

—Greetings from Commissioner Robert S. Arace



On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, I welcome you to the summer 2026 issue of Ocean County: Out & About, A Free Newsguide to Arts & Heritage Events. Ocean County is actively commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in what is now Ocean County.

Please visit the Ocean County website: Ocean250.org for detailed information. You are invited to read both volume four of the Ocean County in the American Revolution series and the 2026 Ocean County Activity book. The county is sponsoring a number of events including the Spectacular Patriotic music and drone show on July 2 at 7:30 PM at 1198 Bandon Road in Toms River.

The Ocean County Board Commissioners continues to offer a traveling American Revolution in Ocean County exhibit trailer, lectures and

student tours of Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site. For arrangements call 732-929-4779.

The pages of this issue are graced with artwork received in response to a call for contributions from the LBI Studio Tour Artists.

Please take special note of our exciting palette of summer cultural opportunities in the event listings and for updated events check:

<http://www.oceancountytourism.com/frmEvents>

Many of our towns and boroughs provide wonderful outdoor concerts including the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation's *The Carousel of Music Concert Series*. The Carousel concerts will be offered at a variety of locations including the Ocean County Library in Toms River. Please check inside for time and locations of all offerings.

This year, 16 art and 13 history organizations received a total of \$240,000 in grant support through the Ocean County Board of Commissioners funded by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The 2027 grant cycle for Ocean County non-profits will begin with an informational workshop on August 5 and the application is due September 9. Local Arts Program grants will total \$150,000. The County History Partnership Program will total \$90,000. The Alternate Sponsorship Program will provide an additional \$38,000 in funding. This year, the applications will be online.

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners is proud to announce that Steven Dodson received the 2026 Pauline S. Miller Lifetime Achievement Award in History. The Affair at Egg Harbor Historical Society received the 2026 Special Award of Merit. Cynthia Coritz received the 2026 John C. Bartlett Government Leadership Award. And Senator Robert W. Singer (R-30) received the Lila W. Thompson Legislative Recognition Award.

Commissioner Robert S. Arace

Chairman of Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission,
a division of Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation