

SHINING BRIGHT SINCE 2004

WINTER HOLIDAY 2025

The Sun.

WILDWOOD BY-THE-SEA.

ANGLESEA FIVE MILE BEACH HOLLY BEACH

WATCH THE TRAM CAR PLEASE!

Ho! Ho! Ho! If it's FREE It's for Me!



There's Room For Everyone On The Nice List!

Dorothy McMonagle Kulisek, So You'll Know, LLC, © 2025



Buddy the Elf Monaghan loves to smile as much as he loves to surf! Read about him inside!



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“ Give yourself kindness and grace. Then regift it as often as possible. ”

Tis the Season... for a New Address

May your season be full of joy, laughter, zero home repairs and zero calls from your HOA!

May your days be merry, your family *well behaved*, and your *neighbors quieter* than last year.

May your Wi-Fi be strong, your eggnog stronger, and your fireplace fully functional.

May your holiday be as *cozy* as a staged living room, as *bright* as freshly painted walls, and as stress-free as a *cash offer with no contingencies*.

May you find a closet large enough to hide all the Amazon boxes...if not, *I can help*.

If you find yourself needing more space (or just a clever way to escape your in-laws), *I can help with this too!*

Stay warm, stay jolly, and remember *I'm never too busy* for your referrals—even during eggnog season.

P.S. the only thing that should be underpriced this year is a Black Friday TV... *NOT* your home!

From Your Realtor Who Sleights Real Estate



Broker Associate

Colleen Sowers



Coastal
Elite Realty



609-602-2008



ColleenSowers@outlook.com



ColleenSowers.com

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



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

2025 November & December

NOVEMBER HATH 30 DAYS.

winter sneaks up on me
before autumn ends in my heart
the spring blossoms arrive
while my mind is still snowed in

~TERRI GUILLEMETS, *learn from leaves*

11/27 THANKSGIVING DAY.

"Being thankful makes ice cream taste better, butterflies look more beautiful, and weekend days seem longer..." ~JON GORDON

11/28 Family Holiday Beach Bonfire
Music, free photo ops with Santa; other characters. \$10 adults, \$2 children.

11/28-30 Christmas in North Wildwood
Enjoy outdoor firepits, hot chocolate, festive lights, scavenger hunt; music.

11/28-29 SNOWEN'S PUB Christmas in North Wildwood. Mark your calendar for one of the most fun weekends of the off-season. Owen's Pub will feature a Christmas shopping village, and so much more.

11/29 Wildwoods Holiday Shopping Village / Small Business Saturday Outdoor shopping experience to purchase the perfect holiday gifts. BYRNE PLAZA

12/1 WILDWOOD CREST Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunset Lake 5pm. Live music, light refreshments, & Santa

12/5 Greater Wildwood Jaycees Christmas Parade steps off 16th Ave.; proceeds along Central Ave., then Pacific Ave.

12/5 Wildwood Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Entertainment; activities for all ages. Byrne Plaza

12/5-6 Greater Wildwood Jaycees Downtown Wildwood Christmas in the Plaza Free carnival rides, vendors, live music; story time with Mrs. Claus.

12/6 North Wildwood Tree Lighting Ceremony 5pm Music, refreshments, Santa; free self-guided tour of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse

12/6 Santa Paws Parade - FREE North Wildwood. 1 p.m. Holiday themed pet parade w/prizes! Route varies. NW-BOA.com

12/7 Crest Arts Pavilion (6301 Ocean Avenue), 12 noon-2 pm ... view and vote on mini holiday tree-decorating contest ... decorate ornaments for Crest beach tree ... visit from Santa ... hot chocolate and cookies

11/30, 12/7, 14, 21 Holidays at HenVille: Mudhen Shopping Village Live music, vendors, smores, hot chocolate, photos with Santa Claus; family fun.

DECEMBER HATH 31 DAYS.

DECEMBER 15TH FULL Cold Moon



Advice from the Moon:
Live life to the FULLest
Be someone to look up to
Light up the night!

When the winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark, this full moon is also called the Long Nights Moon by Native American tribes.

12/7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony St. Demetrios Church, at Hereford Inlet Seawall, North Wildwood. Noon.

12/12-13 - 12/19-20 Wildwood's Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park
Holiday themed light display; special shows on select dates with hot chocolate

12/13 Family Holiday Celebration at Wildwoods Convention Center Holiday Bazaar. 9am-4pm Vendors, photos with Santa, kid's craft making, magician, face painting, live entertainment; Tree Lighting Ceremony

Editor Note: I will be there at my table!

12/13 Spirit Brands Cheerleading Festival Wildwoods Convention Center. 866.52.CHEER or SpiritBrands.org

12/13 Pinch the 'GrYnch' Boardwalk 5K Run Holiday boardwalk 5K run and 1 mile walk for all ages

12/13 12 PUBS of CHRISTMAS North Wildwood & Wildwood. 2p.m. Free transportation to participating establishments. www.NW-BOA.com

12/15 Holiday Light Walk on Sunset Lake 5:30pm Walkers meet at Rambler and New Jersey Aves. and walk along Sunset Lake to see the Christmas Light displays.

12/21 WINTER SOLSTICE.

Celebrate the Sun's return!
After the winter solstice, the days grow longer and the nights grow shorter!

~COURTESY OF THE OLD FARMERS ALMANAC



12/25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

O Holy Night
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

12/26-31 Boardwalk Classic. Wildwoods Convention Center. The largest holiday basketball tournament in the country! with 70 High School Boys & Girls teams. 9am-9pm. www.bbclassic.net



Holidays in the Wildwoods!

Friday, November 28-30
Christmas in North Wildwood
Olde New Jersey Ave., 200 block of West 10th Ave., 100 block of East 17th Ave.

Friday, November 28
Family Holiday Beach Bonfire
2nd & Surf Ave., North Wildwood

November 28 - December 7
Wildwoods Restaurant Week
Throughout the Wildwoods

Saturday, November 29
Wildwoods Holiday Shopping Village - Small Business Saturday
Byrne Plaza, Downtown Wildwood

Monday, December 1
Wildwood Crest Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
Sunset Lake, Wildwood Crest

Friday, December 5
Greater Wildwood Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade
Central Avenue to Pacific Avenue to Spicer Avenue

Friday, December 5
Wildwood Business Improvement District Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Byrne Plaza, Downtown Wildwood

Friday December 5-6
Greater Wildwood Jaycees Downtown Wildwood Christmas in the Plaza
Byrne Plaza, Downtown Wildwood

Saturday, December 6
North Wildwood Tree Lighting Ceremony
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Courtyard, North Wildwood

Saturday, December 6
Santa Paws
North Wildwood Entertainment District, Olde New Jersey Avenue and the surrounding area

Saturday, December 6
Wildwood Holiday Spectacular
Wildwoods Convention Center

Sunday, December 7
Holiday Tree Jubilee
The Crest Arts Pavilion, 6301 Ocean Avenue

Sunday, November 30, December 7, 14 & 21
Holidays at HenVille: Shopping Village - FREE
127 W. Rio Grande Ave., Wildwood. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 12-13 & Dec. 19-20
Wildwood's Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park
123 E. Andrews Avenue, Wildwood

Saturday, December 13
'Pinch the GrYnch' Boardwalk Run
Route starts at Wildwoods Convention Center

Saturday, December 13
12 Pubs of Christmas
North Wildwood

Saturday, December 13
Family Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting Ceremony - FREE
Wildwoods Convention Center

Monday, December 15
Holiday Light Walk
Sunset Lake, Wildwood Crest

For a full list of events and details visit:
WildwoodHoliday.com or call 609.729.9000



the **SUN** by-the-Sea

"I'm not a doctor and I don't know the medical terminology, but I do know that sunshine activates our happiness glands." ~Terri Guillemets

DOROTHY'S The FIVE MILE BEACH Sun

WHERE YESTERDAY & TODAY MEET BY-THE-SEA

On Wintering

*"the lingering warmth
of the beach in September,
the still placid sea
good for kindling
on a cold December day"*

-penned by local poet, David Check

As I sit on the beach this 19th beautiful day of September—the almost last official summer day—I confess I'm playing a little hookie from working on the holiday issue. The forecast is just too perfect to pass up.

However, I must admit, as much as I love summering here on the sand, I love wintering just the same.

The Wildwoods hold two very different seasons—one alive with people, the other hushed and still. Both are treasures, and for the past 4 decades I've been blessed to live in this rhythm... here by the sea.

With so many wonderful stories filling these pages, I'll keep my letter short and sweet, and share a few journal reflections from various authors "on wintering".

May this issue keep your heart warm through the cold months ahead. And as the holidays draw near, may your days be filled with joy, peace, and simple moments of wonder. From my heart to yours, I wish you a winter season wrapped in the love and spirit of Christ-mas.

 Gratefully Yours,
Dorothy
artist, editor & publisher 

Winter is a teacher if we allow it to be. Plants and animals don't fight the season; they adapt. They rest, they store, they quietly transform. I've learned to greet winter with kindness: long walks, nourishing meals, good rest, and small comforts. I ask myself: What is this winter about? What change is coming?
~Katherine May

Of course, winter also means cozy season—fuzzy blankets, candlelight, fires that glow against long evenings. It may be colder and quieter, but that's its beauty. Winter reminds us how to still ourselves, and then how to come gently back to life again. ~Ali Smith

This is the season to simplify. To let go of what doesn't matter. To live in the present and treasure what we have. In candlelight, conversations deepen, and in the quiet, creativity stirs. ~Jeanette Winterson

December, for me, is a time of reflection. Through a ritual I call the Sacred Bow, I honor the year that has passed and set intentions for the year ahead. ~Leo Balbuta

When the noise of the world feels heavy, nature invites peace. Like the trees and tides, we too are meant to rest. Solitude becomes a sacred space—not loneliness, but renewal.
~Layla Delia

I'd been thinking of the winter as a horrid, wet, dreary time. Now I can see other things—crisp and sparkling days, long pleasant evenings, cheery fires. Good work shall be done this winter. Life shall be lived well." ~
A.A. Milne

It always pays to dwell slowly on the beautiful things - the more beautiful, the more slowly. ~Robin Pieterse

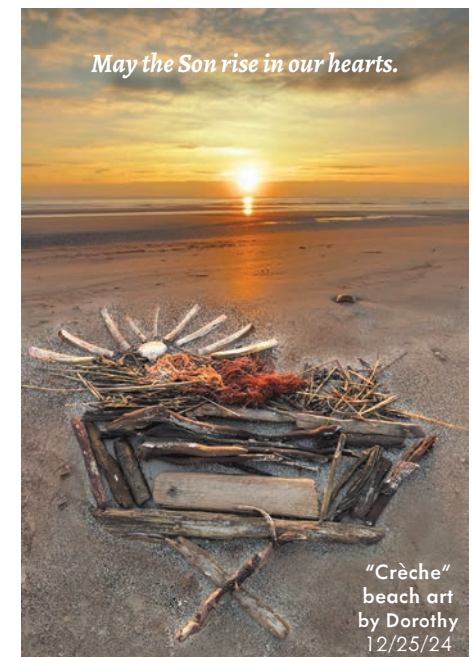
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May the Son rise in our hearts.

"Crèche"
beach art
by Dorothy
12/25/24

*"The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."
~Away in a Manger*



The Sun

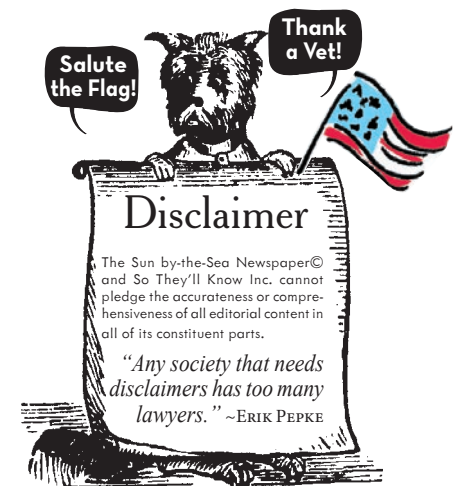
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Disclaimer

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"Any society that needs disclaimers has too many lawyers." ~ERIK PEPKE



"The best times of your life will be the small stuff, tiny moments spent smiling with someone who touches your heart." ~Anon.



RICK'S SEAFOOD

PARTY TRAY MENU

Your Holiday Party Headquarters

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

SHRIMP TRAYS: JUMBO SHRIMP <i>(All shrimp is freshly peeled & cleaned)</i>			HOMEMADE CRAB BALLS		
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EX-LARGE TRAY	120 SHRIMP	\$136.95			
JUMBO CRAB FINGER TRAYS					
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LARGE TRAY	75 FINGERS	\$119.95			
EX-LARGE TRAY	100 FINGERS	\$144.95			
COMBINATION TRAYS: SHRIMP & CRAB FINGERS					
MEDIUM TRAY	40 SHRIMP & 25 FINGERS	\$89.95			
LARGE TRAY	80 SHRIMP & 50 FINGERS	\$149.95			
JUMBO TRAY	80 JUMBO SHRIMP, 75 FINGERS & 1 lb. JUMBO LUMP CRABMEAT	\$244.95			

All party trays include cocktail, tartar, mustard sauces & lemon. Other combinations are available, just ask!!!
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SURFING SANTAS

ChRiStMas BREAK



The first annual SURFING SANTAS held during Christmas in July this past summer was a huge success for organizers Dennis Dool and Kortnie with the North Wildwood Rec team. We already can't wait for the coming summer to do it again!

SAVE THE DATE! JULY 25TH, 2026



Dennis, Tim, Brian, Kortnie, Tommy & Dustin



Santa John



Santa Mike, Mrs. Claus and their son

LOOK FOR MORE SURFING SANTA PICS IN THE SUMMER ISSUE

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exp. 3.31.26

DELUXE TRAY (Feeds 12-14)
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TRAY SPECIAL #3

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exp. 3.31.26

SUPER DELUXE TRAY Feeds 18-20
2-2 Lt. Soda | 2 LG. Bags of Chips

TRAY SPECIAL #4

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exp. 3.31.26

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"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" ~ Charlie Brown

A Christmas Tradition~ PISTACHIO PUDDING CAKE

Dorothy Kulisek

1 Box White Cake Mix
2 pkgs. Pistachio Pudding Mix
1/2 cup Water
1/2 cup Milk
6 Tablespoons of Vegetable Oil
5 Eggs

Beat all ingredients except eggs, add them 1 at a time. Mix thoroughly. Pour into well greased pans or tube pan. Bake 1 hour at 350°

FROSTING

1 pt. Heavy cream
1 pkg. Pistachio Pudding
4.5 Oz. Cool whip
Whip heavy cream til thick. Add 1 package of the Pudding mix, then small container of Cool Whip - Fold in with a spatula /spoon and spread graciously on cooled cake.

Use red icing gel to write:
Happy Birthday Jesus.



Celebrate the true Reason for the Season—the birthday of Christ. Though this Pistachio Pudding Cake can be enjoyed any time of the year, it's become a special Christmas tradition passed down to me by my mother-in-law. As you bake and share it, take a moment to slow down and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce

Wildwoods Holiday Shopping Village

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025

10:30am to 3:00pm

Downtown Wildwood
Byrne Plaza
3400 Pacific Ave.
Wildwood

A completely outdoor shopping experience

LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS VENDORS ON HAND FOR YOU TO PURCHASE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT.

- Candies & Baked Goods
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- Local Artisans
- Boutique Shops
- Gifts
- Jewelry
- Specialty Shops
- Holiday Decorations
- Food Vendors

ENJOY MORE HOLIDAY FUN AND RIDE THE FREE HOLIDAY BUS BETWEEN EVENTS IN NORTH WILDWOOD & WILDWOODS HOLIDAY SHOPPING VILLAGE!

For more information contact:
GWCO at 609-729-4000 and follow us on FACEBOOK at:
Greater Wildwood Chamber



DECEMBER 23RD ~ HAPPY NESTIVUS EVE!

The day The Sun has declared our very own holiday of rest and comfort:

Nestivus (n.) A day of reprieve from the pressures of holiday cheer and other related anxieties; celebrated by returning to one's "nest" or place of comfort in order to recharge. *A warm cup of comfort in one hand, with a copy of The Sun in the other is highly recommended. And if the weather permits, head to the beach... the best of all nests!

I hope to see you at the following events:

editor note: Downtown Holiday Shopping in front of Yellow Umbrella Gifts, SAT., NOV. 29th and the Family Holiday Celebration at Wildwoods Convention Center on SAT., DEC. 13th.

Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce

WILDWOODS RESTAURANTweek

November 28 - December 7, 2025

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

For complete list of participating restaurants visit:

www.WildwoodsRestaurantWeek.com



"Cheers to good Irish friends – never above you, never below you, always beside you. "

Pictured here from last year's 1st Annual GOLF CART PUB CRAWL
are the jolly bunch from ye old Anglesea Pub!

Save the Date!

2ND ANNUAL NWBOA

12 Pubs of Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 2025
2pm ~ 10pm

The Christmas spirit rolls on in style! North Wildwood's Business Owners Association Golf Cart Parade lights up the long holiday week-end with twinkling lights, merry music, and plenty of cheer.

PARTICIPATING PUBS:

Anglesea • Elks
Fairview • Firehouse • Honky Tonk
The Inlet • Jo Jo's • Keenan's • Mudhen
• Mulligan's • Olde City Pub • Owen's
The Rook • Ship N Shore • Surfing Pig
The Waterfront



OWEN'S PUB



TRIO RESTAURANT & BAR



SURFING PIG



READY TO ROLL



THE INLET



WILDWOODS BBQ





"We'll open up our hearts, and let the new year in." – What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?

NORTH WILDWOOD ReCREATION & TOURISM

North Wildwood, a place in the sun for family fun!

PROGRAMS ACTIVITIES



SPECIAL EVENTS



2025 Christmas in North Wildwood

Thanksgiving Weekend Nov. 28 ~30

Visits from Santa & Mrs. Claus, facepainting, games, crafts, firepits, music, vendors and more at various locations in North Wildwood. Free rides from place to place on the Holiday Jitney at participating establishments.

More information at nw-boa.com

Tree Lighting at Hereford Lighthouse Saturday, Dec. 6, at 5pm
1st & Central Aves., North Wildwood

2026 Summer Camps

Buckets Basketball Camp NW Rec. Boys and Girls
June 29 - July 3 9am - 2pm Ages 9-15 yrs. July 13-17 9am - 1pm Ages 5-9 yrs.
July 27 - 31 9am - 2pm Ages 9-15 yrs.



North Wildwood Soccer Camp

Full Day 9am-3pm, Half Day 9am-12noon at Bill Henfey Park
June 22 - June 26 and July 6 - 10 Boys & Girls 5 to 14 yrs.



North Wildwood Police Dept. Summer Youth Camp
July 20-24 9am-3pm, Boys & Girls 5th & 6th Grade

2026 Events

Fallen Hero Plunge

Sat., Feb. 28 15th St. Beach, NW at 11am. Register FallenHeroPlunge.com

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sat. March 14 11am North Wildwood City Hall



Captain Kidd Pirates Day Costume Parade

Sat., May 16 11am, 26th & Boardwalk, proceeds to 19th & the Beach for treasure hunt

Independence Day Family + Pooch Parade

Sat., July 4 Kicks off at 9am, 13th & JFK, proceeds north to 3rd & JFK

Sidewalk Chalk Competition

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

57th Annual Beschen-Callahan Race Fri., July 17 15th St. beach, 6pm

Boogie Board Races Sat., July 18 10am on the beach at 16th Ave.

NWBP Christmas in July

Sat., July 25 on the beaches of North Wildwood



51st Annual North Wildwood Flea Market

Sun., August 9, 8am-4pm from 7th to 12th Aves. along JFK Blvd.

57th Annual North Wildwood Rec Surf Fishing Tournament

Sept. 11 - 13 Fri-Sat: 7am-5pm, Sun: 7am-11:45am



35th Annual Irish Fall Festival Thurs-Sun, Sept. 24 -27 8am-11pm daily

FOLLOW US!



900 Central Ave, North Wildwood, NJ 08260

(609) 522-2955 Fax: (609) 522-0402

@North Wildwood Recreation & Tourism northwildwood.com



SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 11A.M.



15TH & THE BEACH
NORTH WILDWOOD

Register early!

Registration info available at:

www.FallenHeroPlunge.com

\$35 Adults before the plunge, \$40 the day of the plunge.

\$15 for Kids under 15. Pre-Party Friday night 2/27 at Keenan's

All info at FallenHeroPlunge.com or call Dennis Dool at 215-990-8689





Is your glass half empty or half full?
or are we grateful just to have a glass?

"Feed the birds in winter; In return, they will feed your soul..." ~Mehmet Murat

Happy Holidays from

HARBOR

BURGER BAR

Open every day in the heart of Stone Harbor on 96th St.
at South Jersey's only Dine-In Movie Theater (609) 796-5669

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A fun family activity



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When the winter winds blow and the days feel long, there's a simple way to add a bit of joy and activity to the season—sharing the holiday spirit with our feathered friends. Families across the country have found that trimming a tree outdoors with edible ornaments is not only a cheerful tradition but also a wonderful way to bring nature right to the doorstep.

A peanut garland is a favorite for many birds, especially blue jays and woodpeckers. Simply thread peanuts (still in their shells) with a strong needle and sturdy string, and drape the garland across a tree branch. Pinecones make excellent ornaments as well—spread them with peanut butter, roll them in seed, and hang them up with a loop of twine. The result? A lively scene as flocks

gather to enjoy the handmade feast.

Of course, not all holiday leftovers go to waste. Fruitcake, often the punchline of holiday humor, proves to be a delicacy in the bird world. Placed in a suet feeder, it draws woodpeckers, mockingbirds, and jays in droves. Some even bake special fruitcake variations with nuts and dried fruit just for their backyard visitors—but often the post-holiday leftovers are more than enough to keep the birds happy.

These simple traditions bring color, life, and laughter to the quiet winter landscape. As the birds flock to the branches, their chatter and flutter remind us that the holidays aren't just for us—they're for sharing with all creatures great and small.

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Love is the Christmas-tide message



"I love snow for the same reason I love Christmas. It brings people together while time stands still." ~Rachel Cohn

NWBOA

The North Wildwood Business
Owners Association

Christmas in North Wildwood

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

FAMILY HOLIDAY BEACH BONFIRE

1ST & SURF AVE., NORTH WILDWOOD. 5 P.M. -9 P.M.

ENJOY FAMILY FUN INCLUDING MUSIC AND FREE PHOTO OPS WITH
SANTA AND OTHER WINTER WONDERLAND CHARACTERS FROM 5
P.M.-7 P.M. DONATION: \$10 ADULTS, \$2 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER.

HOSTED BY N. WILDWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY #1.

RAIN DATE NOVEMBER 29.

FRIDAY NOV. 28 - SUNDAY, NOV. 30

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN NORTH WILDWOOD

JOIN US AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT NORTH WILDWOOD
— FRIDAY AT 2 P.M., SATURDAY & SUNDAY STARTING AT NOON.

ENJOY OUTDOOR FIREPITS, HOT CHOCOLATE, FESTIVE LIGHTS, SANTA
VISITS, HOLIDAY PERFORMERS, A SCAVENGER HUNT, DECORATIONS, AND
MUSIC AS YOU CELEBRATE THE SEASON BY THE SHORE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NW-BOA.COM.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

SANTA PAWS

STARTS AT OWENS PUB AND ENDS AT NORTH WILDWOOD
ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT, OLDE NEW JERSEY AVENUE. COME
OUT AND ENJOY DOGGIE TREATS AND PHOTO OPS AT PARTICIPATING
ESTABLISHMENTS ALONG THE ROUTE. THE WALK BEGINS AT 1 P.M.

THE ROUTE WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE EVENT DATE.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR BEST COSTUMES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NW-BOA.COM

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

NORTH WILDWOOD TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE COURTYARD 5 P.M.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT INCLUDES MUSIC, REFRESHMENTS,
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"We always journey on behalf of gathering up the rich gifts to carry back with us home again, wherever that home is."

—Christine Valters Paintner,

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2025 Christmas in the Crest

CREST Holiday Tree Lightening Ceremony

Tuesday Dec. 1 at 5:00 pm

Sunset Lake at New Jersey and Atlanta Avenues

Holiday tree and lakefront holiday display lighting

Wildwood Crest Holiday Tree Jubilee

Sunday Dec. 7 from 12 noon-2 pm at Crest Arts Pavilion

Mini holiday tree-decorating contest winners announced

Decorate ornament for community beach tree

Hot chocolate and cookies. Pictures with Santa

Bring unwrapped gift for Lunch With Lynch Toy Drive

CREST Holiday Lights Walk

Monday Dec. 16 at 5:30 pm

Sunset Lake at Rambler Road and New Jersey Avenue

30 to 45 minute walk in Sunset Lake neighborhood

to view holiday lights displays

Scoop Taylor Tip-Off Classic

Saturday Dec. 13 through Sunday Dec. 21 at Crest Pier

South Jersey's largest grammar school basketball tournament

Island Basketball Tournament and Skills Competition

Tuesday Feb. 17 through Sunday Feb. 22 at Crest Pier

Crest Memorial, Margaret Mace, Wildwood Junior High,

Wildwood Catholic Academy participating

CREST Pier Fitness Classes

ADULT FITNESS - Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10 am

Aerobics and strength training program for older adults

WALKING WEDNESDAYS - Wednesdays at 9 am

Free 30-minute walking/light aerobics program

BOOT CAMP FITNESS CAMP - Saturdays at 8:30 am

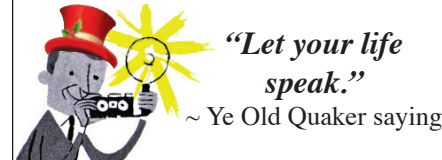
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CREST KIDS TOT TIME - Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon

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Patrick Rosenello with Tom Edwards & NWBP Chief Bill Chiaverelli at Hereford Lighthouse on National Lighthouse Day



Rob & Ray Guidetti with their beach-loving parents, Bob & Marilyn



Mike & Ilyssa Guidetti with their goldens

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Diane Bowman and Maryann Hornsby, friends since 1st grade at Margaret Mace school



Michael & Jeannie John, new retirees from their Surfside West Diner



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"God has two dwellings- one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart." ~Izaak Walton

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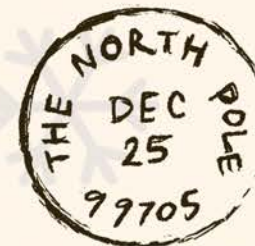
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"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat." — (often attributed to Martin Luther King, Jr.)



1924 Siblings ~Top Row Left: Jane, Walter, Mary & Joe
Bottom Row: Leo, Anthony & Jim

The Dennisons Leave Ireland for America They Settled in Holly Beach



1904 ~Top Row left: Catherine, John and Bridget
Bottom Row: Walter, John Jr., Jane and Joe



John Joseph Dennison
Early 1900s Wildwood Postman

In 1850, a ship named the James Pennell pulled into the harbor at New Orleans. Among the weary but hopeful passengers were James Dennison, just 20 years old, and his young bride, Bridget McBride. Though the manifest listed her as 20, Bridget was only 14. Together, they had left Ireland with little more than courage and a dream of a better life in America. Their journey soon carried them north to Philadelphia, where the couple would begin building a family and a future.

By the 1860s, the Dennisons were settled on West 5th Street with four children filling their small home. Bridget's brother lived with them too, a reminder of the ties that bound them to Ireland. When the Civil War broke out, James answered the call, serving as a private in the Union Army, leaving Bridget to keep the household together.

Two decades later, in 1880, the family was living on Passyunk Avenue. Their youngest, John, was still at home—a boy who would one day carry the family name into a new chapter.

When Bridget was widowed, she surprised everyone by leaving Philadelphia behind. By 1900, she had taken her grandson Walter and moved to Holly Beach, New Jersey, to work as a summer housekeeper. The ocean air and wide, sandy beaches captured her heart. She bought a little cottage on Leaming Avenue, her name appearing in the Holly Beach tax books for nearly two decades. She received a soldier's widow's discount, but the true reward was finding a new life by the sea.

Her son John soon followed. Married to Catherine Stack, he brought his growing

family to the island. The children, once city-born, now spent their days climbing holly trees, building forts, and running barefoot in the sand. More children were born in Wildwood, their laughter and voices weaving into the rhythm of seaside life.

John worked hard to provide for his family. In Philadelphia, he had been a cabinetmaker and store clerk, but in Wildwood he turned to whatever jobs the young resort town offered—carting luggage from the train station with a donkey, helping at the Culver & Dennison Clothing Store, and finally, earning the steady job of letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office. When he passed away in 1928, and Catherine in 1934, they left behind not only a family but also a legacy deeply rooted in island soil and sand.

The Dennisons had become part of Wildwood's story. Generations later, their descendants are still here, still feeling the pull of the ocean that once captured Bridget's heart.

EPILOGUE

Walter (1896) married Mae Connors. Their daughter, Doris, and her family continue to return to Wildwood, keeping summer traditions alive.

John Jr. (1898), a Wildwood High track star and football player, died tragically at just 16.

Joseph (1899) returned safely from WWI, but his son Joe Jr. was killed in WWII at the Battle of the Bulge, his grave resting in Hawaii's National Cemetery of the Pacific. Joseph's other son, Terrence, went on to a remarkable aviation career, recognized internationally.

Jane (1901) worked as a telephone operator in Wildwood and Philadelphia but died young at 46.

Anthony J. Dennison, Sr. (1905) married Jeanette Dooley April 20, 1931. They had one son Anthony John (Jack) Dennison, Jr. A.J. Sr. was an Asco Market (Acme) manager on the island.

There were at least four stores. He managed the Cedar Avenue store and the one few people know of at 6501 New Jersey Avenue, Wildwood Crest. The building is still there. Their son Jack (married Patricia Hannahan). He had a long and distinguished career in technology working with RCA and GE. He was born at Long's Maternity Home in Wildwood and lived in North Wildwood on Hereford Inlet until his death in 2021 —. Many of the locals knew him as the father of Jeannie Dennison Yecco who taught at Crest Memorial School. She also was a reporter for the Gazette Leader.

Mary Cathleen Dennison (1910) Married Edwin S. Nesbitt at Saint Ann's Church on Pacific Avenue October 1938. They owned and operated many businesses on the island. Their first was a bakery on Pacific Avenue where everything was served on blue depression glass. They also owned Nesbitt Sales Furniture for more than fifty years. Edwin was a long time Mayor of Wildwood Crest, Board Member of Marine National Bank and General Manager of the Cape May County Bridge Commission (Ocean Drive). Mary was a devoted member of the original Saint Ann's Parish. She was a member of the Via Crucian's which consisted of five women from St. Ann's

that were active in the construction of the Assumption Church in Wildwood Crest.

Mary and Ed had three children all born at Long's Maternity Home in Wildwood. Edwin James was owner of the Friendship 7 and Hialeah Motels. Cathleen Nesbitt Smith current owner of Junkin Treasures and all around entrepreneur of many businesses in NJ. Patricia Nesbitt Nagel owned the Flying Dutchman Motel and Office Services.

James Francis (1912) worked in real estate and local government, while

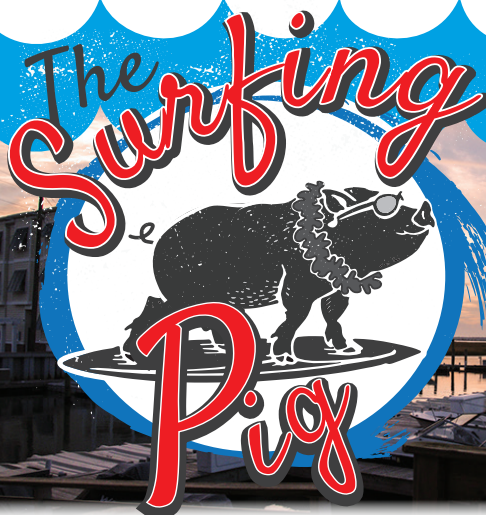
Leo (1915), the youngest, lived only to 23, remembered for his kind heart and early passing.

From a brave teenage girl stepping onto American soil in 1850 to a family whose name still echoes in the Wildwoods, the Dennison story is one of resilience, belonging, and a love for island life. Their story, like the holly trees they once planted, has taken root and grown deep in Wildwood's sandy soil.

Special Thanks: My heartfelt gratitude to Pat Nesbitt, the Dennison family historian, for sharing her detailed research, notes, and photographs, and to Jeanine Yecco, daughter of Jack Dennison, for her help in providing treasured family photos. It was a true pleasure for me to publish their story and help preserve the Dennison family legacy within the pages of The Sun. ~ Dorothy Kulisek



"Sunrise is the warm glow of the day's potential. Sunset is nature's afterglow to a day well spent." ~Terri Guillemets



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HALLMARK HOLIDAY BY THE SEA

Need a respite from all the yuletide festivities? Has shopping (online and in person) got you and your wallet stressed? Is it too soon to plan a beach break? Could you use a visit to a small, constantly-snowing-for-scenic-purposes-only town nowhere near you, where characters of all kinds will be celebrating the holidays in Hallmark style?

