center was critical for getting the BizHub going. Crest Savings Bank was a supporter of the BizHub from the start, from working on the board of directors and in the working groups, Stenger said.

"Through Senate appropriations through Senator Cory Booker, we were able to secure our first year of funding," Stenger said. "Now we have the staff, location and the ability to leverage our local partnerships and networks as an amazing free business resource for the local community." Before the opening of the BizHub, the closest small business development center was at Stockton University

"We're getting partnerships up and running and now have the ability to leverage our local partnerships and networks for the community," Stenger said. "If you're a Cape May County resident who wants to start a small business and aren't sure where to start, you can spend weeks Googling," Stenger said. "It can become overwhelming."

The BizHub has established a network of consultants and subject matter experts who can offer advice on marketing, accounting, banking, legal issue, and all of the major functional areas as well as provide recommendations for the local area.

All the services provided by BizHub are unique to met each business' needs and goals.

"The smallest business size we've had come through so far has had \$0 in revenue and one to two employees," Stenger said. "We've had students from the community college come in, people looking to take over an existing business, really anyone with an idea who wants our help to create a business plan."

The BizHub plans to host seminars and events on helpful business topics, such as how to write a business plan and social media marketing, among others.

"One of the things we've discussed with people coming through the BizHub are their goals, self-identified gaps, educational resources [they might be] looking for," he said. "We try to provide free resources on our website to highlight local organizations."

Stenger said the BizHub plans to have a physical library of the best books in business to help change mindsets, improve capabilities, and provide an excellent foundation of research databases like LexisNexis.

"We want to provide a robust list of free resources, but for those who are looking to engage in paid resources with Atlantic Cape, we've curated the most influential courses they can take here at the college," he added.

Classes in the entrepreneurial professional series at Atlantic Cape allow students to receive a certificate of completion and credits which can be applied to degree programs. The classes cover entrepreneurship, introduction to business, financial accounting and marketing principles.

"We also have a great series of online courses that are modestly priced," Stenger said.

The six-week online courses can be instructor-led or self-paced. It contains 12 lessons with quizzes, assignments and tutorials. Students will receive a certificate of completion.

The BizHub also offers an entrepreneurial training workforce development program, where existing business owners can access courses they can utilize for their workforce.

"We want to be a place where people [can] come in and have a conversation, we want to be that free ear in the community," Stenger said. "We're really excited to provide to Cape May County's incredibly diverse and tightknit community."

For more information, visit www.cmcbizhub.com.



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Kim Hayes FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY MAYOR

IN 225-YEAR HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK The Upper Township Sentinel

Committeewoman Kim Hayes was elected by her peers as the first female deputy mayor in the history of Upper Township, incorporated in 1798, during the annual reorganization meeting Jan. 6, 2023.

"That's an awesome accomplishment, really humbling," Hayes said. "Women, especially young girls, need to see women in leadership roles to know that they can aspire to that, too."

Hayes is only the third woman ever to serve on Township Committee and first to hold a leadership role. The previous two were Barbara Camp, who served two terms beginning in 2004, and Kristine Gabor, who served in 2010 and 2011.

Hayes was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Committeeman Hobie Young in 2020 and was elected to her first full term beginning in 2022.

Born Kimberly Emberger, the baby in a family of five that includes older sister Kelly and older brother Jeff, the 44-year-old grew up in Sea Isle City, where she said she had about 20 people in her eighth-grade class at a school that has since closed due to low enrollment.

While there, she got her first experience with a woman in a leadership role when her mother was president of the PTA and later served on the Sea Isle City Board of Education in the 1980s.

"She was always involved and always taking on leadership roles," Hayes said of her mother, Marguerite Emberger, who also had her hands full at home as the mother of three whose husband was away half the time. Her father, Wayne Emberger, worked in nuclear power for 50 years, mostly in Pennsylvania.

Hayes said her mother set an example and was someone worthy of admiration.

"There are so many women that I can think of throughout my life that I looked at like that," she said during an interview at Beesley's Point Park. Hayes went to Ocean City High School, where she played softball and basketball all four years and graduated in 1996.

After high school, she earned an associate degree in nursing from Cumberland County College. Later she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Wilmington University, where she was pursuing a master's degree. She now works as an Ambulatory Care Management Team Leader for AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center.

She married Cumberland County native Shaun Hayes and lived there while they started their family. They have three children — Aidan Hayes, 20, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard; Treasa, a senior animation major at Chartertech High School for the Performing Arts; and Logan, a freshman at St. Augustine Prep.

Meanwhile, her parents sold their home in Sea Isle and moved to the township to join her two siblings.

"They got tired of the hustle and bustle of the islands in the summertime," she said.

So, they decided to join the rest of the family.

"When our oldest was ready to start school, I wanted to come back here. My family has all settled here — my sister lives here, my brother lives here, my parents live here — we love the schools, the recreation. All of the things we love about Upper Township were all the reasons why we picked here to live and raise our kids."

Hayes said she enjoyed growing up in Sea Isle City because it was "very small, very tightknit."

"It was a great place to grow up because it was a small community. Everybody knew everybody," she said.

Part of why she ran for Township Committee was to try to keep the township a desirable



place to live.

"It's a beautiful place, a great place to raise our children," she said. "Our kids are on their way out of the school system and recreation programs. I feel like we took so much from this that it's time to give back."

She said the "amazing thing" is that the township recreation programs are not taxpayer-funded.

"We provide buildings and grounds and insurance. They are privately funded programs; they're all nonprofits. We support them with the rec advisory board and facilities, but it's all volunteers," she said. "And that's what makes Upper Township so awesome — you accomplish all of that and it's all volunteers."

Hayes said religion has always been part of her life. The family attends St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Marmora.

"Faith in God is what gets you through every day," she said, noting she has a favorite saying: "God has a plan even if he doesn't share it with us."

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Live Longer: **TAKE A HIKE**

Walking has many health benefits from better sleep and memory to lower blood pressure and improved mental health

By CHRIS ZELLERS Special to the Upper Township Sentinel

Exercise is an important component of a Guidelines for Americans recommends 150-300 minutes of physical activity each week, with two additional days that include weight bearing exercise. Walking is a free way to reach movement goals while preventing chronic diseases and supporting mental and physical health. The Walk Cape May County Guidebook was developed by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County's Family & Community Health Sciences Department and offers both residents and visitors the opportunity to experience the county's beauty while being physically active with over 100 miles of walking trails and parks.

