



Cynthia Smith receives a plaque from Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari in honor of her retirement.

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission News

Commission Administrator Cynthia H. Smith Retires

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a county department with a staff of three, has accomplished a great deal over the past fourteen years and it is no coincidence. From the over four-fold increase in state received funding for both arts and history programs, to the development and implementation of the Ocean County Cultural Plan, the creation of the Alliance of Historical Societies and Museums, the acquisition of the Historic Cedar Bridge Tavern, and the 225th Anniversary commemorative celebration of the American Revolutionary War's historic Toms River Blockhouse Attack, you could say that Cynthia Smith, Commission Administrator, has been a little bit busy.

You may not even have heard of the Cultural & Heritage Commission, but the effects of its work with research grants and initiatives has provided a strong undercurrent of strength to the arts and history organizations within the county through collaborations both within and beyond the cultural community. Cynthia has been the driving force behind the execution of those programs, and she is to be commended for her hard work and the difference she has made over the past fourteen years. Hired part time in 1994 to help develop cultural programs and services, Mrs. Smith shortly thereafter became a full-time employee, and went on to earn promotions to program development specialist, assistant administrator, and finally administrator five years ago. In addition to managing the aforementioned projects, she also wrote monographs on Ocean County women in the legislature, and healthcare in Ocean County, and edited *The Ocean County Historical Series* and the book *Ocean County, Four Centuries in the Making*.

As Assistant Administrator, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Cynthia over the past five years. Cynthia's leadership and thoughtful guidance, often accompanied by a customary pinch of teasing, will be sorely missed, and her contributions to Ocean County's historical and cultural community will not be forgotten. The Commission members and staff wish her a wonderful retirement.

- Lindsay Dandeo