

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Hudson County: Uniquely Poised for Growth



This year the Chamber celebrates an important milestone in its history—125 years of serving the business community in Hudson County. When the Chamber was established in 1888, the County was in the midst of an immigration boom that would have an impact for decades. Construction, first of ports, and later railroad terminals, would fuel a corresponding real estate boom.

125 years later, Hudson County continues to be a highly dynamic region. The area's diversity, infrastructure, and the re-development of the last 20 years have given rise to Wall Street West and the Gold Coast. The County continues to live up to its other nickname, "The Gateway to America".

### Hudson County is well positioned for continued growth.

Dr. Jim Hughes, Dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, has noted that three trends will drive urban development:

1. The aging baby boomers — the largest generation in U.S. history — will seek out urban areas for their golden years
2. Continued immigration — the foreign born have historically settled first in urban areas
3. The "baby bust"— as younger generations have smaller families they will tend towards urban areas

While these trends may not bode well for our nation's suburban legacy, they do point to our continued urban growth. In fact, Hudson County's population, after many decades of decline, is on an upswing. Between 1940 and 1990, the population declined by almost 100,000, according to U.S. Census Bureau. Since 1990, the population has grown by 15% to more than 640,000.

**Hudson can lay claim to being New Jersey's most urban, most diverse, and most densely populated county.**

Consider this: New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country with 1189 residents per square mile! And Hudson, with the smallest land area of any county in NJ, has 13,879 residents per square mile.

Why should these trends be important to our members? Because it means we're sitting in the midst of one of the most potent consumer markets in the country. New Jersey is one of the wealthiest states. Opportunity abounds for those who learn how to penetrate the local market. It also means we're experiencing significant demographic shifts that will impact our businesses for decades to come!

### Our mission at the Chamber is to provide our members with resources that enhance their position in the marketplace.

If you're looking for ways to tap into the local market, the Chamber can be a resource to you. I hear often from Chamber Members that their engagement has helped them to connect with decision makers, land a new client, and raise their visibility locally. In fact, I've seen new business relationships form between Members. I'm proud to say the Chamber played a role in that.

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The key is becoming engaged—attend events, sponsor and advertise with us. If you're already a member, I encourage you to become even more engaged. If you're not yet a member, I invite you to join us and become a part of our 125-year tradition. **Now is the time to join** the most dynamic and energetic business community in New Jersey!

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Chamber recently kicked-off 125 years of supporting the business community in Hudson County. Nearly 200 attendees celebrated with us at our Annual Business Meeting and learned about Jersey City's development from Bob Cotter, Director of Planning for Jersey City.

[Click here](#) to view photos from the event!



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Joseph F. Scott, FACHE, President & CEO, LibertyHealth and  
Maria Nieves, President & CEO, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce

## WELCOME ABOARD

75 New Members joined us in 2012! Thank you! The following is a list of members joining since December 12, 2012. Each of these businesses and organizations has made a commitment to raise their profile and support the business community.

We welcome all to our Chamber:

1. [Stevens Cooperative School](#)
2. [Whoah, LLC](#)
3. [Holsman PT Rehabilitation, PC](#)
4. [Jersey City Parks Coalition](#)
5. [Windstream Communications](#)
6. [Ambit Energy](#)
7. [Magnets.com](#)
8. [McRoberts Protective Agency](#)
9. [Optigenex, Inc.](#)
10. [Popular Community Bank](#)
11. [Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster](#)
12. [GMS Group, LLC](#)
13. [Mary Pomerantz Advertising](#)

Find all of our Members on our new, searchable [Member Directory](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Business Networking at Concordia Learning Systems

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

6:00 - 8:00pm  
761 Summit Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ

### Breakfast for Business Event: Reining in Your Healthcare Costs

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

8:30 - 10:30am  
Jersey City Museum  
350 Montgomery Avenue

### Business Networking Cruise

Save the Date!  
Tuesday, May 21, 2013  
5:00 - 8:00pm  
Spirit of New Jersey

### Play Golf at Bayonne

Chamber's Annual Golf Outing  
Monday, June 24, 2013  
Bayonne Golf Club

## PULASKI SKYWAY UPDATES

Beginning February of 2014, the two north-bound lanes of the Skyway will be closed for what is projected to be as long as two years, part of an eight-year, \$1 billion dollar reconstruction project. According to an [article](#) from The Star Ledger, drivers will have to rely on alternate routes. The New Jersey State Department of Transportation recently released a survey for all those who will be affected by the closing. They have announced that they will be rolling up the results of the survey shortly. The Chamber recently [testified](#) at a State Assembly hearing on the closing.

## TRIVIA BOX: New Jersey in 1888

### Governor

Robert S. Green who served from January 18, 1887 to January 21, 1890

### Population

Although there is no exact figure, in 1880, the population was 1,131,116 and by 1890, it had grown to 1,444,933; this is just over double of Hudson County's current population

### Major Event

March 12 brought a blizzard that left parts of New Jersey under as many as 50 feet of snow