—Greetings from Commissioner Robert S. Arace



On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, I welcome you to the Fall 2025 issue of *Ocean County: Out & About, A Free Newsguide to Arts & Heritage Events.*

Ocean County's arts and history organizations provide a rich tapestry of programs for your enjoyment. Please check with the sponsoring organizations or oceancountytourism.com/frmEvents for updated event listings.

Many Ocean County municipalities have adopted the NJ250 resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of American Independence. I encourage all municipalities in Ocean County to participate.

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners is pleased to host the 43rd Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy & Gunning Show on September 27th and 28th at Tip Seaman County Park in Tuckerton. Activities will be available for family enjoyment including the return of the DelMarva Dock Dogs, demonstrations, presentations, archery, games and crafts.

The Ocean County virtual archives include Hurley Conklin Awardees, Decoy Show program stories, and videos found online: https://co.ocean.nj.us/OC/ch/

The Pinelands Jamboree at Wells Mills County Park in Waretown will be Saturday, October 11th from 10 AM – 4:30 PM. The Lenapehoking Restoration Project will have a display. The historic Cedarview Lodge will be open to the public for tours and live music on the porch. Pinelands Antique Engines will have an interactive display including a "donkey" railroad. Albert Hall will provide live music on the main stage.

Commemoration of the 243rd anniversary of the Affair at Cedar Bridge is scheduled for 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday, December 7th (snow date Sunday, January 4th, 2026) at Cedar Bridge Tavern Ocean County Historic Site, 200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, NJ. You will witness a recreation of the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution, traditional music, games, refreshments, history tours, a period sutler and an 18th century tavern display. (All events subject to change without prior notice.)

I note with regret the passing of Arthur "Artie" J. Birdsall (1949-2025) beloved resident of Point Pleasant, a renowned decoy maker and recipient of the 2018 Hurley Conklin Award and the 2021 Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXsx9FcFMTs.

Nomination forms for future awardees and lists of past awardees are at: http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/ch/frmSaluteAwards.aspx.

I encourage our residents and visitors to enjoy all the arts and history events in Ocean County this fall. It's the perfect time of year to experience all the best Ocean County has to offer.

Commissioner Robert S. Arace
Chairman of Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a division of Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation