







# THESE ARE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!





SUN'S OUT. FUN'S OUT.

THIS IS WHERE WE SUMMER MOREYSPIERS.COM





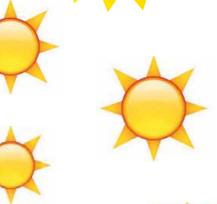


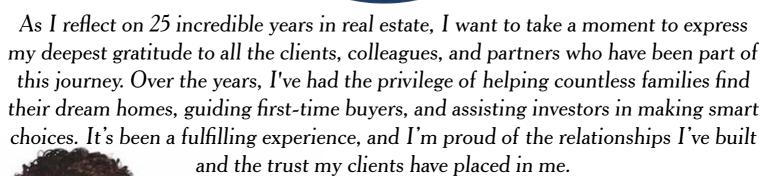
"Having somewhere to go is home. Having someone to love is family. Having both is a blessing."

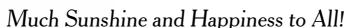




















609-602-2008



ColleenSowers@outlook.com



ColleenSowers.com

3300 Pacific Ave. Wildwood, NJ 08260 609-523-1112

Elite Realty

"The sea lives in every one of us. It is the quiet in our soul, the ebb and flow of our own breath."

"It's more than a publication; it's a sunbeam that brightens the community, ensuring that the tales of Wildwood are told and cherished for generations to come."

~PHICKLEPHILLY {thank you!}



#### WHERE YESTERDAY & TODAY MEET BY-THE-SEA



everything you need to know is in The Sun!

#### Dear Friends,

As I sit with the sun-kissed sand between my toes, the sea ebbs and flows its way into my soul, serenading my thoughts with a profound sense of gratitude washing over me.

Welcome to the Summer edition of Sun by the Sea, where we celebrate the beauty, joy, and magic of our cherished seaside haven.

Here at The SUN, we honor the stories that connect us to the Wildwoods—tales rich with history and charm. Within these pages, you'll find a tapestry of memories and reflections woven together to capture the spirit of this extraordinary place, along with a tribute to the hardworking local business community that helps us enjoy the very treasures this seaside resort has to offer.

After a long, cold winter, we return to the sea, bringing our worries and exchanging them for the peace and calm of endless summer days. The ocean, with its timeless rhythm, provides a sanctuary for the heart and mind. Its healing power rejuvenates our spirits and fills us with inspiration. The healing energy we find by the sea resides in the stories it's inspired. We believe in the power of stories. They nourish our souls, ignite our imaginations, and bring meaning to our lives. Stories connect us to the past, anchor us in the present, and guide us toward the future. They are as essential as the waves that endlessly kiss the shore.

This issue is an invitation to immerse yourself in the moments that make life by the sea so special. Feel the sand beneath your feet, let the salty breeze sweep you away, and lose yourself in the magic of the Wildwoods. And if you feel inspired, please share your cherished old Wildwood photos and stories at thesunbythesea@gmail.com.

I love reminiscing about the old Wildwood and celebrating everything that makes this place so special. It wouldn't be the beloved destination it is today without its rich history—and, of course, the businesses that form the very heartbeat of the Wildwoods.

Together, let's savor the simple pleasures, honor the memories that have shaped us, and embrace the beauty of the shore we hold so dear.

May these pages bring you the warmth and wonder of the sun by the sea itself.



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WINTER HOLIDAY ISSUE due out November 21, 2025 Deadline for submissions is October 31

# Easy to hold! Fun to read! Flip it over and begin again!



# The Sun

Artist, Editor & Publisher, Ad Sales

Dorothy McMonagle Kulisek 609.214.5608

The SUN by-the-sea©2025

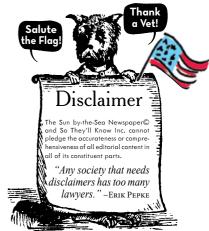
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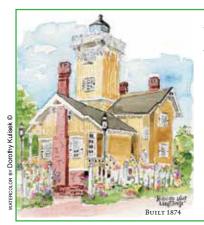




"The sun shines different ways in summer and winter. And we shine differently in the seasons of our lives." ~Terri Guillemets







# HEREFORD LIGHTHOUSE GARDENS & GIFT SHOP

1<sup>st</sup> & Central Ave., North Wildwood, NJ 609-522-4520

FREE DAILY TOURS OF THIS HISTORICAL LANDMARK

www.herefordlighthouse.org

\*Above painting is available as a note card at Sunstore.bigcartel.com



"Summer is a promissory note signed in JUNE, its long days spent and gone before you know it, and due to be repaid next January." ~HAL BORLAND

6/27 Wildwoods Boardwalk Friday Night Fireworks Kick-Off FREE 10pm from Pine Ave. beach every Friday night DOOWW.com

6/27-8/1 YOUTH FOR CHRIST Heatwave. Wildwoods Convention Center & beach. 8am-10pm 412.854.1110 6/28-29 Cape Express Beach Blast Soccer-Wildwood beach between Poplar & Spencer

6/24 Downtown Wildwood MOVIES in the Plaza Kick-Off —FREE Every Tuesday at sunset

6/29 FOX PARK Concerts Kick-Off –FREE Every SUNDAY at 7:30pm



7/4-6, 12-13, 19-20 Boardwalk SID Craft Shows All handmade products. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

7/4 Independence Day & Patriotic Pooch Parade New Parade Route on JFK Blvd. North Wildwood. 9am

**7/4 Downtown Wildwood July 4th Party**Byrne Plaza 7:30pm. MISGUIDED BAND

6/27, 7/18, 8/1, 8/15 Anglesea Nightmarket & Food Truck Fest Olde NJ Ave. 5-10pm

**7/5 SIDEWALK CHALK COMPETITION** at Bill Henfey Park. North Wildwood. 9am.

7/11 WILDWOOD CREST SAND SCULPT-ING FESTIVAL Heather Rd. beach, 9am

7/11-13 Anglesea BLUES Festival & NJ State BBQ Championship Olde NJ Ave., Smokin' hot blues on an outdoor stage.

7/11-13 NJ JEEP INVASION Wildwood

7/19-20 Cape Express "MORE" Beach Blast Soccer between Spencer & Poplar on beach

7/26 Christmas in July with Santa Claus
On the Beach in North Wildwood.

7/26 WILDWOOD CREST CHRISTMAS in July Festival along Sunset Lake. 6pm-9pm

7/26 Wildwood's Christmas in July Golf Cart Parade. Boardwalk 10a.m. - 1 p.m.

7/26 Community Band by the Sea (rain date 7/28 Byrne Plaza, Wildwood. 7PM Honoring of "The Golden Age of Bands" Look for their ad in the Downtown Section

**7/26-27 Ultimate Beach Frisbee Tournament** Beach at Schellenger Ave, Wildwood. 9-5

**7/29 The Wildwoods Love Waddler's Baby Waddle -** Wildwoods Convention Center Turnaround circle. **10:30am** 

**7/30 Wildwoods Baby Parade** Wildwoods Convention Center, Boardwalk and Fox Park **6pm** 

#### 2025 Summer Races

6/26 MAYRA YOUTH REGATTA GWYC Sunset Lake 10am-2pm

**7/7 Cape May County Lifeguard Championships**, Rambler Rd. Beach, 6:30pm

**7/11 Beschen-Callahan Memorial Lifeguard Race** 15th St. & Beach. 6pm

7/12 BOOGIE BOARD Races 17th Ave. 10am

7/12 WILDWOOD BP PIER TO PIER Lincoln Ave. 10:30am

7/12-13 StepBack 3v3 Basketball Tournament

**7/14 WBP 21 DOWN DAY** Lincoln Ave. 10-3

**7/19 Sun and Sand Police & Fire Survivors** 5K Route TBA

Elks Lodge, 1st & Olde NJ, 9am start

**7/25 Dutch Hoffman Memorial Lifeguard Races** Lincoln Ave. Beach, 6:30 pm

**7/31 TRI WOOD LIFEGUARD CHAMPION- SHIP** Lincoln Ave. Beach 6:15pm

8/2 Wildwood Crest 5K Beach Race

8/3 LIFE ROLLS ON Baker Ave Beach 10-4

**8/4 Wildwood NAVY SEAL Challenge** Lincoln Ave Beach 6 pm

**8/9 "LIVE LIKE BOLLE" 5K Race** imo Bill Bolle 15th Ave. beach, 8:30 am

8/19 Around the Island Row Inlet beach 7am

NEW! SEPT 5-6 WILDWOODS THUNDER OVER THE WAVES AIRFEST the main viewing area will be from N. Wildwood beach to end of Wildwood beach.

"Sweet childish days, that were as long as twenty days are now." ~William Wordsworth

# AUGUST HATH 3 I DAYS. FULL STURGEON MOON AUGUST 9th 3:55AM

There should be an extra month of the year maded **BEACHEMBER.** 



Open Spring & Fall Fri-Sat 6-9 Summer: Thurs- Sun 11am-9:30pm Museum, Gift Shop, Snack bar, Milkshakes and more.

TROLLEY TOURS Tues. & Thurs. 8 pm \$25 adults - \$15 children 12 -under See retro 50's & 60's motels, neon signs and new & mid-century architecture, narrated by a tour guide.

Reservations 609-551-2289 www.doowopusa.org

Doo Wop Preservation League

Boardwalk Craft Shows- 8/2-3, 9-10, 29-30

#### 8/5 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - FREE

5:30-8:30pm WILDWOOD - Fox Park NORTH WILDWOOD - Bill Henfey Park WILDWOOD CREST - Centennial Park

**7/31-8/12** Warehouse Clothing Sale Wildwoods Convention Center

8/1-3 Battle at the Beach Mixed Martial Arts Tourn. Wildwoods Convention Center

8/7 National Lighthouse Day- Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. 10am - Noon

8/8-10 Tattoo Beach Bash WCC

8/8-10, 15-17 Baseball on the Beach between Andrews and Rio Grande Aves. 8/11-12 Adult Wiffle Ball Tournament

8/30 Ed's Funcade World Championship Skeeball Tournament

8/31 Wildwood Block Party & Music Festival - Fox Park, Noon.





#### **BOB DYLAN FANS**

See A COMPLETE UNKNOWN for free this summer at Cape May Movies on the Beach on July 10th. (at Dusk)



# Events 2025

Here are some of the fun events happening in the Wildwoods:

#### **JUNE 19-22**

Barefoot Country Music Fest

#### **JULY 4**

Fourth of July Fireworks

#### JULY 4-6 & AUG. 22-24

Sports Card, Toys, Comics & Collectibles Show

#### **JULY 11-13**

NJ Jeep Invasion

#### **JULY 11-13**

NJ State BBQ Championship & Anglesea Blues Festival

#### **JULY 18-20**

NJ Bronco Invasion

#### **JULY 23**

Harlem Globetrotters

#### **JULY 30**

Wildwoods Baby Parade

#### AUG. 8-10

Tattoo Beach Bash

#### AUG. 24-28

Wildwoods Restaurant Week

#### AUG. 31

End of Summer Block Party

#### **SEPT. 5-6**

Wildwoods Airshow

#### **SEPT. 6-7**

Mummers String Band Show

#### **SEPT. 12-13**

Boots at the Beach

#### SEPT. 19-21

Irish Fall Festival

#### DON'T MISS THESE FREE WEEKLY EVENTS ALL SUMMER LONG:

Friday Night Fireworks on the Beach at 10 p.m.

Concerts Four Nights a Week

Downtown Wildwood Farmers Market

Boardwalk Craft Shows

Movies Under the Stars

Family-Friendly Festivals

And ...

**FREE BEACHES ALWAYS!** 

#### WILDWOODS ISLAND SHUTTLE—LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US

Jitney service from Diamond Beach to Olde New Jersey Avenue ... and everywhere in between!

Download the free Jitney Surfer app.

Plan your visit today and enter to win a free family vacation.

WILDWOODSNJ.COM 800.992.9732



"Blues: The only color we can feel." ~ Charles Wayland Towne, Master of Pholly, Doctor of Loquacious Lunacy, etc

# NJ STATE BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP

- Championship Barbeque Competitors
   \$10,000 in Prizes

  - "Gold Winner Best Festival Jersey Shore" Specialty Vendors

**MICHAEL ALLMAN BAND** 7:30 - 10:30 PM

**SATURDAY JULY 12TH** 

**BLUESTIME 11 AM-1 PM FOUR ON THE FLOOR** 1:30 -3:30 PM **BILLY WALTON BAND 4-7 PM** 

**ER BLUES BAND** 7:30-10:30 PM

**SUNDAY JULY 13TH** 

**SLIM & THE PERCOLATORS** 

11 AM-1 PM

**ZYDECO A GO GO** 

1:30-4:30 PM

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS Sunday 4:30pm **NEW JERSEY STATE BARBECUE** 

# FREE

Friday 4pm-11pm Sat 11am-11pm Sun 11am-6pm

Along Olde New Jersey Ave. in North Wildwood



Proceeds Benefit the Anglesea Volunteer Fire Co. Scholarships & More

NJBBQ.COM • ANGLESEABLUES.COM

"A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it." ~Robert Orben

Sponsored by the Tourism & Development Commission

#### From parking lot to perfect spot call 609-846-2012 Wildwood Beach Taxi and Baker Ave. Beach Parking

must have 4x4 wheel drive





# \* Music Events 1

Community Events

Wildwood Block Party Aug. 31 at Fox Park 1pm - 10pm

NJ Jeep Beach Invasion July 11-13 On the Wildwood beach south of the Convention Center



NJ Bronco Invasion July 18-20 On the Wildwood beach south of

Sept. 6 at Byrne Plaza 11am - 8pm / Rain Date 9/8

the Convention Center

Olde Time Italian Festival Sept. 26-27

CHRISTMAS in JULY July 26

Golf Cart Parade, Craft Show, Music

Sunday Night Concert Series ★ Fox Park at 7:30pm FREE

10am-12pm Parade

Wildwoods Baby Waddle July 29 9:30am Wildwoods Baby Parade July 30 on the boardwalk at 6pm.

#### June 29

SENSATIONAL SOUL CRUISERS

60's, 70's & 80's motown, disco & R&B

NEW! Wildwoods Thunder Over

#### July 6 MIDNIGHT ROCK SHOW

The Ultimate 1970's Rock Tribute Band

July 13

#### THE MAHONEY BROTHERS

National Recording stars with numer

### July 20

THE DOOBIE OTHERS Doobie Brothers tribute band

July 27 **TOMMY CONO SHOW** 

National recording artist

August 3 THE ELO TRIBUTE BAND

**August 10** 

CHICAGO 9 Chicago Tribute Band



#### August 17

#### THE FABULOUS INFERNOS

The Ultimate 1970's Rock Tribute Band

August 24





National Night Out

Aug. 5 Fox Park, 5:30 - 8:30pm

the Waves Air Show Sept. 5-6

# Sporting Events

Cape Express Soccer 'More Beach Blast' July 19-20

Dutch Hoffman Memorial Lifeguard Races July 25 Lincoln Ave. Beach, 6:30pm

Ultimate Beach Frisbee Tournament July 26-27

Navy Seal Challenge

August 4 Lincoln Ave. Beach, 6:30pm

Beach Baseball Tournament August 8-10, 15-17

Monster Truck Sept. 26 - Sept. 27



The Race of the Gentlemen Oct.3-5





the SUN by-the-Sea

"Children raced outside. She surveyed their trail — traces of sticky fingerprints across everything, like wee poems."  $\sim$ Dr. SunWolf

# North Wildwood Recreation & Tourism presents the Summer of 2025

North Wildwood, a place in the sun for family fun! PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS





@North Wildwood Recreation and Tourism

900 Central Ave, North Wildwood, NJ 08260 (609) 522-2955 Fax: (609) 522-0402 northwildwood.com







Friday, July 4, 9am. NEW PARADE ROUTE - JFK BLVD.

Sidewalk Chalk Competition

Wednesday, June 25, 6:30pm Hereford Lighthouse Courtyard

Sat., July 5 All ages. Bill Henfey Park. Contest 9am, Judging 10:45am, Prizes 11am

56th Annual Beschen-Callahan Memorial Lifeguard Races Friday, July 11, 6pm 15th Avenue Beach, North Wildwood. 609.522.7500

NJ State BBQ Championship + Anglesea Blues Festival

Fri., July 11 - Sun., July 13 Fri 4pm-11pm; Sat 10am-11pm, Sun 10am-6pm, Olde New Jersey Ave., North Wildwood, njbbg.com

#### Boogie Board Races

Saturday, July 12 Reg. 9am Contest Begins at 10am on the beach at 16th Avenue, North Wildwood. Prizes!



# Philadelphia Flyers Community Caravan Wednesday, July 16 3:30pm-5:30pm

George D'Amico Hockey Rink, 23rd & Delware Aves.

#### Sun and Sand Police/Fire Survivors 5K Race + 1 Mile Walk

Saturday, July 19 Reg. 6:45am Race Begins 8am Along the Wildwoods Boardwalk



#### Christmas in July House/Business Decorating Contest

Judging - July 23 - 25 Winners announced Saturday, July 26 Prizes!

Christmas in July with Santa Claus Saturday, July 26 Begins at 1pm on the Beach, North Wildwood



Saturday, July 26 Sign-up 8am, Contest 9am 1st & Surf Ave. Inlet beach

#### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5 5:30pm, Bill Henfey Park8th & Central Avenues

#### 50th Annual Flea Market

Sunday, August 10 8:30am-3:30pm, JFK Beach Drive

#### 48th Annual Around the Island Row

Tuesday, August 19 Begins at 7am on the Inlet Beach



# 2025 Summer Camps

#### North Wildwood Soccer Camp

at Bill Henfey Park Full Day 9am-3pm Half Day 9am-12noon June 23 - June 27 and July 7 - 11 Boys & Girls 5 to 14 yrs.

#### New Logic Marine Science Camp

Outdoor Camp Experience M-F, 9am-2pm Ages 5-14 June 23-27, July 14-18, July 28-August 1, August 11-15

#### Buckets Basketball Camp

NW Rec. Boys and Girls June 30 - July 4 9am - 2pm Ages 9-15 yrs. July 14-18 9am - 1pm Ages 5-9 yrs. July 28 - August 1 9am - 2pm Ages 9-15 yrs.

#### Skyhawks Golf Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 5-8 June 30 - July 3 9am - 12pm

### Skyhawks Volleyball Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 9-13 June 30 - July 3 9am - 12pm

# Summer Basketball Leagues

Please visit NorthWildwood.com for all league schedules

#### The Best #I Free Beaches!

North Wildwood's Beach is 1.5 miles long and is guarded from the Inlet beach to 25th Ave.

26 Handicap Surf Chairs are available

**NWBP Headquarters** 15th Ave. & Beach nwbp@northwildwood.com (609) 522-7500

The Surfing Beach is between 2nd & 4th Ave.



#### Save the Dates!



56th Annual North Wildwood Rec Surf Fishing Tournament

Fri: 7am-5pm, Sat: 7am-5pm, Sun: 7am-11am

#### New Year's in North Wildwood **Mummers String Band**

Friday Sept. 15 & Saturday Sept. 16 Parade on Olde New Jersey Ave. 5pm

#### 34th Annual Irish Fall Festival

Thurs. - Sun., September 18 - 21 8am-11pm Daily

#### Halloween Trunk or Treat Block Party Sat. Oct. 25,

Olde New Jersey Ave. Vehicle check-in 4:30pm; Event 5:30pm-7pm

Tree Lighting at Hereford Lighthouse Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30pm

#### North Wildwood Allen Park

20th - 23rd on Delaware Ave. Playground, Tennis & Pickle Ball Courts, Hockey Rink, Basketball Court, Gazebos, overlooking the beautiful back bay wetlands area.





#### North Wildwood Skate Park

between 23rd - 24th on Delaware Ave. OPEN EVERY DAY Free. \* Weather Permitting \* Helmets & Pads required. No Bikes or Scooters.

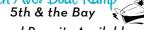
#### Bill Henfey Park

8th & Central Ave.

Playground, Basketball Court, Softball Field, Multi-Purpose Athletic Field

#### Playground on the Beach 16th & the Beach

5th Ave. Boat Rame



Seasonal Permits Available Kayak Storage Permits

"Eyes that look at the world through a lens of wonder, find those things that make it wonder-full." ~Anon.

FIVE MILE BEACH



Thursday, September 18th
LIVE AMATEUR BOXING IS BACK!

Location: Wildwood Catholic Academy
No Limits Boxing vs. Irish Boxing Start time 6:00PM

#### A.O.H. GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cape May National Golf Course, Time: 8AM Rt. 9 & Fairway Dr. - 2 miles South of Rt. 47 Includes: Green Fee & Cart, Refreshments and Buffet Lunch

Friday, September 19th
VENDORS - 8AM to 7PM Olde New Jersey Avenue
LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12PM to 8PM

Saturday, September 20th

5K RUN & 1 Mile Walk - 8AM SIGN-UP - \$30. fee
Along the world-famous Wildwoods Boardwalk

{prizes awarded}

#### **BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION**

10AM at Bill Henfey Park
VENDORS - 8AM to 7PM Olde New Jersey Avenue
IRISH DANCE LESSONS - FREE
10AM to 12PM - Knights of Columbus Hall
LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12PM to 8PM

Sunday, September 21st

CATHOLIC MASS - 10:30AM Saint Ann's R.C.

Church, Glenwood & Atlantic Avenues
Protectors of the Faith Guards, the Emerald Society Color
Guard & Bag Pipers including a liturgical bag pipe soloist
PARADE - 12:30PM Starting at 20th & Surf
to Spruce & Olde New Jersey Avenues
VENDORS - 8AM to 7PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

#### NORTH WILDWOOD JITNEY SERVICE

Download the Jitney Surfer App

www.cmcaoh.com



\*Weather permitting check Social Media for updates



"Kids: They dance before they learn there is anything that isn't music." ~William Stafford, "Keepsakes," c. 1950s



#### OUTDOOR SUMMER FITNESS CLASSES

**ZUMBA** with Lacey & Janet Saturdays June 28 - Aug. 30 Mondays June 30 - Aug. 25

**CARDIO PUMP** with Lacey Tuesdays July 1 - Aug. 19

**INTERVAL TRAINING** with Lisa Wednesdays July 2 - Aug. 20

### **TONE & FLOW AEROBICS**

with Lacey

Thursdays July 3 - Aug. 21

**BOOT CAMP** with John Fridays July 4 - Aug. 22

#### **PILATES** with Holly Mondays June 30 - Aug. 18

Class meets at 8:30 am. on Heather Ave. & the beach, north side of Pier. Follow the flag marker. Please bring a towelmat.

#### **CREST ARTS PAVILION ENTERTAINMENT MONDAYS**

June 30 - Aug. 18 7 p.m. Children's / Family Entertainment magicians, street performers, & more!

#### **TUESDAYS**

July 1 - Aug. 19 7 p.m. Live Original Music Series schedule of artists at wildwoodcrest.org

#### **THURSDAYS**

June 26 - Aug. 21 7 p.m. **Beginners Paint Classes FRIDAYS** 

June 27 - Aug. 22 7 p.m. Free Children's Ukulele Lessons

# SUMMER LIVE A MUSIC SERIES

### WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m.

Food Trucks Each Week 5-9pm Centennial Park, Fern Rd, and Ocean Ave.

July 2 ~ Billy D. Light Trio (classic pop,rock)

July 9 ~ Fab Mania (Beatles tribute)

July 16 ~ Streetlife Serenade (Billy Joel tribute)

July 23 ~ Basic Cable (hits of the 1980s)

July 30 ~ Star Band (oldies, classic rock, pop)

Aug. 6 ~ The Mugshots (rock, pop hits)

Aug. 13 ~ British Invasion (British classic rock)

Aug. 20 ~ Crossfire Hurricane (Rolling Stones tribute)

#### **SATURDAYS** 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Centennial Park, Fern Rd. and Ocean Ave.

July 5 ~ Plaid Salmon (rock/funk/soul/pop favorites) July 12 ~ Legacy Band (dance/party hits)

July 19 ~ Whiskey Crows (rock/soul/Jersey bar sounds)

July 26 ~ No show due to Christmas in July on Sunset Lake

Aug. 2 ~ Chicago 9 (Chicago tribute)

Aug. 9 ~ Megan Knight Band (modern country/pop)

Aug. 16 ~ The Deck Band (dance/party/rock hits)

Aug. 23 ~ '70s Flashback (dance hits of the 1970s)

Aug. 30 ~ The U2 Show (U2 tribute)

Sept. 6 ~ Dirty Dance Band (dance/party oldies hits)

Sept. 13 ~Winslow (Eagles tribute)

Sept. 20  $\sim$  Roundhouse Band (dance/party hits)

#### **SUNSET LAKE GAZEBO LIVE MUSIC SERIES MONDAYS**

June 30 through August 25 Sunset Lake Gazebo at Miami Ave. June/July Shows 7:30 p.m./ August - 7 p.m. (schedule of acts at wildwoodcrest.org)



### **RECREATION & TOURISM**

Presents the Summer of 2025

#### WILDWOOD CREST RECREATION DEPT.

5800 Ocean Ave. Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260 (609) 523-0202 Info Center: (609) 522-0221 Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool (609) 522-0084 Wildwood Crest Tennis Courts

#### Crest Gourmet Food Truck Festivals

Wednesdays~ July 2nd through August 20th **Centennial Park 5-9 PM** 

#### Cape May County Lifeguard Championships

Monday, July 7th Rambler Rd. Beach, 6:15PM



13th Annual Crest Sand Sculpting Festival Friday July 11th Heather Rd. Beach 9AM-2PM

#### Christmas in July Festival & Boat Parade

Saturday, July 26th at Sunset Lake 6-9PM Christmas themed festival with visit from Santa.



#### Wildwood Crest 5K Beach Run

Saturday, August 2nd, 8:30AM Beginning and ending at the Wildwood Crest Beach Pier



#### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5th, Centennial Park 5:30PM - 8:30PM Fun for the whole family!



### Firefighters' Weekend Craft Show

Friday, September 12th 9AM - 5PM Saturday, September 13th 9AM - 1PM

Rambler Rd. & Ocean Ave. Gazebo by-the-Sea



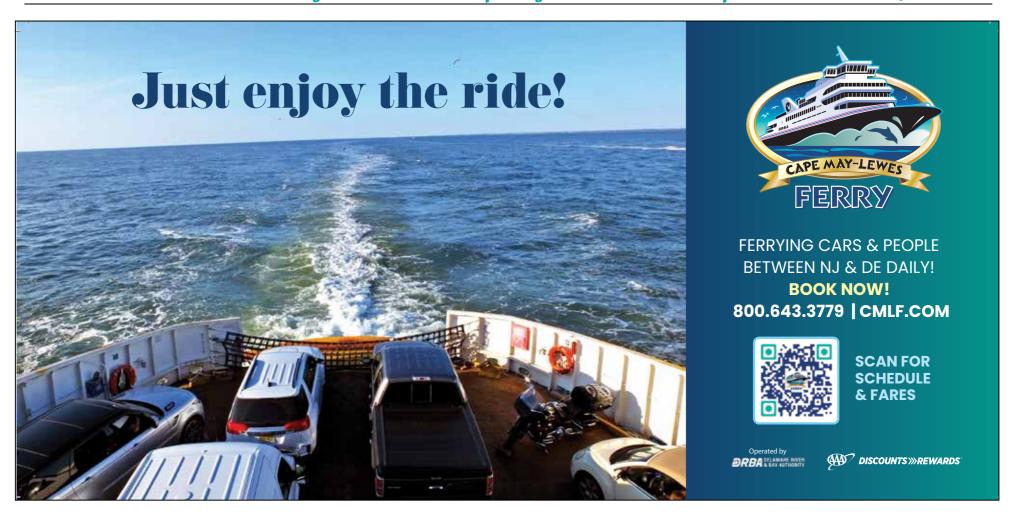
### Seafarers Celebration on Sunset Lake

Saturday, Sept. 20th Street festival along Sunset Lake 9AM-5PM Live Music at Centennial Park 7 PM. Beachfront Fireworks 8:30PM

New! Run the Crest Centennial Park start & finish. 5k Race Fri. Oct. 3rd

10k Race, 1/2 marathon & Kids Races are Sat., Oct.4th

"On the ocean of life let your mind be the ship and your heart be the compass." ~James David Manning





Thank you to our friend and faithful Sun Paper Deliverer, Lenny Bernstein, for helping us highlight Frankie's story in the pages of The Sun

# **Boogie Boarding Frankie**BRINGS JOY TO CREST BEACHES

By Keri Mikulski

Every summer day, sixty-four-year-old Frankie Triano wakes up from his nap around 3:00 pm, grabs his boogie board, and walks up the street to Toledo Avenue Beach in Wildwood Crest. He has a strict routine. Boogie boarding for one hour, walking to greet all the lifeguards on duty, and returning to his spot to swim in the ocean until the lifeguards pack it up for the day.

"I love living in the Crest and boogie boarding is my favorite thing to do," Frankie said from his home on Toledo Ave.

Frankie, known as the Best Boogie Boarder in the Crest, loves catching waves. And he does this after biking the entire island every day.

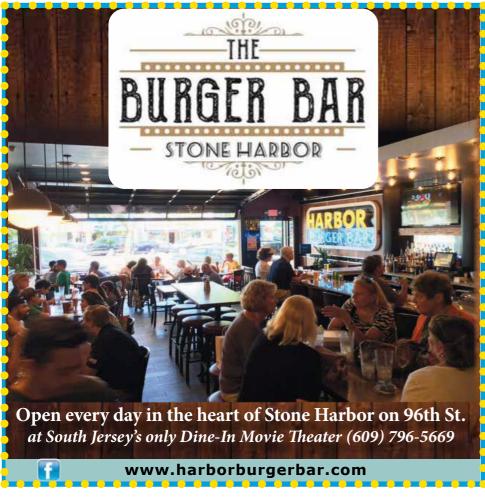
"I met Frankie and his mom about thirty years ago," Frankie's friend, Lenny Bernstein, said. "Frankie has great energy. He lights up the beach with his smile and personality. He's just wonderful to everyone." So wonderful that Frankie has been deemed an honorary lifeguard for uplifting the squad and the spirits of those around him.

"He knows everyone's name, birthdate, and where they live," Lenny said. "He even sets up a boogie-boarding race yearly with a trophy and everything. And of course, Frankie always wins." Frankie will soon splash in the waves after he recovers from a minor surgery this Spring.

"It's been a rough time for Frankie," Lenny said. "He had surgery, and then his mom had to move to assisted living." Lenny's wife, Christy, takes Frankie to see his mom as often as he can. But these setbacks don't squash Frankie's spirit. "It's so nice here. I can't wait to get back in the ocean," Frankie added with a bright smile.



"Your purpose is not the thing you do. It is the thing that happens in others when you do what you do." ~DR. CAROLINE LEAF "We might come closer to balancing the budget if all of us simply tried to live up to the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. 'Do unto others..."





# Closing the Case: Judge Belasco's Remarkable Career



On November 1, 2024, the community came together to express heartfelt gratitude to Judge Louis J. Belasco for his exceptional dedication and service. Serving as North Wildwood's Municipal Court Judge since 1986, Judge Belasco has been a pillar of fairness and integrity throughout his decades-long career. In addition to his role in North Wildwood, he also served as a judge for the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, earning the respect and admiration of all who worked alongside him.

As Judge Belasco retires, we extend our best wishes for this exciting new chapter in his life where he'll be able to enjoy spending more time with his highschool sweetheart Mary Louise and their children and grandchildren. Thank you, Judge Belasco, for your many years of wisdom, service, and invaluable contributions to our community.



The Judge with his wife and children at his retirement party

"When we pray, our hearts glow a glorious joy that lights our souls and all the world around us." ~Terri Guillemets

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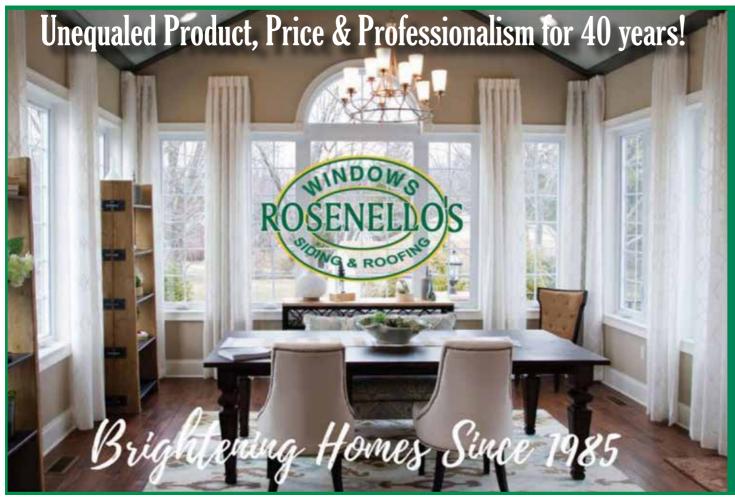
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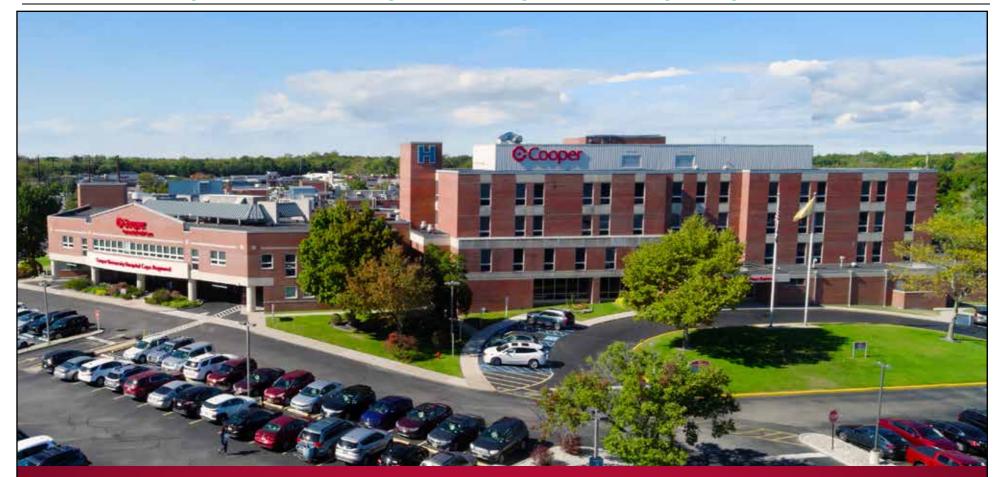
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# Summer 2025 **Events**

**VISITOR CENTER** Open 9am to 3pm Closed Tuesdays

#### JUNE

Thurs - June 26 **Kids Nature Art Class** 10-11am (school age w/adult)

Thurs - July 17 **Kids Nature Art Class** 10-11am (school age w/ adult)

Thurs-July 17 **Pleine Air Watercolor Class** w/ Janet McShain 1-3pm (ages 18 +)

#### **AUGUST** Thurs - Aug 14 **Kids Nature Art Class** 10-11am (school age w/adult)

Thurs - Aug 21 **Pleine Air Watercolor Class** w/ Janet McShain 1-3pm (ages 18 +)

#### **WEEKLY SUMMER ACTIVITIES:**

**SATURDAYS May thru Sept 9 AM Family Friendly Nature Walks** all ages, w/ borrowed binoculars

WEDNESDAYS 6/25 thru 8/20 **Children's Nature Story Time** & Related Craft 9:30-10:30 AM ages 3-8, accompanied by adult

#### **DAILY SUMMER ACTIVITIES:**

Ride a Bike to the Refuge and Hike & Scavenge (two trails)

Jr. Wildlife Refuge Manager Badge (activities to complete & badge awarded) **Touch Table and Kid's Craft Table** 

Nature Trails w/ borrowed binoculars

#### 12001 PACIFIC AVENUE, WILDWOOD CREST, NJ

# The Secret Refuge at the Edge of the Crest

by Roseann Kaplan, Friends of CMNWR

 ${\mathcal W}$ hen I speak with both tourists and locals about this beautiful gem of nature, I often hear, "I didn't know there was a National Wildlife Refuge near Wildwood Crest!" Tucked away at the far end of the Crest on the road to Cape May, the entrance is easy to miss—unless you're looking for it. But once you visit, you'll never forget it.

Open from dawn to dusk year-round, the Two Mile Beach Unit of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge is located at 12001 Pacific Ave, Wildwood Crest. Those in the know enjoy peaceful walks along the trails, bike rides on the road to the Visitor Center, birdwatching, or simply soaking in the fresh air and natural beauty.

From May through November, the Visitor Center and Nature Store, along with the pollinator garden, are staffed and supported by the Friends of the Cape May NWR, a dedicated volunteer group that also

hosts fun and educational activities. Meanwhile, rangers and biologists work year-round to care for the refuge's pristine beaches, marshes, and maritime forests for all to enjoy.

Whether it's your first visit or your fiftieth, stop by the Visitor Center and say hello! We'd love to hear about your experiences on the Refuge and are always happy to provide maps and advice for exploring our trails.

To learn more, visit friendsofcapemaynational wild liferefuge.org check out our Facebook page for seasonal program details. Our Nature Story Time begins June 25, happening every Wednesday. Renowned local artist Janet McShain returns to lead our Plein Air Watercolor Workshops, and our familyfriendly guided nature walks continue every Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Tell your friends—something this wonderful shouldn't be a secret!

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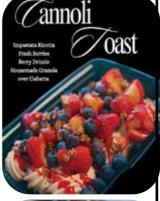


















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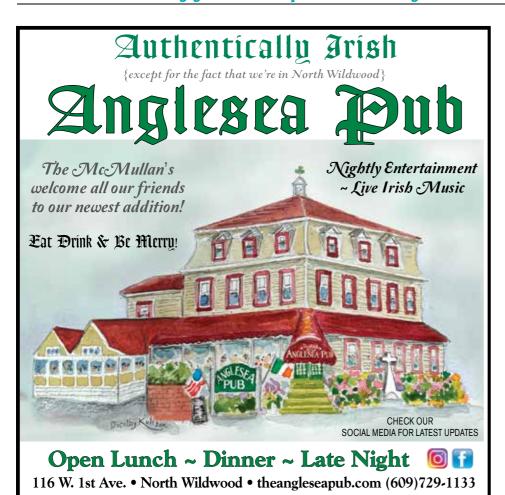


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"Make each day your masterpiece. Pretend you could take each day and hang it on the wall to admire like art."





# i met my true love in Wildwood 🌹

2nd St. beach, hot dogs, surfing and Ian & Susan forever!





n our latest edition of True Love Stories Wildwood Style, we have our "cover models," Ian and Susan Flannery, who met in 2006 as seventh graders at the Saint Ann's dances. Susan was a St. Ann's student while Ian attended Margaret Mace. Where Ian was outgoing and fun, Susan was more the shy, studious type. Opposites truly do attract and they became fast friends, attending Wildwood Catholic High School together in 2008. They maintained their friendship, which blossomed during the Summer of 2008 when Ian worked for fireman Dave Bannon at the hot dog cart on 2nd Ave and Susan worked the morning shift at Pompeo's Restaurant, heading to the beach as soon as her shift was over so she could spend the rest of the day on, you guessed it, 2nd Ave. beach, surfing with her dad. It wasn't all surf and sea, however. She made time for hanging out with lan, who kept them well-fed on hot dogs and soft pretzels, which, naturally, helped him get in good graces with Susan's dad, Boz.

When Ian's workday ended around 5 o'clock, he and Susan would often stay on the beach until sunset or ride their bikes to Duffer's, where Ian

would spend his hard-earned tips treating Susan to mini golf or ice cream. While that may have been considered a romantic gesture, Susan insisted on keeping their relationship platonic, with lan humorously recalling many years later, "spent all my tips and couldn't even get a kiss on the cheek!"

Summer ended, school was back in session, and their friendship continued, with Ian and Susan attending their junior and senior proms together and Ian even gifting Susan with a surfboard he won in a highly competitive round of musica chairs! They graduated from Wildwood Catholic in 2012. Ian attended ACCC but traveled to visit Susan at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida. Following Susan's graduation in 2016, she and Ian realized they'd both matured and discovered their friendship growing into something more. They were married on October 5, 2024, and are Florida snowbirds throughout the winter but love coming home to Wildwood every summer, hanging out on 2nd Avenue beach, playing mini golf, remembering their 15 year-old selves and how their Wildwood love story began...

written by Meg Corcoran

"Sometimes you change people's lives just by saying 'Good morning!'" ~Courtney B. Vance





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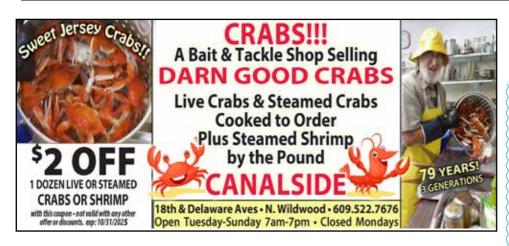
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"A memory is a photograph taken by the heart to make a special moment last forever. " ~ Anon.







# Something Smells in Wildwood by Harry Hallman



Ah, the unmistakable scent of ocean air mingling with salt—there's nothing like it. It energizes the soul and stirs a treasure trove of memories.

For families like mine from Kensington in Philadelphia, Wildwood by the Sea was a haven from the city's industrial odors. Every year, my mom scrimped and saved to secure a month-long August rental with Mrs. Bratton. At first, we stayed near the bay, where prices were lower, but her Maple Avenue cottage became a cherished retreat.

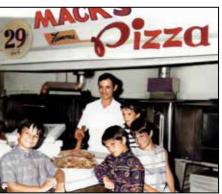
The sensory experience began as we approached Wildwood. The backwater marshes emitted a pungent mix of saltwater, decaying vegetation, and sea life. It wasn't glamorous, but it signaled adventure. As we drew closer, the fish processing factory's aroma joined the mix. Thankfully, ocean breezes swept those inland.

At the bay, the marshy smell gave way to a blend of fish and gasoline. We saw motorboat residue on the water, but it never stopped us from swimming or crabbing. These smells weren't glamorous either, but they were quintessential Jersey Shore.

Walking to the beach, the heavenly aroma of freshly baked rolls from a bakery on Wildwood Avenue became a highlight. Equally tempting was Laura's Fudge, where chocolate and vanilla were my favorites.

The beach itself brought its own symphony of smells. The hot sand had a unique, indescribable scent. Suntan lotion and baby oil wafted by, welcoming us like old friends. And the Atlantic Ocean smelled salty and in-





toxicating, though tar occasionally washed ashore—rumored remnants from WWII ships.

Then came the boardwalk, a sensory explosion. Citronella sticks fended off mosquitoes, while every step brought new aromas: pizza, french fries, roasted peanuts, saltwater taffy, custard, Taylor's Pork Roll, and sausage and pepper sandwiches. It was a feast for the senses.

Even the amusements had distinct smells: the Tunnel of Love's musty water, the bumper cars' electric tang, and the roller coaster's whiff of adrenaline.

Together, these smells painted Wildwood's essence—a vivid mosaic of sensations that shaped a lifetime of beautiful memories.



"Summer was at its height now, and the Rose-moon in its glory." ~Ernest Thompson Seton, The Biography of a Silver-Fox, 1909

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# FIVE MILES of SMILES "Happiness cannot be traveled to,

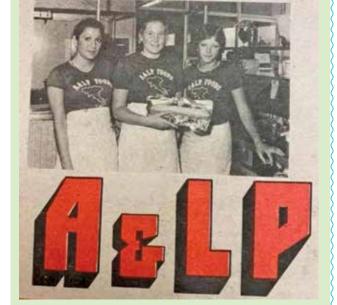
"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is a spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude."

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## A Hometown Blessing:

Fr. Thomas Piro's First Mass in Wildwood



Fr. Thomas blesses his parents, Tony & Debbie Piro
More photos from Fr. Thomas Piro's First Mass
can be seen at Catholic Star Herald.com



On the morning of May 18, 2025, newly ordained Father Thomas Piro celebrated his First Mass in his hometown at St. Ann Church, part of Notre Dame de la Mer Parish in Wildwood. Surrounded by fellow priests, diocesan seminarians, family, friends, and a devoted parish community, the celebration was one of joy, reverence, and deep gratitude. Known fondly as "Tommy" in our community, he is a 2017 graduate of Wildwood Catholic High School and a beloved member of the Piro family, owners and operators of Piro's Pizza on New Jersey Avenue.

To all who attended, the Mass was profoundly spiritual and inspiring. Father Piro offered heartfelt thanks to the many people who guided and supported him on his journey. When he turned to thank his parents, he shared a moving tribute: "When they go to heaven and God asks what they did for His Church and for Christ, they will answer, 'We gave You our son.'"

Let us continue to pray for Father Piro as he begins his priestly ministry at St. Bridget University Parish Church in Glassboro, NJ, with a special mission to serve the students of Rowan University. God bless you, Father Thomas Piro, as you begin this sacred journey.



Friends, Maureen and John Scipione, Joyce and Joe DeLuca, Frassee Fogg, Marge and John Whiteside, Barb, Karen and Scott Shimmer, at the annual Hereford Inlet Christmas Tree Lighting



Paula & Teresa holding The Sun, ironically as the sun set over the IVANHOE MOTEL for its final summer in 2024.



Luke, Jack, Nick, David & Jack



"It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch?" ~AA Milne, Winnie the Pooh





### THEMED SPIN CLASSES! July 4th Glow Ride **Disney Princesses**

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"Embrace uncertainty. Some of the most beautiful chapters of our lives won't have a title until much later." - Bob Goff







### You and me, you and me, Oh how Happy we'll be!



# Bathing Beauty

Jean Conran will be celebrating her 101st birthday on August 18th! Her family's summer home on 14th Avenue in North Wildwood has been a cherished part of their lives since her and her late husband bought it in 1978. Before the house, they'd spend 3 weeks every summer vacationing at the shore. Jean loves to stay here from spring through fall, before returning to South Philadelphia for the holidays. Here she is this past Christmas, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

her lively From nights out on the town to the endless fun on the beach and boardwalk, Jean's fondest memories are woven into every corner of the Wildwoods. loves reminiscing about these joyful days and reflecting on a lifetime of unforgettable moments with her loved ones at the shore.







"Sun tan toes, ticklin' the sand, cold drink chillin' in my right hand... when the sun sinks down, over the water, everything gets hotter. . ."

Kenny Chesne

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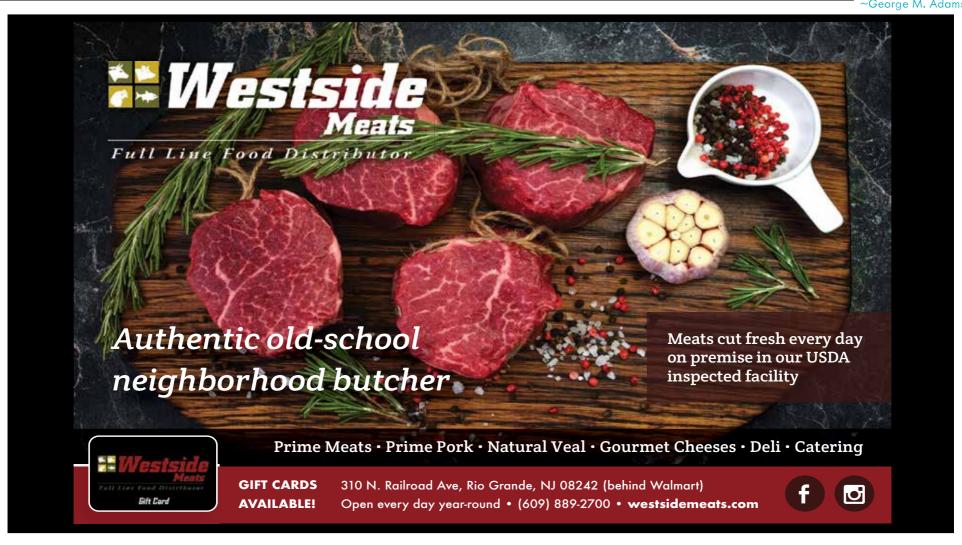
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"He who praises another enriches himself far more than he does the one praised. To praise is an investment in happiness."







# Russell Stetser

## A Life of Service and Simple Joys

by Rob Kulisek

At 102 years old, Russell Stetser isn't just a veteran—he's a front-porch philosopher, a connoisseur of seabreezes, and perhaps the islands's most devoted people-watcher. Our sincere thanks to his neighbor, John Lynch, whose help made it possible to share Russ's remarkable story in The Sun.

A combat vet who served in the South Pacific aboard the USS Coolbaugh from 1942 to 1946, Russ keeps things simple: "It makes me happy to know I served my country," he says, with the kind of serene satisfaction that only comes from a life well-lived and a lawn perfectly mowed.

These days, Russ doesn't captain a boat or teach a classroom as he

once did, but he does hoist the American flag every morning like clockwork, and lowers it every evening, a quiet ritual that makes you think the world might just be okay. From his perch on the porch, he waves to neighbors, flirts with the breeze, and, by his own admission, "enjoys watching all the pretty girls walk by." It's unclear whether the flag or the foot traffic brings him more joy:-)

His secret to living to 102? "Do what's right," he says. Which, coming from a guy who survived war, raised a family, and still finds something to smile about before lunch, feels like pretty solid advice.

Neighbor John Lynch summed it up best: "I couldn't ask for a better neighbor, role model, and friend."

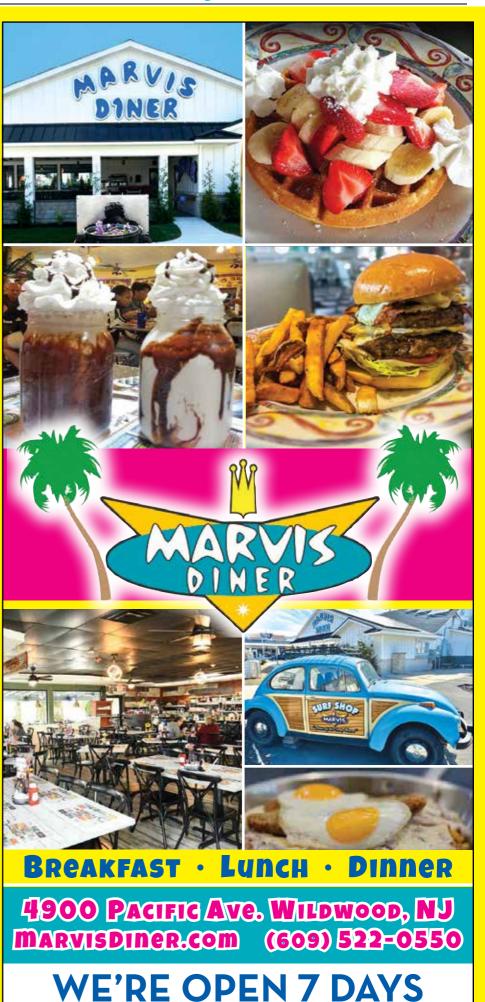


Russ hoists the American flag every morning and lowers it every evening

"Sometimes the only successful apology will have to involve baking." ~Dr. SunWolf







"The three ingredients of happiness are a sunny sky, a blue sea, and a happy heart."

#### **DOO-WOP DAYS OR New-WOP WAYS?**

Dr. Marina Mangano Morey





Here are 2 photos—me in 1993, and my son, Marshall taken the summer of '24. Nearly the same age, nearly the same stretch of sand. The beach, it seems, holds time still—even as everything around it changes. These mirrored moments speak softly to the heart of my story, a visual echo of the nostalgia woven through every word.

No one truly sits alone at the beach... To someone walking along the shore, a solo sunbather may look alone—but in the bather's heart, the simple act of resting on a beach chair, digging toes in the sand, connects them to decades of memories. And most of those memories are of togetherness.

Though I was fortunate to grow up here, I didn't fully understand my connection to the beach until after a seven-year absence. Returning to the Wildwoods let me unpack the parts of my youth I'd set aside—the family traits I'd once loved but learned to live without. Wildwood gave me the gift of opening my own business, making peace with the ocean, and bringing a new beach baby into the world. I had forgotten that soul goals could exist—until I returned to the shore.

Now, I see it in my patients each summer: a tension that rises as June arrives. They're afraid of missing their chance to remember. There's a short window to embrace summer, and I've learned the secret is setting an intention before you arrive.

This summer, do you need familiarity—or a fresh start?

Removing the sense of scarcity from a summer at the shore begins with setting an intention. Are you here to chase nostalgia—eating at familiar spots, seeing old friends, riding the same rides? That's beautiful. Let your inner child giggle down the Log Flume.

Or maybe this is your year for something new in a familiar place. The Wildwoods offer five miles of both Doo-wop and "New-op" charm and fresh adventures. Try something you've always meant to.

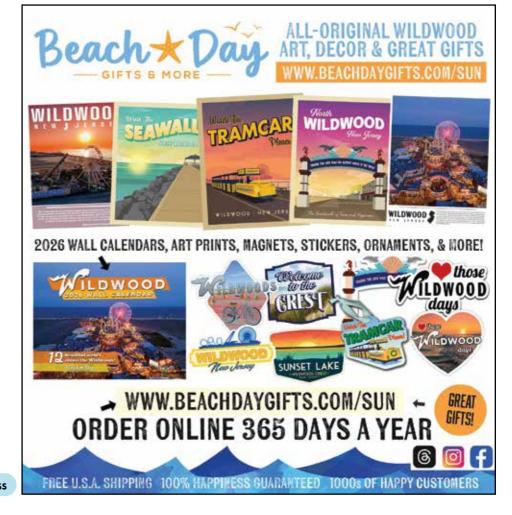
As a local mom and business owner, I believe in blending both: honor your favorite traditions, then add something new to deepen your connection with the shore.

If you're feeling like time is slipping away before summer even starts, take that as a sign: plan for peace. Decide now how you'll spend your togetherness in 2025.

Author Bio: Dr. Marina Morey, author of The Gift of Healing Hands, is a chiropractor and yoga teacher that helps people integrate healing techniques into every aspect of their life.

With her husband and son, Marina lives in Wildwood Crest, enjoying a life of beaches, babies, and books. She spends her mornings with her son, healing patients throughout the day in Stone Harbor, and saves her evenings for writing about the inspiring stories she learns through it all.





"How often I found where I should be going, only by setting out for someplace else." ~ R. Buckminster Fuller

David and his mother Delphia by the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea!



n a backyard in Washington, D.C., there once sat a child in a canvas beach chair-grinning, legs stretched out in scuffed high-tops. His name was David, and the chair, with its striped seat slung low between two angular arms, had traveled with him from Wildwood, New Jersey, like a talisman. Shaped to tilt the body just so—for sunbathing, but also for daydreaming-it was the kind of chair that seemed to cradle memory itself. And David-an only child raised among D.C.'s antique rowhouses—used it to transport himself. In his imagination, he was back at the beach, cone in hand, waves just out of frame, the joy of freedom so vivid it hummed beneath his skin.

"There was nothing better than eating ice cream on the beach," he said. "So I did it in the backyard. I'd sit in that chair, close my eyes, and pretend."

Now nearing 82, David remembers his Wildwood summers not with nostalgia, but with reverence. Each July, his parents—both college-educated, both ambitious and quietly radical in their choices—would bundle him into the car and head north for two weeks of salt

# A Canvas Beach Chair in D.C., and the Dream of Wildwood

by Rob Kulisek



"There was nothing better than eating ice cream on the beach," he said. "So I did it in the backyard. I'd sit in that chair, close my eyes, and pretend."

air and boardwalk lights. His mother, a schoolteacher who earned her master's from NYCU after studies at the University of Hawaii and Catholic University, packed with near-military precision. His father, David Anderson Brown, joined them on weekends, bringing with him a calm dignity inherited from generations of educated black Washingtonians.

Traveling while black in mid-century America required unspoken calculations. Where to stop. Where to eat. Where to be invisible, and where, if lucky, you could simply be. "They gave me freedom," David said. "But they knew where it was safe to find it."

For his parents, Wildwood was more than a summer escape—it was one of the few places where they didn't have to second-guess a family day at the shore. Unlike so many beaches at the time, Wildwood's were not segregated. No hushed warnings. No side glances. Just sand, sea, and the simple act of belonging.

The photographs bear it out. David, mid-sandcastle. David, mid-lick. A third-grade teacher perched beside



David and his mother and friend Winnie in front of the cottage they rented



David and his friend Winnie

him. Cousins at the shoreline, joy thick in the frame. But the one he cherishes most is set in that backyard beach chair: David cross-legged in rolled denim, holding his grin while his uncle—the vice dean of Howard Medical School and the first black man to earn a PhD in Anatomy—tried to coax a laugh from him. (front toothless at the time.)

That photo is a hinge—between the stillness of childhood and the orbit of a wider, quietly radical life. At Windsor Mountain, a progressive boarding school in the Berkshires founded by German-Jewish intellectuals, David found his voice. "I was quiet but popular," he says. "I got elected to student government. I learned to speak up for those who couldn't."

He honed that voice at a summer camp in New Hampshire, where many of his closest friends were Jewish or first-generation kids, some sent from juvenile court, others having fled authoritarian regimes. "It gave me balance," he said. "Real lessons in love."

Later, drafted into the Army during Vietnam, he became a Prescribed Load List clerk—responsible for emergency



David and his father at the train station



David and Dorothy and Winnie
\*Dorothy was David's nursery school teacher
who was also a family friend

spare parts for helicopters and vehicles. The job was meticulous, usually assigned to four men and an officer. But David took it on solo. "I didn't want to be a prima-donna behind a typewriter," he said. "I wanted the challenge."

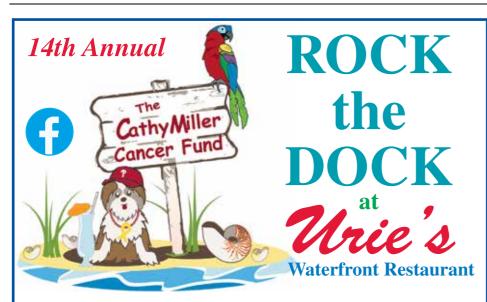
The past might've stayed tucked away—until, one day, it surfaced. \*Kelsey Osborne, a tenant in the building where David has worked as a doorman for over thirty years, called from New Jersey. "What are you, in Wildwood or something?" he joked. Silence. Then: "That's my hometown," she said.

David's breath caught. "You don't understand," he told her. "Wildwood was everything to me."

And suddenly, the thread came back stitched through time, memory, salt air, and canvas. The photographs were scanned. Names remembered. Stories reopened.

For a few golden summers, that beach chair held the whole Atlantic. And now, so many years later, it still does.

\*Thank you to Kelsey Osborne, a 2016 Wildwood Catholic High School graduate, for connecting The Sun with David! "The tide recedes but leaves behind seashells on the sand. For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains." ~Hawaiian proverb



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Annie Mecca & her "Camden Crew" celebrating Ricky!



Donn Jacobs, Holly Bay Condo resident is all smiles as he enjoys fun in the sun @ Rock the Dock!



Oh, Santa Baby! Naughty or Nice, Santa's making his list & checking it twice...

Changing lives one donation at a time! Thank you from the CMCF Team to Dan Powell & Big Fish Restaurant Group for their \$3000 contribution.

The Cathy Miller Cancer Fund was formed in 2006 with a mission to "Help Another Person" in their battle against cancer. To fulfill that mission, the Cathy Miller Cancer Fund selected the Astra-Zeneca HOPE Lodge as its charity of choice. Located in Cheltenham, Pa., the HOPE Lodge provides free lodging to cancer patients from all over the world, while they are being treated at any of the cancer hospitals in Philadelphia.

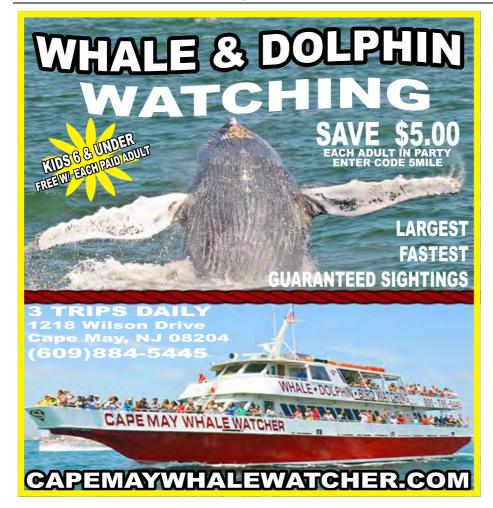
Not only does the HOPE Lodge relieve the financial burden of travel for its cancer patients, it provides access to the most advanced cancer treatments, administered by world renowned oncologists.

With free lodging, advanced treatments, world renowned oncologists, the HOPE Lodge perfectly matches the Cathy Miller Cancer Fund's profile for "Care, Comfort and Support" in our fundraising efforts.

For more information, contact the Cathy Miller Cancer Fund at cathymillercancerfund.org or on Facebook; email: <a href="mailto:cmcfcares@gmail.com">cmcfcares@gmail.com</a>

"You could start now, and spend another forty years learning about the sea without running out of new things to know."









"Ocean waves bring such joy! Watching them play their magic tricks brings just a drop of tranquillity to our hearts."

# Where Seagulls Laugh

By Alissa Florio

there is a place so joyful even the seagulls laugh in the morning the horizon is so clear and so clean that it sparkles the swell of the waves causes a swell in my heart a feeling a sound a scent a scene that will forever be etched

in the history of time

our time the one time the one place we shined as a family was under the summer sun

my dad would part the waves like Poseidon,

pull conch shells out from beneath his feet

my mom would read entire books

before the tide washed away the morning's footsteps

my brother and I rode waves for hours

until it was time to head up the wooden stairs

barefoot and burning splinters and hot asphalt for lunch we ate in our wet bathing suits a towel tied around our waist

stuffing potato chips inside our sandwiches

the kind with the salty ridges

back on the beach the air was heavy with salt and nostalgia unlike the tide we could never go back and even if we could there was nowhere we'd rather be

I turned cartwheels and my brother played ball

the hours dripped slowly as if they knew we'd spend the rest of our

lives trying to return to a place on a map

but a time that no longer exists

because time has a way of sneaking by

laughing like the seagulls

I used to chase but never caught

friends of yours?

my dad used to tease when he heard the seagulls laughing

all that is left is a dull ache

in the empty space on st. paul and atlantic

where our family used to be

where we walked together on the boards at night alive and bright

in every shade of neon

music funnel cake ferris wheels and ice cream cones

we lived like kings and queens

no shirts no shoes no problems for one week every summer

we laughed like seagulls

my family and me



Alissa's family on St. Paul beach, Wildwood Crest, 1989





"I am a miser of my memories of you, and will not spend them." ~Witter Bynner, "Coins"

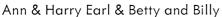


SEPT. 23, 2024 A GATHERING TOOK PLACE AT **VEGAS DINER** IN MEMORY OF DOTTIE ANN GROFF



Mr. & Mrs. Earl Groff in 2009







Sally, Kate, Darrus, MaryJane and Billy Wilson on left. He was Groff's first male waiter in '77, but started in '72. Darrus began in the '70s also, and Kate in 1980.



Eddie and Kathy's Groff's romance story began 57 years ago and counting...



week



Above: Ginny, Shirley, Theresa, Billy, Karen & Rhino

Right: Carol, Inge, Jeff and Bill who started at 14 doing various jobs, and Pam



Ginny & Tom met while baking peach glaze pies. Tom recalls he would make over 100 a









How many SUN By-The-Sea readers worked at the famous Groff's Restaurant on E. Magnolia Avenue near the Wildwood Boardwalk? And for those who didn't work there, how many enjoyed a Groff's breakfast, lunch, or dinner—or maybe just a slice of their homemade pie with coffee or an ice cream soda? I'm guessing quite a few of you have fond memories of Groff's, especially if you're over a certain age.

The Groff family operated their Wildwood restaurant from 1925 until 2014. By the 1950s, their location had become so popular that patrons lined up daily for meals. My personal connection to Groff's began in 1956, but it was my older brother Phil who worked there first. He was a busboy in 1954 and 1955 before moving on to a job at the A&P. In 1956, after gaining some restaurant experience at Morton's Restaurant the previous summer, I applied at Groff's. Dorothy Groff, wife of Paul Groff, managed the waitstaff and busboys and hired me for the breakfast and lunch shifts. Groff's dining area was spacious, with an enclosed porch and a bustling atmosphere. Each busboy had a specific section but would help elsewhere as needed. We carried trays of dirty dishes and glasses, always careful not to tilt the slick trays too far.

It was mostly busy, but there were ocasional slow periods that felt unbearable. To pass the time, I'd entertain myself with a trick I'd learned earlier in the season from another busboy.

The salt and pepper shakers at Groff's were made of thick, octagonal glass with steel screw-on tops. The trick was to balance a shaker at an angle on the table after clearing it. I got good at it and could balance one within seconds. Sometimes I'd balance just the salt, sometimes the pepper, and occasionally both. Then I'd return to my post and wait for the

A new party would be seated, and within minutes, someone would notice the shaker and try to figure it out. They'd pick it up, inspect the bottom, and attempt to recreate the balance—but they never could. It was a small diversion that made the slow hours tick by a little faster, especially near the end of my shift.

While Groff's was known for its classic fare, the staff knew the behindthe-scenes rhythm of running such a popular restaurant. The kitchen bustled with cooks and bakers preparing everything from their famous fried chicken to freshly baked pies. Al Groff ran the kitchen with precision, ensuring every dish met their high standards.

Working at Groff's taught me lessons in teamwork, hustle, and customer service. The job wasn't without its challenges, but the camaraderie among the staff and the joy of seeing satisfied customers made it worthwhile.

Groff's remains a cherished piece of Wildwood history, and I feel fortunate to have been part of it during its heyday. It's been nearly 70 years since I first stepped through its doors as a busboy, yet the memories remain as fresh as ever—just like one of Groff's homemade pies.

"I just want to live happily ever after, every now and then. " ~ Anon.

# Groff's (no longer) Secret Peach Glaze Pie Recipe

GROFF'S PEACH GLAZE PIE

(ALSO STRAWBERRY, BLUEBERRY & BANANA)

(MAKES APPROXIMATELY 2 TO 3 9-IN. PIES)

#### CUSTARD

QT. WARM WATER LB. SUGAR

LO. POWDERED MILK

TSP. SALT

1 OZ. SHORTENING

PLACE THE WARM WATER IN TOP OF A DOUBLE BOILER, THEN ADD THE REMAINING INGREDIENTS IN STEP #1 IN THE WARM WATER AND BEAT THE MIXTURE WELL. COOK IN TOP OF DOUBLE BOILER UNTIL 200 DEGREES.

#### STEP #2

MIX TOGETHER IN BOWL, IN ORDER:

CUP WARM WATER

BEAT UNTIL SMOOTH, THEN ADD & CUP ESG YOLK AND CONTINUE TO BEAT UNTIL MIXTURE IS SMOOTH.

WHEN STEP #1 HAS REACHED 200 DEGREES, TAKE SOME HOT LIQUID FROM STEP #1 AND PLACE INTO STEP #2 (STARCH MIXTURE). THE PUT #2 INTO TOP OF DOUBLE BOILER MIXTURE, STIR UNTIL MIXTURE THICKENS. (STARCH MIXTURE WILL ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THICKEN). REMOVE FROM HEAT AND ADD & TBL. VANILLA.

PLACE 2 TO 3 DIPPERS OF THE CUSTARD INTO A BAKED PIE SHELL. (USE 5 OZ. DIPPER) PUT FILLED PIE SHELL INTO REFRIGERATOR UNTIL CUSTARD HAS SET UP. THEN PUT FRUIT OF YOUR CHOICE ON TOP OF CUSTARD FILLED SHELL. IF PEACHES, SLICE THIN AND GLAZE TWICE WITH THE GLAZE. USE FRESH FRUIT ONLY!

#### GLAZE

#### STEP #1

CUP WATER (COLD)

1 OZ. PLAIN GELATIN (2 TBL .- HEAPING)

#### STEP #2

1 QT. WATER

(BRING TO A BOIL IN

14 LBS. SUGAR A LARGE 3 QT. POT) TBL. SALT

#### STEP #3

STEP #4

3 OZ. CLEAR JEL CORN STARCH 1 CUP WARM WATER

(MIX INTO PASTE)

14 LBS. SUGAR

(SET ASIDE IN BOWL)

SET UP STEP #1 AND STEP #2. WHILE STEP #2 IS COOKING, SET UP STEP #3 AND STEP #4 AND SET ASIDE. WHEN STEP #2 HAS COME TO A BOIL, ADD STEP #3, LOWER HEAT AND COOK UNTIL CLEAR AND LARGE BUBBLES FORM. REMOVE FROM HEAT. ADD STEP #4 AND STIR UNTIL DISSOLVED THOROUGHLY. THEN ADD STEP #1 UNTIL DISSOLVED.

#### ADD FOOD COLORING:

PEACH GLAZE - ADD YELLOW AND A TOUCH OF RED FOOD COLORING; ALSO ADD A SMALL AMOUNT OF ALMOND EXTRACT TO PEACH GL. ONLY BANANA GLAZE - ADD YELLOW FOOD COLORING STRAWBERRY OR BLUEBERRY: ADD RED FOOD COLORING

by Dorothy Kulisek

Aside from the entertainment and the ocean views that a trip to Wildwood promises, the best vacations, naturally, include the most delicious foods. As many will recall, Groff's Restaurant was a Wildwood staple, serving the most appetizing homestyle cuisine (alongside that ocean view), for close to 90 years. Following Dottie Groff's passing in 2024, many former Groff lovers are fondly remembering Dottie and those one-of-a-kind, mouthwatering pies, the sweetest comfort food.

Groff's homemade pies were a tasty tradition for many vacationers, including the Wurfel family. Since the 1990s, Elizabeth Wurfel celebrated her birthday every year with a Groff's pie up until their sad closing. Starting in 1958, Elizabeth grandparents, Marie and Ray Williams, rented a summer home on 17th avenue and always enjoyed a good meal at Groff's, making their summers even sweeter.

Dottie's sad passing inspired many Facebook posts in her honor. Nancy Fortunato commented, "During our 2-week vacation in Wildwood every year, the family ordered those delicious Peach Glaze Pies for take-out. The kids and I returned the pie tins and Groff's refunded 25 cents which we were allowed to keep to spend at the arcade! Fun times!"

Donna Palumbo Scarboro also commented, "Tell them we loved their food and pies. Went there every year on vacation! Maybe they would share their peace glaze pie recipe?"

Your wish is our command! Enjoy the not-so-secret recipe! Let us know if you make it and how it turned out!



Jeff Eyster of Magnolia Bikes worked summers at Groff's as a teen. Here he is happily folding pie boxes :-)



John & Marie loved their "Honey"

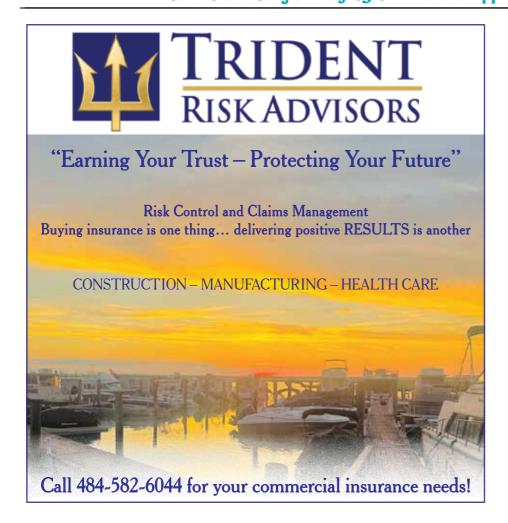


The Antonelli family Loved dining at Groff's . . . as we all did!



In memory of Eugenia Gorczyca's 100th heavenly birthday on June 10, 2013, her family dined at her very favorite restaurant whenever she vacationed in Wildwood.(Diane, Sharon, Ed, Dorothy & Carol)

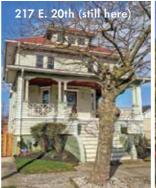
"Charisma is not just saying hello. It's dropping what you're doing to say hello." ~Robert Brault

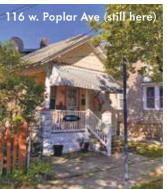


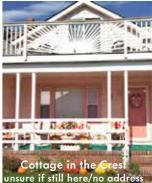


# Our Vanishing Americana: The Wildwoods-by-the-Sea

by Grace Zambardi, author of the Water Cage, available at Hooked-on Books and online







That humidity drenched Nostalgia is in our veins. Jalousie Windows. Honey Suckle and Jasmine laced white picket and chain linked fences. Lawns falling into the horizon. Apple Trees. Sweet Williams, Roses and Geraniums. Bombastic, Endless Summer Hydrangeas. Those Porches! Wonderful, whimsical, front porches. O' the stories they must hold. These and so much more were as unique as the homes they once surrounded.

The quintessential Wildwoods. Where Beach Bungalows, Fishing Cottages, A-frames, Four-squares, and rambling Ranchers abounded. Grand- estate homes with huge column lined verandas. Bunch Split levels. Doo-Wop Hotels and Motels, their starry lights and groovy signage shimmering down Ocean Avenue. We loved them all. Even with all their lumps and bumps and outdated yet precious sensibilities. Window air conditioners, small bathrooms, kids bedrooms crammed with bunk beds, and laughter, and of course that musty opening up the house for the summer smell'. All gems that stood the test of time.... until.

The tides of change are as constant as the moonrise. Bathing dresses, bikinis. Horse drawn carriages, automobiles. Five and Dimes, Big Box stores. Roof antennae, Wi-fi and Al. Bits and pieces of the islands Americana, especially the old homes, are disappearing like a delicate species of butterfly. "Oh no! Condos, and more Condos", cries the chorus

of discontent. McMansions with no character. Motels gone for high priced single families. Those older folks and family members who can't or don't want to keep the 'old places' are doing what they have every right to do in a free economy, and so do the new developers. Things have been changing up and down the Jersey shore for decades. Some thought it would never happen in the Wildwoods, but it's here. Change and modernity and progress and all they bring with it. But never fear, not all is lost. The higher the wave of transformation, the more the true fundamentals remain.

And the beat goes on. Our beautiful beaches. The one and only boardwalk. The spectacular seawall. The Hereford Lighthouse and gardens. Posh Sunset lake and the emerald Grassy Sound marshes. Holly Beach Park. Fishing marinas. New and old traditions. The Baby Parade. Festivals and events. The Marbles tournament. Kite and Country and Spanish Festivals. Free music concerts. Notre Dame De La Mer Parish with its two magnificent churches. The Beth Judah Temple since 1913. Holly Beach Park at Christmas time. Bike paths.

Yes the pain of all this change ,for some of us, is real. It hurts like a ripped Band-aid. But, to quote Spencer Tracy's character in Guess Who's coming to Dinner?, ..."I can tell you the memories are still there. Clear, intact, indestructible, and they will be there if I live to be one hundred and ten."

