

Cultural and Heritage Fall Notes

The Northern Regional Cultural Council, serving the northern municipalities within Ocean County, has completed a new website: www.oceancountynrcc.org. The site highlights local and regional artists, cultural events, and opportunities. Council Chairwoman Patti Wade, and committee members Inger Dooley, Jeannie Kellington, Bobbi Krantz, Camille Lopez, Sal Marino, Paige Miller, Janet Spahr and Karen Zitzow Montenegro have done an outstanding job. This comprehensive and user friendly resource warrants immediate bookmarking, and is not to be missed.

Beginning in late fall, the Commission will begin the update of the Ocean County Cultural Plan, as well as its Long Range Agency Plan. Stay tuned for community meetings, surveys and focus groups where you will be able to offer your uncensored input on cultural needs, offerings and ideas for Ocean County. This year-long process will involve a canvassing of a broad range of Ocean County residents and groups. The Ocean County Cultural Plan (2002-2007), a comprehensive, broad-based "roadmap" created to address the county's cultural needs and resources, has served as a basis for actions driving the county's cultural growth and development over the past seven years. The implementation of key goals, strategies and objectives from the plan has resulted in strengthened resources for the cultural and greater community. Artists, historians, cultural nonprofit organizations and especially the future generation face a vastly different "cultural landscape" than seven years ago, when the first plan was initiated. New challenges and opportunities have arisen for everyone, and now more than ever is a crucial time to re-assess and gather resources, and focus on creating new visions which reflect the present and anticipated cultural needs and offerings of our community. More updates in future issues of Out & About are to follow.

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this fall with a ceremony at the **Pine Barrens Jamboree** at Wells Mills County Park in Waretown, on Saturday, October 10, 2009. At 12 noon a ceremony will be held honoring all past and present Commission members. The Pine Barrens Jamboree celebration is an annual festival featuring traditional music, folk arts, food, and history of the region. Full information on the event is listed in the Event Listings section.

For more information, visit us online at www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/index.htm and read more inside.

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Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

A Division of the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation

www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural/index.htm

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