No matter how active a person is, walking is a good way to keep moving as the body ages. Intensity levels can be adjusted as needed to make walking easy to do anywhere at any time and for any fitness level. More regular and experienced walkers can increase the pace of movement, use arm movements or add distance to make walking a more challenging form of physical activity. Experienced walkers may want to increase their pace for a short distance and then slow to a moderate stride to make the walk more of an interval type workout and to challenge the body more rigorously. Experienced walkers can enjoy a continuous vigorous pace that will be less strenuous on the body compared to running and offers many of the benefits of high intensity aerobic exercise like increased heart rate and increased aerobic capacity. Walking can be done almost anywhere or anytime. Try adding a walk in while waiting for the kids at an extracurricular activity or hold a walking meeting at work to get the whole office team moving. Weekends are the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors and a walk on one of the many Cape May County beaches. Taking children or grandchildren for a walk on a bike trail will support their intellectual growth and ability to explore their surroundings while adding movement. Studies have shown that dog owners tend to move more than those who don't have a pooch. Dog owner or not, taking short frequent walks has health benefits too. The places and times you can add a walk into your day are endless, be creative and find ways to take the first steps to moving more!

Health Benefits of Walking include assisting with chronic diseases prevention like diabetes, cancer and heart disease while also supporting better overall health. Additionally, walking supports better sleep quality, increased energy, and improved mood. The health benefits of walking are numerous and include:

Improved mental health - walking has been shown to improve mood and lessen depression and anxiety symptoms.

Substance use disorder - increased aerobic exercise like walking has been shown to decrease the incidence of anxiety and depression in those with substance use disorder.

Ability to maintain a healthy weight and prevent obesity - walking regularly burns calories and paired with a healthy eating pattern can support a healthy weight and prevent obesity.

Arthritis - Walking is a joint-friendly exercise that can improve arthritis pain, body function and mood when done regularly according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Better sleep - regular physical activity has been shown to improve sleep quantity and quality which in turn could lead to better productivity, increased energy, and better overall health.

Improved cognitive and memory function - Increased blood flow when walking is good for memory and cognitive health because it gets blood flowing to the brain.

Increased life expectancy - Increased daily step counts from 4,000 to 8,000 per day has shown a decrease in mortality from various chronic diseases.

Better cardiovascular function - Movement like walking has been shown to improve aerobic function which supports better cardiovascular health and may prevent heart disease and stroke.

Improved blood pressure - walking can improve systolic pressure, strengthens the heart muscle and gets blood flowing for improved blood pressure.

Improved cholesterol - walking raises good cholesterol (HDL-high-density lipoprotein) and lowers bad (LDL – low density lipoprotein) to balance cholesterol levels.

Prevent diabetes or improve blood sugar - walking can help the body burn insulin properly whereby preventing or improving diabetes.

Better lung function - walking improves lung function and exercise capacity. There is also evidence that adults with asthma who walk could improve their lung function and better control asthma.

Increased energy and stamina - instead of reaching for an energy drink go for a walk. Go-

Editor's note: Chris Zeller is a Family and Community Health Sciences educator assistant professor for Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Cape May County.



ing for a walk when you are tired can increase your energy levels and doing it regularly will help improve stamina to walk and do other daily tasks.

Supports bone strength and can prevent osteoporosis - walking creates improved bone density and muscle mass to ward off the effects of bone loss or osteoporosis.

Feel better - Given all the ways that walking improves our physical health it is almost a given it would make us feel better, but don't dismiss the fact that walking and physical activity can prevent depression and anxiety too!

GETTING STARTED

Before starting any new exercise routine, it is important to consult with a doctor. Walking is free but it is important to have safe supportive walking attire like sneakers and weather appropriate clothing. Dressing appropriately to avoid overheating or being too cold can provide comfort and stamina when it's hot or if the sea breezes are too chilly. Loose-fitting comfortable clothing is appropriate for walking, but it can be done in almost any clothing provided proper footwear is being used. Beginners should start at a moderate pace and gradually increase to a more vigorous walk. Begin with smaller distances and extend the length as frequency builds. Try walking for at least ten minutes at a time if moving at a moderate pace.

STAYING MOTIVATED

Using the SMART method for motivation can be a good motivator to start walking and to make walking a healthy habit for years to come. SMART stands for Specific, Measured, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. Set a specific goal to stay motivated, like walking in the woods to allow time in nature and destress from everyday life. Choose one of the trails in the Walk Cape May County Guidebook from the Belleplain State Park and make a specific goal to walk that trail a certain number of times in one month. Creating a measured goal can help to get or stay motivated as well. Set a distance

goal that can be measured and built upon to increase stamina. Be sure to make the goal attainable, for example it's a much more attainable goal to walk a path twice a week rather than every day as a beginner. Be realistic, especially when starting a new walking routine, start small and work up to bigger goals to stay challenged and motivated. Timely goals are important too. Set a special time aside during the day that is convenient and easily maintained so that excuses and other activities don't infringe on the time set aside for walking. If walking is a well-established habit already then use the timely part of the SMART method to expand on the time and go even further on walks. Using the SMART method to stay motivated is important to move more and experience the health benefits walking has to offer.

WALKING IN NATURE

Cape May County, New Jersey is home to 620 square miles of beautiful sandy beaches, Pinelands Forest, trails and parks making it the perfect place to enjoy walking in nature. Walking in nature has been shown to have health benefits such as decreasing anxiety, depression, and stress. Using the sounds of nature like the ocean or birds chirping can bring awareness to surroundings and an appreciation or mindfulness of the world around us relieving the pressures of being constantly 'plugged in' to technology devices. Try to unplug by walking in nature and enjoying the sights, sounds and smells.

LEVEL OF EXERCISE

Exercise levels vary with every individual and age, fitness level, and gender may affect how much, how long and at what rate a person can exercise. Understanding levels of exercise exertion can assist with gaining stamina and



maximizing workouts, while also preventing overexertion for people who have special health conditions or may be limited to specific levels of exertion. One way to determine exertion rates is using the talk test, if talking or singing is not difficult that is a low exertion rate, if talking comfortably is not difficult but singing is, that is a more moderate intensity level and if speaking a few words is difficult without gasping for breath that is a vigorous exercise level. Being aware of exertion rates while walking can assist in staying within needed boundaries or increasing exercise for a more vigorous workout.

FINDING TARGET HEART RATE

The amount of exercise a person does, their heart rate and exertion levels all contribute to the benefits of physical activity. Everyone has a different ability level and it's important to be safe while still maximizing the benefits of walking. Knowing if a walk is at a moderate or vigorous intensity can create an understanding of how hard the body is working. Intensity levels vary from moderate to vigorous and these amounts are determined by a person's heart rate. Each person's exertion level will vary depending on their age, weight, and fitness levels. To find your heart rate when walking, stop moving and take your pulse at your neck, wrist, or chest. To determine your estimated maximum age-related heart rate, subtract your age from 220. For example, if you are 40 years old you would use this formula: 220 - 40 = 180beats per minute (bpm). After determining the maximum beats per minute for optimal movement, your heart rate will let you know if the exertion level is moderate to vigorous depending on your heart rate while exercising. For moderate intensity the target heart rate should be 64%-75% of maximum heart rate. To estimate moderate exercise rates, use the formula - estimated maximum age-related heart rate x 0.64 = moderate exercise or using the above model of a 40-year-old: 180 x 0.64 =115 beats per minute for 64% exertion. To determine vigorous walking levels, the heart rate should be between 77%-93% of estimated maximum age-related heart rate and estimating this can be done by using estimated maximum age related heart rate x 0.77 (to 0.93) = vigorous exercise heart rate or using the above mode of a

40-year-old: $180 \ge 0.77 = 139$ beats per minute for 77% exertion. Fitness devices can determine heart rate too and using the formulas above can establish the intensity of the walk by age. Always be sure to consult a doctor to determine what exercise routines are safe and appropriate for your fitness level.

