

Against the Winter Sea's wild, restless soul... a Christmas Light shines on and makes us whole.

Im Dreaming of a
PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS

with a grateful "Savors"

with a grateful "Savors"

pumpkin scented saltair

wears Sweaters on the beach

gathers round the seashore table of one December dreams

about Tiny Miracles of treasures

life's little moments... and Big-ved

people Knows it's better to give

than to receive of an ore agrees

the BESTTHINGS in life AREN'T THINGS

Realizes we don't need more we

just need to be more THANKFUL of Revels in the spirit of Christmas

BELIEVES! Goes Caroling listens

to angels ... Discovers the Greatest

gift





"Let this thought close out your year . . . Believe that nothing is too good to be true."



To our clients and local community,

The Hoffman Real Estate Team and Saylor Point Realty Group wish you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We would like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation. At Hoffman Agency and Saylor Point Realty, we know what matters most — our clients. You always have, and you always will.

#### - Hoffman Agency & Saylor Point Realty Group



ictured is a Vintage 1929 Ford purchased by Carole Pantalone's father in the 60s. The children pictured with Carole are her nieces and nephews, Kate, David, Maddie and Jack 20 years ago. The car is still owned by the family to this day. Carole Pantalone, Broker/Owned of Hoffman Agency. Carole is a lifelong resident of Wildwood Crest. The Wildwoods are truly her home, giving her a deep understanding of the community, its neighborhoods and ever changing property

#### 2026 REAL ESTATE MARKET

In 2026, New Jersey's real estate market is expected to see continued steady, but moderating, price growth (around 1-3%), a more balanced market with increasing inventory, and slightly better buyer conditions due to potentially lower mortgage rates. Buyers should still be prepared to compete with cash offers, and sellers need to price realistically and present homes well.

#### For Buyers

Increased inventory:

More homes are expected to be on the market in 2026 as homeowners who delayed selling in previous years begin to list their properties.

More negotiation power:
With more options and longer times on the market,
buyers will have more room to negotiate for
credits or repairs.

Interest rate impact:
Mortgage rates are expected to remain elevated but may trend downwards, which could make the market more favorable for buyers by improving affordability and reducing intense bidding wars.

Competition:
Even with a more balanced market, be prepared to compete with cash offers. Having your financing and paperwork in order will be crucial.

#### For Sellers

Realistic pricing:
Sellers will need to price their homes to the market, as the days of rapidly rising prices may be over for the short term.

Presentation is key: A well-presented home that is priced appropriately is more likely to sell.

Negotiation:
Sellers should be prepared to negotiate on price, credits, or repairs, particularly on homes that require updates.

New Jersey is shifting from a sprint to a strategic match. Buyers finally have breathing room and the ability to negotiate meaningful credits, especially where properties need updates or carry higher HOA fees. Sellers can still achieve excellent outcomes if they price to the market, present impeccably, and sweeten terms where it counts. The data says leverage is balancing, not collapsing. Use it intelligently.

#### Three Generations, One Legacy

For over 80 years, Hoffman Agency has built a legacy of trust, service, and community pride in Cape May County. Founded in 1945 and passed down through three generations, our team blends deep local knowledge with a true passion for helping clients find their place at the shore. Today, Jackson Von Savage and Carole Pantalone continue that tradition with the same dedication, integrity, and love for our community.



#### Carole Pantalone **Broker at Hoffman Agency**

Lifelong Wildwood Crest resident with deep community roots

Expertise in both island & mainland properties

Known for lasting relationships & repeat clients

Office: 609.522.8177 | Cell: 609 425 4832 Hoffmanagency@snip.net



#### **Jackson Von Savage** 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Cape May County Realtor

> 10+ years of real estate experience

Deep commitment to client care & local pride

Office: 609.522.8177 Cell: 609.827.9770 Jacksonvonsavage@gmail.com "It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love." ~ J.R.R. Tolkien



WHERE YESTERDAY & TODAY MEET BY-THE-SEA

Dear Friends,

As another whirlwind of a year winds down, I'm reminded how lucky we are to share this little island. No matter what's happening in the world, we wake up to the ocean, see familiar faces, and live in a place full of simple blessings.

It's no secret that things feel heavy out there — politics, unprecedented violence and division, heart wrenching headlines that never seem to stop.

From the start, my goal for this little publication has been to offer a place where neighbors can come together around what we share—our love of this island, our stories, and its history—without letting politics or personalities get in the way.

That's why it feels especially important to hold on to what's right in front of us. Here, we can choose to look out for one another, to slow down, and to enjoy the simple things that make this coastal community so special.

A smile to a passerby, a quiet sunrise, a gift anonymously given—those little acts are what make this island feel like home and keep us all connected.

From my family to yours, wishing you a Joy-filled holiday season and a Peaceful New Year.

Warmly,

Dorothy KulisEK





# The Magic Returns.

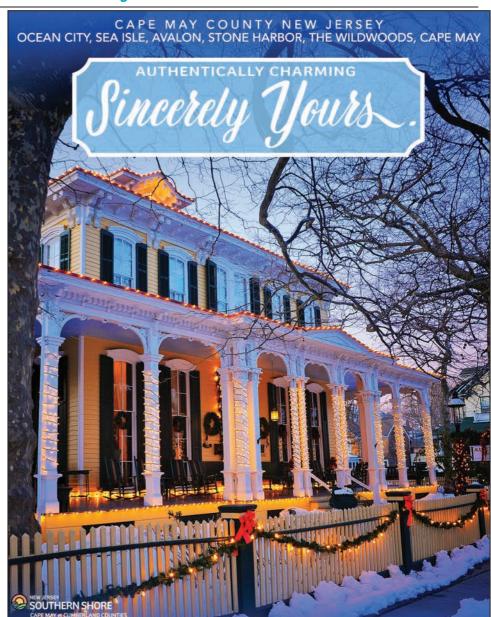
Get your elves ready... Winter Wonderland returns to Congress Hall.



LEARN MORE

November 28 — December 31,2025

Breakfast with Santa, Vendor Village, Carousel Rides & More CapeResorts.com/Wonderland



**ESCAPE** to a place that's real... and really charming. An area that stays vibrant long after summer. Quiet beach walks in the cool air, Quaint small towns filled with seasonal events for every interest, charming lodging, world class birding, active pursuits, and of course our famous free zoo that is open year round!

Escape the everyday and feel free to pursue your passions at escapetothejerseycape.com or call 1.800.227.2297







SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM. WWW.VISITNJ.ORG

"Your heart is a sun, Joy its stars, Faith a moon, shining in your darkness..." ~ Anon.



SALES **REALTY** RENTALS



Create unforgettable family memories at our premier vacation rentals.

SEAPOINTE VILLAGE - Enjoy short-term rentals with amenities like private beach access, four pools, tennis courts, lush gardens, and more.

DIAMOND BEACH COLLECTION - Experience unique properties with their own special amenities, perfect for family adventures near Cape May and The Wildwoods.

Interested in owning a piece of paradise? Explore our sales opportunities and make Seapointe Village your home away from home.

BOOK NOW! Visit SeapointeRealty.com or call 609-729-7100.



Judy L. Huber, Broker • 9900 Seapointe Boulevard, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260 **OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & VACATION RENTALS** 







While You Were Away: EPILOGUE

#### SUMMER / FALL 2025

The sun had barely set on Summer 2025 when some of the biggest headlines of the year began to fill our social media feeds.

We had previously known that North Wildwood's long-awaited Boardwalk rehab project was set to begin in late September, but now came word that Morey's Piers' iconic Giant Wheel would undergo a full refurbishment - resulting in another temporary but surreal alteration of the island's landscape.

In October, work on the Boardwalk's much-maligned 3000 block confirmed that the structure's transformation into a new luxury hotel was finally underway. Then, suddenly, came the shocking news that Splash Zone Water Park had ceased operations after 26 years of family fun.

Collectively, those quick and impactful hits exemplify just how abruptly things can change in the Wildwoods, especially during the so-called "offseason" months. Let's take a closer look at these happenings, along with the latest round of small business news since we left off at Memorial Day...

#### "Reinventing" the Wheel

As the calendar flipped from October into November, the most recognizable icon of the Wildwoods' skyline began to disappear. After its lighting package and centerpiece "sun" were removed, the landmark amusement ride's spokes were taken down, one by one, until only its tall support beams remained. But, worry not, the Giant Wheel is not being removed permanently; Morey's officials confirmed that its signature attraction was due for a full renovation this winter (a similar maintenance procedure was last performed in 1999). Each individual spoke will be sandblasted and the wheel's 40 gondolas will receive a refresh, while the center hub is sent to the Navy Yard in Philadelphia for a refurb. The Giant Wheel, which turned 40 this year, is expected to be back in place and fully operational by the time Mariner's Pier reopens next May.

#### Boardwalk Rehab Heads North

After years of planning and preparation, renovation has begun on the North Wildwood end of the Boardwalk. The project commenced with the full removal of boards and concrete pathways on the three-block stretch from just below 24th Avenue to 26th Avenue (where it meets with the Wildwood border). Access to businesses along this area is limited; Gateway 26, which is open year round save for a brief holiday season break, is open via its 26th Avenue side entrance. The work is expected to be completed by Spring. Detailing and new board pattern will mimic that of the Wildwood Boardwalk to the south, which has previously been renovated from 26th Avenue all the way down to Montgomery Avenue.

Splash Zone Slides into History The news that Splash Zone Water Park had permanently closed was sudden and shocking to most in the community. Outwardly, there had been no obvious indications that the family-oriented park was winding down its 26-year tenure on the west side of the Boardwalk, opposite Morey's Mariner's Pier. In a statement, owner Andy Weiner said that Splash Zone would be closing to "make way for an exciting new phase of development for the property," hinting at a possible boutique hotel or condominium development, but divulging no definitive plans. He noted that the center's slides and other equipment/ fixtures would be sold off in the months to come. In an interview with NJ Advance Media, Wildwood Mayor Ernie Troiano said he has talked with Weiner about the possibility of a hotel at the location.

#### The Call of the Wild (Resort)

Work has begun in earnest on transforming the 3000 block of the Boardwalk into a "luxury hotel," nearly three years after the project was approved by the Wildwood Planning Board. The much-maligned structure between Glenwood and Pine Avenues will become The Wild Resort, a six-floor resort

"Happiness is a sunbeam which may pass through a thousand bosoms without losing a particle of its original ray."

Jane Porter



### WHILE YOU WERE AWAY...

New and Old Business by Al Alven, the 'Director of fun' from WW365

with suites overlooking the Boardwalk, beach and ocean, a rooftop pool and restaurant with anticipated seating up to 150. Included will be a revamped facade that will include updated Boardwalk units, matching the style of the Starbucks that opened on the Glenwood Avenue corner in 2024 (which was, essentially, the first phase of the overall project).

#### Island Round-Up: Comings & Goings & MORE!

A breezy look at what else is new and recent... Just over the North Wildwood Blvd Bridge, the Wildwood Moose Lodge (300 W. Spruce Ave) is in the process of installing a new outdoor patio, bar and gaming area. The addition, a reflection of the lodge's growing membership, is set to open next spring... Big changes are coming to Exit 6 North Wildwood (formerly Echoes), in the heart of North Wildwood's Entertainment District. The bar/ nightclub will return as a new entity in 2026 with major upgrades, including a second floor and outdoor bars... Trio North Wildwood announced in August that it was closing after four seasons at 700 New Jersey Avenue. Rumors of a new restaurant were circulating, but could not be confirmed, at press time... Mikey's Island, a new bar and restaurant at 20th & Boardwalk, hosted a "preview weekend" in late October to rave reviews. It is set for a full-schedule opening in the spring... Arnold's Family Market (24th & New Jersey Aves) will close its doors permanently in mid-December, saying goodbye to the community after two seasons of operation... New life has been breathed into the historic restaurant building at 24th & Atlantic Aves in the form of Kimberly's. Originally and for many years known as the Athens Restaurant, this location has operated under several different names in recent years, including Jumbo's and Jersey's Joe's. Owner Kimberly Matthews plans to operate it as a full-service restaurant year round... There is still no official timetable on the opening of Wildwood's new "Super Wawa." A now-closed Rite Aid building still stands at the future location,

on New Jersey Ave, between Oak and Schellenger. The longstanding Wawa two blocks north, between Pine and Wildwood Aves, will eventually close and relocate to this spot in a sleek new, "Doo Wop"-inspired building with extra parking and fuel pumps... China House at 4100 New Jersey Avenue has closed after 14 years in business. The location will soon reopen as La ISLA Restaurant, which aims to "bring the vibrant flavors of Puerto Rico to the heart of Wildwood"... After seven years at 5916 New Jersey Ave, Sun Dog Grooming has moved into an expanded space at 4401 Park Blvd... Happy retirement wishes go out to Jerry Green and Jim Lombardo, brothers-in-law who have operated Green's Bike Rental since 1963. In September, they announced that their beloved bike rental house will remain open under new management and a new name in 2026... After a lengthy bid process, Kobe's Beachbreak Cafe opened on the beach block of Rambler Road in July. This eatery adds another element to what Wildwood Crest Mayor Don Cabrera calls "one of the borough's "most vibrant hubs" - also home to the new Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol building, Bradley's Bikes, public restrooms, the bike turnaround path and statue at the foot of Sunrise Park, and Madison Resort Wildwood Crest... A big change is in the works at the VIP Family Motel at 6505 Atlantic Ave in Wildwood Crest. After the season, the beloved motel's 60-year-old office building was demolished. It will be replaced with a new office, larger laundry facility, expanded storage space and a private second-floor residence. And, YES, the new design will preserve some of the "original Doo Wop charm" of the original building!

With a number of major projects underway and a few more bubbling just under the surface (wink, wink), we are undoubtedly in for yet another newsworthy winter in the Wildwoods.

Happy Holidays, everyone - we'll see you next Spring!

Al Alven

Director of Fun, Wildwood 365







# 6 SIGHTSEER

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

www.DOOWW.com







# SHOP • DINE • PLAY & STAY DOWNTOWN WILDWOOD









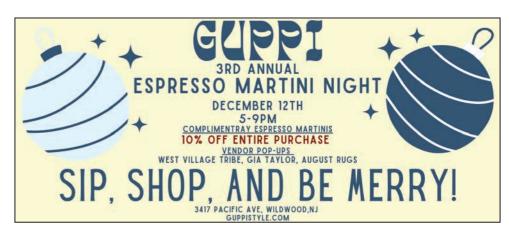


### SHOP • DINE • PLAY & STAY











# Downtown Wildwood www.







# SHOP • DINE • PLAY & STAY









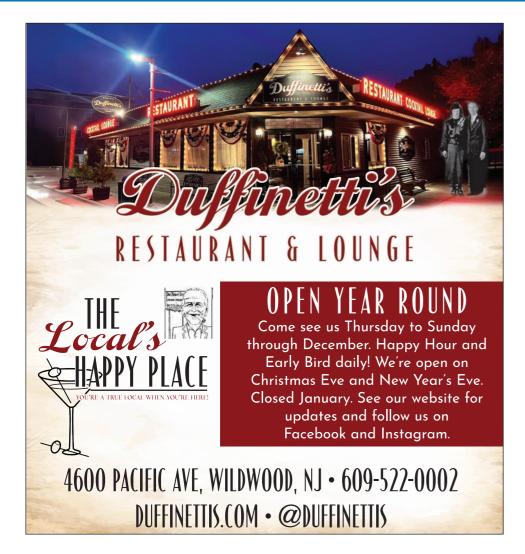






# 











## SHOP • DINE • PLAY & STAY

Amy's Wildwood Christmas Tree: A Labor of Evergreen Love at Mudhen

#### by Erin McGinniss

ive-mile natives know: Christmas at Mudhen Brewing Co. is a holiday Must-do. And just about five years ago, the celebrations were only heightened with the addition of the Wildwood Christmas Tree-created, designed, and assembled each year by lifelong local, Amy Russo Coleman. When Mudhen owners and friends Brendan and Robin Sciarra—whom Amy has worked for over 16 yearsasked her to take on the project, she dove right in. What began as a sevenfoot tree is now a ten-foot labor of love, with new, handmade ornaments added each year.

With her prized possession in handa trusty 1977 phone book, which she refers to "more than Google"-Amy got to work to see that businesses of Wildwood past and present were represented in her ornaments. She strives to showcase everyone who's made their mark on the island.

And that she does—creatively, attentively, and with a whole lot of Mod Podge. Amy pays attention to the way the ornaments lay and hang, how different shapes add dimension, and where certain treasures end up. Visitors can discover Wildwood boats, restaurants, beach balls, old motel room keys, and Amy's favorite: vintage postcards from the 1940's.

Look closely and you'll find a special tribute to Amy's life on the island: a small takeout menu hung by a red and white checkered ribbon. The menu belonged to Amy's family's business, the iconic, unforgettable Russo's Italian Restaurant.

Originally opened by her Italian immigrant grandparents in 1922 and later passed down to her father and his sisters, Amy grew up in the restaurant. "It was the greatest experience of my life," she said. "It was the focal point of our whole existence."

Amy got her start as a salad girl. "If you really want to get technical, my first job was probably removing the little rubber bands around the parasols for the drinks,"she laughed. "I think that was just a job my father gave me to do to keep me busy and





Be sure to visit Mudhen this holiday season and enjoy the Wildwood Tree



out of his way when he had to drag me to work."

She worked alongside family and friends, under the leadership of her beloved father, Joe Russo. A funny, easily-likeable, generous man with a heart of gold, "My dad was the greatest man to walk the face of this earth, if you ask me,"Amy said.

Shortly before her father's passing, the family decided to close Russo's doors in 2008. Amy was unaware of the plans until it was too late. "If that didn't kill me, nothing will," she said. "It was devastating for me."



Davis Avenue, the street her father grew up on, was honorarily named "Joe Russo Avenue" around 2020.

Today, Amy runs the one-woman business, Retro Rides, where she drives people around Wildwood in an unmissable station wagon filled with throwback tunes and old-school mementos. She likes to drive her passengers down her father's street, saying, "'you gotta say hi to Joe Russo!' Although the restaurant is closed today, the Russo family legacy lives on in Amy. Her love for her father, her family, and Wildwood radiates through her tree at Mudhen Christmas, its carefully-crafted ornaments, and every detail down to the ribbon.



Amy at Retro Rides (609)602-2356



Amy with her dear father



The iconic Russo's Restaurant & Bar



The wonderful and lovely and dearly missed Joe & Pat Russo

# Downtown Wildwood





Good Food. Good Beer. Great Times.















#### **OPEN EVERY DAY!**

Lunch | Dinner | Late Night **DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS** LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC

100 EAST TAYLOR AVE | WILDWOOD, NJ | 609-522-8383 DOGTOOTHBAR.COM



WE'RE A CRAFT BREWERY FOCUSED ON QUALITY, CREATIVITY & **COMMUNITY. VISIT US TO ENJOY OUR DELICIOUS BEERS & GREAT FOOD** IN A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE.

127 W. RIO GRANDE AVE | WILDWOOD, NJ | 609.846.7918

MUDHENBREW.COM

# 

brick oven pizza & kitchen

Fresh • Local • Homemade

# Tion House











SERVING UP DELICIOUS, HAND-CRAFTED NEAPOLITAN-STYLE PIZZA & ITALIAN FARE

4709 NEW JERSEY AVE | WILDWOOD, NJ | 609.600.3964

POPPISBRICKOVEN.COM



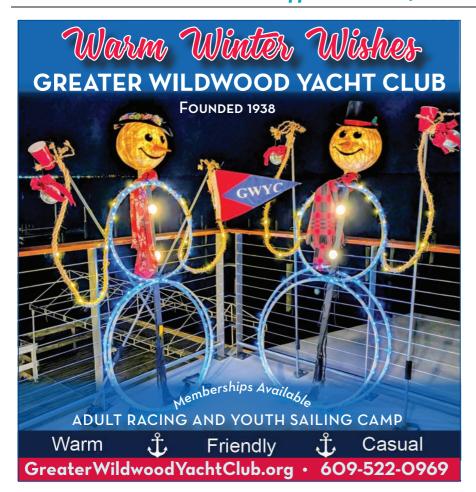
8AM-1PM

START YOUR DAY RIGHT WITH **OUR DELICIOUS BREAKFAST OFFERINGS!** 

127 W. RIO GRANDE AVE | WILDWOOD, NJ | 609.846.7918

AT MUDHEN BREWING CO.

"Blessed are the happiness makers, blessed are they who know how to shine." ~Henry Ward Beecher







#### How Helen Got Her Dream of a Pink House at the Shore :-)

submitted by David Check

written by Dorothy Kulisek



128 E. Lotus Rd., Wildwood Crest, built c. 1907 demolished in 2004

In the early 1960s, when the Check family first began vacationing in Wildwood Crest, the long drive down the Garden State Parkway from Plainfield, New Jersey, felt expedient but monotonous. Helen, however, always insisted-much to her husband's annoyance—that they take the "shore route," Ocean Drive. Though the trip took a couple of hours longer, it was far more scenic. Along the way, just north of Asbury Park, stood an old waterfront Victorian mansion painted pink. Helen adored it, and she made the family stop to see it whenever they passed. Each time, she would smile and say she dreamed of someday having a pink house at the shore.

In 1973, the family moved permanently to Wildwood Crest, into a circa-1907 home with a wraparound porch and stately columns. At the time, the house was painted white. The following year, Helen and her husband decided to repaint it a subdued gold, which looked handsome and traditional. But when the early 1980s came around and the house was due for another fresh coat, Helen saw her chance.

As the family discussed possible colors. Helen pushed for pink. Her husband and sons-David and

Dan-were adamantly against it. Reluctantly, everyone settled on a compromise: mauve. Yet as the painter began testing samples, something curious started to happen. Each day, when the men came home from work or school, the color on the walls looked lighter. At Helen's instruction, the painter kept edging closer and closer to pink. Finally, Helen gave the order and had the paint delivered before anyone could object.

The family braced for embarrassment, convinced they would be the laughingstock of the neighborhood. But to their surprise, passersby began slowing down to admire the house. Some even stopped to take photographs. Over time, more pink houses began appearing around the island, perhaps inspired by Helen's bold choice.

When people complimented the Check family on the pink house, Helen's husband and sons would just shake their heads and say, "Oh yes... isn't it beautiful?"

And so, by a little persistence—and a touch of trickery—Helen finally achieved her lifelong dream: a pink house at the shore.

"Blessings are like stars in the night sky, they light the way." ~Fortune Cookie from Dragon House, Wildwood



ornaments personalized free while you wait

SHOP ONLING FOR CONVENIENT PICK UP AT WWW.WINTERWOODGIFT.COM



"And we are better throughout the year for having in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime." ~Laura Ingalls Wilder

#### My Glenwood Avenue School Christmas Memories



1946 ~ 1950 😱 🥦

by David Neff





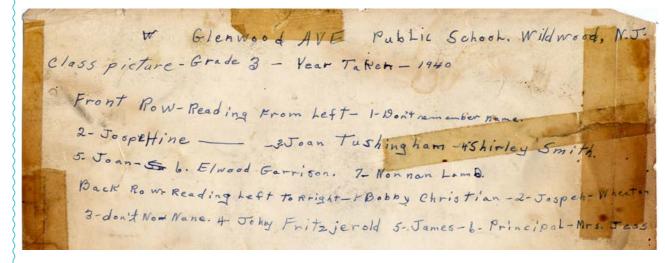
Autumn has returned once again. The air is crisp, leaves have turned red and gold, and signs of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and yes—Christmas—are appearing in the stores. So it's no surprise you're now holding the 2025 holiday issue of The Sun. When trick-or-treating is done and families return from Thanksgiving dinners, the countdown to Christmas begins. Youngsters dream of candy, decorations, trees, Santa, and the toys they've wished for all year. Adults feel a mix of emotions—hopes for the future, and memories, happy and bittersweet, of Christmases past. As the years pass, those memories pile up.

I've been around since 1941, and my Christmas memories span every stage of life—family gatherings through the generations, friends and neighbors old and new, and bustling Decembers filled with church services and community events. Before the days of television and the internet, churches were packed, serving as the social heart of town, especially at Christmastime. But today, I want to share one chapter in particular: my early school years, 1946–1950, at the old Glenwood Avenue School on New York Avenue between Magnolia and Glenwood Avenues. The current Glenwood Avenue Elementary was built in 1955, but this site has been home to an elementary school since 1904.



#### Glenwood Ave. Public School Class of 1940 3rd Grade

from the collection of the late Elwood Woody Garrison, pictured 2nd from the right in front row



I began school in September 1946, just after my fifth birthday. At that time, Glenwood taught kindergarten through sixth grade: Miss Naomi Bright for kindergarten and first, Mrs. Jess for second, Miss Cole for third, Mr. Messick for fourth, Mrs. Scully for fifth, and Mrs. Emory for sixth. By the time I reached sixth grade, the school was overcrowded, and our class was moved to the Wild-

wood High School building on Pacific Avenue.

Music was part of our curriculum, with songbooks full of American standards and holiday favorites. We sang Oh Susanna, America the Beautiful, Over the River and Through the Woods, and even tried our first French with Frère Jacques. At Christmas, we sang both carols and popular



"An inner smile is like basking in love—it brings health, happiness, and harmony within and without." ~ Mantak Chia



tunes. The newer hits—Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman—were printed on fresh mimeograph sheets, their lavender ink and unforgettable smell still vivid in my memory.

The first floor of Glenwood held the boys' and girls' bathrooms, the heater room, and storage. The second floor classrooms branched off a common area at the top of the stairs, and the third floor, by then partly closed for safety, had only two usable rooms.

The last day before Christmas break—usually a day or two before Christmas Eve—brought an early dismissal, but not before the highlight of the season: Santa's visit. All the classes would gather in the common area, singing carols as we waited. Then came the faint wail of police and fire sirens, growing louder until they stopped outside. Wildwood's police and firemen would escort Santa into the school, to cheers and more singing. He reminded us to be on our best behavior for his Christmas Eve visits, then handed each child a stocking brimming with treasures—chocolates, hard candy, candy canes, peanuts, an apple, and an orange.

For children in those days, that stocking was a big deal. Most families' budgets were tight, and candy was a luxury. We walked home clutching our stockings, hearts full of excitement. Christmas Day was almost here!

Those stockings may be long gone, but the memories remain—glistening like ornaments on the tree of my life, treasured as much today as they were in the glow of childhood.

# it's all about the little {seaside} things

by Meg Corcoran

It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart... - Ellen G. White

The holidays are a big time of the year (JUST ASK HALLMARK), a time for conquering endless to-do lists and connecting with family and friends. Many of us think in big terms (NO ONE WANTS TO SHARE A TINY TURKEY) but, in reality, it really is the little things that take up the biggest place in our hearts.

A sunrise walk shared with fellow morning lovers, being a witness to the sun blending with the sea, creating a sparkling blue even Crayola can't replicate, a meal shared with your favorite people (where, let's face it, those "little" side dishes are the real stars!), salt-scented air blended with baked apple pie (an aroma meant to be bottled), and time off from our normal routines to enjoy it all; this is what Christmas offers us.

While the Christmas trees displayed at all the Wildwood Tree Lightings are anything but little, the soothing sounds of the sea, coupled with the comfort of hot chocolate and homemade cookies, are some of life's most lighthearted pleasures.

Santa Paws offers time with our furry little friends while the Wildwood Holiday Spectacular invites us to slow down and enjoy the spectacular sights!

Each chapter of our Christmas story contains carefree moments mixed with the occasionally complicated (crowds and long shopping lines are not for the faint of heart), but when blended together, all tell a story worth celebrating and sharing.

Let's remember all that we didn't include on those Wish Lists but are privileged to partake in...finding a sand-dollar on a sleepy beach...a bike ride on the boardwalk... a sunlit path to walk on and a starry night to dream upon... wrapping paper remnants and leftover desserts... salt air in our souls and the belief in magic in our hearts... all signs of a life worth living...

When Christmas day comes to an end, let's remember the cleanup can wait but that bay view sunset is quietly calling, with all its soothing colors, and we don't want to miss it!

#### Buddy Monaghan: Riding the Waves of Life



for as long as he can remember, Buddy Monaghan has felt most at home on the water and in the classroom. A first-grade special education teacher in Glassboro, Buddy discovered his calling back in middle school, knowing even then that helping kids learn and grow would be his life's purpose.

But long before the lesson plans came the surfboards. Buddy learned to surf at just four years old on 2nd Street at the Inlet Beach in North Wildwood—a place that's been like a second home ever since. Summers have always meant sand, salt, and the sound of the waves, mixed with the laughter of vacationers at Hassles. For the past seven summers, Buddy has worked there running the bike rentals, parking lot, and mini golf course. This summer marks year eight, and he wouldn't trade it for anything.

Growing up, one of Buddy's favorite movies was Surf's Up, the animated tale of a surf-loving penguin named Cody Maverick. The movie's message—that real success comes from passion, friendship, and authenticity, not trophies—stuck with him. So much so that when the chance came, he asked local artist Dana Martino to paint Cody Maverick right onto his surfboard.

And when he's not teaching or chasing waves, Buddy's spreading cheer in another way—by dressing up as Buddy the Elf! We captured him in full costume for our holiday cover, bringing his joyful spirit to life just as brightly as any Christmas light.

Thank you for being You, Buddy! Keep smiling...



... and Keep Surfing!

"Sometimes I think more creativity is put into muffin recipes than into the rest of society combined." - Jerry Seinfeld

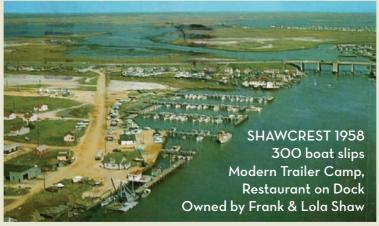








#### SCOTTY McCOY & JACKIE McBRIDE \*\* Met Their True Love at Shawcrest













by Dorothy Kulisek

SHAWCREST has always held a special place in the history of the Wildwoods. Frank R. Shaw, Sr. and his wife, Lola, first purchased the land and gave it its name. They built businesses there-boat slip rentals, boat rentals, and even an ice cream parlor-laying the foundation for a close-knit waterfront community. Later, their son Frank "Dick" Shaw, Jr., and his wife, Diane, transformed Shawcrest into what many know it as today: a thriving mobile home park with over 300 homes and a marina.

By the mid-1960s, Shawcrest had become a summer haven for families. Among the many were the Mc-Coy and McBride families. Scott Mc-Coy's grandfather and father, both named Larry, bought a mobile home in the park in 1974 for \$5,000. Scott still laughs at the memory of squeezing into their little twobedroom summer house, his dad joking that if there were no beds available, he could always "sleep in the drawer." Days were spent fishing with his father, and evenings often drifted down to Otto's Boat Rentals—a Shawcrest landmark easily spotted when crossing the Rio Grande Bridge into Wildwood.

Just across the boulevard stood another magnet for local kids: the amusement park with the towering gorilla, waterslides, go-karts, arcade, batting cages, and ice cream stand. For \$10, Scott and his friends could buy a bracelet and enjoy the attractions all night long. Shawcrest, though small, offered a whole other world of adventure, located just outside of Wildwood.

It was also a place of healing. In February 2000, Jackie McBride lost her father, Tom, to brain cancer at just 39 years old. That summer, her mother, Dolores, bought a home in Shawcrest, searching for comfort by the sea. Jackie found solace there, and—without knowing it—she also found the beginning of her future.

By 2005, Jackie and Scott lived just a block apart. A mutual friend, Michael, played matchmaker, introducing the two 20-year-olds with a teasing question: "Do you know Muffin?"—the affectionate nickname Jackie's late father had given her. Although they did know each other since they were 15, it was that summer, the two fell in love.

Life has a way of weaving stories together, and Jackie has always believed her father had a hand in bringing Scott to her. Had her family not needed the healing waters of Shawcrest, their paths may never have crossed. In a twist of fate, Jackie and Scott now own McCoy's Café, where muffins happen to be a proud staple on the menu-an unspoken nod to the nickname that started it all.

Jackie often laughs that she "met her husband at a trailer park," but anyone who knows Shawcrest understands its magic. It's more than a trailer park—it's a community, a sanctuary, and for Jackie and Scott, the place where love first took root.

The two married on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2012 and now raise their children, Riley and Scottie, by the shore where their story began. Though the McCoys have since moved to North Wildwood, they remain closely connected to friends like (matchmaker) Michael and Michelle, who still live in Shawcrest.

For those who have ever called Shawcrest home, it remains a place full of memories-of fishing trips, summer nights under neon lights, healing tides, and, sometimes, love stories that last a lifetime.



"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know our loved ones are happy." ~ Native American proverb

#### Fair Winds & Following Seas

Captain Frank Hennigan January 16, 1975 – October 18, 2025



Dear friends of Frank & Mary, Mike & Amanda Engelien (asked The Sun to share his story)

#### CAPTAIN FRANK HENNIGAN, 50,

set sail for his final voyage on October 18, 2025, when the boat he was transporting to Florida capsized in \*Oregon Inlet off the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The sea that had long been his home turned sudden and fierce, casting both Frank and another man, Taylor Flannery, into its depths. Taylor was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard after clinging to an emptied detergent bottle for flotation. Frank was found unresponsive—taken by the waters he had so faithfully navigated all his life.

Just thirty minutes before the accident, Frank called his wife, Mary. His final message to her was a photograph of that morning's sunrise—a ritual he kept on every voyage. It was as if he knew to send her one last light from the horizon he loved.

Frank leaves behind immeasurable heartbreak for his beloved wife of 14 years, Mary (née Ennis), and their three young children: Mollie, Maggie, and Fisher.

A lifelong mariner, Frank's compass always pointed toward adventure. He traveled the waters of the Caribbean, South and Central America, and the entire U.S. East Coast. His salt-stained passport told the story of a man who found peace where the sky met the sea.

But no harbor was dearer to him than home. Frank was a devoted husband, son, and father—ever present in the lives of his children. His mother, Sue, was his anchor; their bond unbreakable.

When Frank met Mary in 2009, the tides of his life changed forever. They married in 2011, and three beautiful children



Frank & Mary, Mollie, Maggie & Fisher

soon filled their sails. Mary was the love of his life, his harbor in every storm, and the greatest gift he ever received.

Frank made everyone feel like his best friend. He called to check in, remembered every birthday, and lit up every room he entered. Larger than life, he believed bigger was always better: his truck, his boat, his snowplow. His fishing trips were epic, his coolers endless, and his flower boxes legendary—especially his Montauk daisies, which he shared freely with friends.

Summers were spent in Wildwood, where Frank was happiest by the sea—daytime dates with Mary, pizza at Sam's on Fridays, cheering his girls at sailing, and taking Fisher on early-morning fishing trips. His captain's license and flounder championship belt hung proudly on the wall, proof of a life lived fully and boldly.

Maybe self-proclaimed, but mostly true— Frank was the tannest, toughest, hardestworking, best fisherman in South Jersey. He was the tide that pulled everyone together, and his passing leaves a void as wide and deep as the ocean itself.

Though the sea has claimed his body, it cannot still his spirit. It lives on in every sunrise over the water and in the hearts of those who loved him most.

Captain Frank has gone home—beyond the breakers, where the sea is calm and the horizon endless.

(Adapted with love from the family obituary by Dorothy Kulisek)

\*The Oregon Inlet is known to be treacherous due to changing tides, high winds, and shifting sandbars. Its dangerous reputation is highlighted by the number of vessel groundings & capsizings, earning it a place in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic".





"The grateful heart will always find opportunities to show its gratitude." ~AESOP

# Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Serving all of the Jersey Shore points

Joseph V. Rullo ABR

Cell:609.827.9908 Off:609.522.6333 Fax:609.522.8350

joe@capeislandsrealty.com

#SliceoftheBeachLife #JVRrealtor

# "Get your Slice of the Beach Life"





Cape Islands Realty 105 W. 2nd Ave. North Wildwood, NJ 08260 www.capeislandsrealty.com





Amy & Lisa Russo having fun with Hayden & Geoffrey at the Family Holiday event



Margie, Frank & Kathryn



Joe & Trish Lemma with their aranddaughter Vivianna



April, steve, Dino Zozzaro



Christa, Marsha & Luke



Gerry Bell, Nicole Cammarota and Dante Spataro



N Wildwood girls

FIVE MILE BEACH

"Half the charm of fishing is that it generally takes one into beautiful scenery. Catching fish is not all of fishing."

~J. Arthur Hutton, "Some Pre-War Fishing in Norway," c.1931

The Sun

## Hooked on Holiday Memories

Reeling in the warmth of winters past, in memory of two fine fishing gentlemen - Lou Rodia & Frank McAlarnen



About six or seven inches of snow ended any hopes for a holiday fishing trip planned for the long weekend. But it brought back memories of one of our finest fishing days—on a New Year's morning years ago—spent searching for pickerel in the haunts shown to us by the late Frank McAlarnen. Frank, a longtime Wildwoods builder, was both a skilled freshwater fisherman and an enthusiastic saltwater angler. In his later years, when we were lucky enough to fish with him, he shared tips that deepened our love for the sport.

Many hours were spent in his Glenwood Avenue office, swapping stories about South Jersey freshwater fishing. Frank preserved his biggest catches by tracing their outlines on brown wrapping paper, noting the date, weight, and location—a simple but unique record of his accomplishments.

He also had an unusual secret for producing the best worms for early spring fishing—when it was too cold for trout to rise to a fly. Like many fishermen, he kept a worm box in his garage, but with one addition: pulverized red brick dust. He'd grind bricks by hand for hours, believing it gave the worms a brighter color. Whatever the science, it worked. On one memorable Trout trip, Frank headed out early, then spent the day guiding us to his favorite spots. Limits came slowly, but fishing those places with a true gentleman made the day unforgettable.

Another time, when Snapper Blues were biting, Frank tipped us off to a hotspot along Ocean Drive north of the Grassy Sound toll bridge. There, the Snappers struck Shiners in the current or small spoons cast uptide and



Frank McAlarnen, (front center) more than an avid fisherman, was a devoted family man, respected Wildwood Catholic teacher, accomplished swimmer, and the "Winningest Basketball & Baseball Coach in South Jersey," and forever missed. He passed away suddenly on August 15, 1970, in his early 50s.

retrieved slowly. Ever patient, Frank had my young sons, Louis (5) and Billy (4), make their own casts, bait hooks, and remove fish. Thanks to him, they had a day they still talk about.

Frank's stories were always woven with practical tips from years on the water. His legacy lives on, but we can't help feeling nostalgic passing the little park on Glenwood Avenue, where we once gathered nightcrawlers for a trip.

At Christmastime, blessings are often counted by what's under the tree. But true giving isn't measured in things. Frank's greatest gifts were his time, wisdom, and love for fishing—shared freely, inspiring us to teach others so the gift grows in meaning.

Simple acts, like showing someone how to hook a shiner or find the best spot for a big catch, become part of a larger legacy. It's a gift we carry forward—the privilege of being a fisherman and sharing that joy.

On this snowy, windy evening, we reminisce and look forward to the new year, wishing you full hooks, memorable days on the water, and the wisdom to take only what you can use. Let us set an example by releasing undersized or surplus fish, preserving the joys of fishing for generations.

The very best of the holiday season to you all.

#### OPEN 10 TO 5 THUR-FRI-SAT-SUN & MON

Open All Year!!

Voted THE BEST FUDGE!



Thank You for making us part of your Seashore traditions!

Quinn's Original :

### FUDGE ISLAND

2200 BOARDWALK, NORTH WILDWOOD, NJ 08260



Homemade Creamy Fudge • Handmade Chocolates
Delicious Salt Water Taffy • Homemade Coconut
Macaroons • Gifts for anyone on your list

## NOW TAKING HOLIDAY ORDERS!

We Ship World-wide 609-522-0136

Visit FudgeIsland.com

Tollow us @originalfudgeisland

"Kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself keeps you feeling young." ~Betty White

#### Only a handful of Wildwoodians can say...

#### "I'M A DR. MACE BABY!" or "I WAS BORN AT HATTIE LONG'S!"

In the early days of the 1900s, before there were hospitals nearby, two remarkable women-Dr. Margaret Mace and Ms. Hattie Long-brought new life into the world across the Wildwoods. Together, they delivered the majority of the island's population, shaping generations of families with their care, courage, and compassion.

It is an honor to help carry on their legacy through our annual summer gathering, where those once delivered by their hands—the "babies" of Dr. Mace and Mrs. Long—come together for a cherished reunion. Each year, new stories are shared, old friendships rekindled, and new ones formed.

This year, our oldest "baby," Jim Wheaton, is 93, and our youngest, Michael Lanza, is 76. Seeing them all together reminds me that a wonderful part of these great women lives on in every one of them—the spirit of kindness, community, and enduring connection that helped build the heart of the Wildwoods.

Michael Lanza 11/10/49 #1 LONG

Brook Koeneke 3/29/36 #2 LONG

**Dennis Reed 11/13/48** #3 MACE

Judy Kennedy Conboy 3/30/45 #4 MACE

> Bob Speigel 8/10/47 #5 MACE

Bonnie Speigel 2/27/49

MACE not present

Paul Dare 2/16/49

#6 LONG'S

Larry Lillo 10/20/47

#7 MACE

Lana Turner MacDonald 11/15/46 #8 MACE

Jim Wheaton 4/15/32

#9 MACE POLDEST BABY

Cathy Nesbitt Smith 3/25/44

#10 LONG Rex A. Garrison 12/14/47

#11 LONG

Lola Pearl Borden 8/6/43

#12 delivered at home on Shawcrest island by Hattie Long

H. Bergen Ellingsen 8/12/40

#13 MACE

Harry Hudson, Jr. 9/21/46 #14 LONG'S

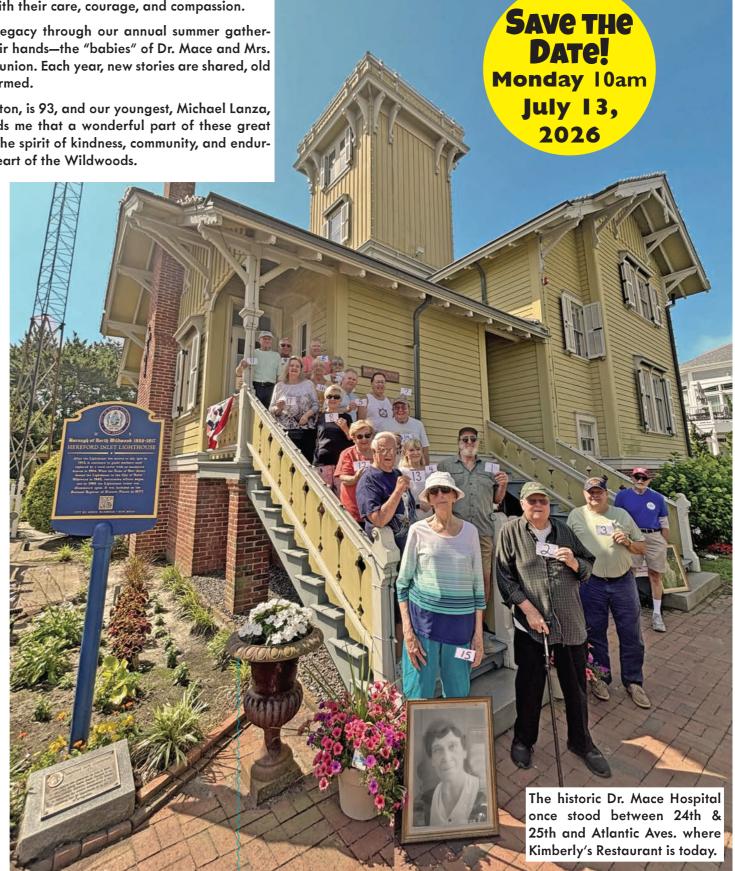
Inge Friesenborg Laine 8/2/39

#15 LONG'S Cherie Davies Russell 8/17/44

#16 MACE

Louise Hand Mihalek 8/17/48

#17 MACE



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

### A Red Coat for Bobby

Special thanks to Sun followers Lou and Donna Baldeman for sharing this heartwarming tale they sent to me as a Christmas card. I'm sure you'll enjoy it just as much as I did.

remember tearing across town on my bike to visit Grandma on the day my brother dropped the shattering bomb: "There is no Santa Claus" he jeered. "Even dummies know that!"

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "worldfamous" cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. In between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus" she snorted, "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go Where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even had a chance to finish my second world- famous warm cinnamon bun.

'Where' turned out to be Newberry's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through the store's big old wooden doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Here, take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car."

Then she turned and walked out of Newberry's. I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and so very crowded, full of people scrambling to finish up with their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church. I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's second

Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always

wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he just didn't have a good coat.

I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a nice red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked really warm, and he would like that.

"Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly, "for Bobby". The nice lady smiled at me as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

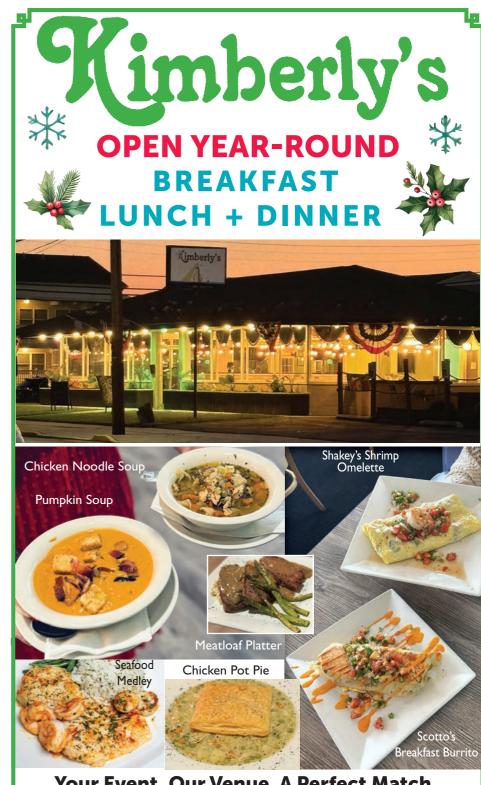
That evening, as Grandma helped me wrap the coat a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible. We wrapped it in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote on it, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus"

Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus" she whispered, so I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darknes for the front door to open. Finally, it did, and there stood Bobby.

Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma had said they were --ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team. I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: **\$19.95.** (Writer Unknown)

May you always have LOVE to share, HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care... And may you always believe in the magic of Christmas!



#### **Your Event, Our Venue. A Perfect Match.**

Host your next special occasion in North Wildwood! From bridal showers to bar mitzvahs and birthdays, we offer the perfect setting for any celebration. Reach out now to plan your memorable event!

CATERING PACKAGES FOR EVERY OCCASION

#### **HOLIDAYS • SPECIAL EVENTS • GAMEDAY PARTIES**

2401 Atlantic Ave., North Wildwood (267) 987-7616 kimberlysnww@gmail.com See facebook for Specials: @Kimberly's Food Services www.Kimberlysnw.com

The Bicyclist's Philosophy of Life: "Life isn't just a matter of balance, it's a matter of faith. You can keep upright only by moving forward."

#### FROM BIKES TO BOATS AND FLOATS, TRAMS & SANTA SLEIGHS:

#### How Magnolia Bikes brings Wildwood nostalgia back to life

BY DOROTHY KULISEK

When it came time to create floats for the 2024 Wildwood Christmas Parade, Charles Eyster of Magnolia Bikes knew he wanted something special. His first idea was to build replicas of the island's iconic lifeguard boats—but space and structural challenges quickly sank that plan. Instead, inspiration struck closer to home: Wildwood's beloved sightseeing boats of yesteryear.

Eyster and his team, (he, himself and him :-) transformed threebench surreys into whimsical versions of two classics—the Big Blue Sightseer and the Pink Flamingo. Built almost entirely from recycled materials, including old float parts, foam board, and wood, the project became both a labor of love and a nod to Wildwoods history. The Sightseer was decked out with seahorses and, for a festive twist, the Grinch himself at the helm-complete with a Burger King crown. The Pink Flamingo sported a second deck, filled with doll-sized "passengers" enjoying the ride.

Adding to the magic, Charles Eyster arranged for two retired sea captains—Chuck Schumann of the Sightseer and Captain Sinns of the Big Flamingo, to pilot the floats during the parade. With the frigid winter temperatures however, Capt. Sinns was unable to make it out.

For Eyster, the project carried a wave of nostalgia. As a child, he had ridden those same tour boats, which themselves had fascinating origins— after the war, they were repurposed WWII PT boats to carry sightseers and fishermen along the Wildwood coast.

With clever craftsmanship, heartfelt detail, and a dash of humor, Eyster succeeded in giving Wild-



The Pink Flamingo & Blue Sightseer

at the annual Jaycee's Downtown Wildwood Christmas Parade



wood loving parade-goers more than just floats. He brought back memories of summers past and celebrated the spirit of Wildwood, where even a bicycle can set sail.

And the best part? The story doesn't end here. Wait until you see what Charles has been working on for this year's Christmas Parade!

Come and see for yourself on Friday, December 5th at 6 p.m. in Downtown Wildwood DON'T MISS THE MAGIC!



Charles Eyster of Magnolia Bikes & Parking spends months in hs garage transforming bicycle surreys into Christmas parade floats!



Charles Eyster & his 105 year old father-in-law, Vince riding shotgun



Charles Eyster & his sister Laura



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more,"

#### It's a wonderful **WILDWOOD CHRISTMAS**

#### NORTH WILDWOOD

#### WILDWOOD

#### WILDWOOD CREST



North Wildwood Rec thanks Michelle Rutkowski for donating toys and gifts to the Annual Kid's Christmas Party. Each year, she opens her stores to provide items for the event, with her team helping to load up the goods. Pictured with Michelle and her dog Daisy are Liz, Vicky, and Ann and some happy children

Visit Michelle and her crew on the boardwalk at Elby's Variety Store, Boardwalks Best Gift and Variety and Five Mile Marketplace



Wildwood Police officers join local families for Cape May County's Shop with a Cop program, which pairs officers with children for a day of holiday shopping made possible by community donations



At Wildwood Crest's annual tree and lakefront lighting last year, Mayor Don Cabera takes a moment to honor the behind-the-scenes crew who bring magic to the community year-round.



### SINCE 1946 Still Local, Still Independent





5200 New Jersey Ave. Wildwood, NJ 08260 (609)522-3406



917 Madison Ave. Cape May, NJ 08204 (609)884-3333



1032 Rt.9 South Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609)465-7710



1605 Bayshore Rd. Lower Township, NJ (609) 886-5888

A History of Experience, A Future of Excellence. We Look Forward to Serving You!



www.jbyrneagency.com





### FLAGS of LIBERTY Honors Our Veteran Loved Ones



On May 23rd, 2025 the Veterans' Committee of the Greater Wildwood Elks Lodge 1896, in partnership with the Greater Wildwood Tourism Improvement & Development Authority, hosted the 9th Annual Flags of Liberty Veterans' Awareness Event.

More than 130 families honored their deceased veterans by unfurling their casket flags on the grounds and boardwalk in front of the Wildwoods Convention Center and along Atlantic Avenue. In the past, this event has been held at the Lou Booth Amphitheater in North Wildwood.

The day began with patriotic music played by violinist Maggie Wolarick and songs by vocalist Bob Rullo. Antonia Brunetti sang the National anthem, in addition to many distinguished speakers in the program proceeding with the unfurling of the

The day concluded with brunch for approximately 500 veteran family members and friends in the Wildwoods Convention Center while all participants enjoyed great food and the patriotic songs performed by the John Walters Band.

Next year 2026 will be the 10th Annual and it is the 250th birthday of our Nation! The Greater Wildwood Elks and the Greater Wildwood Tourism Improvement & Development Authority set a goal to honor 250 veterans'

memory on May 22, 2026 the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. Memorial Day weekend is a perfect time to remember our common love of God and Country, and those who defended our right to celebrate that freedom that came with a cost of those who served in our Armed Forces.

The Flags of Liberty event is open to anyone who would like to participate to honor their veteran loved one. Each family that registers their veteran for \$30 is provided with a t-shirt with their veteran's name printed on the back as well as a Flags of Liberty commemorative pin, and 4 tickets to the light buffet luncheon (additional luncheon tickets are available for \$10 each, additional t-shirts with veterans name are available for \$30

Registration is now open. For more information on Flags of Liberty or to register visit https://wildwoodsnj. com/fol

Questions email: flagsoflibertyelks1896@gmail.com

In addition, throughout 2026 the Elks will be hosting several flag folding classes open to all at various locations in Cape May County.

This is a deeply patriotic event and a proud moment to ensure our veterans are remembered and honored.



Kris and Lori Kondor, on right, Chairperson Greater Wildwood Elks 1896 Veterans Committee, and Chairperson of Flags of Liberty



Save the Date! May 22, 2026



"That we may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all His wondrous works." -Psalm 26:7

#### Churches in the Wildwoods

Printed with compliments of The SUN with blessings. To update your listing EMAIL: THESUNBYTHESEA@GMAIL.COM



S

Check their Facebook pages for upcoming holiday events

#### North Wildwood United Methodist



2nd & Central Ave. 609-522-2271

Sunday Worship: 9:15 am

#### **Crest Community Church**



Crocus & Pacific Aves Enter on Crocus in Social Hall

Sunday 9:30am

Breakfast, Worship and the WORD!