"You've got to have a dream; if you don't have a dream, how are you going to have a dream come true?" ~Anon.



# **BOARDWALK W** PHOTOBOOTHS

# The Original Selfie

Dig out your old photobooth photos and send to thesunbythesea@gmail.com





NOW & THEN in the 1980s Ginny Forbes and her 2 cousins They are a bit bigger now, so fitting in to the photobooth together is a bit tricky :-)



Chazo & Loretta Simpson in 2008, their first time at the shore together



Larry Papale & his Dad 1970



Ruth Dorothy Waters Majka Read her wonderful story in this issue

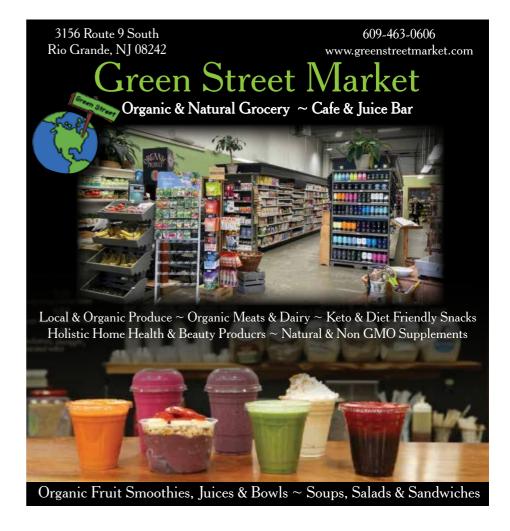


Angela Regusa Fornaro says, "She could never resist one of these! I don't even think we cared about the pictures. It was more about the fun of trying to squish everyone into that little booth. This photo was taken a long time ago on the Wildwood Boardwalk."



Ed Brooke with his beloved wife Karen





FIVE MILE BEACH

#### "A proper amount of Sunshine is necessary to good health... We need the sunshine from outside...



# Sea Gull Motel Memories by Dorothy Kulisek



In the Summer of 2024, the Sea Gull Motel proudly celebrated their 60th anniversary of providing Wildwood lovers with a sweet, salt-scented home away from home.

Ginny Nichols and her daughter Juliet are the 2nd & 3rd generations running the family business. Their Wildwood story begins courtesy of Ginny's parents, pictured above, Bill & Betty Lou, who met at the University of Miami. Following graduation, they both taught briefly at Wildwood Catholic High School before purchasing the Sea Gull Motel in 1964 from Harry Marin who built the Sea Gull Lodge in 1952.

"The original office had a gull-wing roof-that was our living quarters for about eight years. It was two rooms - my brother and I had a room with — my brother and I had a room with bunk beds, and my parents had a sofa that folded out. What was strange about the original living quarters was that they had heating coils on the floor, so when it was cold, we used to lie on the floor and watch TV," says Ginny Nichols, their daughter, Being located one block from the beach on To Cresse Ave., Ginny still remembers those cold winters, with the ocean wind blowing through the jalousie windows and doors.

As was the life of many mom-andpop motel owners, they worked very hard welcoming their summer guests, helping families have the best experience during their Wildwood vacation. Happily, many would return year after year, reserving the same week or two.

One such loyal, longtime guest (and motel's former teenage babysitter) is Patti Davis who has fond memories of the Sea Gull Motel dating back to the 1970s. Patti spent her summers in her grandparents' beach house, which was located across the street from the Sea Gull. Her grandparents, Pat & Dorothy Hinkle, bought their summer house in 1943 and sold it in 1969. As a young girl, Patti vividly remembers her industrious grandmother renting all five rooms in the house for income while the family slept in the backyard garage lined with roll-away cots and used the outdoor shower (another wonderful memory in her treasure trove). Such sweet, simple times, and a true family affair, where everyone chipped in to help keep their summer guests happy while playing their part in the history of hardworking Wildwood by-the-Sea.

Fast forward to the Summer of '24, when Patti brought her son Ryan, her 12 yr. old granddaughter Ayslin, along with her treasured photographs, bringing the 6th generation for their first visit to the Sea Gull Motel, happily sharing a part of her Wildwood story.

Ginny, meanwhile, works tirelessly, keeping her parents' legacy in business and looks forward to many more years of seaside memories to come...



STEN ATLAN			ull motel	L 3	2
1	* HEATED POD	DON.			
FAMILY RATE SCHEDULE		* MOTEL UNITS Daily (2 to 4 Fersand)	Delty IZ to 4 Personal	HAREWAY (Week)	
Pre-Sesson to Last Week-and in June		58 to \$16	\$12 to \$10	1:270 to \$100	
Last Workered in June to July	15th	\$18 to \$24	\$20 to \$26	F \$125 to \$155	
July 15th to August 20th		\$20 to \$26	820 to \$29	\$140 to \$170	
August 20th to Later Day		\$18 to \$24	\$20 to \$26	\$125 to \$155	
CENTRAL LOCATION	DICEA	NVIEW P	INSTANCE BEACH	WEEREST END OF BO	ROWALK



Ginny & her daughter Juliet posing with the famous Sea Gulls



Pictured are 4 generations of the Sea Gull Motel Nichols family... with Betty Lou on the left



Easter in the 1960s with young Ginny, her brother Bill and mother Betty at the Sea Gull

Patti pictured below with her son Ryan standing by the Sea Gull Motel, while behind them across the street is where her grandparents beach cottage once stood.

Today a good portion of that block has been restored, renovated or developed into the Alo Moana Suites owned by Michael Polizze.



Patti & her son 2024







Pat & Dorothy Hinkle, 1943

... and the sunshine of love in our hearts and homes to make us happy." ~Ye Old Farmer's Almanac





Dylan, Lila, Charlie, Olivia & Ellen Christmas in July 2024 Save the Date this year! 7/26/25



Deb & John Harry love Hereford



Debbie Yancer Berkman with her grandkids at the Pirate parade



Christmas in July 2024: Brynn, Braydon, Bria and Bryce Roman raising money at their lemonade stand for their brother Bryce with the Eagles







"Take time to stop and smell the ocean. . . It's the ultimate Ebb & Flow. . . when peace flows in, Joy flows out."



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or email: thesunbythesea@gmail.com





Sharon & Tom would rather be watching Friday Night Fireworks on the Wildwood Boardwalk! :-)



At the annual Irish Fall Festival are Vince Shetzline with his grandsons, (L-R) Finn & John McKinstry



I've been vacationing in Wildwood since 1965, and love the nostalgic look and theme of your magazine. Thank you for all the interesting articles and pictures you've given us about Wildwood's past.

~Michael P.

The Sun has some of the Greatest Stories every told by the greatest people who ever came, lived or vacationed in Wildwood, to one of the greatest keeper of the flames of Wildwood history, Dorothy. ~Phil S.

It was rainy when I picked up my copy; turned the first page over and The Sun-shine poured out of the pages. So much to read and enjoy! ~Gina P.

Thank you for such a wonderful collection of Wildwood fun facts and so beautifully put together, love it.

~Eileen H.

Can't wait for your latest issue! The history, the memories & photography always written with eloquence! ~Susan H.

I truly think that you have outdone yourself with this latest issue of The Sun. It's such an incredible memento that is almost impossible to explain! Every page brings such joy, thank you! God bless! ~Jeannie





Ed & Carol Gorczyca took The Sun on a 4375 nautical mile transatlantic cruise on the Royal Caribbean to Spain in the fall. Here they are on WEB SUMMIT in Lisbon, Portugal.



January 1, 2025~ Ed's Funcade travelled around the world with The Sun to sunny Puerto Vallarta Mexico



MELE KALIKIMAKA! Rollicking all the way, here comes THE SUN with the Rollick family from West Wildwood to Kailua Beach, Hawaii Danny, Matthew, Michelle, Carly, Lori, Krissy, Danielle



Ed & Susan Croushore took the Sun with them to BORNEO in search of mountains and orangutans. Here they are pictured in front of the iconic floating mosque.





The Sun has reached new extremes! Repping the Wildwoods pictured below, Michelle Tomsho took her copy of The Sun by the Sea on an incredible journey, traveling to Mt. Fuji on October 13, 2023, and then to the icy wonderland of Antarctica at Stonington Island on February 19, 2024. From majestic peaks to glaciers and icebergs, The Sun shined bright in two places it had never ventured before!

Michelle shares, "Thanks again for all you do with your Sun magazine to support Wildwood and keep our little community up to date on all the happenings past and present!"

Keep sharing your adventures with The Sun—we love seeing where it travels next!











You've had the rest, now try the best!

# Barry's Buns

6107 New Jersey Avenue Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260 609-770-7997

Looking good. Barry!





- sticky buns cinnamon rolls
- crumb cake
- trendy treats
- breakfast sandwiches

@barrysbuns Follow Us!

We are "The Wildwoods" Trendy Bake Shop!











"The song you heard singing in the breeze as a child, is singing still." ~Mary Oliver

# Dorothy's WILDWOOD CHILDHOOD & MEMORIES



Dorothy and her siblings in the boardwalk photoboot



in the boardwalk photobooth Joey, Mikey & Jimmy Sharon & Natalie

Inspired by my childhood summers in Wildwood, I set out to capture the magic of those golden days that seemed to stretch on forever. For my siblings and me, the sunny days and neon-lit nights of the '60s and '70s were filled with pure joy. Happiness was woven into every moment—three months of unfiltered fun that shaped us in countless ways. There's a saying: "What we remember from childhood, we remember forever." May my memories spark your own. Feel free to share yours via email. thesunbythesea@gmail



THE LURAE MOTEL Since 1968, my family's summer house on 7th Street has been a constant, just a few doors down from the Lurae Motel. Before it was demolished in 2006, the Lurae was a neighborhood landmark, holding countless memories for us and vacationers alike.

One of my earliest recollections is from our first summer. Our youngest brother was a toddler, and the rest of us older kids discovered something incredible—a swimming pool. Little did we know we weren't supposed to be in it! The motel's owner, Lou, often caught us hopping in, and one day, after chasing us out, he threatened to tell our mom. Terrified, we ran home and hid under the bed, listening as he yelled outside.

Despite the rocky start, Lou tolerated us as we rode bikes around the block or played in the motel's game room. Back then, our backyards had no fences so it was one big field to play in, with a little playground behind the Lurae that we also loved.

Over the years, the Lurae became a part of our lives. We enjoyed many family breakfasts in the motel café and evening walks for ice cream that remain treasured memories.

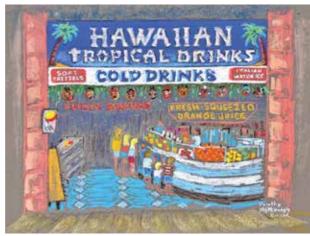
Even now, we sit on our porch, reminiscing about the Lurae Motel and our Wildwood summers.



**SPORTLAND POOL** In the '60s and '70s, my siblings, cousins, and I spent endless sunny days at Sportland Pool. With season passes, we'd split our time between the pool, the beach, and boating, creating memories that feel like yesterday.

I'll never forget the invisible hand stamps that magically reappeared under a black light, letting us back inside after boardwalk hot dogs. After lunch, we'd follow the rules and sit on the bleachers for 15 minutes before diving back in—those same bleachers also serving as a time-out spot for overzealous fun. The jukebox on the back stage holds a special place in my heart. Every time I hear "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" by The Rolling Stones, I'm transported to standing beside my dad as he fed dimes into it.

Those summers were filled with joy, and this painting captures the bright, unfiltered happiness of those days—a thousand memories distilled into a single image.



#### **HAWAIIAN TROPICAL DRINKS**

This painting brings back memories of riding our rusty seashore Schwinn bikes along the boardwalk in the morning. The scent of salt air mingled with the sweetness of fresh-squeezed orange juice from the Hawaiian Tropical Drink stand. Do you remember the coconut heads hanging everywhere, swaying gently in the breeze? Painting this memory was such a joy—I could almost taste the orange juice again.



**AQUA CIRCUS** in the late 60s and 70s, Sportland Pool transformed into another world at night- it was a real circus. It offered boardwalk-goers entertainment in the form of "Aqua Circus." It was a wonderful water show complete with an assortment of high divers, some who'd be lit on fire, "Aqua Maniacs" (clown divers) and "Aqua Maids" who wowed us with their synchronized swimming performances. Then there was the water jousting on floating tubes, where clowns would choose people from the audience to participate. Were you one of them? I can remember quite a few times my brothers and cousins getting picked and falling in and having to run back home afterwards to change out of their soaking wet jeans and shirts, before hurrying back up the boards for some more fun.



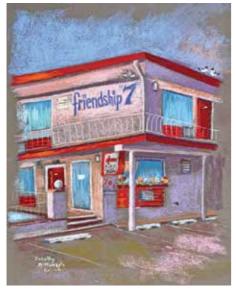
#### THE SHELL SHOP

As a child, I loved riding my bike to the Shell Shop with my siblings. I'd lose myself in baskets of tiny, colored seashells and the treasures crafted from the sea. The shop created in me a love for beachcombing at an early age. I still can spend hours creating driftwood signs and handmade gifts with shells I bring home from my beach walks.

For all of you who remember it, the Shell Shop was more than a store—it was part of the island's charm. Its demolition was a sad loss for us all, but its memory lives on in those of us who treasured it.

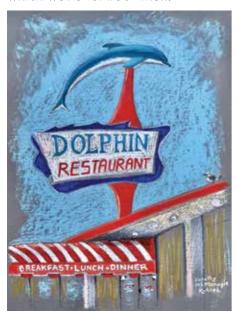
"We all need empty hours in our lives or we will have no time to create or dream." - Robert Coles

# Dorothy's WILDWOOD CHILDHOOD PAINTINGS & MEMORIES



#### FRIENDSHIP 7 MOTEL

When I was 12, my sisters and I would stop by local motel offices and put our names in for babysitting service. On 7th St. alone, there were 7 motels, so we never had to go far to work. It was a different time in the early 1970s, when it felt safe to babysit for families vacationing in the Wildwoods-complete strangers we had just met. We earned \$1. an hour, and the next day, we'd ride our bikes to Marine Bank at 14th and New Jersey Avenue to deposit our earnings. I can still picture the bank teller carefully writing the amount in our little passbooks and stamping the date on it. By the end of summer, we'd sometimes save up to \$300. which was a lot back then.





VETERAN ICE CREAM VENDORS ...the original "Fudgy Wudgy" ice cream box that Veteran vendors lugged up and down our beautiful beaches on hot summer days, delighting every child's heart. This humble old metal box stirs all of our senses: the taste of our favorite ice cream, the cheerful jingle of the ice cream man singing as he made his way down the beach, the soft, powdery white sand against the vivid colors of umbrellas under a bright blue sky, all mixed with the nostalgic aroma of Coppertone suntan lotion.

It captures the pure nostalgia of simpler times, when an ice cream bar cost just .50 cents instead of \$5.50 today.

DOLPHIN RESTAURANT Growing up just a few blocks away, my family would dress up and walk there for dinner often. For 37 years, the Dolphin was a beloved dining spot, where locals and visitors alike gathered over heaping plates of seafood, sharing stories of wonderful beach days. The Dolphin's story is deeply woven into the fabric of our island's past. It first opened in 1964, founded by the Halkias family, who had moved to Wildwood from Greece. They built their restaurant at 10th and Ocean, designing it in the popular Howard Johnson style of the time.

By 2002, the family sold the Dolphin which was later demolished to make way for condos. In 2003, they built and opened the STAR Diner.

Like so many places that defined our childhoods, the Dolphin exists now only in memory. But if you close your eyes, you can still picture the glow of its sign on a warm summer night with the spinning dolphin, and almost taste the fresh seafood, and feel the friendly service, and the atmosphere that carried the unmistakable charm of Wildwood's golden era that once made it a Wildwood treasure.



MOORE'S INLET From its little beach and Pop's truck in the '60s and '70s to its No-Shower Happy Hours in the '80s, Moore's Inlet holds a special place in all our hearts.

Back in the day, the beach at 7th St. stretched on forever, so my mom would pile us kids into the car and drive over to Moore's little beach. There was no seawall, just a wooden bulkhead we'd hop over before lining up at Pop's truck for water ice and pretzels. I can still see him using a paintbrush to spread mustard on pretzels before sprinkling the salt.

When we got older, we'd join our own friends at Moore's Patio Bar, soaking up the same carefree vibe. Many people have shared their own Moore's stories with me for the paper — proposals, family dinners, and legendary performances. It's a place with a million memories, and to this day, most of us feel Moore's Inlet should've never been demolished.



THE HELL HOLE I remember being too scared to set foot inside after one of my sisters claimed she nearly got her foot caught! The ride spun at dizzying speeds, pinning riders against the wall as the floor suddenly dropped away. For some, it was thrilling, like my sister Sharon who would stash away extra money on Sportland Pool days just to ride the Hell Hole. But for me, the sight of that enormous devil face, with the wicked grin was like a billboard-sized nightmare, was more than enough to send shivers down my spine.



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE was an iconic restaurant in Wildwood Crest that opened in the summer of '63, built and designed by Lou Morey to resemble a ship. It encompassed the whole beach block, between Toledo & Hollywood on Atlantic Aves. offering oceanfront dining at its best. Sadly, the restaurant was sold in 2002 and demolished in 2005. On a personal note, it was where I learned the true meaning of hard work, yet it was one of the funnest summer jobs I ever had. In the latter half of 1970s, my Uncle Pat McMonagle was the head chef, so naturally, my brothers, some of our cousins, and I had summer jobs there. I have the best memories of those summers in the kitchen when my girlfriend and I were "dishwasherettes". I once asked my uncle, while reminiscing about the Captain's Table, how many dinners we served in a night. He said sometimes as many as 1,000. It was a crazy busy place, but we had the most fun-loving kitchen crew. If anyone ever complained, they were met with: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!"

Sometimes, we'd ride our bikes all the way down to Hollywood Ave.from 7th St. and then have to ride all the way home. Other times, we took the local Five Mile Beach bus. The first thing I'd do when I got back was hop in the shower—it was the stinkiest job after handling all those dishes! I still love running into my old boss, Jana DeFrancesco Belansen. She always smiles when she thinks of her family's restaurant and never fails to ask how my Uncle Pat is doing.

Gyclee Art Prints of these paintings and more, are available at SUNSTORE.BIGCARTEL.COM and will be available at the N. Wildwood Flea Market August 10th,2025



#### HAVE A BLAST ON THE BOARDS...

"America's Best Boardwalk!" ~FamilyVacationCritic.com



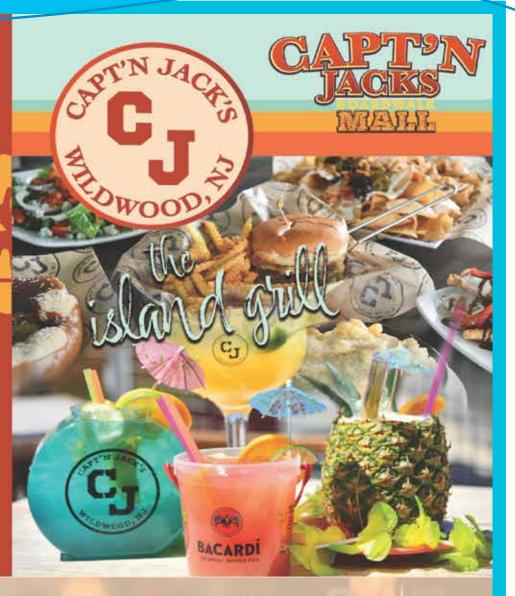
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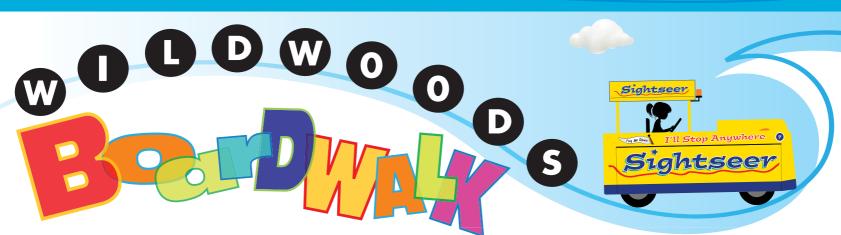
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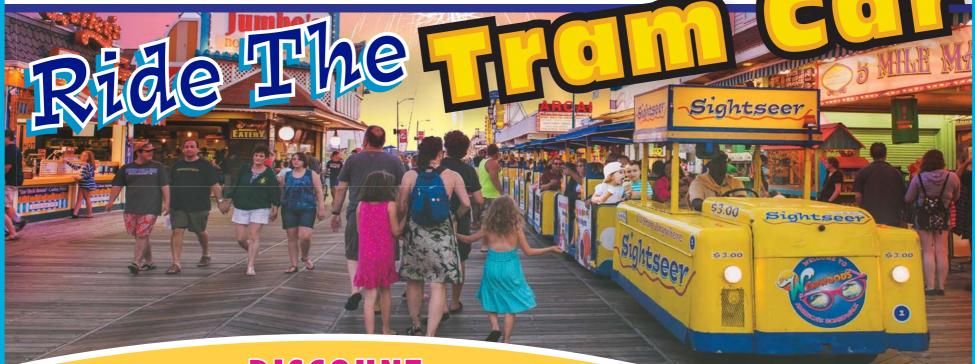
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### A bit of breezy chat about the island's happenings from Labor Day 2024 through Memorial Day 2025

Back in 2003, long before social media delivered up-to-the-minute news all winter long, this column became Sun reader's favorite compilation of news ... it's been months in the making by editor Dorothy Kulisek with the help of assistant Meg Corcoran.

After reading this section, the column continues on the other Downtown side with the New & Old Business column put together for The Sun by Al Alven of WW365. Happy reading!

Academic and podcaster Brené Brown once said, "If you own this story, you get to write the ending." While writing our Wildwood stories, we at The Sun have joyfully concluded there is no real ending in our coastal storytelling world-only one season flowing into the next, each bringing its own tales to tell, thanks to you, our amazing readers. And what stories you've told! We've revisited long-lost establishments, mourned their demise (we're looking at you, Moore's!), and welcomed new, sure-to-be favorites—honoring what's gone, but never forgotten. Thankfully, there's been no end to learning about our beloved town or doing our part to preserve its history.

With the close of Summer 2024, we eased into a scenic autumn, where amber skies and falling leaves competed with ocean sunrises and bayside sunsets. We reconnected with friends, old and new, at the Irish Festival, made wishes at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies, and rang in a brand-new year by the sea—just in time for Old Man Winter's arrival. His big snowfall only added to our already picture-postcard landscape.

As Oscar Wilde said, "Wisdom comes with winters," and so our dedicated Wildwood crews wisely got to work—rebuilding roads,

readying beaches and the Boardwalk, and welcoming new business owners chasing their Wildwood dreams alongside longtime favorites who continue to shape our town's charm.

Now, thanks in part to our awesome advertisers, we invite you, our fellow Wildwood lovers, to settle into your coziest corner—by porch or by sea—and catch up on all the fit-to-print events (and more than a few fun facts) that unfolded...While You Were Away.

#### **Doo-ing Winter in Wildwood**

At the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce's annual Mayors' Luncheon in April, mayors from North Wildwood, Wildwood, and Wildwood Crest shared key updates shaping the island's future.

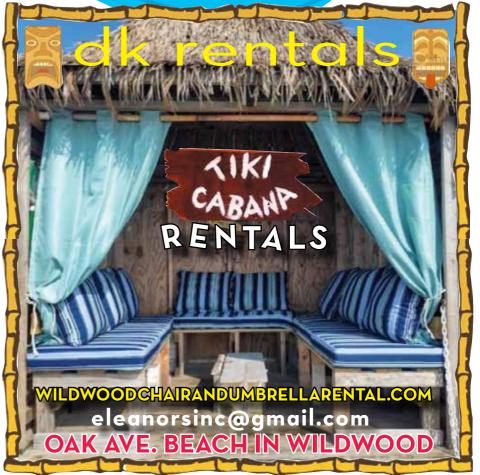
#### North Wildwood Highlights

In his final address before stepping down, Mayor Patrick Rosenello celebrated several accomplishments:

 Gateway Project & Memorials: Veterans Park marks progress in the Gateway Project. North Wildwood is now home to one of only two Gold Star Memorials in New Jersey. Across the street, a Mid-Atlantic Police & Fire Memorial will be built on the former Triangle Restaurant site.

Read on!







### HAVE A BLAST ON THE BOARDS...







### WHILE YOU WERE AWAY!

... CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Traffic & Pedestrian Safety: The roadway has been narrowed, sidewalks widened, and the speed limit reduced to 25 mph entering the island via the Beach Creek Bridge. Slow Down! Take your time!
- Roadway Improvements: As of January 3, New Jersey Avenue reopened to two-way traffic after months of construction.
- Boardwalk Construction: A new ADA-accessible beachside ramp now connects the bike path at 21st Ave. to the Boardwalk. Phased renovations begin this fall, with Phase 1 covering 23rd to 26th Avenues. Phase 2, from 16th to 18th. follows.
- Recreational Space: Sportland Pier was acquired by the city and will be transformed into open recreational space over time.
- North Wildwood City Hall: The century-old City Hall has undergone interior and exterior renovations.
- Beach Conditions: Rosenello proudly reported that the beach is in the best condition it's been in over a decade.

#### City of Wildwood Updates

Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr. shared several developments:

- Boardwalk Expansion: Renovations between Youngs Avenue and the Convention Center include a 14-foot expansion and lovely new shady seating pavilions.
- Back Bay Development: Significant roadwork is planned to support new residences and a proposed 120-unit development.
- Environmental Renewal: The former landfill has been reborn as

- a bird sanctuary and nature walk, with native wildlife and a restored coastline.
- Cedar Avenue: Further enhancements are underway to attract visitors to this key Boardwalk entry.
- Event Growth: The Barefoot Country Music Fest has signed a five-year extension, with organizers exploring a second concertpossibly rock-themed—the week before.

#### **Public Safety & Events**

Police Chief Murphy announced all parades will now take place on the Boardwalk between Juniper and Burk Avenues, citing Homeland Security guidance and limited street resources.

#### **Boardwalk Safety Enhancements**

In line with Wildwood's "Every Night is a Family Night" motto, a 10 PM curfew for minors will be implemented for summer 2025. Additional security upgrades include protective posts, expanded surveillance, and increased police presence.

#### Wildwood Crest Highlights

Mayor Don Cabrera emphasized continued efforts toward "Healthy Coastal Living."

For the fifth year, Wildwood Crest earned "Healthy Town" status from the NJ Health Care Quality Institute for its work in wellness and mental health education.

 Crest Station Business District: Revitalization of New Jersey Avenue, between Heather and Columbine Roads, pays tribute to the former railroad stop.

Read on!

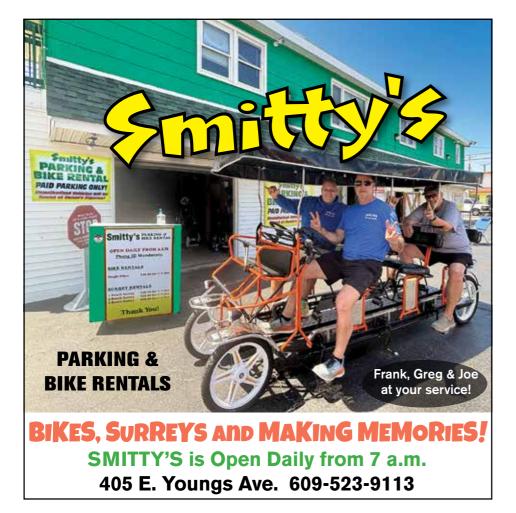


### **MORNING, NOON & NIGHT!**

"In life, as in bicycling, pedal when you have to, coast when you can." -James Lough















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### While you were Away!

... CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Beach Patrol Headquarters: Recently renovated and ready for summer.
- Flood Prevention: Bulkhead replacements on Park Boulevard are underway; a new pump station is in the planning phase.
- Crest Arts Pavilion: The transformation of the former library into a community arts hub is complete and hosting events this summer.
- City Hall: Renovations are also planned for City Hall and the police headquarters.

Island-Wide Dune Project

A showdown involving shared sand made some waves in the Wildwoods this winter.

On December 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NJ DEP, and island officials met to discuss the Hereford Inlet to Cape May Inlet Coastal Storm Risk Management Project.

While all towns expressed support, concerns arose about postconstruction beach width and sand volume.

The multi-million dollar federal Dune project to replenish beaches in the Wildwoods was in danger of being completely cancelled due to local mayors not being able to agree.

Wildwood Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr. and Wildwood Crest Mayor Don Cabrera voiced concerns over plans to borrow sand from their beaches for a 16-foot dune spanning Five Mile Island. Cabrera said Crest's current dune system is sufficient, while Troiano questioned the impact on beach events, citing potential reductions in beach width by up to 900 feet.

In March, a joint letter to **Senator Jeff Van Drew** was sent by all 3 mayors requesting support to move the project forward.

North Wildwood Beach Project Earns National Recognition Last year's North Wildwood Emergency Beach Nourishment Project by GLDD restored the beachfront just in time for summer, boosting tourism, protecting property values, and preventing economic losses. A model of coastal resilience and collaboration, the project earned a Best Restored Beach Award. Honorees will be recognized at the ASBPA National Coastal Conference in Long Beach, CA, Oct. 7-10, 2025.

North Wildwood Lawsuits & Lou Booth Amphitheater On December 4, 2024, the State of New Jersey and the City of North Wildwood reached a global settlement under an Administrative Consent Order, resolving all ongoing legal disputes between the city and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding unapproved coastal protection work.

As part of the settlement, the longtime landmark Lou Booth Amphitheater—built in the 1970s—is slated for removal. The amphitheater was funded by donations from the estate of Louisa Booth and named in her honor. Over the decades, it became a beloved venue for Concerts Under the Stars and countless community events.

Additionally, the city will reconfigure a bulkhead that was built without state approval between 3rd and 7th Aves. The DEP claims its current shape worsened erosion. Plans include shifting it inland with a smoother curve, adding rocks, and replenishing sand. The walking seawall will also be extended to 7th Avenue.

~FamilyVacationCritic.com

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# HAVE A BLAST ON THE BOARDS... MORNING, NOON & NIGHT!





### While you were Away!

... CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Though the amphitheater's loss is deeply felt, the settlement ends a costly legal battle and may clear the path for future coastal projects. A new venue may emerge in time, but its location and the demolition timeline remain uncertain.

The Lou Booth Amphitheater Surf Cam will be relocated to the top of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse.

#### Weather in the Wildwoods Report

Author Alice Hoffman once noted, "When all is said and done, the weather and love are the two elements about which we can never be sure." Yet we love our ever-changing Wildwood weather, where each season has its own life.

In Summer 2024, June brought the kind of mild, pleasant weather rarely seen—we also had no summer heat waves, thanks to the cool, bracing Atlantic ocean keeping temperatures in the 80s.

Over September weekend of the 20th to 22nd, despite forecasts hinting at a Nor'easter similar to 2023's wet Irish Weekend, the storm bypassed us. Classic cars filled the boardwalk while revelers enjoyed one final summer hurrah.

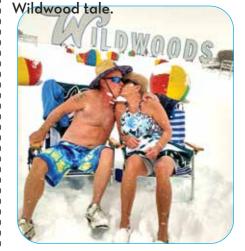
Fall continued this trend: the Italian Festival, Oktoberfest, the Race of the Gentlemen, and the Fabulous 5Os, 6Os & 7Os Weekend were celebrated under warm, sunny skies. A dry October gave way to mid-November rains, signaling the end of our seemingly endless summer.

December saw a plunge in temperatures, setting a frosty tone for the holidays, while January's high winds and freezing cold brought the season's first significant snowfall on the 6th –8 to 10 inches that, although picturesque, had many counting the days until spring. An arctic blast from

January 19th to 21st followed, with February beginning mildly until a dusting of snow fell on the Full Snow Moon (February 11th). March arrived like a lamb—sunny and warm—hinting at the coming of spring, with proverbial May flowers arriving after April showers.

Memorial Day was breezy but warm, winter now a distant memory with stirring overtures to the sunny symphony of summer upon us.

Conclusion As we journey from beach to beyond, we recall Kellie Elmore's words, "It's summer and time for wandering." Yet here at The Sun we know the best adventures are found right on our sandy seascape. From the island-wide Christmas in July events to Lifeguard Races on the Boardwalk. Downtown Farmers Market finds. Sand Sculpting and Sidewalk Chalk Competitions, and Friday Night Fireworks, Wildwood continually fuels our creative spirit. With every memory captured and anecdote shared, you—our fellow storytellers—help ensure that the Summer of 2025 will be the best on record in our never-ending



This is how we 'winter' in Wildwood!

1/07/25 Snowstorm w/Jack & Denise Ballon

WINTER HOLIDAY ISSUE due out 11/21/25

#### **EDITOR NOTE:**

WHILE YOU WERE AWAY
continues on the other side
IN THE DOWNTOWN SECTION



### Another great story...

Feel the air Sizzling with energy, machines giving up jackpots, big smiles, and the cheers of families racking up tickets for prizes, that kids, (and kids at heart) can't get enough of. Meet Ed, he is no ordinary arcade owner-he's a hands-on maestro with a knack for sparking joy. With two locations on the Wildwood Boardwalk, it's a one-two punch of fun, all wrapped in the excitement of the boardwalk sounds, breezes, and the distant roar of the ocean.

His staff, like no other, - a team so lively & entertaining, with personalities as big as the jackpots, they crank up the energy, greeting every guest like family, turning firsttimers into regulars in a heartbeat. Constant entertainment, whether it's drawings every 30 minutes, the tournaments, or GRABing the cash in the CA\$H machine. Ed's right there with them, a Wildwood legend whose passion shines in every flashing light and perfectly tuned fun-filled game. He's been at it for 49 years, building a place where memories are made.



Ed and his team can't wait to welcome you to the party, and with year 50 on the horizon, it's shaping up to be the wildest season yet. Don't miss out on the Funcade, its what has everyone buzzing!



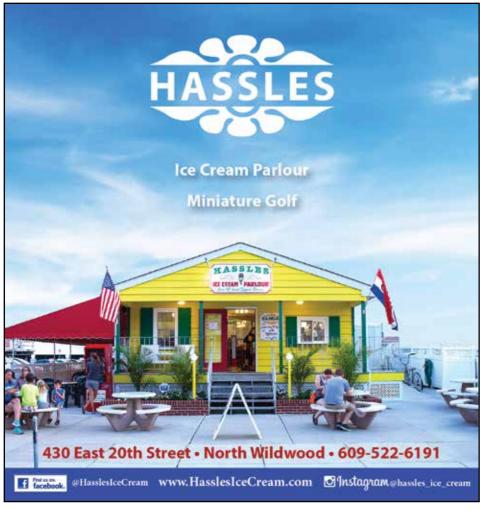




### HAVE A BLAST ON THE BOARDS...

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# Christmas in the Wildwoods



Wildwood's annual Christmas in July GOLF CART PARADE are (L-R) with Wildwood City officials Steve Mikulski, Mayor Ernie Troiano, Krista Fitzsimmons with Santa & Mrs Clause











### **MORNING, NOON & NIGHT!**



#### SAVe the DATE!

#### July 26, 2025, 10am The city of Wildwood

ANNUAL GOLF CART PARADE along the BOARDWALK See ad on front cover for registration info and more details.



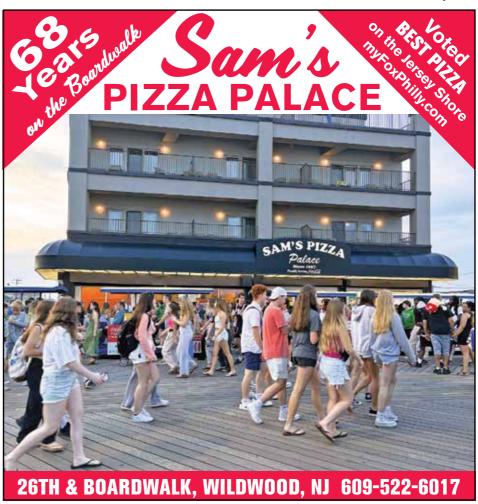
















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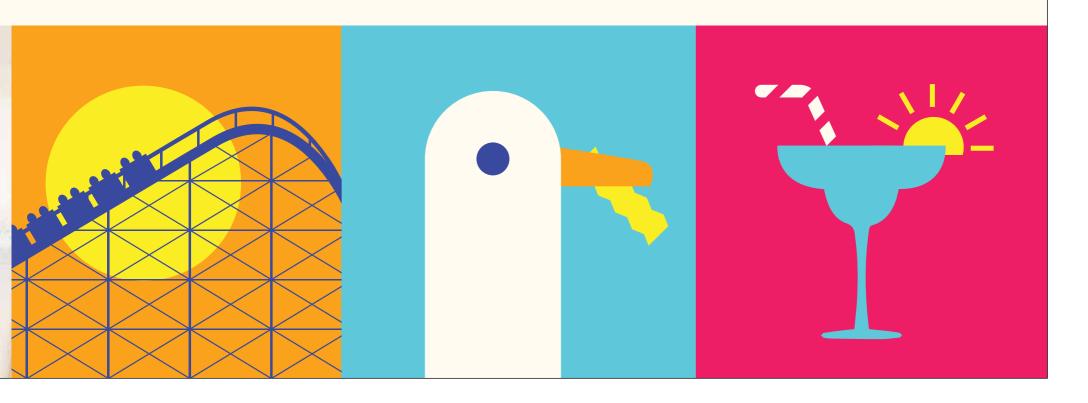
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M.S. Brown Jewelers, one of New Jersey's most historic jewelry stores, proudly marks its 75th anniversary this year. Founded in 1950 by Milton and Sylvia Brown, this family-owned business began as a small jewelry and appliance store in a strip mall and has grown into a trusted name synonymous with quality, integrity, and exceptional customer service.

#### A Legacy Built on Vision and Dedication

Seventy-five years ago, Milton and Sylvia Brown embarked on a journey to bring fine jewelry to their community. After Milton's service in World War II, the couple set out with a vision—one rooted in quality craftsmanship and personalized service. Their dedication quickly earned them a loyal customer base, and as the business flourished, M.S. Brown Jewelers relocated to its current home at 3304 Pacific Avenue in Wildwood, New Jersey. Today, it stands as a cherished cornerstone of the community, continuing the legacy of excellence and trust that Milton and Sylvia established decades ago.

#### A Second Generation of Passion and Expansion

In 1984, the torch was passed to the second generation when Michael and Gail Brown took the helm at

M.S. Brown Jewelers. With a passion for excellence and a deep commitment to customer satisfaction, they built upon the strong foundation laid by **Milton and Sylvia**, leading the company into an era of growth and prosperity.

Michael, a Master Watchmaker and Jeweler, brought his exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail to the business, elevating the store's reputation for quality and precision. His expertise in watchmaking and jewelry design became a hallmark of M.S. Brown Jewelers, attracting customers seeking both timeless elegance and modern style.

Under their visionary leadership, the business flourished, expanding its services to Cape May Court House, New Jersey, in 1995. Their location at 5 South Main Street has been a cherished fixture in Cape May Court House for 30 incredible years, serving as a trusted destination for exquisite jewelry and exceptional service. Michael's mastery of his craft, combined with Gail's dedication to personalized customer care, solidified M.S. Brown Jewelers' reputation as a premier jewelry store in New Jersey. Their commitment to excellence and community involvement ensured that the business continued to thrive, laying groundwork for future generations.

Their passion and leadership not only

grew the family business but also preserved the values and traditions that have defined M.S. Brown Jewelers for 75 years. As they continue to serve the community, Michael and Gail's legacy remains an integral part of the company's enduring success.

#### The Third Generation: Innovating for the Future

Continuing the family legacy, Jessica Brown Schwakoff joined the business in 2014, bringing with her prestigious degrees in Gemology and Master Jeweler from the Gemological Institute of America. Her deep knowledge and passion for the craft have propelled M.S. Brown Jewelers into a new era of innovation and creativity.

Together with her husband, John, who is also a talented jeweler, Jessica has infused the company with fresh ideas and modern designs. John honed his exceptional skills at the New Age Approach School in Tennessee, where he specialized in stone setting. His expertise in precision setting techniques perfectly complements Jessica's vision and design prowess, creating a dynamic partnership that pushes the boundaries of the jewelry industry.

This powerhouse duo seamlessly blends state-of-the-art technology with traditional craftsmanship, ensuring precision, quality, and exceptional artistry in every piece. Despite these modern advancements, they remain committed to the core values upon which M.S. Brown Jewelers built integrity, trust, and personalized customer service.

Together, Jessica and John are carrying the M.S. Brown Jewelers' legacy into the future, honoring the traditions of the past while appealing to a new generation of customers. Their commitment to excellence ensures that M.S. Brown Jewelers continues to be a trusted name in the community, serving customers with the same dedication and passion that began 75 years ago.

#### Craftsmanship and Service Like No Other

M.S. Brown Jewelers prides itself on offering unmatched craftsmanship and personalized service. Their team includes a master watchmaker, gemologist, and three skilled jewelers who specialize in custom design and creating one-of-a-kind pieces. Whether you're looking for an engagement ring, wedding band, fashion jewelry, or a statement piece, M.S. Brown Jewelers has something for every occasion and budget.

#### A New Era of Innovation and Craftsmanship

In 2017, M.S. Brown Jewelers embarked on a transformative journey

# Downtown Wildwood



"For 75 years, we've proven that the finest things in life-like diamonds and traditions-only grow more valuable with time."



#### The Story of M.S. Brown Jewelers









with a major renovation and expansion of their Wildwood location. The newly upgraded space features state-of-the-art machinery for jewelry design, repair, corporate awards, and trophies, enhancing the company's ability to provide precision services with unmatched craftsmanship.

A key player in the expansion of their corporate awards and trophy business is Nicole Muratore, who has been with M.S. Brown Jewelers for over 10 years. Nicole's expertise and dedication have played a crucial role in growing this segment of the business tremendously. Her contributions have helped M.S. Brown Jewelers become a trusted provider of high-quality awards and trophies for businesses, organizations, and special events across the region.

To further enhance their capabilities, M.S. Brown Jewelers also utilizes several different laser engravers, ensuring they can handle any and all of your specialty engraving needs. Whether it's engraving custom jewelry, trophies, or corporate awards, their advanced laser technology allows for precise, detailed designs that add a personal touch to every piece. Additionally, M.S. Brown Jewelers incorporates state-of-the-art laser welders specifically for jewelry repairs, allowing for incredibly precise and delicate repairs on even the most

intricate pieces. These laser welders ensure the highest level of precision, allowing the company to restore and repair jewelry with unmatched accuracy while preserving the integrity and beauty of each item.

This modernization not only supports expert repairs and custom designs but also revolutionized their inventory, introducing contemporary and trendsetting designs that appeal to a wide range of customers. M.S. Brown Jewelers' expanded capabilities ensure they can continue to meet the evolving demands of today's jewelry industry and corporate awards while maintaining the exceptional quality their customers have come to expect over the past 75 years.

The Wildwood renovation, along with the addition of laser engraving technology and laser welders for jewelry repairs, underscores M.S. Brown Jewelers' commitment to staying at the forefront of innovation and craftsmanship. By blending tradition with cutting-edge technology, they continue to elevate the corporate awards business and enhance their customer service.

#### A Community Pillar with Heart

One notable example is their annual Coats for Kids event, where M.S. Brown Jewelers provides free coats, hats, and gloves to children in need, ensuring that children in the community had access to warm clothing as the colder months approached. During Covid and other times of the year M.S. Brown Jewelers has been known to have a food pantry in their store providing free food for people in need.

Beyond the Coats for Kids initiative, M.S. Brown Jewelers actively participates in various philanthropic events, offering time and resources to support local causes. Their dedication to the community is further exemplified by the Milton S. Brown Scholarship, awarded to a local high school student pursuing education in a trade, honoring the company's founder and investing in the future



of skilled professionals.

Additionally, M.S. Brown Jewelers is a proud supporter of the Lunch With Lynch Foundation, a local organization dedicated to facilitating educational experiences for children in the Wildwoods. Through this partnership, they contribute to various programs and initiatives that enrich the lives of local youth.

The company's commitment extends to active participation in civic organizations, with team members volunteering their time and expertise to various community groups. This involvement ensures that M.S. Brown Jewelers remains connected to the community's needs and continues to make a positive impact through service and support.

Through these efforts and more, M.S. Brown Jewelers continues to strengthen its bond with the community, reflecting a legacy of generosity and service that has been integral to the company's identity for over 75 vears.

**Active Involvement in the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce** M.S. Brown Jewelers is deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of the local community, exemplified by their active involvement in the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce. Jessica Brown Schwakoff proudly serves on the Executive Board as Vice President, where she plays a key role in promoting local businesses, enhancing tourism, and supporting community development initiatives.

Although Michael Brown is not currently serving on the Executive Board, his longstanding contributions to the community continue to shape the values of M.S. Brown Jewelers. Both Michael and Jessica work together to ensure that M.S. Brown Jewelers remains a vital part of the Wildwood community.

Jessica's leadership at the Chamber reflects M.S. Brown Jewelers' unwavering commitment to fostering economic growth and strengthening community ties, ensuring that Wildwood remains a vibrant and thriving destination for locals and visitors alike.

This ongoing involvement in the Chamber is just one of the many ways M.S. Brown Jewelers demonstrates its dedication to the community it has proudly served for 75 years.

#### **Looking Forward to the Future**

As M.S. Brown Jewelers celebrates its 75th anniversary, they reflect on a rich history of tradition, excellence, and community involvement. The Brown family extends heartfelt gratitude to their loyal customers and the community for their unwavering support and confidence throughout the years.

With a legacy built on trust and quality, M.S. Brown Jewelers is excited to continue serving generations to come. Their family looks forward to working with yours, creating memories and heirlooms that last a lifetime.

Visit M.S. Brown Jewelers Today A long running family tradition with a sparkling future!

3304 Pacific Ave., Wildwood, NJ

5 S. Main Street, CMCH, NJ

Whether you're looking for the perfect piece of jewelry, need an appraisal, or require expert jewelry/ watch repair, M.S. Brown Jewelers is here to meet all your needs with integrity, expertise, and heartfelt service.

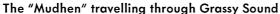
{See M.S. Brown's front cover ads}





#### A LITTLE PIECE OF RAILROAD HISTORY IN THE WILDWOODS: THE MUDHEN







**John Killie**MudHen train engineer/operator



Andrews Ave. Railroad Station 1954
The location of this today is next to Poppi's & Dogtooth

Way back in 1883, the first passenger train carried travelers from the mainland onto the island, traversing a precarious bridge over the untamed marshlands. Nicknamed the "MudHen," it battled and clawed its way through the elements; often, it was washed out during high tide. History recounts the path it blazed, opening up new worlds of opportunity for inhabitants and visitors of what would become the Wildwoods.

In the very same spirit, the MudHen Brewing Company burst onto the scene in 2018 at 127 W. Rio Grande Avenue, more recently adding The Station House in 2024. The brew-pub is a jewel in the crown of the Sciarra family of businesses, {Mike Sciarra & his wife Dee, along with sons Chris & Brendan}

which includes the neighboring Kona Surf Company, Dogtooth Bar & Grill and Poppi's Brick Oven Pizza as well as the boutique resort "Hen Houses". The growing conglomerate is the brainchild of Brendan & Robin Sciarra, whose father, Mike Sciarra, founded Kona in 1969 in a little storefront along Pacific Ave. MudHen Brewing Company is a complete brewing and distribution facility, full service bar and restaurant, crafted out of a the shell of a "Neo Doo Wop" building that formerly housed a Harley Davidson dealership. Sciarra's vision was helped to life by award-winning brewery consultant Scott Morrison and brewmaster Tony Cunha.

Hail to The Mudhen for keeping Wildwood's history from being forgotten.

# Downtown Wildwood ( WWW)





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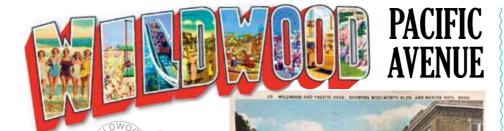
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# Downtown Wildwood



Postcards & Photos circa 1890-1920 GEORGE BOYER MUSEUM, WILDWOOD, N.J.

(Excerpt from an interview with Larry Lillo)

"Nostalgia... the longing for a certain place or time."

Being a nostalgic person is not required to happily discover yourself being transported back in time to an old familiar memory. Often it is triggered by something out of the ordinary, like an old photo, a song, smell or place you haven't visited in a while. For some, however, a walk down memory lane is available to them every day.

In the first half of the 1900s, Pacific Ave was a hub of activity and life. It was the reason to come onto the island; it was the place to gather. The street was full of thriving stores that would meet any shopper's possible need, with the store owners and their families growing up and often living in the apartments above, causing the area to flourish. It was full of kids playing football and tag in lots and in the streets, buying penny candy and sitting at soda counters. Everyone knew everyone else, and if you were a stranger you weren't for long. Wild-Mayberry RFD.

Pacific Ave. once held multiple car dealerships, gas stations, the gas company, electric company, phone company, fire station and police station. It had supermarkets and 5 & 10's, department stores, boutiques, barber shops, tailors, shoemakers, produce markets, fresh meat delis, restaurants and luncheonettes. There were banks, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, and liquor stores as well.

There was no need to hunt and pick around the island to find the stores you needed, all you had to do was walk down Pacific Ave. You could get there by car, train, trolley, bike or foot.

Sharing memories with other people is a wonderful gift, as well as finding someone who shares the same memories as you. Remembering the past keeps it alive and familiar, much like peering out your window connects you with all that is occurring today.





wood by-the-Sea is often likened to
Mayberry RFD.

4710 Pacific Ave., Larry Lillo's Snack Bar later called
Larry's Luncheonette. Today it is the Holly Beach Train
Pacific Ave. once held multiple car
Depot, owned and operated by Larry Lillo, Jr.



4110 Pacific Ave., Tex' Luncheonette



4714-20 Pacific Ave., the original Maggio's Market













¥ by Meg Corcoran

We know it's summer when stars of all kinds come out, some making an appearance in our seaside skies, others courtesy of Downtown Wildwood's FREE FAM-ILY MOVIE NIGHTS at Byrne Plaza. Since stars shine their brightest in the dark, the entertainment starts when the sun sets (7:48 to 8:28). Bring your beach chair, blanket, and favorite movie buffs along for the Tuesday night shows! Prepare for the Migration (release date 2023) on JUNE 24th, when our favorite duck family takes flight, migrating from New England through New York City to Jamaica (coasting over a scenic Wildwood). Including the voices of Elizabeth Banks and Kumail Nanjiani.

Things get appallingly musical on JULY 1st for the Despicable Me 4 crew (release date 2024) when family man Gru (voice of Steve Carell) crosses paths with his school nemesis (voice of Will Ferrell) culminating in a sing-off at Music

On JULY 8th, expect Kung Fu Panda 2 (voices including Jack Black and Angelina Jolie, release date 2011) fight villains alongside fellow martial arts masters on a mission to protect their Valley of Peace, preferring to "Peace Out" courtesy of Ocean Oasis Water Park.

On JULY 15th, we're turning things Inside Out 2 (release date 2024) head back to high school, making friends while dealing with conflicting teen emotions and gearing up for Downtown Wildwood Fitness in the Plaza - Bootcamp. Starring the voices of Amy Poehler and Maya Hawke.

On **JULY 22nd, The Grinch** (voice of Benedict Cumberbatch, release date 2018) plots to ruin the island-wide Christmas in July celebrations for his Whoville neighbors.

A musical adventure takes place on JULY 29th when Moana 2 (voice of Auli'I Cravalho, release date 2024) heeds a call from her wayfinding ancestors, climbing aboard the Pirates of the Wildwoods before journeying through the dangerous waters of Oceania.

#### AUGUST 5th NO MOVIE DUE TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On AUGUST 12th, The Garfield Movie (voice of Chris Pratt, release date 2024) finds our favorite feline reuniting with his dad on a dairy heist while salivating over all the treats at the Downtown Wildwood Farmers Market.

On AUGUST 19th, a young girl (Cailey Fleming) wonders IF (release date 2024) we could make believers out of adults when she meets the imaginary friends left behind when kids grow up, reminiscing over cotton candy and carousel rides. Also stars Ryan Reynolds.

IF we here at The Sun could make one summer wish, it would be for more heartwarming stories, Wildwood and Hollywood inspired. Within our scenic, character-driven world, we'd reconnect with our inner child (and those forgotten imaginary pals), restore the Grinch's heart (a tall tale, indeed), turn ourselves Inside Out 2 make friends with the unpopular characters (at least by high school standards) like weight-challenged Garfield and the fashion disaster Despicable Me gang. We'd go on wild, imaginative adventures with Kung Fu Panda and Moana and, of course, invite them all to visit the enchanting town of Wildwood, where they're sure to enjoy delicious Downtown Dining and unique shopping (pre-showtime) alongside fellow storytellers by the sea...

SEE SCHEDULE ON FACING PAGE

# Downtown Wildwood





Just off the Boardwalk, centrally located to Everywhere in the Wildwoods! Events take place at 3400-3501 Pacific Avenue, Byrne Plaza & Beyond

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#### **MUSIC IN THE PLAZA** Free Thursday Concerts @ 7:30 pm

June 19th - Roundhouse Band June 26th - Chicago 9 July 3rd - Juliano Brothers Friday, July 4th - Misguided Band July 10th - The Beat Tells July 17th - Wrong Way Band July 24th - Jamison Celtic Rock July 31st - Animal House August 7th - Legacy Band August 14th - Winslow: An evening of the Eagles August 21st - 99 Reasons

#### **MOVIES IN THE PLAZA** Free Tuesday Movies @ Sunset

June 24th - Migration July 1st - Dispicable Me 4 July 8th - Kung Fu Panda 2 July 15th - Inside Out 2 July 22nd - The Grinch (Christmas In July) July 29th - Moana 2

August 5th - NO MOVIE Due to National Night Out August 12th - The Garfield Movie

August 19th - If

### FITNESS IN THE PLAZA

August 28th - The Chatterband

8:30 - 9:30 AM

#### BOOT CAMP CIRCUIT TRAINING

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DION OF ELITE FITNESS - \$10.00

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#### 66 DOO WW

# SHOP • DINE • PLAY & STAY



# WHILE YOU WERE AWAY!



#### MW NEW and OLD Business

by Al Alven, the 'Director of Fun' at WW365

From a plethora of construction projects to noteworthy renovations, new businesses and expansions to public works upgrades, this offseason had it all.

There was even a little bit of controversy thrown in for good measure! We have a lot to get to, so let's not waste another moment. Here's what happened "While You Were Away" in the Wildwoods

### Away" in the Wildwoods... BUILDING A(N EVEN) BETTER BOARDWALK

This offseason saw the completion of Phase VI of the Boardwalk Renovation Project, which encompassed the five-block stretch from Spicer Avenue to Montgomery Avenue... The multi-year reconstruction project has rebuilt the entire "main" section of the Wildwood Boardwalk, from 26th Avenue all the way south to the base of the cement-topped Wildwoods Convention Center zone... Phase VI also saw the widening of the Boardwalk by 14 feet in the area between Youngs Avenue and Montgomery Avenue, along with placement of two new pavilions and more benches. Additional public safety measures, including better lighting, improved video surveillance and beach ball bollards on access ramps and entranceways have also been added... The area south of the Wildwoods Convention Center down to Cresse Avenue is the last to be renovated, with work likely beginning after the 2025 summer season... Meanwhile. North Wildwood is also in line to begin its own Boardwalk renovation project at the end of September, starting at and moving north from 26th Avenue.

WATCH THE TRAM... TRUCK, PLEASE?

The Wildwoods' famous **Sightseer** 

Tram Cars made their annual return this Spring, but not without a bit of controversy. Social media was abuzz with the early May debut of a new addition to the peoplemoving fleet: an all-electric Ford Maverick Hybrid pickup truck. The sight was jarring to some, though officials noted that the truck's early runs were a "test," and there are no immediate plans to replace the iconic (albeit aging) signature cabs... Patrick Rosenello of the Wildwoods Boardwalk Special Improvement District also noted that the famous "Watch the Tram Car, Please" warning would continue to be played while the details of the ongoing lawsuit by tram's voice, Floss Stingel, is sorted out. "JAWS WILL DROP ... "

This summer just so happens to mark the 50th anniversary of the release of JAWS, the suspenseful masterpiece often credited with creating the "summer blockbuster" movie genre... Morey's Piers dropped some blockbuster news of its own late last year, announcing that the **Great White** wooden coaster would be receiving some major enhancements for the 2025 season, including a pair of Millennium Flyer trains, each featuring twelve 2-passenger cars, each supported by a single axle... The new trains are expected to result in a "smoother, more exhilarating" ride along the coaster's track, as highlighted in a video presentation available on Morey's Piers' official YouTube page and previewed in a series of typically-clever billboard ads this spring.

# Downtown Wildwood















# Downtown Wildwood (#







#### **NEW and OLD Business**

by Al Alven, the 'Director of Fun' at WW365

#### **MOTEL MUSINGS**

As covered extensively in local and national media outlets, "Doo Wop" took a punch to the gut when the Chateau Bleu Motel (911 Surf Avenue) was demolished in early May. The iconic property, considered one of the finest remaining examples of mid-century resort architecture in the region, fell to the wrecking ball despite its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the best efforts of the **Doo Wop Preservation League.** The 19-unit motel, opened in 1962, will be replaced by three single homes... Preservationists also recently said "goodbye" to the Panoramic Motel (2101 Surf Ave) and its technicolor, 60's-era signage, though the building is being converted into a new entity called The Beach House... Another total conversion has seen the former Tramcar Motel (previously Aruba Motel) become the Suites on Surf... Meanwhile, the Windward Motel at 5200 Ocean Avenue in Wildwood, seems to be rising from the ashes. The motel has been closed since it was nearly destroyed in a 2022 fire. Plans were put into place to demolish the structure, but, suddenly, repair work - including a brand new roof began this spring. The exact plans for the building remain unclear, but it DOES appear to have a future... Last year, a giant banner seemingly heralding The Wild Resort's completion for 2025 was hung at the north end of the building at 3000 Boardwalk. While the hotel clearly will not be opening this summer, we witnessed work being done in the rear of the structure over the winter months, and have been informed that plans continue to follow through the previously approved plan for a luxury resort.

#### THE BOARDWALK BUSTLE

Starting at the north end of the world famous promenade, we quickly find La Chic - True Vintage Boutique at 1600 Boardwalk (Unit 104). As the name suggests, it will sell vintage jeans from the 1980's-2000's, authentic rock tees of the past, accessories and more... Two new businesses have opened on the 2000 block - JJ's Hot Dogs and Spuds, and John's Water Ice, a South Philadelphia staple since 1945. The shop will be John's Water Ice's very first in New Jersey, and fifth overall... Blossom Teriyaki & Sushi will offer something quite different than the typical Boardwalk fare, at the longtime home of Fisher's Pancake House (2308 Boardwalk)... Steak Bros. has teamed up with Quincy's Lobster Rolls to create an expanded menu at the latter's existing location (2701 Boardwalk, neighboring East Side Surf Shop and Capt'n Jack's Island Grill)... Coffee Acai, a new specialty shop, is set to take over the former **Dunkin** at Pine Avenue. Two Dunkin locations remain on the wooden way - at 24th Avenue in North Wildwood and 4014 Boardwalk, across from Adventure Pier... One of the more intriguing additions this year is Timmy's Ale House, located "behind" Snow White at the corner of Ocean & Lincoln Avenues, Details remain sparse at press time, but sources tell us that the bar will be "connected" to Snow White and share the same liquor license... The Boardwalk Mall has undergone a tremendous transformation over the past few years, with the landmark additions of the second Capt'n Jack's Island Grill (plus balcony) fronting the Boardwalk



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# WHILE YOU WERE AWAY!



#### MM NEW and OLD Business

by Al Alven, the 'Director of Fun' at WW365

and Wildwood's Honky Tonk Saloon taking over the ground floor, facing Ocean Avenue. The reimagining of the historic entity continues with the arrival of the Mayhem Zone, a massive 18-hole black light miniature golf course that has taken over most of the second floor (the former "mall," essentially) of the building. The "Monsters vs. Wildwood" theme is complemented by a new candy store and a revamped old time photo stand. Kannavis Botanicals. Sun n Sand and The Boards Cafe are the only other shops remaining in the mall, with The Chillin Pineapple and Playa Bowls at the front... East Side Surf Shop, formerly located inside the Boardwalk Mall, has moved just a few stores down, to 3802 Boardwalk. East Side also has locations at 2701 and 3407 Boardwalk... The Tramcar Store opened to much fanfare last summer at 2110 Boardwalk. Its success prompted owners George & Nancy Saleeb to seek out a second location, which they found at the southern end - 5314 Boardwalk (at the Ocean Towers Shops)... Finally, the very last (or first?) unit on the Boardwalk has a new tenant, with Pizza Kona giving way to an apparel shop, The Crest End.

#### **TOUR OF THE ISLAND**

Those arriving on the island via North Wildwood this season will notice that **Marvis Pancake House** has been shuttered. The former **Star Diner** sold to **Union Roofing** earlier this year, though the future of the site remains unknown. **Marvis Diner** at 4900 Pacific Avenue in Wildwood re-

mains in operation... Continuing down Spruce Avenue, the North **Wildwood Veterans Memorial** Park was officially reopened, along with the dedication of the **New Jersey Gold Star Families** Memorial Monument in early May ... Antney's Grub has returned to North Wildwood with a new location at 120 W. Walnut Avenue, the previous home to Little Nicky's II, Slick Brick Oven Pizza and several other businesses. Owner Anthony Renzulli has big plans for the spot, which will feature new menu items (including stromboli) and walk-up window service until 3 am on weekends during the summer months... Pete's Place, a family-owned kitchen serving up a full menu of "favorite bar eats" has taken up shop inside the #1 Tavern at 100 Atlantic Avenue. Guests can now pair up fried pizza with their Super Tully Nuts!... Carlo's Pizza, a popular establishment in Marietta, Georgia with deep ties to the Wildwoods, is coming to 1700 Surf Avenue. The owners, once the proprietors of Johnny's Pizza (located diagonally at 17th & Surf) are set to return, with their original recipe! What's more, they will be reviving the Little Giant Market, which will operate alongside the pizzeria... A beloved North Wildwood institution is expanding, with Hassles on New Jersey presently taking shape at 21st Avenue (the former location of SunReys Beach Rentals)... After a one-year hiatus, the Salty Mermaid Bar & Grille has returned! The owners announced that they would be reopening, at the same



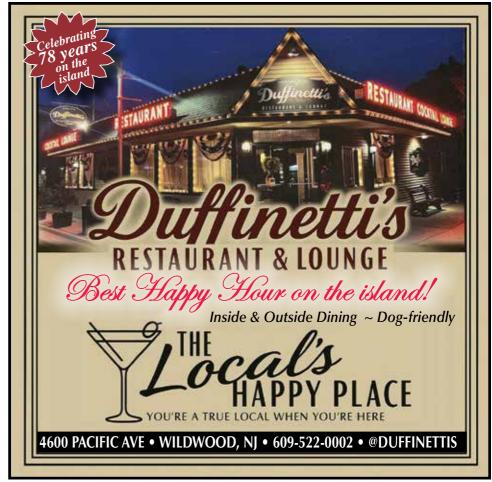
# Downtown Wildwood (#



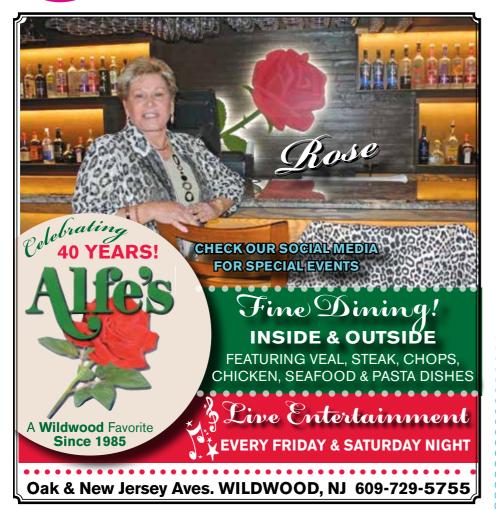












Come Out To Support the 5th Annual Performance

#### Community Band by the Sea

7:00 pm on Saturday, July 26, 2025

(with a rain date of Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 12:00 pm)

Byrne Plaza, 3400 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260



While promoting awareness of the "Golden Age of Bands" (1880 - 1930), when American instrumental bands were emerging in local towns, this performance will pay tribute to the community bands who would welcome visitors as they would arrive at the beach. Fast forwarding to today, The Wildwoods of New Jersey have continued to be a special destination for many and this performance is designed to support community band appreciation while providing high quality music making opportunities for performers and meaningful communication through music for the audience by the sea.

www.artmusicemporium.com/band-by-the-sea





# Downtown Wildwood



## While you were Away!



## **NEW and OLD Business**

by Al Alven, the 'Director of Fun' at WW365

location (2507 Delaware Avenue) and with the same menu, in time for the summer 2025 season... Across the street. Riccardi Brothers has opened a new location at the North Wildwood Shopping Center. With over 80 years in the premium paint products industry, this promises to be a welcome addition to area professionals and DIYers alike... **Down the Shore Steamers** has set up shop at 2501 New Jersey Avenue, the longtime former home of Shoobie's Good Eats (and, most recently, The Shore Eat). Owner Holly Stapeton and her staff will offer ready-to-cook, family-style seafood steam pots and more... Goodnight Irene's wished its loyal patrons a final "goodnight" this winter, after 17 years of operation. The building, also previously known as home to the Poplar Cafe, is presently in the final stages of a dramatic renovation, and will soon reopen as The Rook Wildwood. The new owners aim to bring the trendy cafe-vibe of their successful establishment in Manayunk to the northern end of the Pacific Avenue corridor... After a brief previous around Christmastime, Johnnie's By The Sea has opened at 3001 Pacific Avenue. This longtime South Philadelphia favorite brings its celebrated brand of fine Italian cuisine, seafood and more to the ever-growing **Downtown** Wildwood scene... Jae Romm, the intrepid owner of Northeast Philly-based Rommadill Pickling Company, has opened his first physical location at 3109 Pacific Avenue. The store offers a wide variety of pickles and pickle-related products, from specialty pickle sandwiches to stuffed pickles, pickle chips and

more... A new Italian restaurant, Sabbio D'oro, is set to open at the previous location of The Cove Wildwood (and The Deck at Holly Beach, prior to that), overlooking Byrne Plaza in Downtown Wildwood. This upscale offering comes from the owners of the renowned Sapore in Cape May... The long-beleaguered Hurricane Club, one of the last connections to the island's heyday as entertainment mecca, is no more. The building, however, is being converted into something completely different - La Cantina, a Tex-Mex restaurant. The project is the latest by Philadelphia-based restaurateur Florian Furxhiu, who opened Santorini on Rio Grande Avenue back in 2021... Around the corner, at 219 E. Lincoln Avenue, Sandy Boots Saloon is nearing completion. Inspired by the country music craze that has hit the Wildwoods in recent years, this modern-rustic entry rises on the former footprint of the legendary Harbor Inn. It will feature indoor and outdoor bars, and an expansive beer garden... The success of Taqueria El Azteca on Pacific Avenue has led to the opening of a second location, at 4020 Ocean Avenue. It's fitting that this home of authentic Mexican cuisine would move into the former digs of The Wild Burrito, which ceased operations after 13 years in the Wildwoods... Chef U, a new concept restaurant at 5209 Pacific Avenue, has moved into the former home of Tara Kitchen and One Fish, Two

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# While you were Away!



## **NEW and OLD Business**

by Al Alven, the 'Director of Fun' at WW365

**Fish**. This family-oriented operation offers sitdown and takeout meals, in addition to cooking classes, catering, and event space for parties, reunions and more... It's "Back to the Future" at the corner of New Jersev & Cresse Avenues. After over two decades of ownership by the John Family, the Surfside West Diner has been acquired by the team behind Sun'Z Up Cafe, who have restored the original CrestWood Diner name. In implementing only minor changes, they aim to remain a breakfast staple at the Wildwood/Wildwood Crest border... We now cross over into the Crest, where several motels/hotels have updated their on-site restaurant spaces... The Reef is a brand new addition to the **Adventurer** Oceanfront Inn, serving breakfast and lunch in a modern. family-oriented setting by Chef Nico Bilios... Similarly debuting in a completely renovated space is Effie's Buttercup Cafe, featuring all of the favorites from Bagel Time Cafe's menu, at the Aqua Beach Hotel... Cavu BYOB has moved into the former Alosi's Bistro at the Pan American Hotel, bringing its "elevated American fare with a relaxed coastal twist"... One of the fastest-growing businesses in Cape May County has come to the Wildwoods, with Avalon Coffee Company taking over the Jolly Roger Motel's former Neverland Cafe (home to Antney's Grub the past two summers)... Crest Coffee Company at 6101 New Jersey Avenue was conceived with the needs of the surrounding neighborhood and community spirit in mind. Owner Maddie Hunt noted that the cafe will brew with "ethically-sourced beans" and will feature a variety

of house-made pastries and other specialty items.

#### That's a Wrap... For Now!

That covers all of the noteworthy changes in the Wildwoods heading into the new summer season, though it's likely we missed a detail or three. In recent years, we've also seen businesses arriving mid-season and even closer to Labor Day, so there's always something to look out for.

We'll be sure to update in our "While You Were Away: Epilogue," along with a never-too-early preview of what's to come in 2026, in The Sun's Holiday Issue this November/December. Have a wonderful summer, everyone ~ We'll SEA YA soon!



#### Al Alven

Director of Fun, Wildwood 365 at the 2nd St. Sun news box, #tbt 2014

#### **EDITOR NOTE:**

I hope you are loving this issue as much as I loved creating it for you!

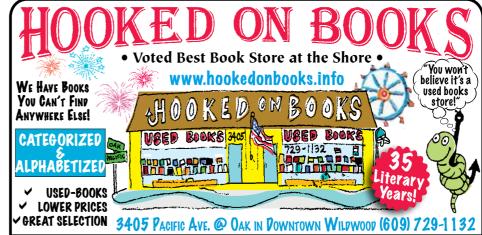
Take your time... don't read too fast... soak in the Sunshine and make it last!

# Downtown Wildwood ( )













"Half the fun of fishing is knowing you ought to be working." ~Thomas Benjamin "Tom" Sims, 1923 ~Happy Fishing!

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# Wishin' for Good fishin

#### with CAPT. GARY SLOAN



Gary and brother Richie Sloan with a flounder bigger than them, c. 1952

#### Tales from the Inlet

The Hereford Inlet has a way of drifting through my life like a steady tide. I often walk down JFK Boulevard, letting the sea air fill my lungs and the ocean view settle my mind. It's a ritual as familiar as casting a line. But what many don't realize is the inlet's deep roots how it was shaped by the courage of early fishermen.

Back in the early 1830s, Swedish settlers found their way here, navigating the wild Atlantic in wooden boats powered only by sails and oars. No motors. No modern gear. Just grit, instinct, and the endless pull of the sea. I admire their resilience—they found a way to survive, and even thrive, in a raw, untamed landscape.

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was built in 1874, casting its guiding beam to help ships safely navigate the tricky waters. Those early Scandinavian families made their homes here, laying the foundation for what would become the Wildwoods.

Like many others, my family relocated to North Wildwood. In the 1950s, I was a kid falling in love with the ocean—and the fishing. The '60s and '70s were golden years for beach fishing. Back then, the surf was lined with tidal gullies, little rivers of saltwater that trapped fish at low tide. We'd chase after bluefish, stripers, and mackerel, sometimes catching them by hand. We laughed, got soaked, and came home with more stories than fish.

The inlet has changed a lot. Sand shifts constantly, reshaping the flow of water like a sculptor with no final plan. Strong winds and currents have carved out a kind of funnel—a whirlpool effect that makes the beach unpredictable. Lately, the gusts have been so fierce, I half expect to see Dorothy fly by with Toto in tow.

This spring had been tough. The cold ocean water and steady wind made for rough days and slow fishing. But even then, there's hope. We've seen good-sized dogfish, and tog have been a tasty reward for the persistent. Flounder are moving into the shallows, and early signs say the bite is picking up.

As summer settles in, the reefs will draw seabass, and drumfish will hold in the Delaware Bay through June. Bluefish and weakfish aren't far behind.

So we wait, like we always do. Rods ready. Eyes on the tide. Hearts full of hope.



Editorial contributions to this piece were written by Dorothy Kulisek, editor and publisher of The Wildwood Sun by the Sea Magazine

"I never lost a little fish - yes, I am free to say. It always was the biggest fish I caught that got away." ~Eugene Field, "Our Biggest Fish"

## The Fishing Trip that Got Away! A 1950's Beach Adventure

by Pat Sullivan Probst



Ralph and Bea Sullivan

It was the 1950s....

Our father was an avid fisherman. On weekends in the spring, summer, and fall, he usually headed to the shore for a day of surf fishing. His favorite fishing spots were Beach Haven, North Wildwood, and Cape May. Sometimes he brought along a few of my sisters and our girlfriends. While he enjoyed a relaxing day by the water after a long work week, my mother got a break from some of us kids, and we had a fun day on the beach with our friends. It was a win-win for everyone—except for one unforgettable day.

Dad woke us up early to drive to the shore. He packed his gear, loaded the car, and made sure we had our beach towels. I'm sure we packed a lunch, too. Four or five young girls piled into the back seat while Dad secured his long surf rods, placing them diagonally from the rear window to the front passenger window. And off we went!

To help pass the time during the drive, Dad played games with us. "I see something blue," or "I see something that starts with the letter L." It made the trip feel shorter, and we were all excited to reach the beach.



The Sullivan sisters and a friend

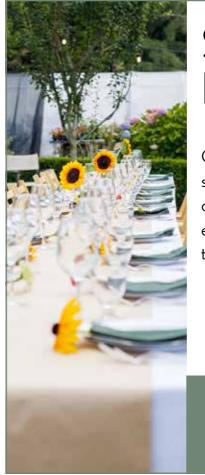
Finally, we arrived. Dad turned off the car, and we all flung open the doors, ready to run to the sand.

#### CRACK.

In our excitement, none of us thought about the rods—and before we knew it, we'd broken them. Dad was understandably upset. He asked us to get back in the car while he tried to wrap his head around what had just happened. As he held up the damaged rods to explain how important they were, he accidentally bumped one of our friends on the head.

The ride home was unusually quiet. Dad didn't say much, and we didn't dare either—though we couldn't help but exchange a few giggles at the small lump forming on our friend's forehead.

In the end, Dad didn't get to fish that day, and Mom had to call and apologize to our friend's mother. Thankfully, she was kind and understanding—having seven kids of her own, she knew how these things happened. And as for us? Dad eventually bought a boat!



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"What if today, we were grateful for everything? " ~ Charlie Brown



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## Honoring Jim Byrne, A Life Well Lived: by Land, Sea and Sky



Jim with 3 of his 4 children, L-R, Tim, Pam and Tom. (Taken for The Sun in 2004)



Jim & Shirley with their daughter Pam, helping out at her store Diamond Beach Bums.



2018~ Jim is honored at the dedication of the downtown Byrne Plaza



While Shirley was attending the annual Dr. Mace baby reunion, Jim held onto her bag while mingling with the other fellows

Always active, Jim enjoyed snow ski-

proudly in its fourth generation.

James August Byrne passed away on December 27, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Paterson, NJ on September 18, 1933, his family would eventually move to Bridgeton, NJ before finding their home in Wildwood, NJ in 1946. Jim graduated from Wildwood High School in 1951 and Rutgers College in 1955 before entering the Air Force that same year as a Second Lieutenant.

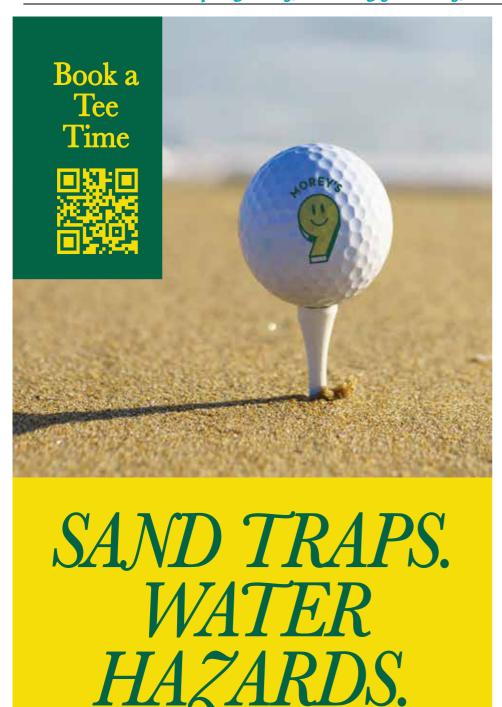
In 1956, Jim married Shirley, and they had four children, James (Rebecca), Thomas (Angel), Timothy, and Pamela; 10 grandchildren, Timothy, Kelsey, Jessica, Alison, Casey, Tucker, Trevor, Tyler, Logan, and Julia; and nine great-grandchildren. Jim treasured his family and Shirley, his wife of 68 years.

During his military career, Jim flew B-47 Jet Bombers in Wichita, Kansas and eventually became part of the Strategic Air Command stationed at MacDill Air Force base in Tampa Florida. In November of 1953, he received an honorable discharge as a Captain.

He retired from the Air Force and went to work with his father in the insurance agency, helping to form and incorporate the J. Byrne Agency in 1946. The agency has grown to five offices in Cape May County, and 65 employees and is now ing and fishing. He and Shirley enjoyed the game of golf and traveling with friends to places including Ireland, Scotland, Italy and Germany.

Jim made a lasting contribution to the town of Wildwood in part through the Byrne Foundation, but mostly as a family man and a friend to all, epitomizing a life well lived by the sea...

"Peace is accepting today, releasing yesterday, and giving up the need to control tomorrow ..." ~ Lori Deschen



All Before Hitting The Beach.

Cape May Courthouse



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BIG LITTLE NINE







"Want to soak up life for a while in laid back mode. . . No boss, no clocks, no stress, no dress code. . . " ~Kenny Chesney









#### 213 E 16TH AVENUE | NORTH WILDWOOD FOR SALE \$2,195,000 | 5 BEDS | 3.1 BATHS | 2,591 SQFT

Nestled in the heart of North Wildwood, this brand-new single-family home beautifully blends Nantucket-inspired design with a nod to the rich history of the Jersey Shore. Features include gunite pool, elevator, two living areas, and a custom bunk room. Completion is set for July 2025.

## 1712 CENTRAL AVENUE | NORTH WILDWOOD FOR SALE \$3,300,000 | 7 BEDS | 5.2 BATHS | 3,904 SQFT

This exceptional oversized L-shaped corner lot—comprised of 50x100' and 30x100' parcels—showcases timeless architectural design and redefines single-family living in North Wildwood. The property includes a luxurious 26' x 15' gunite pool and spa, a two-car garage, and an expansive open-concept living and dining area. Estimated completion is March 2026.



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Nick and Kari Giuffre are local real estate experts specializing in high-end properties, with deep experience in new construction and strong ties to local builders, architects, and designers. Their goal is to guide clients in purchasing vacation homes that are smart investments and lasting legacies, handling every detail along the way.

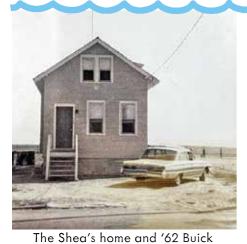
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#### **KARI GIUFFRE**

Real Estate Salesperson M 484.356.6130 O 609.967.9600 kari.giuffre@compass.com "The desire to knock a ball about, to play silly games with a stick, comes upon a man most keenly when he is happy." A.A. Milne

## Once Upon a Tide. . . along the Seawall



#### by Meg Corcoran

This Old House, until recently located at 229 E. 1st Avenue, like all homes in Wildwood by the sea, had its own story to tell. Bill Shea Jr. happily shared his family's memories of their time spent there, when he and his parents, William and Cecilia, along with older sisters, Patricia and Bonnie, moved seaside from Philadelphia following WWII. Their paternal grandfather, William Sr., was already living on W. Montgomery near the Ship & Shore and operated a charter boat that he docked on Otten's Harbor behind his house. After moving to North Wildwood, William Shea opened Shea's 17th Street Market. The family first lived at 212 E. 14th before purchasing 227 and 229 E. 1st Ave. in 1962. Bill remembers walking to Margaret Mace school up Atlantic Ave. from 7th to 9th grade with Kathryn Mayberry who lived around the corner at 325 E. 2nd. who would later become his 2nd wife. Then came the great Storm of '62, during which their house was picked up and turned sideways, (thankfully following the family's evacuation.) The house was eventually restored, with the Shea's temporarily living in the house at 229 during the renovations. Bill's parents rented out that house before selling it to Walter and Cindy Florimont in 1972. Some may recall the elderly couple who

Walter, a lifelong lover of the sea, passed into his heavenly voyage on October 30, 2022. Born on August 1, 1929, in Brooklyn, NY, Walter was a true explorer who fondly described the ocean as his first playmate. He often accompanied his father to Coney Island where he maintained amusement games, inspir-

ran a gift shop out of the front porch.



View of home from the Seawall, c. 2024

ing Walter's love of engineering and his ability from the age of 16 to repair and improve arcade games. Life eventually led him to Wildwood, where he made his mark on the infamous Boardwalk as the owner and operator of his very own attractions.

When not bringing fun and happiness to the Wildwood masses, Walter loved sailing around the world with Cindy, the love of his life and wife of 50 years. During their later years, however, Walter and Cindy treasured their time in Wildwood, walking the beaches and playing the roles of beachcombers.

Following Walter's passing, Cindy sold the house and the empty lot next to it, with both properties each selling for approximately \$2 million.

The house was demolished in March of this year with construction of 2 large beach homes immediately following. . . a tribute to Wildwood-loving souls who continue to live their stories blissfully by the sea.



Walter Florimont 1929 - 2022



"It's a happy talent to know how to play." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wildwood Smiles

Save the Date! Saturday, August 2, 2025





Linda. Ben, Diana & Brianna



Matt & Jenn McGuigan and their girls



Siblings Dorothy & Michael



sorry to not catch his name, but he said he was just taking a break from having so much fun :-)



Volunteers Brendan, Eddie, & Boz with Brianna Kelly



Stephen had such a blast!



Volunteer George Logan with Connor and Valerie



Kim (mom) Chance & Felicity

"When I feel the wind, smell the salt air and hear the cry of the gull... I am home." ~Walt Whitman, Song of Myself

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"A nod of recognition today to all the jobs that magically do themselves and to the women who do them." ~Robert Brault

## Women Making Wildwood History

## Wildwood Firsts

by Dorothy McMonagle Kulisek

## Taylor Hammeke's **Underwater Adventure!**

## First Female Chief on North Wildwood Police Dept.

In May 2024, the city of North Wildwood proudly swore in its first female Police Chief, Katherine Madden. This historic milestone represents a meaningful step forward in the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Chief Madden succeeds Chief Jon Stevenson, whose legacy of service and sacrifice continues to inspire with his unwavering dedication to North Wildwood.

As Chief Madden approaches the close of her first year in office, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on her recent induction into the FBI New Jersey Chapter. A proud graduate of the FBI National Academy's Session 289, Chief Madden exemplifies excellence and leadership in every aspect of her role.



NWPD Chief Katherine Madden Chief Madden is a lifelong resident of North Wildwood, attending Margaret Mace Elementary and Wildwood Catholic High School (class of 2004)

#### First Female Lieutenant on North Wildwood Beach Patrol

In June 2024, during a morning roll call. Julie Blackmon was proudly promoted to Lieutenant of the North Wildwood Beach Patrol.

This historic achievement makes her the first female Lieutenant in the history of the NWBP.

Julie views this milestone as not just a personal accomplishment but a significant step for all past, present, and future female lifeguards who can now see women in leadership roles. She is passionate about breaking barriers and reaching new heights in her career.

Now in her 12th summer with the NWBP, Lieutenant Blackmon has been the dedicated Head Instructor of the popular NWBP Junior Lifeguard Program and will continue to lead and inspire the next generation of lifeguards through this initiative.



NWBP LT. Julie Blackmon



Taylor Hammeke brought The Sun along for an unforgettable journey beneath the waves as she explored the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. living aboard a dive boat for the ultimate diving experience. The seven day live aboard traveled over 100 miles offshore to numerous stunning dive sites in the Coral Sea and along the Continental Shelf. The coral was stunning- the most vibrant orange, yellow, blue, purple and pink coral, of incredibly diverse textures, shapes and sizes.

Taylor's favorite dive site was the "West Wall", a steep drop-off covered in bright, large yellow, orange and purple fan coral, swaying peacefully with the current and teaming with tropical fish. The marine life was wildly diverse- highlights were schools of barracuda, sharks, unicorn fish, cuddle fish, wobbegong shark, flashlight fish (glow in the dark), and plentiful fish of the most vibrant colors imaginable. There was no shortage of Clown Fish, reflecting the accuracy of the iconic Finding Nemo movie. The night dives the group went on provided the opportunity to see the vast difference between the marine life in the darkteaming with predators, eels, spotted



rays, and flashlight fish- which have a glow in the dark light organ below their eyes. The visibility underwater was 100 feet, and it truly felt like exploring an underwater fantasy!

During Taylor's travels, she also visited iconic landmarks like the Sydney Opera House, where she attended the show "Julia" about the first female Prime Minister in Australia. She also visited Bondi Beach, home to the world's first life-saving club, founded in 1907.

Taylor is a proud third-generation member of the Hammeke family to serve as a lifeguard on the Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol (summers of 2012 and 2013).

We can't thank Taylor enough for sharing her incredible adventure from the other side of the world—and for being the first person to ever take The Sun beneath the sea!

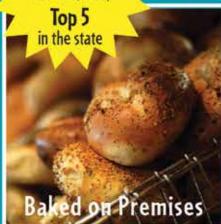
The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system located off the coast of Queensland, Australia, in the Coral Sea. The reef, which is the world's largest living structure is large enough to be visible from space, is made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs.

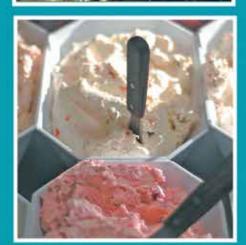
"This morning's forecast: 100% chance of coffee." ~Keith Wynn

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"The past is a foreign country... They do things differently there. "- L. T. Hartley

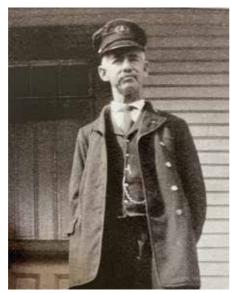
## Hereford's Female Lighthouse Keeper

by Steve Murray





Laura Hedges and her dog, c. 1920s in front of Hereford Lighthouse



Keeper William Hunting Hedges April 1, 1919 - May 1925

The vast majority of lighthouse Keepers in The U.S. from 1776 to the modern age when fully automated lights no longer required a keeper, were male. It may surprise some to know that during that same time there were 175 female head keepers in addition to approx. 250 female assistant keepers. The majority of those women were the wives and daughters of keepers who had died or became physically disabled while on duty.

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse had a total of 9 government appointed male keepers from the time of its construction in 1874 until the last keeper in residence left in late 1961. During an 11 month period during the "Roaring Twenty's" however, there was a female keeper, one Laura Hedges.

British born, Laura, was the second wife of Hereford's 4th Keeper, William H. Hedges. In April of 1925, the 57 year old Keeper suffered a massive stroke that left him paralyzed, bedridden and of course unable to perform his work. Laura

had no choice but to take over all of his many, very important, round the clock duties as keeper. In addition to this, she now had to be his round the clock nurse. She did not immediately contact the Superintendent of lighthouses about her husbands condition and I believe there were understandably good reasons for this. First, she realized that there may a good chance William would be relieved of his duties and position as Keeper. If that happened, the couple could be left without a source of income and without a home. Second, if she were to stall on relaying the information about his condition, maybe with some time and care, her husband might recover enough to resume his duties.

Through that spring, summer and fall however, his condition progressively deteriorated and it became obvious she would have to report the situation to the Superintendent. She finally did so on the day after Christmas.

## The following letters tell the story. (slightly abridged) To: Supt. of Lighthouses Dec. 26, 1925

Sir. The Keeper of this station is suffering from the effects of a paralytic stroke contracted 9 months ago. Since last spring he has been failing gradually and is in bad shape. I am writing to ask if there is any way of placing him in a Government hospital for observation and treatment and if found incurable that he may remain there permanently or at another institution. I find the care for him more than I can manage. Since this is the only home I have I would like to stay here as temporary keeper until his case is disposed of and until the weather is warmer. I have done the entire work here during his illness.

#### Respectively, Laura Hedges

#### To: Mrs. William Hedges DEC. 29<sup>TH</sup>, 1925

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter relative to the illness of your husband. You are advised that the only action that can be taken is for Mr. Hedges to apply to the U.S. **Public Health Service for treatment** and admittance to the Marine Hospital in Phila. PA. it appears from the information you furnished that if Mr. Hedges is incapacitated for duty, steps will be taken to have Mr. Hedges retired on account of disability concerning which, he will be advised at a later date.

#### J.T Yates, Supt.

#### To: US Marine Hospital, Phila. PA DEC. 29, 1925

This is advised that William Hedges, Keeper of Hereford Inlet LH, suffered a stroke some months ago and is totally incapacitated for duty. If his physical condition warrants, this office proposes to recommend his retirement. The regulations pertaining to such retirement must be accompanied by a proper medical certificate based on examination of a medical officer of the US. Will you kindly have Keeper Hedges examined and furnish this office with the needed certificate pertaining to disability retirement. Early action is needed as if the Keeper is totally

disabled it is important that he be relieved from duty so a replacement can be appointed.

#### J.T. Yates, Supt.

#### To: Keeper William Hedges DEC. 30, 1925

Sir, You are requested to call upon Dr. H. Tomlin, Wildwood, NJ in order that you may have a physical examination in accordance with a letter received from J.T. Yates, Supt.

W.G. Stimpson, Senior Surgeon

(Three Days Later...) JAN. 1, 1926 Washington, DC **Dept. of Commerce Lighthouse** Service

The Bureau is advised of the death of the following employee at Hereford Lighthouse

William H. Hedges Name: Position: Keeper, Hereford Inlet Light Station, NJ

Legal residence: New York Salary: \$1,200 per annum

#### WILDWOOD TRIBUNE JOURNAL JAN. 7TH. 1926

Keeper Hedges Obituary: "Old Lighthouse keeper dies. Mr. Hedges had seen the beacon warning mariners kept bright, without error of omission or commission against him. Millions of sailors have been guided by the light he trimmed and cared for."

Laura had her husband's body sent back to his family's town of East Hampton New York for burial. The lighthouse Service allowed her to remain at Hereford as temporary keeper until a permanent keeper could be appointed. Upon her replacement's arrival two months later, on Feb. 28th, 1926, her employment was terminated. She received William's last check (for 1 day) \$3.33, based on his yearly salary of \$1,200. Her bill for the local undertaker was \$203.70. Laura moved back to Syracuse, NY, where she eventually remarried. She passed away on Aug 28th, 1953, at the age of 84.

"A memory is a photograph taken by the heart to make a special moment last forever. " ~ Anon

George F. Boyer Museum **3907 Pacific Avenue** 

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www.WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com

## AST FROM THE PAST! 40 YEARS AGO

**Tell THOM YOU SAW** THEM IN THE SUN!

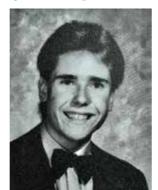
Request to feature your yearbook photo: thesunbythesea@gmail.com



Scott Russell WHS 85



Frank McMonagle **WCHS 85** 



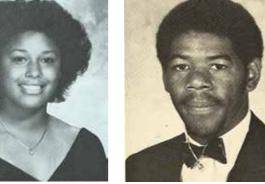
Steve Szczur WHS 85



**Bob Maschio WHS 85** 



**Deborah Jones WHS 85** 



Mark Jones WHS 85



Bernard Joseph Kane "BJ" WCHS 85



Robin Salasin WCHS 85



Doranne Vallese **WCHS 85** 

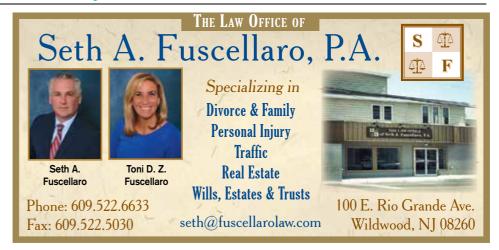


DonnaJean Adams WHS 85 Kathy Clark WHS 85

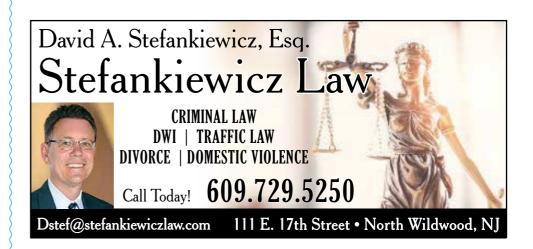




Nick Nastasi WHS 85









"What people say about you is a reflection of them, not you. The best revenge is to live well. Remember, you can't get ahead if you're trying to get even." ~Maya Angelou





There's a sheer, unmatched joy in boogie boarding with family and friends—with the sun shining high and laughter echoing across the shore, each wave becomes a shared adventure. We cheer each other on as we ride the swells, tumbling, gliding, sometimes wiping out, but always rising with a grin. The salty splash, the tug of the tide, and the thrill of catching that perfect wave weave together a tapestry of memories. Afterward, there's nothing better than drying off in the golden warmth of the sun, towels wrapped loosely around us, with feelings money can't buy. We bask in the moment, skin tingling from the sea and hearts full from the fun. These sun-drenched days—simple, spontaneous, and joy-filled—remind us that the best things in life aren't complicated. They're just waiting in the waves with the people we love.

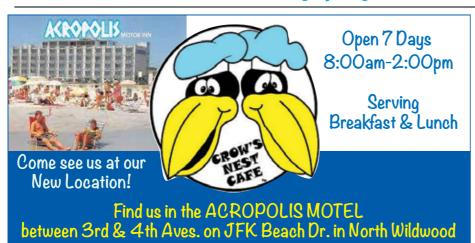








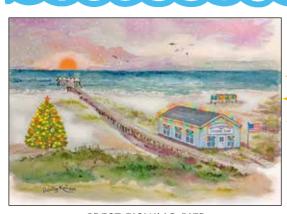
"There should be sympathy cards for having to go back to work after vacation." ~Anon.











Visit
Dorothy
at the NW
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SUNDAY,
AUGUST 10TH
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**CREST FISHING PIER** 





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"Let a series of happy thoughts run through your mind. They will show on your face." ~Anon







## Surfing Santas Save the Date!

SATURDAY, JULY 26 Sign-up 8am, Contest 9am INLET BEACH, N. WILDWOOD



Bring your Christmas stoke like West Wildwood Mayor Matt & Boz



NWBP James, Brian, and Lila dressed their best for XMas in July



Ready for Christmas in July w/Brigid, Owen & Kellen of Billy's Beach Service



Feeling jolly w/Anita, Pappy & Mark



Celebrate the spirit of Christmas like Tim Barry with his grinch hat



... or dress like Ryan, sporting his XMas in July swim trunks

"I'm dreaming of a beachy Christmas!" ~Save the Date! Island wide Christmas in July is Saturday July 26, 2025



RIO GRANDE 609-465-3641 CAPE MAY 609-884-8949

THE-SEA.

BEACH

Mail SEACH

"The great eventful Present hides the Past; but through the din of its loud life hints and echoes from the life behind steal in." ~John Greenleaf Whittier

The extended family spent many summers vacationning at the **Lurae Motel** that once graced the block on Surf Ave. between 6th & 7th in N. Wildwood



Family & friends heading out to bike ride, 1970s



The whole family enjoying a night on the boardwalk



Cliff & Kathy with their children Christine & Jason at their condo at the Mediterranean

#### A WILDWOOD LEGACY

that began in 1954 with 2 adventurous teenagers from Maryland

by Dorothy Kulisek

The summer of 1954 found Ruth Dorothy Waters at the edge of something new. At nineteen, she and her adventurous friend Joan set out from Baltimore, making their way to the Wildwoods—a place that would unknowingly become woven into the fabric of her family's history. In photographs from that time, Ruth and Joan radiate the carefree joy of young women discovering the salty air, the boardwalk's endless promise, and the way the ocean could make the world feel infinite.

Years later, Wildwood became more than just a destination—it was a tradition. Ruth's daughter remembers the summers spent at the Lurae Motel, where a caravan of family and friends arrived in tandem, renting out multiple rooms to turn vacations into reunions. Uncle Ed and Aunt Lorraine, Mr. Ed—who everyone called Santa Claus—and his wife, along with cousins Joanie and Patti, made up the cast of those golden days. The beach was their playground, the pool a sunlit retreat, and dinner an event worthy of their finest clothes. Nights at Zaberer's, the first ritual stop at the Shell Shop, and the thrill of winning stuffed animals on the boardwalk were the rhythms of summer.

As time moved forward, Wildwood remained. The daughter, now grown, returned for day trips with her fiancé, Cliff, stealing moments of nostalgia before life carried them forward. On one of those trips, an impromptu overnight stay at the Laura Motel—sleeping on the floor among cousins—proved that Wildwood always had room for one more.

Marriage and children came, and with them, the cycle began anew. Christine and Jason, her own children, spent their childhood summers at the Roman Holiday, first splashing in the baby pool and later braving the deep end. They forged friendships with Dominic, the motel's owner, and Christine even kept an eye on his little girl, watching over her the way Wildwood watches over us all.

Nineteen years ago, the family's connection to Wildwood became permanent with the purchase of a condo at 5th & Ocean. The next generation, Christine and Jason's children, carry on the tradition, returning to the shore at their family's condo when they can, even from across the country. The next generation. Emma, Bella, and Ty are now feeling the pull of Wildwood's tides, and little Will waits for his first visit.

Though Ruth and Joan are no longer here, their spirit lingers in every crashing wave and shimmering boardwalk light. Their discovery of Wildwood all those years ago wasn't just a summer adventure—it was the beginning of a legacy.

And so, the story continues.



Ruth Dorothy & Joan visiting Wildwood in January 1954

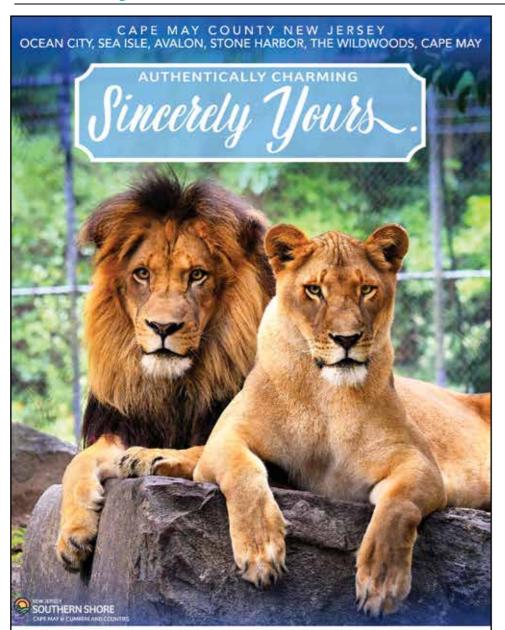


Ruth Dorothy when she was 19 years old , 1954



Ruth Dorothy shopping on the boardwalk

"God's gifts are measureless, and there shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart." ~Celia Thaxter, "A Grateful Heart"



ESCAPE to a place that's real... and really charming.