Within our fictitious paradise, expect to spend **Christmas Above the Clouds** with, among others, a scrooge-like CEO, some spirited creatures, a few quirky angels and the **Three Wisest Men**, who wisely know what makes this time of year so special.

We can expect **A Grand Ole Opry Christmas** to liven things up, both musically and merrily, while **She's Making a List** of who's **Naughty and who's Nice**.

Since it's the holidays (and Hallmark), it's safe to assume the **Happily Ever After** crew will outnumber the cranks, making **A Christmas Angel Match** a sure thing for the lovelorn spending **Christmas at the Catnip Café**.

For the sports-loving romantics, a **Holiday Touchdown A Bills Love Story** will certainly make the cut. **A Newport Christmas**, meanwhile, promises a trip back in festive time, where true love knows no bounds. Each timeless tale promises the sweetest escape from the holiday blues...

A late country music icon's daughter and her lifelong friend, a country music talent manager, (Nikki DeLoach, Kristopher Polaha) find themselves transported back to the year 1995, celebrating **A Grand Ole Opry Christmas** while patiently waiting for summer and the **Barefoot Country Music Fest**.

In the final installment of the Brennan brothers trilogy, the **Three Wisest Men**

(Andrew Walker, Paul Campbell, Tyler Hines) celebrate the holidays in their typical fighting, familial style, already arguing about where to spend their summer vacation.

A marketing executive (Erin Cahill) dreams of owning a condo (we can only assume with an ocean view) but instead finds herself spending **Christmas at the Catnip Café**, a cat café bequeathed to her by her late aunt that comes with a part owner/veterinarian/love interest (Paul Campbell).

As a Naughty or Nice inspector (Lacey Chabert), **She's Making a List** while falling for the widowed father (Andrew Walker) of a mischievous 11-year-old, who's wishing for unlimited Morey's Piers adventures.

Lifelong friends, neighbors and devoted Buffalo Bills fans (Holland Roden, Matthew Daddario) unite to unravel a Christmas mystery while possibly (definitely) falling in love during a **Holiday Touchdown A Bills Love Story**, the sports version of a starry-eyed sunset.

A workaholic (Erin Krakow) finds herself reluctantly celebrating **Christmas Above the Clouds** with the help of three quirky spirits taking her through her past, present and future, leading to a reunion with her ex (Tyler Hines).

Two conflicting angels (Meghan Ory, Benjamin Ayers) are assigned the task of bringing fated soulmates together for **A Christmas Angel Match**, naturally using the dreamy backdrop of sand, sea and Santa.

A socialite from 1905 (Ginna Claire Mason) is inexplicably transported to 2025 for **A Newport Christmas** with a sailor (Wes Brown) who reluctantly helps her return to her time and fulfill her destiny (boogie board champion?)

Ready to be transported through Hallmark Holiday time?

May the Sun shine its light on all we have to be grateful for!



The Sun

"I pray this winter be gentle and kind—a season of rest from the wheel of the mind." ~ John Geddes

Around the World with The Sun

The Sun shines everywhere!



Ed Steinberg makes the trip from OC, NJ to Wildwood to pick up a copy of The Sun every time it is published.



When MaryBeth isn't volunteering at Two Mile Nature center, she is either relaxing on the beach or cleaning it. Remember the story on the Christmas Trash Tree? She helps create it every year

The following comment was written on the social media post about this photo.

Thank you for restocking us at Greater Wildwood Chamber... constantly getting fans of your paper running into the office to grab your paper...nothing else just The Wildwood Sun by the Sea Magazine!



This summer was especially meaningful for newly ordained Father Thomas Piro, who traveled to Rome with his family. Together, they attended Mass outside the Vatican and witnessed the presence of the new pope—an unforgettable moment. Young Fr. Piro also reunited with his friend, seminarian Jacob Miller, who is currently studying in Rome.

For the Piro family, whose paternal roots trace back to Italy, the trip was a wonderful pilgrimage. In their family photo, they proudly hold a copy of The Sun, a keepsake of a journey that beautifully blends heritage, faith, and new beginnings.



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Beth Judah Temple Marks Historic Milestone with Gala Weekend Celebration

by Michael Hirsch

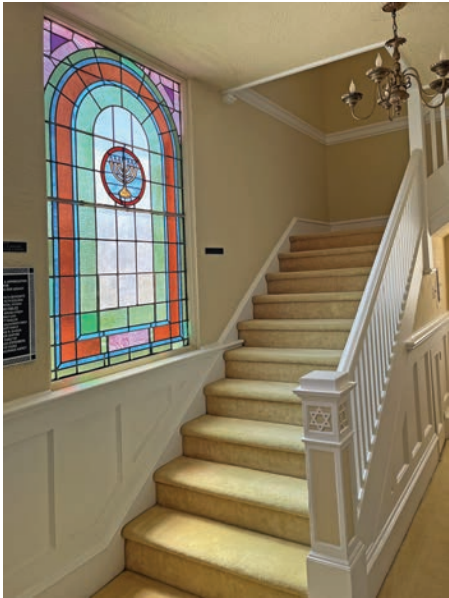
Beth Judah Temple, a cornerstone of Wildwood's Jewish community for over a century, celebrated a milestone on May 18 with a Legacy Luncheon honoring its recent listing on the New Jersey State Historic Register as well as to the National Register of Historic Places.



In the Weiner Auditorium, congregants, dignitaries, and friends gathered for a warm welcome from Susan Maslow, remarks by Temple President Morey Edelman and Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr., and blessings from Rabbi Ron Isaacs. Guardians of Light Awards went to the Gidding and Satt families for decades of service. Gail Cohen unveiled plans for a Museum and Library in a former Hebrew school classroom to safeguard the temple's rich history.



Beth Judah's roots trace to Jewish immigrants from Woodbine, NJ—an agricultural colony founded in 1891 by philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch to help Eastern European Jews escape persecution. Drawn by opportunity, families settled in Wildwood, holding their first High Holiday services in 1911 and founding the congregation in 1915. The cornerstone of Beth Judah was laid in 1929.



Over the decades, the temple expanded with a post-WWII social hall, the 1965 Rebecca and Morris Green Annex, and outreach to Jewish Coast Guard recruits. It has weathered wars, economic downturns, and even a Ku Klux Klan presence in the 1920s, standing as a symbol of perseverance, faith, and community pride.

Sunday's celebration honored that legacy while looking forward—ensuring Beth Judah's story will continue to inspire for generations.



Season's Greetings



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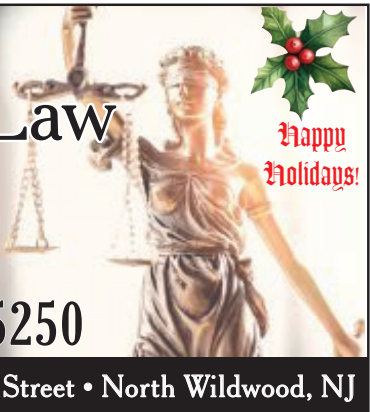
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"The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays." ~W.C. Jones

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September Sea



From the frost-rosy cheeks of a young December
I look back
And remember the September sea,
The still-placid sea of Autumn's dawning colors,
Ah, the allure of those amorous waves... how they summon a special grace,
a heart-spun appreciation
to rise with soft stares
through chilly, clear air,
and join a skyful of gulls to cavort,
and glide,
and dive back down with a child's delight through their crisp saline magic,
their singing whispers of spray!
O there's such a comforting bite to the air!...
Hear it?
Hear Winter's call
From beyond the froths Of land's lonely lips?
Feel it?
That certain briskness
Which begins to cling To every facet and fiber
of ocean ambiance?
That freshness which burst with new sight
Into a friendlier rapport With rugged things, Nature's thing,
Into a finer affinity,
a more endearing caliber of closeness with all the shades and seams
of weather and life
that will soon drift as smiles some-

where within
the deep Church of Time...
Whhhhiisshhh! Feel, too, the gaining strength
Of subtly invading winds...
Look to their guardians in the sky!
Rough, dark, deeply-furrowed...

Jagged puffs of the season's forbearance!

Yes...Now the scene is set,
The motors begin to groan and halt,
The sails slink down their sturdy masts,
The inlets become quiet and traffic-less,
(unless, of course, the fishing is good!)

And the raw rusted sinews of commercial boats
Alone, remain

To frame the horizon,

....mmmm....feel it again?

There is a mutual mirth in all of this,

Some welcome task
of gliding into change,
Of retiring sweat
into a vision of snow... into a newer friendship with cold,
Of gladly relinquishing
the crowded teeming summer
For the brighter chill of a greying Fall.

Ah, yes...there it is...

A ripe metallic sheen, A grey-tinted grandeur
that settles into every hollow,
every contour and shape,
And makes a dark restfulness
spring out of every shoreline, out of every wave...

It is a time of putting away, of curling up, of going to sleep, It is a time for migration
and preparation,
But, mostly, it is a time to sit and look at the sea,
And take a memory from the warming soul of September
To keep for use as kindling
on some cold December day like today.

1979 by David Check

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Bill Brady with his girls, Shannon, Sydney and Colleen



Effie & Chris and Ari & Kate



Angelo of Bagel Time and Andreas of Bagel Depot



Viola, Eva & George traveled 2 1/2 hours from MD. to see Fr Nicolas & Fr Michael at their church festival



Anna Billios with her son Demetri & daughter Aphrodite

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“Christmas reminds us that even in our darkest moments, light and wonder have the power to shine through.”

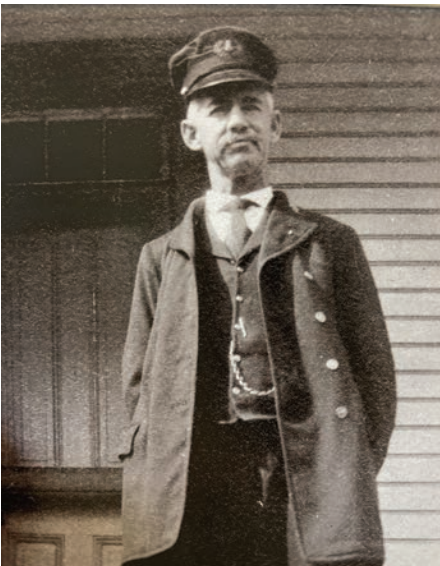


There are 32 windows (not counting the glass panels in the lantern).



Brooxxee Bell Hewitt with nephew Wilmer Burns II, c. 1900

There was one birth in the Lighthouse – Brooxxee Bell Hewitt – Mar. 25, 1886 and one death- William Hedges – Jan. 1, 1926.



Keeper William Hunting Hedges
April 1, 1919 - May 1925

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse

“Did You Know?” Trivia by Steve Murray



Young Grace Heizman,
Margaret Mace School 1938 yearbook

The original “Double Mint Twins” models on television in the 1950s, were the grandchildren of Hereford’s Keeper Ferdinand Heizman. Their mother was Grace, daughter of the Keeper. She lived in the Lighthouse as a child and went to Margaret Mace School.



In the first floor middle hallway, by the back door, there is a noticeable repair patch on the wood floor. Late one evening in the early 1940’s when Robert O’Neal was Keeper, the weights that are part of the clockwork system that turned the Fresnel Lens broke loose from their steel cable and crashed through the second floor, through the first floor and down into the basement.



Taken in 1994 by Jean Roward



Taken in 2004

The original cleanup and refurbishing of the abandoned, deteriorating lighthouse occurred late 1982 – 86. The authentic historic restoration took a longer period of time- 1998 – 2011.



The decorative piece of iron on the outside of the north facing chimney is called a “wall anchor”, its purpose being to help secure the chimney to the building.



The 1878 “Atlas of The New Jersey Coast” states that at the time of writing of the Atlas “There are only two families living on the Five Mile Beach (full time). The Lighthouse Keeper’s family and one other”. (Probably at the Taylor Drewes House on the 200 block of East first Ave.) read the story on p.29



While at its original location before being moved, there was a short unpaved road called Park Avenue in front of the Lighthouse.



The Fresnel Lens on display at Hereford is the second lens used atop the Lighthouse. No record of where the original went.



The iron and glass lantern room atop Hereford where the navigation light is weighs 5,000 lbs.



"May your table always be full... Family, friends, and food."

The Fire That Couldn't Stop Sam's

by Dorothy Kulisek

TWENTY YEARS AGO, on December 9, 2005, the biting cold winds of early winter gave way to something far more devastating—a blaze that would go down as one of Wildwood's worst fires in history. Reported in *The Sun*, the inferno ignited around 2:30 that Friday afternoon, raging for 18 relentless hours and consuming two beloved boardwalk landmarks: Sam's Pizza Palace and the Shore Plaza.

The loss was heartbreaking. For generations of families, Sam's wasn't just a pizza palace—it was tradition, laughter, and the taste of summer itself. Yet even as smoke still hung in the air, plans were already being made to rebuild. Wildwood has always had a way of rising from the ashes, and Sam's was no exception.

Just five months later, on Memorial Day Weekend 2006, Sam's Pizza reopened—bigger, brighter, and stronger than ever. Crowds poured onto the boardwalk, drawn by that unmistakable aroma and a sense of joy that no fire could extinguish.

Now, as Presidents Weekend 2026 approaches, Sam's Pizza prepares to open for its 69th season. It's become something of a winter miracle—when the boardwalk, quiet and wind-swept all winter long, suddenly bursts back to life. For many, it's the unofficial start of the season... and a reminder that some Wildwood traditions are simply too strong to fade.



Tony Spera & Anthony Zucarella after a long traumatic night watching their Sam's Pizza Palace and Shore Plaza burn to a crisp. 12/9/05



The Sam's Pizza family in 2007 & 2012

Behind the counter and ovens of Sam's Pizza is a story that runs even deeper than the dough and sauce — a family legacy now in its fourth generation. Over the decades, countless young people have spent their summers working there, learning the rhythm of the boardwalk and the pride of hard work. Many have stayed on, season after season, becoming part of the Sam's family themselves. Some even met their sweethearts behind those pizza counters — love stories that began with a shared apron and a few stolen smiles. Together, the family and their devoted crew have built more than a business; they've built a tradition, one that feels like home to everyone lucky enough to be part of it.



The icicles on the boardwalk railing above indicate the frigid temperatures.



The following morning, young photographer Rob Kulisek made his way to the top of the Wipe Out Giant Slide on Morey's Piers for this shot of the fire that was still burning

A Sweet Sad Song for Sam's

by Bob Ingram



Another beloved Wildwood icon is gone, but not to the bulldozer and the backhoe. The relentless westerly wind blew and blew, and Sam's Pizza Palace burnt and burnt through the day and night and day again.

The wind-whipped crazy dancing flames roared and scoured for thirty hours and more and, in the end, the heroic dedication of all the fire companies and the millions of gallons of water they pumped were like spitting in the ocean. The fire won.

Or did it? Because as word of the fire spread like the wind-whipped blaze itself, the people came to stand in the deep cold in silent disbelief and homage, to pay their respects to a much-loved landmark, a true palace of memory and the heart.

Parents brought their children, muffled and wide-eyed, to see the end somehow of an era; video cameras whirled, digital cameras snapped; a man drove from Virginia, looked at the fire, and drove back, broken-hearted. On Sunday, people came after church and stood, somber, like a wake.

Late Saturday, an excavator had come and probed through the ruins like a ravenous giant insect, slightly obscene in this collapsed palace of laughter and expectant appetite, rooting among the smoke and soot and twisted debris, sifting time itself back to happier days of sun and light.

Now, the front teeth are gone from the smile of the Boardwalk, there at that 26th Street dogleg that is its true epicenter, the fulcrum on which the dreams of generations hover like the wisps of smoke from the ruined simple blessed pizzeria now before us.

But the day will come, it will come ... and I will have a slice with sausage again.

And a small birch.

Originally published in 2006

“Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light.”

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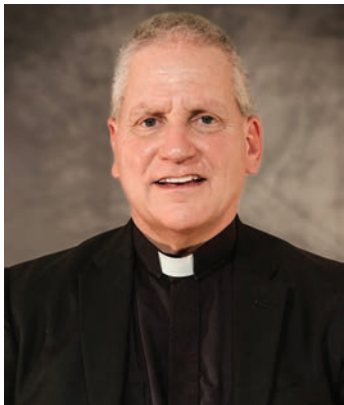
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5 MILES of Smiles!

“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.”