#### NOTRE DAME DE LA MER PARISH Assumption RC Church



7110 Seaview Ave. Wildwood Crest 609-522-4114

> Sun. 8:30am Mon-Fri 8:30am

#### St. Ann's RC Church



2900 Atlantic Ave. Wildwood 609-522-2709

Sat. 4:30pm Sun. 10:30am

#### Asbury A.M.E. Church

oung & New Jersey Ave. 609-729-5584 Sunday 11:30am

#### **Holy Trinity Lutheran** 2810 Atlantic Ave. 609-522-5000



8am Spoken Service w/Communion 10:30am Traditional Service v/Communion ~ Sunday School

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



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

#### **HOPE PREGNANCY CENTERS**





hopepregnancycenternj.org

#### Christ the King Reformed Presbyterian

the former Anglesea First Baptist Church 303 Atlantic Ave.



609-522-8489

Worship Sundays 10:30am

#### Beth Judah Temple



Pacific & Spencer Aves. 609-522-7541 Shabbat Zoom 7pm Sunday Brunch Dec. 7, 9:30-1:00

bethjudahtemple.org

#### Eureka Transformation



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

#### First Baptist Church

Maple & Atlantic Ave. 609-522-2981



Sunday School 10am Coffee Hour 10am Sunday Service 11am **COMMUNITY LUNCH** Thursdays Oct thru May 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM

#### **Angel Visit Baptist**

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

#### FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY TUESDAY DEC. 16 4PM - 6PM

FOR APPOINTMENT TEXT: 609-675-4696 OR 609-602-4962 \*MUST BRING YOUR OWN BAGS

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



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

#### St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox



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

"As white snow flakes fall quietly and thickly on a winter day, answers to prayer will settle down upon you AT EVERY STEP YOU TAKE, even to your dying day. The story of your life will be the story of prayer and answers to prayer." ~OLE HALLESBY

### **Lazarus House Emergency Food Pantry**

**Burk & Pacific Aves. Wildwood, NJ** 609.522.1500

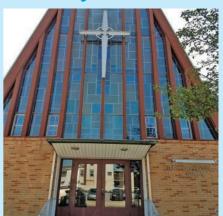
OPEN MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 10AM - 12 NOON

# "For I was hungry and you gave me food"











#### "HUNGER NEVER TAKES A HOLIDAY!"

Please help us refill our pantry by making a gift to Lazarus House today! Your support will provide food to save lives. Thousands of individuals, families and children are facing food insecurity every day. Your donation will make a difference, while improving the quality of life for so many in need.

Checks, gift cards & cash can be dropped off at our pantry or sent to:



#### **AZARUS HOUSE MINISTRIES, INC.** PO BOX 1792, WILDWOOD, NJ 08260

All donations are tax deductible and will be personally acknowledged by Lazurus House Ministries, Inc. 501 c3 Non-Profit

#### THANK YOU!

**WE COULD NOT FULFILL OUR MISSION WITHOUT** YOUR GENEROSITY.



Now accepting donations THROUGH OUR QR CODE



ALSO SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS IN THE WILDWOODS

"Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" ~It's a Wonderful Life



#### A BLAST FROM THE PAST! CLASS OF 1964+

Tell them You saw them in The SUN!

#### WILDWOOD FRIENDS FOR LIFE!

Thank you Susan Fox Hirschman WHS 1964 for helping to feature this wonderful story in The SUN!

Old friends, like the ocean, can become part of your soul.

These lifelong friends forged by their Wildwood homes and their 4 years in Wildwood High, have stayed connected all of these years since graduating.

The group of 15+ friends continue to meet a couple times a year! Local Potter, Susan Fox Hirschman says, "For me, I never got the sand from between my toes, so I decided to be in my own sand/ clay all the time!"

She moved back to her childhood home in Wildwood Crest bringing with her, her pottery studio and gifts of shaping clay along with her husband Alan.



Susan Fox WHS 1964



Lifelong Wildwood friends on June 22, 2025

FRONT ROW: Ronald Borden '63, Ellen Mitchell Borden '64, Marcia Leimberg '64, Susan Dunhour 65.

2ND ROW: Susan Fox Hirschmann '64. Patricia McAndrew Tarleton '64.

3RD ROW: Clifford Harrison '64, Diane Madsen Henfey '64: Eileen Geatens Vance '64, Lana Turner MacDonald '65, Dr. Robert Bransfield '64, Donand Hittle '65, Jack Vance '60, Harry Hudson '64.

BACK ROW: William Davenport '64, Dave MacDonald '68, Norman Reuter '64.

\*Editor's Note:
Apologies for not featuring Jack
Vance's yearbook photo from the class of 1960. After searching a few places for him, it was discovered that his class did not have a yearbook.



Marcia Leimberg WHS 1964



Eileen Geatens WHS 1964



Susan Dunhour WHS 1965



Don Hittle WHS 1965



Bill Davenport WHS 1964



Lana Turner WHS 1965



Ellen Mitchell WHS 1964



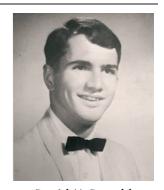
Norman Reuter WHS 1964



Patricia McAndrew WHS 1964



Harry Hudson WHS 1964



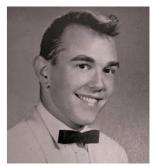
David McDonald WHS 1968



Ron Borden WHS 1963



Diane Madsen WHS 1964



Clifford Harrison WHS 1964



Dr. Robert Bransfield WHS 1964

#### "Where there's a will there's a wave. "

#### of Smiles! The best Christmas

present would be for everybody to just get a-long-board :-)



Old Friends Stevie Bellantine, George Popovick & Dan Karvounis had a fun little reunion

> "The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays"



Old Guys Always Rule! At Diamond Beach, George Popovick, Joey & Jeff Peterson, Tommy Holden, and Eddie Gibson





THANK YOU ALL, FOR HELPING ME SPREAD THE WILDWOOD SUNSHINE!





Above photo taken on Sunday, Sept. 14th, 2025 with the Auty boys and the crew after a fun day of waves

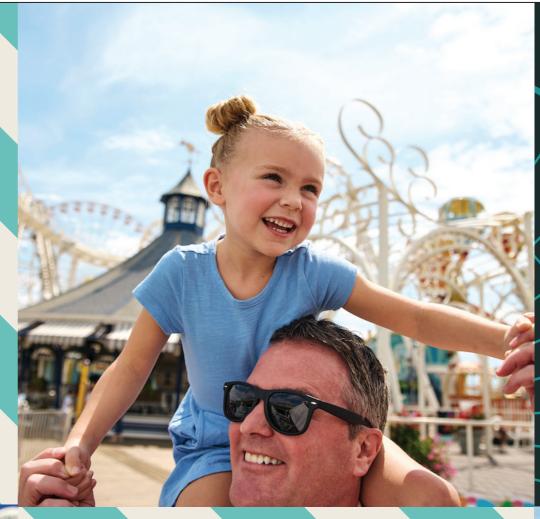
To the left: The Kimbrell's Regan, Nancy(Mom), brothers Matthew & Luke of NWBP, Matt (Dad) with Lucy





# HAVE A BLAST ON THE BOARDS.









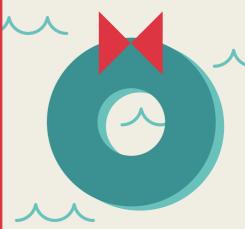
### .. MORNING, NOON & NIGHT!











The MORE you SAVE the merrier you'll be, and there's no better time to buy than now. Don't miss our biggest SALE of the season.



Sale Ends January 2nd