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"it's hard to be crabby when life is so delicious. " ~ from the little book of Otter Philosophy

## She's back... and saltier than ever!

Open Daily from 11:30am



**LUNCH - DINNER OUTSIDE DINING Family-Friendly** 



**WAITING AREA** with outside bar & Yard Games











2507 DELAWARE AVE., NORTH WILDWOOD, NJ www.thesaltymermaidbarandgrille.com 609.600.2165





FEBRUARY 28, 2026





Volunteers: Ann, Eve, Laurie & Sandy



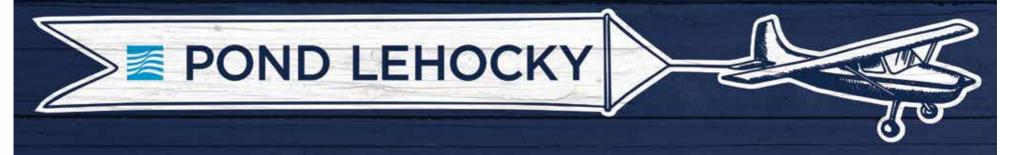
Jimmy & Elizabeth of the new  $\operatorname{\mathbf{Chef}} \mathbf{U}$ 



"Because down the shore... Everything's alright." ~ Bruce Springsteen

# ACCIDENT? INJURED? DISABILITY DENIED?

**TELL US YOUR STORY! IT'S FREE!** 





In high tide or low tide, I'll always be by your side

July											
		His	gh	Low							
		A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.						
1	Tue	12:57	1:42	7:18	7:29						
2	Wed	1:43	2:31	8:01	8:24						
.3	Thu	2:31	3:21	8:44	9:23						
4	Fri	3:25	4:14	9:29	10:24						
5	Sat	4:23	5:04	10:16	11:19						
6	Sun	5:18	5:51	11:03	11:59						
7	Mon	6:08	6:35	11:48							
8	Tue	6:57		12:59	12:33						
9	Wed	7:45		1:44	1.17						
10	Thu	8:30	8:45	2:25	2:00						
11	Fri	9:12	9:25	3:03	2.42						
12	Sat	9:52	10:04	3:41	3:23						
13	Sun	10:33	10:44	4:19	4:07						
14	Mon	11:16	11:29	4:59	4:56						
15	Tue		12:04	5:42	5.52						
16	Wed	12:17	12:54	6:28	6:52						
17	Thu	1:08	1:48	7:16	7:55						
18	Fri	2:04	2:46	8:06	9.04						
19	Sat	3:08	3:52	9:03	10:16						
20	Sun	4:20	4:58	10:06	11:24						
21	Mon	5:28	5:59	11:09							
22	Tue	6:30	6:57	12:26	12:09						
23	Wed	7:30	7:52	1:23	1:07						
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25	Fri	9:14	9:29	3:01	2:51						
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Full Moon			0
Last Quarter			7
New Moon		2	24

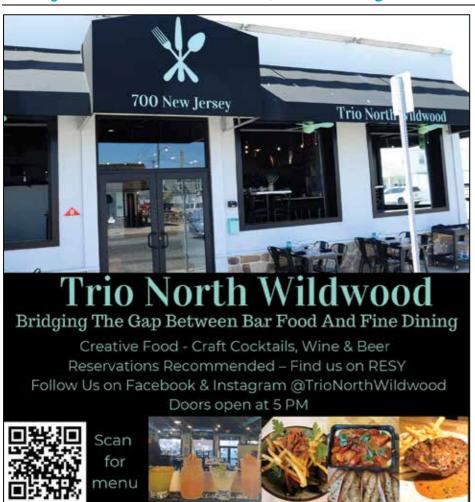
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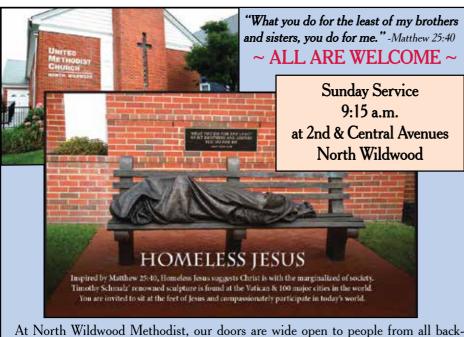
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Full Moon 9 Last Quarter 16



"What you're afraid of is not the sea, but to lose sight of the shore. Remember the Promised Land is on the other side." ~ Maxime Lagace





grounds, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. We commit ourselves to full inclusion of all people in worship and our various ministries, working to create a church without barriers where we can all be side-by-side. We know all people to be of sacred worth and welcome anyone who comes here seeking the love of God.

### North Wildwood United Methodist Church

139 E. Second Avenue, North Wildwood, NJ 08260 609-522-2271 • Northwildwoodumc.com





#### Churches in the Wildwoods

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To update your listing EMAIL: THESUNBYTHESEA@GMAIL.COM

#### North Wildwood United Methodist



Q

2nd & Central Ave. 609-522-2271

Sunday Service 9:15am Traditional Service at 2nd & Central Aves.

Home of the Homeless Jesus

#### **CREST COMMUNITY CHURCH**



Crocus & Pacific Aves
Enter on Crocus
in Social Hall

Sunday 9:30am
Breakfast, Worship and the WORD!

#### St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox



301 Anglesea Ave., 609-522-0152 Orthos 9am Divine Liturgy 10am

**GREEK FESTIVAL - AUG. 22-24** 

## Asbury A.M.E. Church

oung & New Jersey Ave. 609-729-5584 Sunday 11:00am

#### **BETH JUDAH TEMPLE**



Pacific & Spencer Aves. 609-522-7541 For Shabbat Services Check Facebook page or bethjudahtemple.org

#### **Eureka Transformation**



142 W. Spencer Ave. 609-522-1028 Sunday Service 11am Wed Prayer 7-8pm transformingnj.com

#### HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN

2810 Atlantic Ave. 609-522-5000

8am Spoken Service w/Communion 10:30am Traditional Service w/Communion ~ Sunday School Third Sunday of each Month

Third Sunday of each Month 10:30am Contemporary Blended Service w/ Communion



West Wildwood Bible Church 100 Years in 2024 9 Neptune Avenue Sunday 10am

#### THE BOARDWALK CHAPEL

4312 Boardwalk 609-523-2307 NIGHTLY PROGRAMS Mon-Sat 8:30PM SUN EVE Service 7PM

#### NOTRE DAME DE LA MER PARISH

#### Assumption RC Church

7110 Seaview Ave. Wildwood Crest 609-522-4114

> Sat. 4:30pm Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 Daily Mon-Sat 8:30am

#### ST. ANN'S RC CHURCH



2900 Atlantic Ave. Wildwood 609-522-2709

Sat. 4:30pm Sun. 7:00, 8:30 & 10:30

#### BLESSING OF THE OCEAN

AUGUST 14TH

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
AUGUST 15TH

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Maple & Atlantic Ave. 609-522-2981 Sunday School 10am Coffee Hour 10am Sunday Service 11am

#### Angel Visit Baptist

435 W. Garfield Ave 609-522-0056 Sunday Worship 10:45am

#### St. Simeon's by-the-Sea Episcopal



26th & Central Ave. 609-522-8389 Sun. Morning Liturgy 10am

#### CHRIST the KING Reformed Presbyterian Church



Pastor James Zozzaro

3rd & Atlantic Ave.

609-522-8489

Sunday 10:30am (f)

#### JCBP SHORE FIRE WORSHIP FEST

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025
ALL ARE WELCOME! 6-9PM



"Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." ~Matthew 11:28

CENTENNIAL PARK

FERN RD. & OCEAN AVE. WILDWOOD CREST

FIVE MILE BEACH

"There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behooves all of us not to talk about the rest of us."

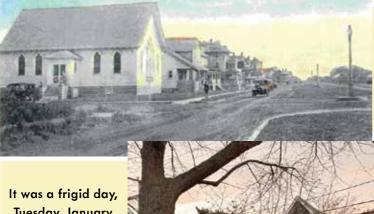
Vintage 1920s postcard of the newly built church at 18th and Central Aves. in North Wildwood

Words of wisdom from Robert Louis Stevenson

## Central Bible Church 1907 ~ 2024 NORTH WILDWOOD, N.J.

Before buildings are demolished, they 'go black'. Pictured here in the Fall of '24, are men in Hazmat suits removing asbestos shingles.





Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 when the sun went down over this once-sacred building for the last time before demolition began the next morning.

> joined the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, officially recognized on March 10, 2002.

Union Sunday School, organized on December 8, 1907, in the North Wildwood Public School building. On August 18, 1921, worship services began at the newly built chapel on 18th and Central Avenue, led by A.F. Hirst until 1926. Rev. Dr. Charles L. Hunter was then called as pastor and, on January 16, 1928, the church was officially organized. Over the years, the church underwent several name changes, becoming Faith Chapel in 1950 and later Central Bible Church in the 1960s. In January 2002, the congregation called Rev. Jim Allay as pastor and

The North Wildwood Union Church

began as the North Wildwood

On the Sunday morning of July 21, 2024, the chapel stood silent for the first time since opening its doors for worship in 1921. Once filled with hope for a new beginning as a renovated home under the ownership of Nick and Kari Guiffre, those plans sadly never came to fruition. Now, as the historic structure has met the wrecking ball, there is some solace in knowing that its most beautiful handcrafted stained glass windows were carefully removed, with the hope that they will be preserved and cherished in a meaningful way.

## Lazarus House **Emergency Food Pantry**

The Sun

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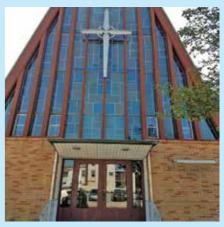
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Address	

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Lazarus House Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 1792, Wildwood, NJ 08260 All donations are tax deductible and will be personally acknowledged by Lazarus House Emergency Food Pantry.

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"I think it's very important to be positive about everything in your life that's negative." ~ Barbara Streitsand

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SUN ARCHIVE: 2007)





by Bob Ingram

## An Oscar for Ralph

I was in the Wildwood McDonald's on Rio Grande Avenue having breakfast – a fruit and walnut salad, one of Mickey D's new healthy offerings – when a fellow came up and introduced himself as Ralph Grassi.

He said he wanted to compliment me on the documentary I'd made on the Wildwood Boardwalk and the fiction I write for the Wildwood Sun-By-the-Sea newspaper. Now that's a nice way to start your day. We chatted for a while and then he gave me a cool business card for his Funchase website (www.funchase.com) and left.

I went on the site when I got home and it turns out that it should have been me complimenting Ralph Grassi. For anyone interested in Wildwood, Funchase.com is nothing short of miraculous. If they gave out Oscars for websites, my vote would go to Ralph Grassi and Funchase. You can literally spend days browsing and looking and reading and marveling. And, again, it's all about Wildwood, splendidly organized, researched, written, and illustrated with a cornucopia of archival photos and images.

The Funchase home page gives you an idea of what's inside: Hunt's Pier's Grand Opening, When Wildwood Rocked, The Fall of Kong, Wildwood Drive-In Theatre, Wildwood Rockives, The Summer of Jaws, The World of Wax, Enter the Funchase (about seven Wildwood piers), Hunt's Movie Theatres (about six theatres), Hunt's Sounds (sounds of the rides), Dr. Blood's Last Call, Video Vault (films from 1986 and the aftermath of the Starlight Ballroom fire), Mack's Pizza, Cuckoo for Coconut Heads, Hitchcock Manor, The Adventures of "Fast Buck Freddy" Mahana (puppeteer and designer), Remembering the Fun Shop, and Wildwood Historical Museum. It's as fantastic and amazing as Wildwood itself.

Away from Funchase, Ralph Grassi is supervisor of public safety in Wildwood Crest. Both his grandfathers were from South Philly, incidentally, one a butcher and the other a tailor.

He chose the Funchase name for his ongoing web project because it was the name of the old Ocean Pier that burnt down in 1943. {before opening as Hunt's Pier in 1957} "Funchase is another name for a funhouse," he explains. "I always loved that name because it was so antiquated."

He started the website in 2001 to premier the collectible Wildwood sculptures that he custom makes and then "I just started to put in more information and started getting into the research of the stuff I was interested in, especially the 'dark rides' – the enclosed, spooky rides," he continues. "It's a personal reflection on all the things that really stood out for me when I was a kid. I write from the heart and I have fun building little offshoots here and there, like a funhouse."

Now if you really want to see a funhouse, Grassi's house in Wildwood Crest fills that bill. It's a veritable museum – every room, wall to wall – of Wildwood memorabilia. It's the real life version of Funchase.

"I've always collected unusual or spooky stuff," he admits, "and when the first piece, a little clown from Sportland Pier, came to me in '88 or '89, I started to have this thirst for the things that were disappearing. Most of the stuff just went into the trash at that time, so I started to keep an eye on the Boardwalk and any time I would see a dumpster show up, I would ask and sometimes I would be welcome to help myself, or I would wait and pull stuff out of the trash."

Grassi and his wife, Donna, were married on Halloween, and for many years on Halloween the couple had an extravaganza at the house that brought as many as 450 people for a walk-through. They were so elaborate that Ralph began the planning and work about this time of year. "We had so many people show up that the police had to monitor it," Donna says.

Ralph says he hasn't done the Halloween show for a few years now and that it was so popular that the couple has had to put up signs saying it wasn't happening.

"I tried to recreate the Boardwalk with it," he says. That figures.

"Some pursue happiness - others create it." ~Anon.



On the same section of beach where the wonderful Ocean Pier once stood emerged an Oceanic Wonderland... Hunt's Pier. With only four rides in operation, Hunt's Pier had its unofficial opening on Memorial Day, May 30th 1957











#### Enter Funchase.com to relive your childhood in Wildwood











"I get by with a little help from my friends." - The Beatles.











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"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." ~Desmond Tutu



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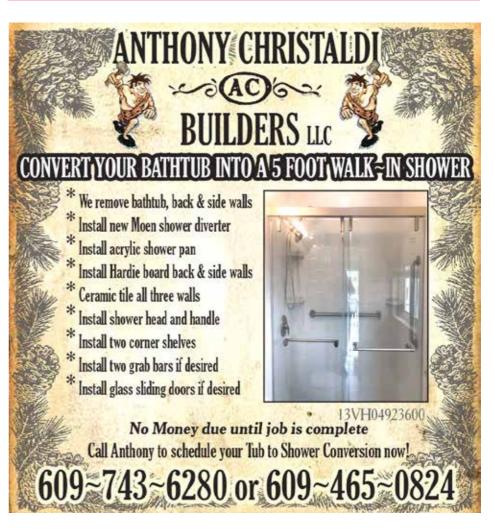
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"There is a destiny that shapes our ends — and a lasagna that ends our shapes!" ~Robert Orben, 2100 Laughs For All Occasions, 1983

# Carini

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# FIVE MILES of SMILES

I hope to see you again at the North Wildwood Flea Market Sunday, August 10, 2025



Best friends in the Crest Andrea & Pam



Tim McGovern & Marie Smith



Eric & Kristie of Salty Mermaid
She's back... and saltier than ever!



David & Sheila German say reading the Sun is their most favorite thing to do when they get to the shore.

(Thank you! xo ~Dorothy)



Beach buddies, Patty & Eileen



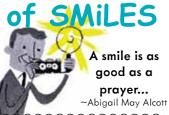
Mark, Henry & Donna Trottnow



Mike & Lilly Hickey

"A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away." ~Eudora Welty

## FIVE MILES



## The Tolomeo family at their North Wildwood

**Laundromat.** See their ad on page 16 and read more about them in our While You Were Away news column.







At the Tolomeo family's opening of North Wildwood Laundromat - On left, Jay & Ann Fetsick and Dave & Kathy DelConte, on right, NW City officials Nic Long, Sal Zampirri, Kelly Tolomeo, Mayor Patrick Rosenello, Dave DelConte, & Kyle Rutherford



Brian & Barbara Augustine



The one & only Monster Joe Trojak



Bob & Robbie Matteucci



Santa makes an incognito appearance



Theresa Markee w/Josh & Juliana

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## RAMBLER ROAD BEACH, WILDWOOD CREST **CONTEST STARTS AT 12 NOON**

The Atlantic Surfers' Organization together with OCEAN OUTFITTERS Surf Shop in Wildwood Crest will be holding it's 27th annual Wacky Wave Surf Contest on Saturday August 16, 2025 to benefit the Woody Hall Memorial Surf Scholarship.

A \$500 scholarship is available annually to Cape May County high school seniors in memory of Woody Hall, a Wildwood surf legend who lost his life as a result of a surfing accident.



Sandy & Woody Hall's grandson Cooper the Ninja turtle



Smurfettes ~Abby & Brigid with their Minion friends



From Ocean Outfitters Surf Shop on right, Jeff & Julia Walden and Dean & Bobi Lyon, et al.



Justin, Keri, Ralphie, Debbie Abby, Stella



Maura & Coco



Pop & little Royal



Brook Nina Chuck Harper and their Thing 1 & 2



Juliana, Anela & Harleigh



Martina & Chad DeSatnick with their bumble bee daughter and her butterfly friend



Lucy & Tessa

"The more I expect, the more unhappy I am going to be. The more I accept, the more serene I am." -Michael J. Fox



"There is a magic about the sea. People are drawn to it. People want to love by it. Swim in it. Play in it. Look at it." ~Cecilia Ahern

"Dear Sun, the other day i finally got my hands on a copy of the winter edition, sat on the seawall, and read it cover to cover. I have to say the articles were so beautiful and spoke to me! Wildwood wouldn't be Wildwood without The Sun!

Please keep up the amazing work! ~Lily P

THANK YOU LILY P!!!!



#### WHERE YESTERDAY & TODAY MEET BY-THE-SEA

#### THE FREEDOM OF SUMMER

From the moment you cross the bridge and catch sight of the endless sea and sky, a sense of freedom takes hold. It's as if the weight of the world lifts with each passing mile, and suddenly, you're here—where time slows down and life feels lighter.

Gone are the heavy coats, scarves, and boots of winter. In their place, we embrace the open-air simplicity of flip-flops and swimwear. Socks? Who needs them? After months of longing, we finally get to feel that soft, warm sand between our toes again~ a simple joy ~ a grounding that connects us once again to our happy place.

Summer at the shore is a time to savor life's little luxuries. It begins with the cool rush of jumping into the ocean, and drying off under the sun's warm embrace. The refreshing rinse of an outdoor shower, where the saltwater is washed away, but the memories linger.

It's about the joy of movement: letting your bare feet guide you along the water's edge, boat cruises that glide across the bay, fishing trips, surfing

HOW OCEAN WAVES HEAL YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM

Ocean waves follow a rhythmic pattern of 12 cycles per minute--the same as the breathing pattern of a relaxed human. This is why sitting by the ocean instantly puts you into a meditative state without even trying.

smooth silky waves, breezy rides on the tram car, or a leisurely bike ride along the shore. Maybe you're hopping on a golf cart for a sunset cruise to your favorite pub, or just strolling the boards.

Summer is about that unmistakable feeling of freedom when school's finally out, and endless days stretch ahead like an invitation to explore, play, and relax—an open calendar waiting to be filled with moments of fun in the sun and whatever makes you come alive.

This Summer issue of The Sun by the Sea is here to help you make the most of every moment. Inside, you'll not only be delighted with stories that fill your heart, you'll find every concert schedule, festival, and event to fill your days and nights. You'll discover the best spots to eat, created with care by business owners who've spent the winter preparing for the summer to serve you their finest!

A special shout-out to all the event coordinators and every hardworking business owner who make this magical season possible. If it weren't for them, where would all our enjoyment come from?

So take a deep breath, let the salt air work its magic, and embrace the freedom that only summer at the seashore can bring.

Every summer has its own story. Here's to creating yours in the place we all love to call home!

Gratefully Yours,

Dorothy xo

artist, editor & publisher



Introducing Our New Partners at Saylor Point Realty Group: Jerry Freal, Norm Bernard, & Julie Bucolo

We are delighted to announce that in November 2024, Jerry Freal and Norm Bernard of Calloway Realty, along with Julie Bucolo from Avalon Real Estate Agency have joined the Hoffman Agency and its branch, Saylor Point Realty Group. With deep local roots and decades of industry expertise, Jerry, Norm and Julie bring a legacy of excellence and a commitment to personalized service that perfectly aligns with our vision.

Jerry, a proud Belmont Abbey College graduate, began his real estate journey in 1986 alongside his mother, Mary Feral, at the family-owned Calloway Realty in Wildwood Crest—a trusted name since 1953. Earning his Broker's license in 1994, he later assumed leadership as Broker/Owner in 2012, building a reputation for his dedication and insightful market knowledge.

Norm, who transitioned to real estate following a distinguished 21-year career with Bell Atlantic/Verizon, moved from Bordentown, NJ to Wildwood Crest and began his real estate career at Calloway Realty in 2004. Starting as an Associate and advancing to manage key operational tasks, Norm's commitment and friendly approach quickly turned clients into lifelong friends.

Julie is a seasoned licensed agent with extensive hands-on experience. Her deep expertise in real estate will be an invaluable asset to our team.

Under Jerry and Norm's stewardship, Calloway Realty earned the silver award in the Best of Jersey Shore 2024 for Real Estate Company—a true testament to their hard work and excellence. Now, as part of Saylor Point Realty Group, all three agents are set to continue this tradition, elevating our service and community impact.

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Jerry Freal



Norman Bernar



Julie Bucolo

"A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams." ~William Arthur Ward





# 3 Generations at Hoffman Agency



Joseph Von Savage





Carole Pantalone

In 1957, Joseph Von Savage became a licensed real estate agent and began his career at Mr. Sharp's Real Estate in Wildwood. Just two years later, he launched his own company - Jos. Von Savage Real Estate. In 1970, he acquired Frank Hoffman's business and moved his operations to that location, where the family legacy continues to thrive today. Though Joseph passed away in 1974, his vision and values carried on through his daughter, Carole

Licensed at just 18 years old, Carole, stepped into the industry with the same passion and commitment that defined her father's career. A lifelong resident of Wildwood Crest, Carole's deep roots in the community are reflected in her unmatched knowledge of the island and surrounding areas. Her understanding of the current day neighborhoods, shifting market trends, and evolving buyer needs is what continues to set her apart. Clients recognize Carole not just for her expertise, but for her sincere dedication. For her as it was for Joseph — real estate is about more than transactions; it's about building trust, nurturing relationships, and helping people find their place in a community they can call home. Much of her business is built on referrals and repeat clients - a true testament to the values that have defined the Hoffman Agency for generations.



upholding tradition at the shore









## **Jackson Von Savage** 3rd Generation



Jackson Von Savage is a third-generation real estate professional proudly representing the Hoffman Agency in Cape May County. A lifelong resident of West Cape May, Jackson earned his real estate license straight out of high school and has spent the last decade developing a sharp, well-rounded approach to the business. He graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Hospitality in Business Management and a concentration in Real Estate Finance.

His early professional years were spent in hospitality leadership, serving as a General Manager at both the Virginia Hotel and Ebbitt Room in Cape May, and later as General Manager of the Pridwin Hotel in Shelter Island, where he led the property through its reopening and two successful seasons. In addition to his leadership roles, Jackson worked closely with the holding company's financial office at Cape Resorts, where he gained hands-on experience in underwriting and high-level real estate acquisitions. Spending several years out on the East End of Long Island—immersed in the Shelter Island, Hamptons, and North Fork markets—helped him develop a deep understanding of the luxury market. That knowledge has given him a unique perspective on the similarities between those markets and the evolving high-end landscape of Cape May and the South Jersey shore.

Today, Jackson brings that experience home, working to elevate both the Hoffman Agency and its sister brand, Saylor Point Realty. Jackson's approach is grounded in faith, family, and community. As an Eagle Scout, former student-athlete, and lifelong Cape May local, he understands the heart of the region and takes pride in helping others find their place within it. With deep respect for the legacy his family has built, he's committed to carrying it forward with integrity and vision, serving others with authenticity and care. Outside of real estate, Jackson enjoys fishing, exercising, snowboarding in new corners of the world, trying great restaurants, spending time on the beach, and staying active through sports and outdoor adventures. If you're looking to buy, sell, list, or rent in Cape May, the Wildwoods, or anywhere in New Jersey, Jackson is ready to help—whenever and however. He's driven by connection, value, and the simple joy of making great things happen for good people

## 77 Company

## FIVE MILE BEACH.

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#### Hello Sunshine! Wishing you a

July is on a journey ... Reveals bright beach mornings Reads The SUN Cearns the secrets to the best summer Follows the sun wherever it may lead Takes a bikeride on the Boards 500 Stops at 11 am to salute the flag Reads over to the downtown farmers market for Jersey corn + tomatoes shops for Christmas in July 1 1 1 August awakens early for coffee on the beach ... plans a day of fun in the Sun... builds 2-story Sand castles ... Goes Pier-hopping Grasps the Sky on the Great White Dines on pizza pies Vand french fries Loves sunsets on the Tram Car and Friday night Fireworks wishes summer would last forever wonders what else a day in Wildwood will bring ? Looks forward to d Sun-filled tomorrow

FUNDERFUL

**SUMMER OF '25** 

