

Letter from the Publisher . . .

Welcome to the first seasonal edition (Winter 2007) of Out & About Ocean County. This issue covers December 2006 – February 2007, and marks the debut of our transition from a bi-monthly to quarterly publication, bringing you enlarged content and three months of event listings per issue, from now on. Look for upcoming Spring, Summer and Fall editions, arriving in March, June, and September 2007 respectively. The new timetable will allow you to plan farther in advance and learn about more cultural goings-on through an expanded range of articles. In addition, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission has integrated the content of its newsletter, Ocean Arts & Heritage, into Out & About Ocean County on a permanent basis – ceasing separate publication of Ocean Arts & Heritage, but maintaining its content in Out & About so you will be able to hear more about our organization's activities and efforts to advocate for arts, culture, and heritage throughout the County, and get a listing of countywide events all in one publication, all at the same time. The feature article for this issue delves into one of the region's hidden opportunities for teen students interested in seriously pursuing a career in the performing arts – The Performing Arts Academy High School in Lakehurst. Not many Ocean County residents or parents probably have ever even heard of this part of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District, but definitely should know about it if their son or daughter dreams of a future career in the performing arts. "Performing Arts Academy Launches First-Ever Musical" highlights the students' upcoming debut musical production Thoroughly Modern Millie which will be held at the Ocean County College Fine Arts Center on February 2 and 3, and gives a clear inside view of what the school is all about and how it works.

Next, we focus in-depth on some of the fascinating stories behind over 50 pieces which will be featured in the upcoming Victorian Silver Exhibit. The exhibit will open with a special presentation by Scott and June Martin accomplished authors and guest lecturers at the Appraisers Association of America.

If you've ever wondered what non-profits are really all about, and especially how they work in the arts and cultural world, you'll enjoy the next article where Sandy Goldsborough from Surflight Theatre sheds some light on the topic.

Finally, don't miss the Young African-Americans Art Showcase presented by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission in February, an exhibit highlighting youth works of visual art throughout the county.

We hope you enjoy and celebrate the holiday season in your hometown here in Ocean County by taking a break and enjoying a cultural performance, and we hope you enjoy the new schedule and format of Out & About and find it useful and entertaining.

Happy Holidays!