



Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Letter from the President

July 2020

Dear Chamber Members,

No one could have prepared for this summer. We all know about the difficulties of being a seasonal business and how weather is the #1 influencer on how well businesses do on the island...until this year. Unfortunately, this year, Covid-19 is our #1 influencer.

With that being said, I'm humbled and honored to be a part of the Ocean City business community. Times are immeasurably difficult for everyone, yet our community has banded together, supported each other, and risen above the impediments of the pandemic.

[Click here to read more](#)



Need more Visitor's Guides?

We will deliver!

Call 609-399-1412
or email

info@oceancitychamber.com

Hartford: Main Street America Grant Program

The Hartford is sponsoring a small business grant program in partnership with Main Street America, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development. They've committed \$1M toward the first wave of grants, which Main Street America will award and administer.

Businesses which employ 20 or fewer full-time employees and maintain and operate a "brick-and-mortar" location in an older or historic main street, downtown or commercial district in the U.S. will be eligible to apply for the grants, which will range from \$5K - \$15K to help with COVID-related business costs.

The application process for the program will open July 27 through Main Street America's [website](#); where you will be able to learn more about eligibility and application criteria. Grant recipients do not need to be current or former customers of The Hartford and they will have no role in evaluating applications or choosing grant recipients.



NJ Health Benefits Premium Tax - URGENT ACTION NEEDED!

Businesses in New Jersey could face higher health insurance premiums under legislation introduced July 6 that would impose a new state tax on fully insured health insurance premiums. **Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce opposes the bill.**

S-2676 (Vitale, D-19) / A-4389 (McKeon, D-27), would impose a new 2.75% state excise tax on fully insured health insurance premiums for health benefits plans, MEWAs and dental and vision coverage. The bill is similar to a health insurance tax Gov. Phil Murphy proposed in his original FY 2021 budget proposal, which he put forth before the pandemic began in the U.S.

Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce opposes the bill because it will increase healthcare costs for employers who have been struggling for years to continue to provide healthcare coverage to their employees despite soaring costs.

The Chamber does not believe taxing health coverage will make it more affordable. Taxing a product to make it more affordable makes no logical sense.

At this time we urge you to email and call every member of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly who represent the towns where you live and do business and tell them how much the bill will cost your company. Let them know that's money you won't be using to expand your business, buy new equipment, give raises, give bonuses, contribute to profit sharing, health savings accounts, 401(k), etc.

Governor Phil Murphy - <https://nj.gov/governor/contact/>

Senator Michael Testa, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, and Assemblyman Erik Simonsen

- <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>

These bills are scheduled to be heard this week.

Congratulations Ocean City!

BEST OF THE SHORE 2020

SOUTH JERSEY MAGAZINE

Ocean City

AUGIE'S OMELETTE AND WAFFLE HOUSE

When it comes to omelets or waffles, Augie's menu abounds with almost too many varieties. Almost. In other words, Augie's aims to please every palate. The cheese lovers' omelet and the PB&J waffle sound like winners to us.

A LA MODE ICE CREAM PARLOR

The show-stealer: "The Atomic Split"—32 ounces of black raspberry, strawberry and vanilla ice cream, heaped with banana, pineapple and other fruit.

SUNRISE CAFÉ

A homey hotspot: From the cinnamon roll pancakes to the crab avocado toast, you can taste both ingredients in every bite.

BROWNS RESTAURANT

Hit the boards and make a beeline for this O.C. institution for an unforgettable breakfast, including its famous doughnuts. These pillow-like delights come in six no-frills varieties; don't expect jimmies or other gilding of the lily, but none is needed.

DOT'S PASTRY SHOP

Guilty pleasures: Dot's does doughnuts, Danish pastries and more, but our vote goes to remarkable sticky buns.

YIANNI'S CAFÉ

Rise and shine: The breakfast offerings are particularly robust—and you won't find a better fruit smoothie.

OC SURF CAFÉ

Paddle over to this cheery spot for all-day breakfast, including some of O.C.'s fluffiest omelets. The lunchtime crowd swears by the "surfer specials" (Philly-style cheesesteaks and other sandwiches) and the tacos, particularly those of the mahi mahi sort.

SANDWICH BAR

Tiny but mighty—that about sums up Sandwich Bar. Fans rave about the lobster roll, the BBQ pulled-pork sandwich and the tacos, but if you can't find something to make you happy here, you're not looking closely enough.

THE CHATTERBOX

What you'll find: American-style breakfast and lunch classics, including some surprises—such as made-to-order beignets.

SHRIVER'S SALT WATER TAFFY

Shriver's has been a Shore staple since the late 19th century, thanks to its amazing saltwater taffy. Boardwalk fudge and macaroons, among other sweet treats. A personal admission: Shriver's chocolate peanut butter fudge makes us weak in the knees.



Welcome New Members

Arista Enterprises
Tina Dantonio

801 Asbury Ave, Suite 202-204

Ocean City, NJ 08226

833-474-8884

www.aeprise.com

Bactronix

David Underwood

2928 Haven Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-415-9933

www.bactronixsouthjersey.com

Beyond RX Therapies

Lisa McGillis

810 Asbury Avenue, Suite 208

Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-705-7080

www.beyondrxtherapies.net

Cape Atlantic Blinds

John McCormick

Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-862-2218

www.capeatlanticblinds.com

Hooked on Breakfast

Keven Stauffer

916 Asbury Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-938-9285

www.hookedonbreakfast.com

Pork Island Grill

Jim House & Wendy Fabietti

3401 Asbury Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-398-6465

www.porkislandgrill.com

Shore Veterinarians

Pam Eubanks

6633 Black Horse Pike

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

609-272-8777

www.shorevets.com

Viking Pest Control

Justin McMichael

270 Pine Edge Drive

West Berlin, NJ 08091

800-618-2847

www.vikingpest.com

Resources

A standard questionnaire for employees to help employers screen workers everyday is available to download [here](#). (U.S. Chamber of Commerce)

For the U.S. Chamber's return-to-work playbook for employers, [click here](#).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's [report on reopening and preparing workplaces for COVID-19](#).

The CDC's [recommendations for employers to prevent the spread of the coronavirus](#) when they reopen their offices.

For information on applying for a Paycheck Protection Program loan, [click here](#).

The U.S. Chamber's [guide to applying for loan forgiveness under the federal Paycheck Protection Program](#)

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Survival Guide has a complete [listing of all of the coronavirus resources for small businesses](#).

The N.J. Economic Development Authority is offering assistance programs for New Jersey businesses. Information and applications can be [found here](#).

The IRS posted information on 'stimulus checks' [here](#).

The state's jobs and hiring portal [matches employers and candidates](#). For employers to participate, [click here](#).

New Jersey's website for [information on all of the state's business resources](#) during the pandemic.

New Jersey's website for [up-to-date information about COVID-19](#).

Have Questions about the Status of an Unemployment Claim? - You can send a message to the state Labor Department through its website - www.myunemployment.nj.gov. Then follow these instructions:

- On the top of the page, scroll to the right for "Need Help" and unveil the drop-down menu
- Choose Send an Email
- Choose Email: Submit a message through the new online form.
- Follow the prompts

To report a scammer or suspected price gouging, alert the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs at (973) 504-6240 or at <http://njconsumeraffairs.gov>.

The state set up a 24-hour hotline where health care professionals are answering questions about coronavirus. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-1222. From outside the state, call 1-800-962-1253.



Hooked on Breakfast Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
916 Asbury Avenue



Ocean City Farmers & Crafters Market
Every Wednesday, 8am-1pm, 6th & Asbury