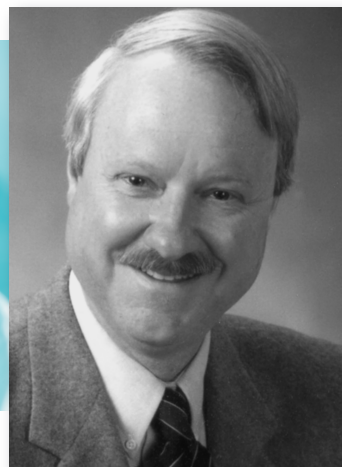


Greetings From Freeholder John C. Bartlett, Jr.



On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I welcome you to the Spring 2011 issue of **Out & About Ocean County**, *A Free Newsguide to Arts & Heritage Events*.

The cover of this month's issue is a colorized image of a photograph from the late 19th century showing one effort by Ocean County to recognize the heroic sacrifices of our citizens in the American Civil War (1861-1865). The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders has always attempted to recognize and honor all of those who have served our great nation, especially our veterans. As we begin to recognize the 150th anniversary of that defining conflict in American history, Ocean County remembers our sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

I am happy to thank the many volunteers who have participated in updating the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Plan 2011-2016. For more than twelve months, these volunteers have worked with our dedicated C&H staff to collect and discuss the needs and aspirations of our non-profit cultural and heritage community. You may check out the details of this report in progress at <http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/CulturalHeritage/CulturalPlan.aspx>.

I congratulate each of the participants in the annual Ocean County Teen Arts Festival. I am also happy that the event this year will once again be held at the newly renovated Arts and Community Center at Ocean County College. Many thanks to long time coordinator Roberta Krantz.

The articles in this month's issue demonstrate the depth and diversity of Ocean County culture and heritage: from spring training in Lakewood by the NY Giants baseball team to murder and intrigue in the Pines, and from regional artists creating wedding cake toppers to women's roles in traditional folk art along the New Jersey shore. The fascinating 1888 diary of then fourteen year old Ocean County resident Paul W. Warren cannot help but invoke the image of Tom Sawyer on Barnegat Bay.

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the arts and history offerings for the spring of 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Bartlett, Jr.".

Freeholder John C. Bartlett Jr.