HOW MANY STEPS

Americans live a sedentary lifestyle, meaning a large portion of work and home life involves sitting more than moving. Walking provides people of all ages and physical ability with a suitable option to move more and sit less. The introduction of wearable step monitors has created a demand for Americans to reach 10,000 steps per day; however that figure is not scientifically based. A goal of 10,000 steps is a random figure that was developed to create more movement. The number of steps a person should move will vary with each person but the overarching message of the 10,000-step goal is to move more to improve overall health. All steps count and walking is a great way to avoid a sedentary lifestyle.

GET MOVING

Engaging in regular physical activity such as walking prevents disease, lightens mood and creates an overall sense of well-being. The beautiful trails, beaches, forests and paths of Cape May County New Jersey offer endless opportunity to explore nature and get fit. Enjoy walking in Cape May County!

To access the entire Walk Cape May County Guidebook, use this QR Code or go to: https:// go.rutgers.edu/2guaycb6





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AN UPPER TOWNSHIP EDUCATION

Preparing students for their next stages and to help make the world a better place

By DAVID NAHAN The Upper Township Sentinel

The Upper Township School District serves just shy of 1,500 students from preschool through eighth grade across three schools, each preparing them for their next stage of education.

In addition to providing an education from teachers, administrators and staff, many of whom are part of the local and wider community, the district's aim is to help form active, positive and productive future citizens who will help make the world a better place.

"We all want them to leave here and hope they are productive citizens," said Michele Barbieri, president of the Upper Township Board of Education. "I hope some of them leave here and think service before self is important. They're young, they may not get that right now, but that they realize there comes a time when you have to give back two your community."

Acting Superintendent of Schools Christopher Kobik said the district wants to produce "active citizens. Citizens who contribute to the world, help it continue to be on a positive trajectory and make it a better place."

On a pragmatic level, Kobik said the district has a very strong STEM program — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — that enables students to be successful heading into those classes in high school.

"This district has had a reputation of being a leader in technology and

continues to do," he said. "The district has made a significant contribution to technology. Practically every lesson is technology-laden with students responding on their laptops to teachers directly. It's a technology-rich environment."

"For the most part, the majority of our kids, wherever they go, be it Ocean City High School, Cape May Tech, St. Augustine Prep, they do well in their high school years," Barbieri said. "Historically we've had kids from Upper Township in the top 20 and top 10 of their classes. No matter what their path is ... we always get feedback that they're well prepared and do well academically as well as socially."

Students, Kobik said, "need to be heard, they need to be understood and after those needs are met, they have a need to contribute in a positive way. I think Upper Township ... does a very good job with that."

"I hope that what they get here, going to school here, living in an area that has become more diverse, is that they understand that acceptance, respect and how we treat others impacts the way that person feels and the way they, in turn, are perceived," Barbieri said.

"I just think that we're doing a really good job here. We can always do more and it can always be better," she added, but it is important to teach students to consider what type of reactions others will get from their own actions.





THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOLS RIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Township School District has three schools — Primary School for preschool through second grade, Elementary School for third through fifth grade and Middle School for sixth through eighth grade. Each educates about 460 to 480 students with an average class size of 150.

The district had more than 2,000 students some 20 years ago when the student-age population in Cape May County was at its peak. The largest class sizes of 235 and 250 were back around 2007 and 2008, but have fallen off since then, mirroring the decline countywide.

The district has held steady with its current student population over the past decade, according to Business Administrator Laurie Ryan, who said the district boasts about 100 teachers. Adding aides, administrators and support staff, some 250 people work in the district.

Having the three schools right in Upper Township means "a large involvement from our teachers," Ryan said. "They do come back to night events, they support our children in their rec programs on the weekend that they don't have to. They have a very large presence for our kids, which all of us can appreciate. Not a lot of school districts get that advantage of the teachers showing up for events even if their children aren't participating. They just show up to support our children."

For Barbieri, the local connection is important to her as a mother and as a Board of Education member.

"The benefit for me was that my kids grew up and went to school locally. They knew a lot of our staff, who live within the county and even the township," she said. "It was comfortable for my daughters to go to school where they live and interact with teachers who also came





Business Administrator Laurie Ryan, Acting Superintendent Christopher Kobik and Board of Education President Michele Barbieri.

from the same township or at least the same county.

"As a board member, I can see what we're able to do within our own community for the children who go to school here," she added. "I'm awfully proud of what we can offer" for supporting their academic growth and supporting the people who work in the district.

"The teaching staff is excellent," Kobik said. "They are truly professional practitioners who are reflective with their practice and want every student to succeed and are very committed to that.

"One indicator is the amount of time they spend after school. Another, they are constantly looking for new ways to be innovative, not just with technology but with curriculum and instruction," he said. "I think this community is also unique in that it has an extremely strong parent-teacher organization that really supplements after-school activities and events, evening and family events.

"There is very strong family involvement in this school district. We continue to try to build on that. Now we have a new Parent Academy where parents can come and be more part of the educational process itself," Kobik said.

The teachers association "is a very professional group that puts on and sponsors some great parent programs as well. One of the highlights is a program called Speak Up. It works with parents and children to have difficult conversations, but open and honest ones. It's a very productive, effective program," he said.

Barbieri said Speak Up gave children the floor to bring up topics.

"It was nice because it is hard for some of us adults not to jump in and lead the conversation. We were all told this was going to be student-led," she said. "For me, it was a wonderful night to be able to sit there and listen to things that the kids want us to address —what they love, what they don't love or things they need.

"And at the end of the night we're all on the same page because it's the goals we have for our kids and the things we want to happen. But they just wanted to be heard and needed reassurance from all the adults in every different room that we hear you and that we'll work together."

As an example, Barbieri cited Middle School Principal Jeff Leek.

"When Mr. Leek first came here, he brought some really great ideas," she said. "What I've said throughout the years, what I love about the Middle School and the way Mr. Leek operates is I've always felt is that he's allowed the kids to take ownership of the Middle School. He recognizes that they need to be a part of this process. Kids are coming to board meetings and doing student-led presentations, or coming to the board and asking, 'Can we have this?'

"It may sound silly, but several years ago they said they'd like an ice cream machine in the cafeteria," Barbieri said. "That's not something that we said ... until the kids came to us and said this is what we'd like and why. And it's his staff that does this as well. He encourages them and the staff encourages them to participate in clubs and actives and run with it."

CENTER OF THE COMMUNITY, PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

"One of the nice things about the school is they kind of are the center of the community," Kobik said. "There are sports programs that the school doesn't necessarily have but the community has. There is some overlap. Many of the things that happen in the community happen here as well, which is nice. There is a lot of shared services. There are some unique extracurriculars. In addition to the music program, there is the instrumental and vocal program. There is the Odyssey of the Mind program. We have Think Team.

"There is something for everybody, not just the athletes. Something for every interest. The schools are big enough to provide a variety of activities like that, but small enough to have a sense of community and sense of belonging for the kids," Kobik said.

Barbieri loved having her two now-grown daughters go through the school system, watching them and other students grow from preschool through second grade and then on to the other buildings.

"Who doesn't love the Primary School?

... You see the mothers and fathers, probably more so the mothers, who are so nervous as their kids are going from the second grade at Primary School to the Elementary School with third, fourth and fifth grades. But then you see what happens there, that transition."

And the Elementary School then prepares the children to become middle-schoolers.

"I love what I do. I love where I am," Barbieri said, so happy to be talking about the district she loves. "We're not perfect, but I wouldn't trade living in another district and getting to work with such great people."

Ryan said a lot of what takes place at the Primary School is PTO-driven.

"Our PTO does a great job of hosting events for those students and actually a lot of the teachers run programs (including some at night)," she said. "Even though they don't have the clubs and sports at the Primary School level, because they're all doing rec soccer and rec basketball, there's a lot of teacherdriven programs and PTO-driven programs that bring the families" into the schools.

Kobik noted a "Grow and Glow" program that has parents come in and learn with their children and then sends them home with tools to support their children's learning as the year continues.

"If your child comes home and says there's absolutely nothing to do in any of our schools, they're not telling you the truth because there's opportunity for any child, outside of sports as well," Barbieri said. "There are a myriad of clubs at the Middle School and we added more at the Elementary School."

"At least 50 or 60 percent participate," Ryan added. "A lot do sports here. They may do rec program (sports) but also want to do it here because they want to do it with their friends.

Among the offerings at the Middle School are Yearbook Club, the new Pride Alliance, National Junior Honor Society, Think Team, newspaper, band, choir and computer club.

Barbieri said one nice aspect about the district is there is a "very nice partnership" among the PTO, the teachers association and the administration.

"We can lean on each other as far as putting together programs and making sure they're funded and that families can come to them," she said. "Our Education Association has been wonderful through grants they get from NJEA that really financially supports a lot of events that happen with the PTO and district, which is less of a burden on the district and families to have to not put out a lot of money up front to come out to an event.

"I'm sure that happens in other districts, but it's very nice to know that we're not working as separate entities. We're working together to make sure we can provide these things to the kids and their parents," she said.

"It's a very good feeling to know that we can all work together."

Kobik said the solid relationships aren't limited to the entities within the district.

He cited the business community, the folks at Township Hall and the State Police. "And they're educative with our kids, doing special programs with our kids on bias, watching your words, unintended consequences," he said. "We have a couple officers circulating through grades helping kids understand what comes out of their mouths can have consequences."

He called that a "really nice partnership" that is "addressing real social issues and issues that happen in every community in a positive and productive way."

OSPREYS ALL

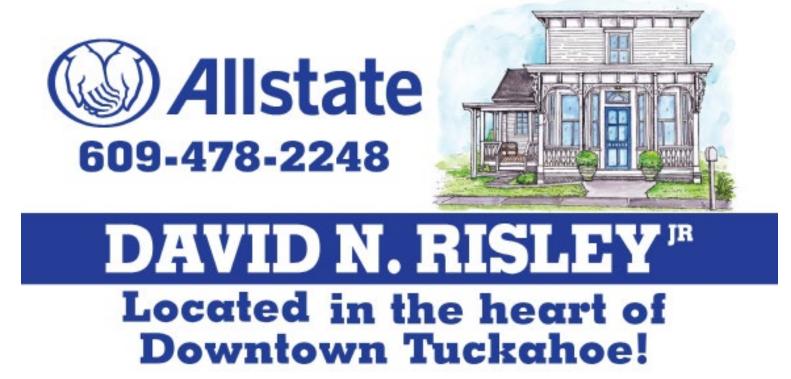
The mascot for the Upper Township School District is the Osprey. That used to be just the mascot for the Middle School and the other schools were the Beavers and Stars.

The administrators got together and decided to be more uniform across the board with the Osprey, but they note that the logos for each of the schools is a bit different, starting with fledgling Osprey for the Primary School, a young Osprey for the Elementary School and a mature Osprey for the Middle School.

"There's actually a developmental difference in the caricatures of the Ospreys as you go," Kobik said, bringing up the notions of learning how to fly, how to navigate, building strength "and doing it in a marine environment. An Osprey fits the community very well."

And when the students are ready to graduate from eighth grade, Barbieri added, "they're leaving the nest here."





PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Educators say parents are critical to the success of their children with their support, partnering with teachers and modeling behavior

By DAVID NAHAN The Upper Township Sentinel

Parent involvement is important for children's success in school.

That doesn't just mean taking an active interest in what the children are learning and supporting them at home. It also means a partnership between parents and teachers with the understanding that all parties involved want to do what is right for the children.

Laurie Ryan, business administrator for the Upper Township School District, said the school system ranks very high for families who have lived in the district or moved to Upper Township. An Upper Township resident herself, she said it is vital to be an involved parent "and to know the teachers who come to work every day and the administrators and support staff are all here with the same purpose and that is to be do the best by our children.

"As long as we trust in that, our kids are going to do great," Ryan said.

Michele Barbieri, president of the Upper Township Board of Education, remembers when she went to her first Back to School Night for her daughter starting kindergarten. The teacher said, "Parent involvement leads to student success," Barbieri said. "I've carried that with me to this very day. And I believe that. Parent involvement is key."

"Our children spend the majority of their day in these buildings, in these schools, with these teachers and staff. I think a parent has to develop a partnership with their school, with their child's educators, because — not to sound cliche — we are all in this together," Barbieri said.

The mother (now grandmother) said parents also will be able to learn how they can help their children by getting information at the right sources — the school district or districtsupported sites rather than social media.

That way, she said, "Parents will be able to

know how they can help their child, how they can help the district help their child."

She also stresses the importance of education being a partnership.

"I don't know if I'm in the minority that I think that way or I am the loudest of the majority who seems to be silent right now. I think that as parents we have to be able to trust the people we entrust our children to during the day.

"School districts aren't perfect, but when I sent my kids to school, I knew I was sending them here for a purpose — to get a wonderful education. And I had to trust the people who are the classroom leaders," Barbieri said. "My daughters had wonderful opportunities here."

She acknowledged her daughters weren't perfect students and she appreciated when she heard from teachers no matter the circumstances. She advises other parents to feel that way as well. "When you get those calls, good, bad or indifferent, a parent should be able to take that, take what they're hearing and work with that teacher."

Acting Superintendent of Schools Christopher Kobik, who has spent a long career in education, offered a few other tips to help children and their parents.

"To work well with the school, parents need to understand and use the chain of command. Go to the source of the problem first. Work for the resolution there and work up the chain of command if you're not satisfied with the answers," he explained.

Kobik also counsels understanding.

"I think parents need to become students of normal childhood and adolescent behavior, understanding that part of growing up means making mistakes, means doing things that are outside acceptable norms from time to time. And that these are opportunities to learn," he said.

"I think also just as important is the notion of parents realizing that their children are watching and learning from them. Are they reacting or are they responding? Are they escalating or are they managing the situation and finding more information?

"Children learn from what they see their parents do first," he said. "Parents are their child's first teachers and their most impactful teachers." He explained that life gives everyone challenges. "Everyone has some degree of trauma in their life that typically generationally we pass down to our offspring. Coming to terms with that and understanding those things can help us more with our child's education."

On a strictly practical level, Kobik suggests paying attention and monitoring things such as social media and screen time, knowing whom their children's friends are and keeping children busy with positive peer groups and activities.

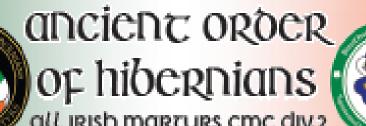
"There is good research that demonstrates students involved in positive structured activities with their free time actually do better in school than students who have a lot of free time on their hands," he said. "You know the old saying, 'Idle hands are the devil's (workshop)."

He also said parents should respect confidentiality when issues arise that have to do with their own child or other parents' children.

Overall, he said, "Understand that everyone in the school is here to learn and that we're all human beings and that the more we do the greater the chances that we'll do something wrong.

"There are doers and there are critics. At the very least, be a doer as a parent and it will give the critics something to do."







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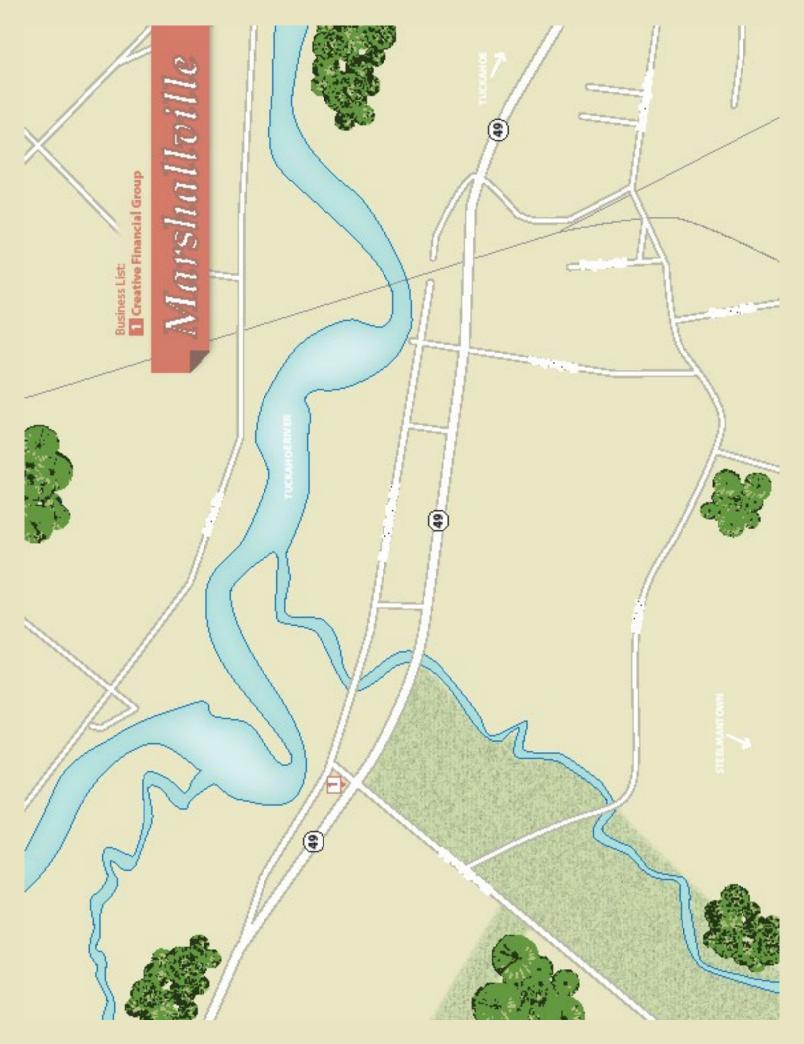
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BUSINESS PROFILES

A sample of new UTBA members

STRATTY PADDLE 100 Taylor Ave. Strathmere

The community of Strathmere warmly welcomed Stratty Paddle when owner and operator Nichole Baughman opened in Whale Creek Marina during the summer of 2022. The family-owned company brings fun, new paddling adventures to the community and a store featuring a clothing line.

"We're hoping to kick it up a notch this year and bring something fun to the community and let people [step] out of their comfort zone and try something new," Baughman said. "Our back bays have so much wildlife and beauty that should be seen and experienced up close."

Stratty Paddle offers paddle lessons, paddle yoga, paddle fit, eco-tours, sunset paint and paddles. New to the business this year will be workshops, which will include a paddle with a tie-dye workshop, and mini-retreats which will include a long eco paddle, lunch, and self-inquiry work with a light-year leadership coach.

"I hear all the time, 'I would love to try that someday but never got around to it,' and I would love to show them how fun and relaxing paddle boarding or paddle yoga can be."

Products Stratty Paddle carries include a clothing line featuring UV 50+ moisture-wicking hoodies, T-shirts, tanks, long-sleeve T-shirts, cropped hoodies, tanks, kids T-shirts, koozies, and stickers. In addition, Baughman plans to bring crossbody bags, gift baskets, custom beach towels, and hats into the shop soon. Shoppers in Ocean City can shop Stratty Paddle merch in Stainton's on Asbury Avenue.

"I want people [who come to Stratty Paddle] to feel like we are automatically friends, and comfortable asking questions so they will get the best experience possible," she said. "We look forward to meeting new people from all over."

For more information, visit www.strattypaddle.com and on Facebook and Instagram @strattypaddlecompany.

