



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Become a "Localist" and Help Power our Local Economies

*This article is the first in a series of focused on the benefits of shopping local.*



By Maria Nieves, President & CEO

You have the ability to make a significant, positive impact on our local economies every day. And it's easier than you think. The next time you make a purchase, I encourage you to ask: "Is this a product or service that I can buy from a locally owned and operated business?"

If the answer is "Yes," then we invite you to become a "Localist."

**For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$73 remains in the community.**<sup>1</sup> Those dollars help fund local wages, local taxes and other locally owned businesses, as well as donations to local non-profits. This compares to only \$43 remaining in the community when you spend \$100 at a non-locally owned business.

Here are seven ways your purchase at a local business drives the economic development of our communities:

1. Shopping local creates jobs. Most new jobs in any community are often created by local businesses. They not only create employment opportunities for residents, those employees in turn spend earnings in the local community.
2. Shopping local supports the non-profit sector. Local businesses are proportionately more generous in their support of local charities, [Continue Reading](#)

<sup>1</sup> "10 Reasons to Shop Local". GreenUPGRADER.com, accessed April 1, 2014.

## FROM THE HALLS OF TRENTON By Hoboken Strategy Group



**From the Halls of Trenton** is a new, regular feature of the President's Report. Thank you to Hoboken Strategy Group for partnering with us to keep you up to date on the action while focusing on legislation of interest to our members. Their first column is an overview of the most important policy document the Governor's Office produces, the State Budget.

Did you know that the term "lobbyist" was coined during the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant? The President would frequent the lobby of The Willard Hotel near the White House to smoke a cigar. Word got out amongst interest groups of where to catch the President and hence the term "lobbyist" was born. In Trenton, the ideal place to catch administration officials, lawmakers and other government relations professionals is in the hallways. As a result, we bring you our observations of the action "From the Halls."

For our first segment, we provide an update on the proposed New Jersey State Budget. On February 26, Governor Chris Christie presented his administration's proposed State Budget for the next fiscal year. The Governor's \$34.4 billion budget holds the line on discretionary spending without tax increases. The budget proposal forecasts fiscal 2015 revenue to increase by 5.8 percent from current levels.

The Legislature has now begun its budgetary review process to allow public input on the [Continue Reading](#)

## WELCOME ABOARD

**An average of 65 new members have joined us each year since 2012. And we're off to another great start with 16 new Members joining between January 1 and March 31. We thank all of them for their support! Each of these businesses and organizations has made a commitment to raise their profile and support our regional business community.**

Learn more about their products and services:

1. [American Red Cross](#)
2. [Emerald Financial Resources](#)
3. [Law Offices of Perez and Bonomo](#)
4. [The Colon Collection](#)
5. [Bielan, Miklos, Makrogiannis, P.C.](#)
6. [Liberty Harbor](#)
7. [Wells Fargo Home Mortgage - Rep Evelyn Ortiz](#)
8. [New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#)
9. [Western Pest Services](#)
10. [Learning Community Charter School](#)
11. [Hudson County Department of Parks & Community Services](#)
12. [Ironstate Development Company](#)
13. [Journal Square Chiropractic Center](#)
14. [Newport Associates Development Company](#)
15. [J&J mechanical Contractors, LLC](#)
16. [MFL Foundation for Cancer Prevention](#)

## EVENTS

### Business Networking & Regional Economic Outlook with NY Federal Reserve Bank

**Wednesday, April 30**

5:30 - 7:30pm

University of Phoenix

**Featured Speaker:** Richard Peach, Senior Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
\$25 Members; \$35 Non-Members

### FREE Information Session for our Fall European Cruise

**Friday, May 9**

12:00 - 1:00pm

Free information session with JetVacations on our upcoming luxury cruise to Europe departing October 19. RSVP in advance required. Lunch will be served. Space is limited.

### WEBINAR: Marketing Your Business: Create an Impression with Your Member Profile

**Friday, May 9**

2:00 - 2:45 pm

The Chamber introduces a series of quick webinars to help our Members take advantage of their online Chamber benefits, which include a new & improved company profile, posting of events to the Member Calendar, offering Member-to-Member discounts, and more. On May 9, we'll take a deep dive on creating a fantastic, online, member profile. This webinar is open and free to members only.

See the Chamber's [Calendar of Events](#) for all of our upcoming opportunities to connect!

### FORE! LADIES and a Few Good Men Golf Clinic

**Monday, May 19**

9:00am - 4:00pm

Hyatt Hills, Clark, NJ

We're at it again! Two-hour golf instruction with a pro, followed by nine holes of golf. Breakfast, lunch and dessert included. Awards and cash bar. No golf experience necessary. \$145/golfer

### Business Networking Cruise on the SPIRIT OF New Jersey

**Tuesday, May 20**

5:00pm: Boarding, networking & dinner

6:00pm: Cruise departs dock

6:00pm - 7:30pm: Cruise on Hudson

Lincoln Harbor, Weehawken, NJ

Dinner, free parking and sunset cruise included; cash bar.

\$60 Members; \$85 Non-Members

### PLAY GOLF at Bayonne Golf Club

**Monday, June 23**

8:00am: Registration

10:15am: Shot-gun start

4:00pm: Cocktail Reception & Dinner

Get into the "swing" of summer with us. Who will win this year's best team costume? Best individual costume? The Liberty Cup and bragging rights? Join us for a very un-stuffy, un-forgettable day of golf at the most "audacious" course!

Foursome, individual golfing, dinner tickets and sponsorships available. Click [HERE](#) for event details.

## VISIBILITY

This issue of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce President's Report sponsored by:

**WE'VE GOT MONEY TO LEND.**

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