

With summer peaking over a dazzling horizon, and from our comfiest beach chairs, we reflect on all the newsworthy goings-on that occurred September '07 through May '08.

With the nice summer weather continuing well into the fall, contributing to a boost in business revenue, our quiet little town continued to grow despite the nationwide drop in real estate. Homes were renovated, new businesses opened, and life at the shore, through snow showers and sunshine, remained good!

Filmmaker Federico Fellini once said, "There is no end. There is no beginning. There is only the infinite passion of life." So with a passion for all things Wildwood, we review shore events that occurred While You Were Away....

New Businesses and News around Town:

In the early hours of October 13th a fire occurred at Celtic Shores Irish Shop in North Wildwood. Owner Kathleen Killen waisted no time looking for a new location. She reopened at the former McDowell Real Estate office on 12th & NJ, a fitting location considering the building already resembled an irish cottage clad in green Irish clovers.

Champagne Island opened it's new restaurant and bar Flip Flopz in the nick of time for Irish Weekend!

Café Jon Paul at 25th & New Jersey featuring fresh & healthy salads and a lighter fare opened in October at the old Al the Steak King.

Santucci's Pizza opened on 17th Ave

Local Wildwood gal, Beth McCracken, formerly of Shakespeare's Cafe, opens Epicure, a natural foods eatery, where Floody's used to be on New Jersey Ave. between Poplar & Magnolia. Opens June 18th!

Shipwreck Island Golf Course, located on New Jersey Ave., sold to Walgreens slated to open next year sometime.

Shore Couture, a unique boutique experience with a reasonable price tag, adjoins North Wildwood Shirt Shop at 610 New Jersey Ave. Their new neighbor's, Tu & Lynn Bui opened Unique Nail Salon, they are formerly of Oriental Nails located next to CVS. Next door to them, Mike Thomas purchased the North Wildwood Avalon Coffee at 7th & NJ Aves. from Jim Nanos. Meanwhile, the original Wildwood Avalon Coffee, located on Pacific Ave., closed its doors for good at the beginning of the year. Bob & Kim Maschio continue to operate their Wildwood Crest Avalon Coffee located at Ocean Outfitters Surf Boutique on Cardinal & NJ Aves. along with their new North Cape May store at Cape Center at Bayshore & Townbank Rds.

All 8 Avalon Coffee locations are supplied by the Rio Grande store location. Keep an eye out for their delivery trucks which were designed by the Sun by-the-sea!

Two Doors down from Rio Grande Avalon Coffee is the all new Frank's Famous Pizza! Owners Mark Matreale & Kelly Sheets were inspired to follow their dream by watching TV host Donny Deutsch on his show "The Big Idea". Congratulations! Eat in or take out! They boast their very own homemade gravy!

Back on the island. . . briefly closing for business this winter for the first time in their 86 year history, Russo's Restaurant & Bar is back open better than ever with Amy back behind the bar. It is one of the island's oldest, family-owned businesses.

A Town Less Torn

Proving that building up beats tearing down, a total of only 18 demolitions (8 in North Wildwood, 8 in West Wildwood, and 2 in Wildwood Crest) occurred between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Total demolitions for previous 2 years were over 190. Instead, renovations and additions were the trend this year. Spatz Pharmacy was one of the demolished on Pacific Avenue right before Christmas. John Britton's house was another one.

Pictured here is one of the oldest buildings on the demo list this year, dating back to the early 1900's. Ravioli House owners' Steve & Anna Marie Jakel and their folks Antonio & Teresa De Sanctis had the old Flour Warehouse (which was a residence at the time of demo) torn down to make way for an addition. The expanded area will serve partly for restaurant overflow, but mostly for their wholesale Ravioli Factory. The Ravioli House supplies many local eateries with their homemade pastas and desserts, and it is quickly growing into a nationwide business. With rising flour prices going from \$7.00 to \$35.00 for a 50 lb. bag, it's too bad that old flour warehouse is gone!

The Boardwalk Bulletin...

A Wild Welcome

In an attempt to make for a more aesthetically pleasing welcome to the island, giant letters spelling out the word WILDWOOD now greet boardwalk visitors at the end of Rio Grande Avenue.

Seaport Pier Takes the Plunge

While the summer of 2007 was still swinging, City Council accepted a plan to turn the empty Seaport Pier into "Captain Andy's Indoor Waterpark Resort," the tentatively titled pirate-themed indoor waterpark supported by the WB Resorts Development \$175 million project investment. The 90,000-square-foot-glass-enclosed waterpark would scan over the beach and include approximately 400 hotel rooms. The projected dates are unknown at this time.

The demolition was complete by the end of April. The city will be funded up to the full amount for the demolition, according to an agreement with WB Resorts, when their redevelopment offer comes to completion. Included in the proposal, at North Wildwood's request, is the pier's moving to the center of the block between 22nd and 23rd avenues. Their objective is to widen both the view and the size of the old pier's footprint.

A Cleaner Wildwood Boardwalk

Beneath a sunny sky, the conversation grew dark at City Hall as boardwalk merchants addressed the inappropriate language written on t-shirts sold at surrounding stores. Addressing their concerns, Mayor Ernie Troiano stated boardwalk inspector Pat Sarnese was monitoring the boardwalk. While the First Amendment prohibits the city from restricting the written word, they can require store owners to remove offensive material to the backs of their stores.

A Family-Friendly Boardwalk

Playing a welcoming part in Wildwood's "Two Miles of Smiles" boardwalk is successful businessman Steve Mendel, who is celebrating 17 jammin' years of providing the Wildwoods with quality clothing and merchandise at Sand Jamm Surf Shop. Sand Jamm is so jamm-packed with new merchandise that they had to expand! The new addition is guaranteed to offer shoppers a bigger and better selection!

Also contributing to the boardwalk's family fun (and creative construction) are E.J. & Sean Dougherty of Brothers, Inc., owners of Olympic Fun Center at 24th & Boardwalk. They've been hard at work for the past two years making plans for the construction of the boardwalk's very first Stewart's Root Beer at Magnolia & the Boardwalk. (The brothers are shown here with their new manager for Stewart's.) The magnificent structure is reminiscent of a 1950's style juke box with roof top open air seating (the ultimate place for a day in the sun or a night of fireworks). Inspired by the nostalgic drive-thru, Stewart's comes complete with uniformed car hops and the same old-fashioned menu including cheeseburgers, floats, cherry creams, and much more!

Further south at Garfield & the Boardwalk you'll now find an old favorite in a new location! In addition to their new baby boy, Thomas Byron born in September, the Byron family acquired this boardwalk property over the winter and decided to continue to do business the nostalgic way. (as they did with Pete Byron Realty!) Pete's Pork Roll resembles an old fashioned seashore eatery of times gone by. Their menu and pricing are expected to follow suit!

Celebrating More(y) Family Fun for Years to Come

Morey's Pier, founded in 1968 by Will and Bill Morey, began modestly with a colossal 12-lane fiberglass slide positioned on what would become Surfside Pier. Now, 40 seasons

later, