

# Ocean City-Upper Twp. Rotary Club Bulletin

District # 7505 / Ocean City, NJ / May 27, 2021

*Proudly Serving the Ocean City and Upper Township Area and the World Since 1926*



## Directors & Officers

July 1, 2020 To June 30, 2021

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Randi Scheck

### Vice-President

John Dollard

### Past-President

James Chadwick

### Secretary Treasurer

Ted Lands Rich Gardner

### Membership Chair

Cindy Harris-Chadwick



OCUT Rotary Club

Members invited to attend

### UTBA Golf / Mixer

June 24th at Heritage Links

See info on Page 2 & 5

### CLUB CONTACT

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<http://OCUTRotary.org>

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## Rotary Club OC-UT May 27<sup>th</sup> Program John Dollard Baker Sew & Vac Anniversary

The Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township online program for Thursday, May 27, 2021, 6:30 pm will be John Dollard, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Dollard Baker Sew and Vac store in the Marmora business district of Upper Township.

The Zoom Registration Link for the Rotary Club May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting: <http://bit.ly/Rotary27MayJohnDollard>

John has been a member of Rotary OCUT for five years. During that time he has participated in Rotary "Clean Water" mission trips to Panama & Puerto Rico.

"Rotary has changed my life," John says. "Helping others in need gives a feeling of accomplishment," he noted.

John opened Dollard Baker Sew Vac in Marmora in 2002 and he retired from the Atlantic City Police Department 2004.

"My family accomplished the first 50 years, then I took the next 50 years," he said.

"There were some very hard times in the past but coming to Cape May County and the door opening up for me to come to Marmora

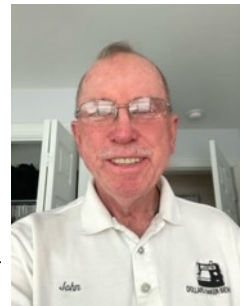
has been the best time of all."

"Being here in Upper Township and dealing with the best customers in the world, has been a Godsend," John said

"While many businesses suffered in the Covid year, my business thrived."

"My current employees are the reason for our success..."

"Merry May had the foresight to order 5000 yards of elastic last March (for making masks) People were lined up outside (6 feet apart) to obtain what seemed like the only elastic in South Jersey. We continued to get 5000-yard boxes & people were making masks like crazy. Some even would buy HEPA filtration vacuum cleaner bags to cut up and put in



**John Dollard**

Continued on Page 2



**Successful Red Cross Blood Drive** - The Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Twp. hosted the Friday, May 14th 2021 American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Ocean City Community Center with a capacity turn-out of 36 donors. Pictured with Mary M. Crean, center, Red Cross volunteer, are **Randi Scheck**, left, Rotary Club President and **Sallie Godfrey**, Rotarian. See recording of Rotary May 13th program on the Red Cross here > <http://bit.ly/Rotary13MayRecordingRedCross> ##

## Inside Pages

**Rotary Mingles** Pg 2-5  
**With BA June 24**

**June Meetings** Pg 2

**History Society** Pg 3-4  
**Strawberry Sale**



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

<http://OCUTRotary.org>

# Dollard Baker Store Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Continued From Page 1

their masks."

"Then people were lined up bringing their old sewing machines for repair. I remember one day that we had 18 sewing machines come in for repair."

"Of course, at the same time, with people staying mostly in their homes, our vacuum cleaner repair & sales skyrocketed. My mother & father told me that our repair business would thrive during a recession," he said.

John and the Dollard Baker Sew Vac employees continue to support our community in many ways - most recently donating backpacks to children in Somers Point, NJ chapter of CASA. Merry May, some of our customers, and her quilters made more than three dozen Backpacks 4 Kids so Foster Care kids can carry their things in a bright colorful fabric bag and will not have to move with their belongings in plastic garbage bags.

The Dollard Baker Sew and Vac store has been featured in numerous newspaper articles with quotes such as "Business Sucks! But it's Picking Up!" and "We'll keep you in stitches!" John says his friends call him "The Sultan of Suck!"

John's Dollard Baker Sew Vac has been a member of the Upper Twp. Business Association for seven years and he enjoys the group's informative meetings and is hoping that Covid goes away so the UTBA monthly meetings can start again in person.

The program speaker's website:

[www.dollardbakersewvac.com](http://www.dollardbakersewvac.com)

The Zoom Registration Link for May 27th:

<http://bit.ly/Rotary27MayJohnDollard>

Rotary Inter-Clubs, guests, prospective members, and the general public are always welcome to attend Rotary meetings.

The Zoom Registration Link for the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm session is on the Rotary Club website > <http://ocutrotary.org> ##



Merry May at Dollard store organized a project that donated "Back Packs 4 Kids" for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children of Atlantic and Cape May Counties). > <https://atlanticapecasa.org>



Heritage Links Golf Club > [www.golfheritagelinks.com](http://www.golfheritagelinks.com) | UTBA > [www.upperbiz.com](http://www.upperbiz.com)

## UTBA Golf / Mixer at Heritage Links

# Rotary invited to mingle with Business Association in Upper Twp. June 24th

Rotarians will attend the Upper Twp. Business Association Mixer at Heritage Links Golf Club in Palermo, Upper Township on Thursday, June 24th.

(See Flier on page 5)

RSVP / Registration needed for both the Mixer and Golf. (Both are free for Rotarians and guests.)

This is an opportunity for Rotarians to meet in person as a group for one of the first times in over a year. The additional benefit will be for our OCUT Rotary Club members to meet Upper Twp. business leaders in our community.

Heritage Links is planning several "extras" for this June 24th Mixer: The Golf Club will provide a Free Round of Golf - Free rounds of 9-hole golf,

starting at 3 pm for registered attendees.

Please register your RSVP via the UTBA Eventbrite page. > <https://upper-twp-business-association.eventbrite.com>

When you complete the log-in information for this RSVP ticket, be sure to check off the registration question on a free golf round for this Mixer afternoon, if you can attend.

The social networking / meeting portion of the Mixer will be at 5:30 pm as usual.

Please contact Rotarian and UTBA Board member Ralph Cooper if there are any questions.

The Mixer will be held safely outdoors with social distancing guidelines followed. (All activities - for this Mixer are weather permitting.) ##





**DOLLARD-BAKER  
SEW & VAC**

Sisters Kate DiGillo, 7, left and Emily DiGillo, 9, third from left, of Cape May Court House attend a sewing camp at Dollard Baker Sew & Vac in Upper Township earlier this month. Emily Bell, 12, and her grandmother, Merri May, both of Tuckahoe, instructed the camp. Staff photo by Dale Ganshart

## Upper Township business stitches together generations

■ Dollard Baker Sew & Vac has been selling and repairing sewing machines since the 1930s.

By MICHAEL MILLER

Staff Writer

**UPPER TOWNSHIP** — The late Thomas John Dollard sold and repaired sewing machines in Atlantic City in the 1930s when many people relied on the machines to make their own clothes.

Today, grandson John Dollard, 62, of Atlantic City, still sells sewing machines at his third-generation business, Dollard Baker Sew & Vac, but more as a hobby than as a strict necessity.

They remain an essential appliance in many homes, Dollard said.

Dollard Baker Sew & Vac, on Route 9 in Marmora's South Shore Plaza, is having a grand reopening Saturday, Aug. 18, after remodeling and reorganizing its store.

The store specializes in another appliance as well, vacuum cleaners, which it sells and repairs.

Dollard likes to joke the vacuum business "sucks, but it's picking up." The store is a dealer for Janome and Baby Lock brand sewing machines and Beam, Dyson, Sebo and Riccar vacuum cleaners, among others.

Sewing has seen a local resurgence since the recession, he said. The store hosts weekly classes on sewing for children and adults alike.