ACHRISTAVEST FINE HOME BUILDERS 22 Roosevelt Blvd., Marmora Satellite Office

Known for its one-of-a-kind waterfront homes and distinctive living, Achristavest Fine Home Builders is a full-service custom builder focusing on luxury and surroundings. Each home built by Achristavest will be unique in form, function or value.

"We build some of the most premier homes in Cape May County,"

Managing Director Angelo Camano said. "[Achristavest] has a very specialized skillset when it comes to design, customer service and construction."

Achristavest has been called the "builder to billionaires" by company chairman and CEO Eustace Mita. Camano said Achristavest has full transparency with its clients, with no hidden fees. The unique approach to contracting and bidding is another essential aspect Camano attributes to the company's success.

"Most people [may] think that we're outside of their price range, but we're fully transparent with our costs and have capabilities of the whole realm," Camano said. "People put us out of the realm of possibility when thinking about builders, but it's something that is not out of the reach of [homeowners] wanting to build a modest home."

Achristavest has built homes along the bayfront and oceanfront as a unique waterfront developer. The company works closely with clients during the building process to create their forever homes. The beauty of each specific location is incorporated into the design plan and ultimately reflected in the final build.

Quality, trust, design and customer service are all words Camano said are associated with Achristavest. For more information, visit achristavest.com.

LITTLEWORTH TREE FARM 1957 Tuckahoe Road, Petersburg

For 26 years, Littleworth Tree Farm has delighted customers with family traditions, including Christmas Trees, U-Pick blueberries and a small store with unique decorations and gifts. Opened in 1997 by husband and wife duo Karl and Janet Yunghans, Littleworth Tree Farm is a family business.

"It's year-round work on the farm. Karl is always preparing and planting," Janet Yunghans said. "Blueberry season begins mid-June and lasts through the month of July."

Summer 2014 was the first year Littleworth Tree Farm opened for the first harvest of U-Pick blueberries, with an acre of three varieties. In spring 2017, the farm introduced fresh-picked strawberries, which will return in 2024. U-Pick options are available three days a week and are reservation only.

Littleworth Tree Farm also sells beach plum jam and fresh vegetables during the season. During Christmastime, the farm has fresh wreaths and grave blankets. In addition, Karl Yunghans makes wooden reindeer that are very popular.

"We love Christmas, it's a joyous time with our regular customers returning," Janet Yunghans said. "Now the children of our original customers are coming. It's a wonderful time to reunite with our



customers, many of which we now call our friends."

Littleworth Tree Farm has more than 6,000 Christmas trees on the farm in various stages of growth. Early visitors can tag their trees and return a few weeks later to have them cut.

For more information, hours, and reservations and to sign up for email updates, visit www.littleworthtreefarm.com and on Facebook, www. facebook.com/littleworthtreefarm, and Instagram @littleworthfarm.

407 & BEYOND VACATION PLANNER laurens@407vacations.com

Travel agents are there for customers every step of the way. 407 & Beyond Vacation Planner Lauren Smith was waiting in line for Disney's Wilderness Lodge when she met another vacation planner who inspired her to start working for the Disney travel agency.

"While we were standing in line and talking, she told me about 407 & Beyond and that it was a great place to work," Smith said. "After that conversation, I decided that I wanted to use my own expertise and passion for traveling to help others maximize their vacations."

Smith works to plan travelers' vacations and find discounts. From initial quotes, booking and planning, she is there every step of the way to help clients plan perfect stress-free trips.

"Our travel destinations pay us, so my services are 100 percent free to the client," Smith said. "One selling point to using a travel agent is that I will wait on hold for you, saving you time and headaches."

Recent trips Smith has booked for clients include a two-night adventure onboard the immersive Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser. Smith has also booked Royal Caribbean and Disney cruises for multi-cabin families.

"Clients can also book Sandals and Beaches to celebrate the important milestones of their life from family vacations, anniversaries, honeymoons, babymoons, engagements and weddings," she said.

Smith can also book international tours for her clients with Collette Tours, a travel abroad company, that offers packages with airfare, transportation and shopping stops.

"I will ensure that clients get the best pricing, updated discounts as they are offered, answer questions and concerns," Smith said. "[I] provide a one-on-one genuine service to make sure their trip is the best experience possible."

For phone appointments and video conferences, reach out for a free quote via email at laurens@407vacations.com. For more information, visit www.407vacations.com/laurensmith or Instagram @l_sparkles_travel.

VILLAGE BARBER & BEAUTY LLC 36 Tuckahoe Road, Marmora

New to the Wayside Village is Village Barber & Beauty LLC, which offers popular hairstyle cutting techniques for clientele of all genders and ages. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome. "We offer today's cutting techniques including fades, shag layering, razor and brush cuts," owner Rosemary Kazelis said. "As an owner and operator, I also provide appointments for autistic, non-verbal and special needs clients."

Kazelis has worked in the area for 15 years and has been cutting hair for 32 years. With three decades of experience under her belt, she serves both in-town and out-of-town clients.

"I like to think they all feel the small business neighborhood vibe while getting professional service," she said. "[We also offer] blow-outs, beard maintenance, brow waxing, body waves and coloring."

Village Barber & Beauty uses a variety of product lines depending on clients' hair textures, including Sexy Hair, Agadir, Kenra, Biolage and Crew.

"I'm looking forward to welcoming back walk-in clientele [after] 2020 hurt walk-in business," Kazelis said. "[We] have a relaxed and affordable atmosphere."

Village Barber & Beauty accepts cash, credit, Apple Wallet, Google Pay, and Venmo. Kazelis said the shop is a proud supporter of Ocean City High School sports, music, and theatre and an active member of the Greater Cape May Elks #2839.

Call (609) 390-1813.

SERENITY BY THE SEAS NJ www.serenitybytheseasnj.com

Serenity by the Seas NJ is a unique e-commerce business offering holistic self-care items, including all-natural products.

Lifelong Upper Township resident Dana Migliaccio started her business on Etsy in 2020 and officially incorporated as an LLC in February 2022.

"We started very small working with crystals and candles, but the business itself has transitioned into natural products with upcycled packaging," Migliaccio said.

Serenity by the Seas NJ carries 100 percent soy candles and beeswax candles, both with cotton wicks. Migliaccio said these candles are clean burning and the vessels can be cleaned and reused after the candles are entirely burned.

"Our products have sustainable packaging, with soaps coming wrapped in recycled cardboard," she said. "The glass vessels and stainless pumps from the lotions and cleansers can be reused, which leaves a smaller footprint [on the environment]."

Migliaccio said her business concept came at the beginning of the pandemic and transitioned as she became more fluid with her participation in craft fairs and sip-and-shop events.

"Last fall I began researching all-natural bath and apothecary products for holistic self-care," she said. "I'm looking forward to having space in more brick and mortar stores as well as creating a bigger online sale presence."

Serenity by the Seas NJ is available to shop online at www. serenitybytheseasnj.com, in CM Collective, 611 New Jersey Ave., Wildwood Crest, and in Staintons, 810 Asbury Ave., Ocean City. Follow on Facebook and Instagram @serenitybytheseasnj.



YOOS TREE SERVICE LLC Egg Harbor Township

With more than three decades of experience, Yoos Tree Service is a leader in the tree care industry, with expertise in crane operation. Rick Yoos founded the service in 1987, with previous experience performing tree work in Delaware County, Pa.

"Cody Yoos started working at age 14 but officially came on board at age 19 after completing business courses at Atlantic Community College," Comptroller Charl Straubmuller said. "Besides his knowledge and skills with regards to tree care equipment and practices, Cody has moved the company ahead with his marketing ideas and forward thinking."

The family business continues with Katie Yoos Morse, who became the 2002 & 2003 NJ ISA Women's Tree Climbing Champion. Morse continues to contribute her knowledge in the business with IT, office administration, advertising, marketing and customer service.

"Our company is one of the few in New Jersey with multiple licensed tree experts on staff, making the business uniquely qualified to address customer's tree care needs," Straubmuller said, citing, "Our ability to handle dangerous and large trees because of our equipment, which includes two articulated cranes."

Yoos Tree Service is in touch with the community, educating customers regarding the proper care of trees and being available 24/7 for emergencies.

"Tree care is not just a job for us; it is a way of life," Straubmuller said. "Our entire team is thoroughly vested in the science of arbor culture, tree maintenance and following the tree care standards and protocols."

For more information, visit yoostreeservice.com, follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yoostreeservice, and Instagram @sjtreeguy @ yoostreeservice.

ENGINE ONE VINEYARDS

For over 20 years, Michael and Robin Halpern have been growing grapes for New Jersey wineries. The Halperns are planting a farm this season and working on plans to open a winery called Engine One Vineyards.

"We are planning to sell our wine and related products in outlets and online," Robin Halpern said. "Mike was an active volunteer firefighter for 22 years, [so] we thought [the name] was unique and appropriate."

The Halperns bought Tops Tree Farm in 2005 once the farm entered the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program. They sold Christmas trees for 10 years, then began the transition to their second vineyard.

In Upper Township, the Halperns grow several grapes, including Cayuga, Vidal, Chambourcin, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. In addition, they grow Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, and Merlot grapes at their farm in Cumberland County.

"The [growing] process is year long, all the vines are pruned in winter," Robin Halpern said. "Spring and summer are busy with canopy management, which includes training the vines into trellising for maximum yield, netting them to prevent bird damage, and disease, weed and pest control."

Late summer and early fall are when the Halperns harvest the grapes and begin the process over again. Robin Halpern said they are continuously evaluating and managing the farm properties, field infrastructures, buildings and equipment.

"Since the majority of our grapes are traditional French varietals, we plan to offer Bordeaux-style blends," Robin Halpern said. "We really like California fruit-forward style wines, so we will be working on blending our old with new world grapes to offer wines for all tastes."

ENCHANTED TEA & TREASURES 68 Tuckahoe Road, Marmora

Tea is a favorite beverage of the ages and the selection at Enchanted Tea & Treasures in Marmora is bountiful. The tea shop carries full-leaf teas, tea bags, tea sachets and various types of tea infusers. Both hot and iced tea mixes are available.

"I have enjoyed getting to know my customers," owner Dawn O'Connor said. "My customers have been wonderful, and I look forward to coming to work and getting to meet new customers."

The calm and relaxing atmosphere of Enchanted Tea & Treasures leaves shoppers with a sense of peace as they walk around the shop. The Wayside Village shop opened in September 2021 and has an expansive selection of both tea and other types of gift-ready items. The shop carries items perfect for gifting. From scone mixes to honey, jams and jellies, candles and children's tea sets and books, there is something for everyone.

"I try to add new items frequently," O'Connor said. "I also offer gift baskets, candles, and [I carry] the Inis and Naked Bee brand products."

O'Connor is delighted to help every customer who walks through the shop doors with tea selections and gift ideas. She will take the time to help find the perfect tea flavor for which customers are looking. Enchanted Tea & Treasures also offers samples of items for sale, like scones and dip mixes, so customers can taste them before purchasing.

For more information, including sales and specials, follow on Facebook Enchanted Tea & Treasures, or call (609) 478-3156.

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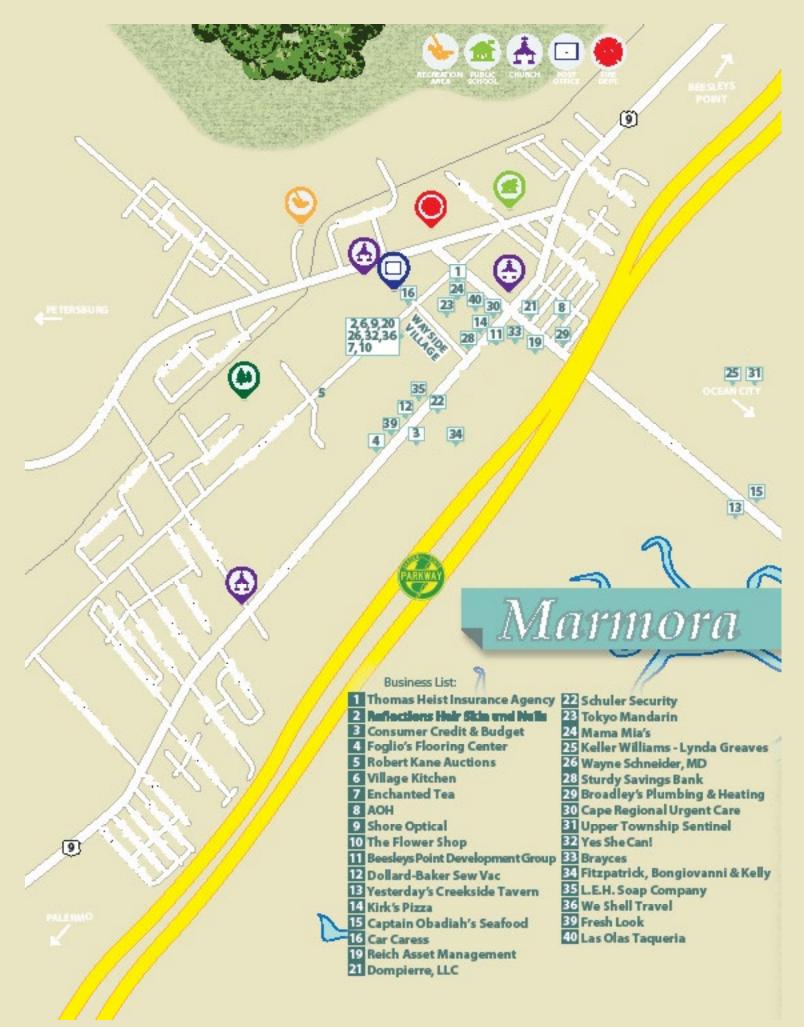


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Business Directory

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Woodbine, NJ 08270 609-579-8927

Lauren Smith, 407 & Beyond Vacation Planner laurens@407vacations.com

A&C Windows, Roofing and Siding 609-601-2601 acwindowsandroofing.com

Achristavest Fine Home Builders

22 Roosevelt Blvd Marmora, NJ 08223 609-568-0937 achristavest.com

ACT Engineers, Inc. SBE

320 S. Shore Road, Suite D Marmora, NJ 08223 (609) 918-0200 actengineers.com

Action Supply, Inc.