In honor of
 Reverend Cadmus D. Mazzarella
 affectionately known as Fr. Mazz

Congratulations on your
 40th Anniversary to the Priesthood

A celebratory mass was held at St.
 Ann Church, Wildwood, NJ
 on November 9, 2025



Ann Devlin with Swoop. Ann was honored as the 2025 Grand Marshall of North Wildwood Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade... for her dedication to North Wildwood and her love for her Irish heritage. 🍀



Rich & Kate Haas
 Congratulations to Rich on your retirement from the NW REC



Congratulations to Wildwood Crest's newly elected team!

Toni Fuscillaro proudly ran for commissioner alongside Mayor Don Cabrera and Deputy Mayor Joe Franco, who share her vision for the future of the Crest. Together, they'll lead with dedication, heart, and community spirit. They say “The Crest is the Best,” but we believe Wildwood Crest is truly blessed!



Congratulations to North Wildwood Mayor Sal Zampirri, securing the position in an unopposed election. Outgoing mayor Patrick Rosenello, who opted not to run for another term, returns as a member of the Council, along with Peggy Bishop and Cheryl Crowe.

Happy Holidays from the Little Bar on a Big Island

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"Rise early, Spread a little happiness, Keep a song in your heart, Think Spring! Be colorful. The sky's the limit!" Advice from a Bluebird

5 MILES of Smiles!



"You have such a pretty face, you should be on a Christmas card."
~ The movie ELF



Jeromie & Nona and baby Poppie of Cape May Aerial & Drone Shows, at Wildwoods Holiday Parade, 2024



Kevin & Kathy O'Donnell with their family at National Night Out



The Bergmanns — John, Mary, Sarah, and Ashley — enjoyed a beautiful vacation in Maui, Hawaii. Of course, they brought along their favorite magazine, The Sun, to ensure every beach day was absolutely perfect!

Sent in by their wonderful Uncle Jim, a candymaking elf at Douglass'



Kieran at his Hooked on Books opens for your holiday shopping needs during the festivities



Kimberly at her restaurant Kimberly's in North Wildwood welcomes you all to come in as she will be staying open this winter!



Bobbie Gallo and her beautiful girls, Giana & Torence



Betty Crosson at National Night Out

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"The worst thing that happens to you may be the best thing for you if you don't let it get the best of you." ~ Will Rogers

5 MILES *of Smiles!*



Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.



The Gereghy family at Herford Lighthouse Tree Lighting.



Scott & Juanita Jett at Hereford Lighthouse Tree Lighting.



Michelle & the boys of Aladdin's Beach Brew & Ice Cream at Hereford Lighthouse Tree Lighting with free giveaways

HEREFORD TREE LIGHTING Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5pm



Doug & Regina Long with their granddaughter Frankie with Vi Zampirri



Kelly, Bryan, Harper and Brooks Shive of Churchville, PA, loved vacationing in the Wildwoods during Christmas in July. This was a perfect photo-op with Carmella Claus & Santa, while visiting the new Crest Coffee Company in Wildwood Crest.



Doreen Engelmann of Vancouver, WA fondly recalls her days at the shore and sends love and holiday wishes—hoping her photo in The Sun surprises her amazing sister, Kathy Mandell, who always sends her a copy of the Sun when it comes out.

My Most Incredible Collecting Story

The Day After My Mom's Funeral — 11/20/12

by David Check



Higbee's Beach is a popular place to find American Native Artifacts. Painting by Dorothy Kulisek



Arrowhead found 11/20/12

The morning after my mother's funeral, I went for a walk along my favorite stretch of bay beach. The air was crisp, the tide rolling in, and I needed the peace of the shoreline.

As I walked, I passed an attractive woman, maybe thirty, with long dark hair. She wore boots—always a sign of a serious collector. I smiled and said hello, but she didn't respond. I've always thought it was rude to pass someone on the beach without at least acknowledging them, but I let it go and kept walking.

A short distance later, something caught my eye at the surfline—a perfect blade, glistening as though it had just been placed there for me. My heart leapt as I picked it up. It was flawless, and immediately I felt it was a gift from my mom. The urge to share it with someone was overwhelming. She was the only person in sight, so I turned back.

Holding it out to her, I said, "Look at this beautiful arrowhead I just found. I think it's a gift from my mom—we just had her funeral yesterday."

She looked at me and asked softly, "Oh, what tribe was she?"

I shook my head. "Oh, no—she just knew I collected them."

"Well," she said, "I'm Cherokee, Creek, and Choctaw."

"Really?" I said, amazed. "Would you mind holding this for a moment? That would make it even more special."

She smiled gently. "Sure. And would you mind if I spoke some Indian language over it?"

"That would be wonderful," I said.

She held the point in her hand and began to chant softly in her native tongue. When she finished, she said, "That's the prayer they sang on the Trail of Tears for those who had recently departed."

I was awestruck. "Wow. Thank you so much. That really makes this point very special."

As she handed it back to me, I asked her name. "Cynthia," she replied, before asking mine.

"David," I said.

Her eyes widened. "I have a son named David!"

To this day, I keep that point in a special display with three others I found that same afternoon—and with another I discovered exactly one year later, in the very same spot on the beach.



"Sometimes people say unkind or thoughtless things, and when they do, it is best to be a little hard of hearing..."
~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

September Hits Different

written by Dorothy Kulisek
of a post by Donna D'Antonio Hull



Donna writes, "This isn't the best picture of us, but it's a favorite. We were so happy that night, down the shore at our happy place."



114 W. SCHELLENGER AVE.
Demolished in 1974 to make way for low income housing

For Donna, September always carried a different weight.

As a child, she spent the entire month of August at her family's little nothing of a house on Schellenger Avenue in Wildwood. The place was simple—beds tucked into every corner, even the kitchen and living room, and furnished with only the bare essentials. There was no view, no designer touches, no carefully chosen color schemes. Everything was inherited, antique, or handed down—a mishmash of bedding, dressers, and kitchenware. The only piece of "decor" that stood out in her memory was a black iron frog doorstop, which propped open the shed door that doubled as their bathroom.

August in Wildwood was alive and vibrant, brimming with energy. But September changed everything. During the week, the once-bustling streets and boardwalk fell into a hush, the crowds fading with the season. To the extrovert in Donna, it felt like the party had ended too soon, leaving the town and its beaches too quiet.

And yet, there was a small, introverted part of her that loved this quieter pace. She'd find herself on

a nearly empty beach alongside locals grateful for the break from summer shoobies, or smiling when she spotted a couple in their sixties playing "Spirit in the Sky." It was its own kind of magic.

This morning, Donna sat at the kitchen table, writing a paper at a calm, unhurried rhythm, keeping time with the steady crash of waves across from her window. September slowed everything down, made space for reflection—but it also left room for longing.

She missed her family. She missed her mother. This was their place, the heart of seven generations who had loved and vacationed on this little island.

Next year, Donna promised herself, she would rent a place for two weeks and invite her kids to come and go as they pleased. She wanted to celebrate finishing school with a long, relieved exhale in her home away from home—and she wanted them with her.

No matter where life took her, Donna knew her heart would always belong to Wildwood, that small, beloved stretch of sand and sea.

WILDWOOD FIVE MILES OF SMILES



John Siciliano & Ben Rose



Michael, Mary & Mike Millard



Ed & Steve, Wildwood Crest running buddies at the Pinch the Grinch Run



Sister Sun fans Marianne & Linda



Kendon and daughter Kelaiah



Pam & Luke



Tom Melchiorre is always so happy to see one of his students. This is Chad



the **SUN** by-the-Sea

"A thankful heart doubles our blessings, causing us to enjoy them twice—when we receive them, and when we remember them."

5 MILES *of Smiles!*



There will be more photos from the Flea Market in next summer's issue due out 6.26.26



Tom & Theresa Corcoran



Kyle, Brian & Rosie with the "best mop ever!"



Ed & Donna Koehler for all your flooring needs!



Good old Moore's... where it all began
Uncle Brian & Aunt Meg
with Keira & Grayson Wood



Rick & Deb with Claude, their 38 year old parrot



Dr. Corey, Lily & mom Kathy Savaard at an early morning, after work surf session. The doctor left his overnight shift at the hospital and headed straight to Wildwood to catch the Hurricane Erin swell.

5 MILES *of Smiles!*



It only takes a split second to smile and forget, yet to someone that needed it, it can last a lifetime.