"There is a buzz with sewing right now," he said. "Instead of buying new stuff in this economy, people are getting things repaired."

Sewing machines are growing in popularity, even in the United States

### Dollard Baker Sew & Vac

Location: 232 Route 9 South, Upper Township

Owner: John Dollard

Started: Since 2002 in Upper Township

Employees: 2

Revenues: Not disclosed

Phone: 609-390-0343

where the market is "mature," according to a report this year by Global Industry Analysts Inc.

Given its high sensitivity to the health of the garment industry, the sewing-machine market has been feeling the heat of the economic recession that crippled most industries across the globe," the report said. "In comparison, growth in the home sewing machines segment, although slowed down, held up to economic pressures. The market successfully rode out the turbulence without recording erosion in market volume."

Dollard expects this trend to continue. A new generation is learning to appreciate the skill and creativity required in making custom clothing, he said.

The machines start at about \$140 but most sell for around \$400. His top-end machine, called an Ellisimo, has a built-in touch-screen computer with innumerable designs, fonts and patterns. It retails for \$11,000.

Dollard learned the sewing-repair business from his father before joining the Atlantic City Police Department. He spent 22 years with

the department before his retirement in 2004. His father promised him the unusual skills he learned in repairing these specialized machines would serve him well later in life, he said. "He used to say, 'People can fix cars or their houses, but not any Joe can fix a sewing machine,'" he said.

He was right. The repair side of the store remains a strong part of the business.

Dollard has devoted his full attention to the Upper Township business since retiring. The Baker in the store's name is from the owners of the original sewing business.

Dollard kept the name in hopes of retaining its loyal customers.

Dale Watson, 57, of Middle Township, stopped in the store to pick up a new part for her old Viking sewing machine. She has been making lots of baby apparel in anticipation of the birth of her first grandchild.

"Blankets, burp cloths, crib sheets, hats," she said. "I bought my machine 35 years ago and I use it hard. I love it."

She spends a couple nights per week sewing in her retirement, she said.

Sewing circles have moved to cyberspace with social-networking sites such as Pinterest.

Gary McGhee, 30, of Margate, is the store's general manager. He said the future for sewing machines remains promising in southern New Jersey.

"History repeats itself," he said. "Fads come back into fashion. Today, I've got kids who are taking sewing lessons, up to people my age. They're always going to need some place to go."

Contact Michael Miller: 609-272-7217  
MMiller@pressofac.com

# Upper Twp. Historical Society Strawberry Sale Event May 29<sup>th</sup>

The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township (HPSUT) will hold a Special Strawberry Sale Event on Saturday, May 29, 2021, 10 am - until sold out, at the Gandy Farmstead, 26 Tyler Road (Route 616) Greenfield.

This Strawberry Sale fundraiser will help with HPSUT expenses.

Please be mindful of Covid-19 guidance that may be announced for this Historical Society event.

Please note that this is not the usual Strawberry Festival. Due to Covid-19 guidance restriction on advance planning, and volunteer limitations, our annual Strawberry Festival will not be held this year.

Watch for details coming soon on the 2021 Heritage Transportation Festival at the Tuckahoe Train Station, now set for Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021.

In addition, the HPSUT will be scheduling annual AppleFest in October 2021

Thank you for your support.

## Next HPSUT Membership Meeting

June 8, 2021, 7 pm Zoom

Program: Railroad Train Car Restoration at Tuckahoe Junction

Speaker: Paul Mulligan

The June 8<sup>th</sup> Zoom Link Registration > <http://bit.ly/History08JunTrainTalk>

History08JunTrainTalk

The link for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to those registered.