1413 Stagecoach Road Seaville, NJ 08230 609-390-0663 actionsupplynj.com

Advantage Rental & Sales

100 Route 50 Seaville, NJ 08230 609-390-2345 advantageequipmentsales.com

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Atlantic Cape Community College atlantic.edu

Atlantic City Electric atlanticcityelectric.com

AtlantiCare Physician Group

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Autumn Lake Healthcare

2721 Route 9 Oceanview, NJ 08230 609-624-3881 AutumnlakeOceanview.com

Beesley's Point Development Group BeesleysPointDevelopment.com

Bonom Accounting Service

3 Harry's Court, Suite B Palermo, NJ 08223 609-390-8711



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Dino's Diner

31 Route 50 Seaville, NJ 08230 609-624-3100 dinosdiner.com

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232 S. Shore Road Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-0343 dbsewvac.com

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Enchanted Tea & Treasure

68 Tuckahoe Rd Wayside Village Marmora, NJ 08223 609-478-3156

Engine One Vineyards, LLC

8 Bayaire Ave. Marmora, NJ 08223 856-655-6593

Engineer Design Associates

5 Cambridge Drive Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-390-0332 engineeringdesign.com

Feathered Nest Gifts & Garden Accents

3002 Rt9, Seaville, NJ 08230 609-408-7355 featherednestseaville.com

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Fresh Look

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Gentilini Chevrolet/Ford

500 John S Penn Blvd Woodbine, NJ 08270 609-861-0100 gentilinichevrolet.com

Georgetti Construction Inc.

828 Stagecoach Rd Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-2555 georgetticonstruction.com

Gleeson's Liquor

565 Sea Isle Blvd Ocean View, NJ 08230 gleesonliquors.com

Godfrey Funeral Home Palermo

644 S. Shore Road Palermo, NJ 08223 609-390-9699 godfreyfuneralhome.com **Grace Realty**

904 S. Shore Road Marmora, NJ 08223 609-408-7355 kathrynmartino.com

Grace Realty -Lynda Greaves

904 S. Shore Rd Marmora, NJ 08223 609-214-0939

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Historical Preservation Society of UT

PO Box 658 Marmora, NJ 08223 609-464-0920 uppertwphistory.org

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JC Power Washers

609-412-3033 jcsoftwash.com

Jersey Devil Specialties

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Keltex Apparel

428A Woodbine-Oceanview Road Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-624-3252 keltexapparel.com

Kirk's Pizza

44 Rt 9 South Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-1845 kirkspizza.com

Jim Rhubart Roofing

609-604-544 l jimrhubartroofing.om

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L.E.H Soap Company

232 Rt 9 South Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-9500 lehsoap.com

Land and Sea Furniture

3075 Shore Rd Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-478-2165 landandseafurniture.com

Langley Loveland Funeral Home

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Las Olas Taqueria

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Littleworth Tree Farm

1957 Tuckahoe Rd Woodbine, NJ 08270 609-628-3346 littleworthfarm.com

Luna Soul & Bowls

108 Rt50, Units 2&3 Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-938-4742 Iunasoulandbowls.com

Mama Mia's

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Mruz Chiropractic

1217 US-9 Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-390-8772 drgarymruz.com

Ocean First Bank

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Pappy's

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Post Net

12 Route 50 Seaville, NJ 08230 609-624-8750 postnet.com

Pritz & Grey

295 S. Shore Road Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-9112 drspritzgrayeyecare.com

Quality Electric & Power Systems

412 Washington Ave Woodbine, NJ 08270 609-861-1409 qualityelectricservice.com

Reflections Hair Salon

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Regional Cancer Care Associates, LLC

210 Shore Rd Suite 106 Hope Medical Commons Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-7888 regionalcancercare.org

Reich Asset Management, LLC

I I 0 Roosevelt Blvd., Suite 2W Marmora, NJ 08223 609-486-5073 reichassetmanagement.com

Risley Financial Group LLC ALLSTATE

2251 Route 50 Tuckahoe, NJ 609-602-5346 agents.allstate.comdavid-risleywoodbine-nj.html

Rixon Realty

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RJH Insurance Group

609-964-4253 rjhinsurance.com

Rotary Club of Ocean City-Upper Township

PO Box 1187 Ocean City, NJ 08226 609-602-6844 ocutrotary.org

Salon Salon

297 Route 9 South Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-8302 salonsalon-sj.com

Schuler Security Inc.

PO Box 727 Marmora, NJ 08223 609-390-1003 schulersecurity.com

Seaville Quaker Meeting

3088 Shore Road Ocean View, NJ seavillequaker.tripod.com

Seaville Tavern

29 New Bridge Rd. Ocean View, NJ 08230 609-624-3136 seavilletavern.com

Serenity By the Seas NJ, LLC

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Shore Optical

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Sotheby's Realty

200 34th Street Ocean City, NJ 08226 609-513-2500 onesothebysrealty.com

South Jersey Water Conditioning

104 Route 50 Seaville, NJ 08230 609-390-2022 southjerseywater.com

State Farm Rob Gleason Insurance Agency Inc.

1602 Route 47, Unit C Rio Grande, NJ 08242 609-886-2004 robgleason.com

Strathmere Improvement Association

PO Box 4, Strathmere, NJ 08248 610-416-1076 Strathmereimprovementassociation.org

Stratty Paddle

100 Taylor Ave Whale Creek Marina Strathmere, NJ 08248 609-425-5274 strattypaddle.com

Sturdy Savings Bank

P O Box 277 46 South Shore Rd Marmora, NJ 08223 609-628-2662 sturdyonline.com

Surf Dog Bar & Grill

1563 Dehirsch Ave Woodbine, NJ 08224 609-427-6011 surfdogbarandgrill.com

Swim Again Pools and Spas

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The Flower Company

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The Shores

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Upper Township

Rescue Squad 2028 Tuckahoe Road Petersburg, NJ 08270 609-628-2476 upperrescue.com

Upper Township Sentinel P O Box 238

Ocean City, NJ 08226 609-399-5411 ocsentinel.com

Village Barber

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