Kris and Lory Kondor of N Wildwood celebrated their grandson Florian Savae Standteiner's high school graduation in Truckee CA. That same day, Florian received a letter from US Ski & Snowboard, inviting him to race and train in the 2025/26 National Regional Development Program. He is one of only 5 athletes chosen from the Western Region and one of 17 chosen from the entire US. Congratulations Florian! The Sun will be on his ski racing journey!



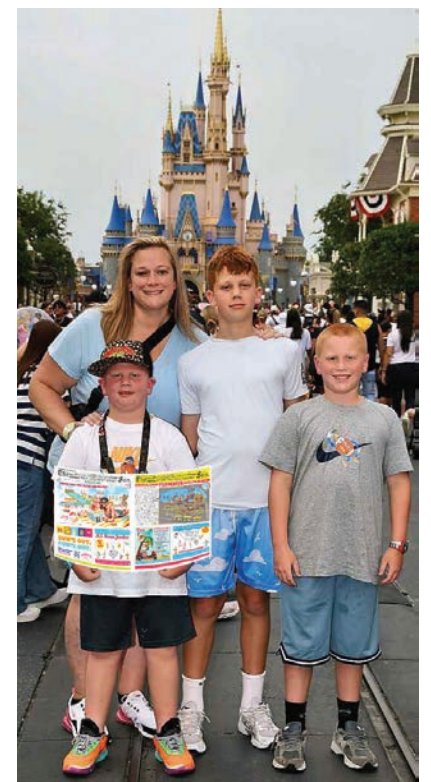
Everybody loves a guy with a cool car... like this legend Gigi, pictured with his mini that was created by George & Nancy Saleeb of the Tram Car Stores on the Wildwood Boardwalk



Crystal & Dennie with their boys
Dylan & Zachary
The 3rd & 4th generation at
Laura's Fudge



Bill, Joan & Bill Celinski enjoying a sunset dinner at Surfing Pig



Nikki, Tommy, Joey & Nate Rowan did not forget to take The Sun to Disneyworld

Laughter is sunshine,
it chases winter from the human face



The Sun

"Do more than you are paid for. There are never any traffic jams on the extra mile." ~Brian Tracy

A Wartime Victory Garden in N. Wildwood



Charles Neill, 1950
U.S. Navy Fighter



Donald Neill, 1951
U.S. Marine Corps



James Neill, 1942,
U.S. Army Tec Sergeant



Richard Neill, 1949,
U.S. Merchant Marine



Charlie, Bill, Norma & their
mother tending to the garden

During wartime, when resources were scarce and every family did their part, the Neill family of North Wildwood planted a Victory Garden. Around 1942, the Neill clan of 11 were often found in the garden with their mother at Granny Hankins' house, nestled between 3rd and 4th on New Jersey Avenue—on the very ground where the Wawa once stood and where Beach Bums sits today.

The late Charlie Neill, who so often shared his family's stories, remembered those long days in the garden. He could still feel the weight of the shovel as he turned the soil, and he never forgot how much he disliked the endless weeding. Yet there was pride in the harvest. His

mother carefully canned the ripest tomatoes, filling jars that would feed the family throughout the year, especially at Sunday dinners.

It was called a "Victory Garden" because in those days gasoline was scarce, and not everything could be delivered to the island. Growing your own vegetables meant one less thing that had to make the journey by truck or ferry. Neighbors shared their produce, trading what they had and ensuring no table went empty.

It was a time when community spirit thrived, and the Neills, like so many others, showed how resilience and togetherness could turn even the hardest seasons into ones of abundance.

THIS OLD HOUSE-207 E. 2ND From Our Readers

Sent in by Jake Wisniewski



Sometimes, an old house is more than just a place—it's the keeper of beginnings, memories, and moments that shape a life. One reader, Jake Wisniewski, shared a story about a little pink cottage in North Wildwood that holds his family's history.

Every old house holds a story, but for Jake, one in North Wildwood holds the very beginning of his own. The little pink beach cottage at 207 E. 2nd Avenue, with its weathered siding and seaside charm, is where his parents first met in 1993—a simple moment that changed everything.

Now, whenever Jake walks past it, he feels the pull of that history. That cottage is more than just faded paint and sun-soaked shingles—it's the start of his origin story. Its presence ties him to North Wildwood in a way that feels both personal and timeless.

Seeing this house still standing today makes him grateful, and it sparks a thought: How many others carry quiet, life-shaping connections to the older homes that remain across the island?

Every old house truly tells a story...
Jake's is living proof.

Thank you for sharing it with us Jake!



Chris, Marianne & Jake in their favorite place, Wildwood by-the-Sea



Jake with his Mom by DJ Joe Bilbee's stage at Moore's Inlet Bar in 2005... the final summer for Moore's

Every old house
tells a story...



Do you have a Wildwood home that holds special meaning? Share your memories with *The Sun* and help us keep the spirit of these beloved cottages alive.

thesunbythesea@gmail.com



"The first thing to know about living in an old house: the walls are alive." – Frances Maze



208 E. 1st Ave. standing tall

THE FIRST HOUSE STILL STANDS TALL

The story of North Wildwood's first house is more than dates and deeds—it is a tapestry of lives lived boldly, of families who carried both hardship and hope. From John Taylor's clapboard dream to the Drewes' sweet traditions, and finally to the Browns' legacy of service and sacrifice, the home 208 E. 1st Avenue has stood as witness.



The Drewes on the front porch in 1918



Larry & Janet Brown, 1990s

From the Archives of The Sun, 2004

Dorothy McMonagle Kulisek

Long before boardwalk lights glittered against the ocean, before roads or rails brought visitors to the island, there was John Taylor. Other than the native American Indians, he is remembered as the first true resident of the fishing hamlet once called Anglesea—a rugged stretch of sand and marsh that would, in 1906, take the name North Wildwood.

Taylor arrived in the 1870s, even before the Hereford Lighthouse rose at the northern tip of the island. With his sons, he set the rhythm of early life here—casting pound nets off the beach and rowing passengers across the inlet to the mainland, since there was no bridge or train to carry them.

Amid a scattering of crude fishing shacks, Taylor built something more enduring: a Gothic-style cedar clapboard house at 208 E. 1st Avenue, believed to be the very first true home in North Wildwood, dating to about 1874.

In 1908, Taylor sold the house to Charles and Liza Drewes for \$500. The Drewes brought not only their family but also a sweetness to the island—operating the very first ice cream parlor in North Wildwood. When The Sun visited in 2004, we stepped inside the home of Janet Brown, who proudly kept their memory alive. She pointed to the large crocks once used by the Drewes to churn ice cream by hand, and in the corner, a treasured heirloom: a hand-painted wooden chest carried across the Atlantic when the Drewes sailed from England, their lives packed tightly inside.

The house itself remains a storyteller. Its blue picket fence still greets the sea breeze; flowering bushes and old shade trees soften its weathered frame. On the porch rests a horse trough that harks back to Taylor's era. And up in the attic window, Janet's playful touch endures—a small cat doll gazing out toward the ocean, watching as generations come and go.

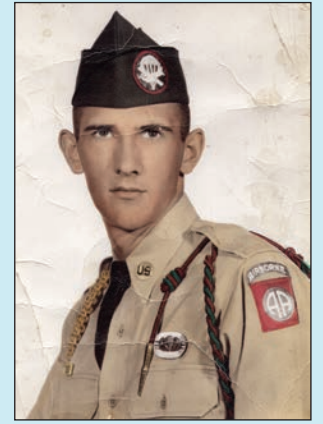


Janet Brown at her home, 2011
by Rob Kulisek



Janet Brown across the street
from her home on the seawall
2011 by Rob Kulisek

Like Father, Like Son Courageous War Heroes



For Janet (1919-2016) and her husband, Lt. Larry Brown, USAF (1916-2002), their old house was more than a relic of history. It was home. Retiring here in 1981, the couple filled its rooms with love, carrying both joy and sorrow within its walls.

Larry's own story carried the weight of history. A World War II pilot, he flew 35 missions in Flying Vixens between 1942 and 1945, and before the war's end, trained under Gen. Doolittle in preparation to fly the formidable B-29.

Their son, James W. Brown, U.S. Army Green Beret, carried that same courage into the Vietnam War. Enlisting in 1968, James endured the unimaginable. On his second tour, his regiment was struck by a grenade—he was the only survivor. Though he made it home, the wounds of war followed him, and his life was cut short. James was laid to rest with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery, a hero remembered.



LT. LARRY BROWN, USAF
learning to fly with Doolittle.
Read more about Doolittle
online... he was amazing!