## Previous HPSUT Program Recording:

**May 11, 2021 Program** – Rick Geffken, author of "Stories of Slavery in New Jersey." For a signed and dedication copy of his book, \$26 check (includes shipping) to: Rick Geffken, 5 Custer St., Farmingdale, NJ 07727. Email > [rickg0817@yahoo.com](mailto:rickg0817@yahoo.com)

Meeting video recording on Facebook

> <http://bit.ly/HPSUT11MaySlaveryNJVideo>

## Upper Twp. History Book For Sale:

The Upper Township and Its Ten Villages book is available by mail for \$23.99 (no tax) with a \$5.00 fee for shipping and handling. Make your check or money order payable to the HPSUT, P.O. Box 658, Marmora, NJ 08223-0658.

Credit card payment can also be made on the HPSUT website with PayPal. **Web:** [www.UpperTwpHistory.org](http://www.UpperTwpHistory.org)

Nearly 200 photos are included in the book, along with a two-page narrative summary for each Village. ##

## Previous Rotary Programs Recording:

**May 13, 2021 Program – Red Cross**

Program: **Madhuri Rodriguez**, Executive Director of the Southern NJ Chapter for the American Red Cross NJ Region and **Laura Bishop**, Board member with the American Red Cross of Southern New Jersey.

Speaker website: > [www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey/about-us/locations/southern-nj.html](http://www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey/about-us/locations/southern-nj.html)

Meeting video recording on Facebook

> <http://bit.ly/Rotary13MayRecordingRedCross>

**April 29, 2021 Program – Fred Akers, GEH River Watershed Council**

Speaker website > [www.gehwa.org/river-council](http://www.gehwa.org/river-council)

Meeting video recording on Facebook

> <https://bit.ly/Rotary29AprGEHRiver>

**Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township:** To learn

more about the OC-UT Rotary Club contact Rotary

Club President Randi Scheck (m) 609.412.3459. >

<http://ocutrotary.org> | [www.facebook.com/oceancityuppertownshiprotary](http://www.facebook.com/oceancityuppertownshiprotary) ##

## Future OCUT Rotary Highlights

### June Programs / Events:

June 3 - No Meeting

June 10 - Club Business Meeting

June 17 - No Meeting

June 24 - UTBA Golf-Mixer @ Heritage

June 26 - Annual Rotary Club OCUT Hot Dog Sale fundraiser at the Car Show on the grounds of the Ocean City Tabernacle. (OC Chamber Link for Car Show [here.](#)) ##





# **SPECIAL STRAWBERRY SALE EVENT**

**SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021**

**10:00 AM – Until Sold Out**

**First Come – First Served (*no advance orders*)**

**(RAIN DATE: SUN. May 30, 2021)**

**Being mindful of Covid-19 restrictions**

**This Strawberry Sale fundraiser will help with HPSUT expenses.**

## **SALE LOCATION:**

### **THE GANDY FARMSTEAD**

26 TYLER ROAD (ROUTE 616) GREENFIELD

PRESENTED BY THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

SOCIETY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP (HPSUT)

FOR MORE INFO: 609-628-2425 | [uppertwphistory@yahoo.com](mailto:uppertwphistory@yahoo.com)

[www.uppertwphistory.org](http://www.uppertwphistory.org)

### ***No Strawberry Festival***

**Due to Covid-19 and volunteer limitations  
our annual Strawberry Festival will not  
be held this year.**

**Watch for details on the Heritage Transportation Festival  
At the Tuckahoe Train Station – Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021**

**We hope to schedule the annual AppleFest in the October 2021**

**Thank you for Your Support**

# UTBA GOLF & MINGLE MIXER

## THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH

JOIN US FOR A GOLF OUTING & MIXER  
AT HERITAGE LINKS GOLF CLUB

FREE ROUND OF GOLF STARTS @ 3PM  
MIXER STARTS @ 5:30PM

*\*Food & Beverages \* Door Prizes\**  
*Meeting will be held safely outdoors with  
social distancing guidelines followed.*

**Click To Register Here**

RSVP For Golf 

Bring a Non-Member or Friend  
along to golf & network!



[www.UpperBiz.com](http://www.UpperBiz.com)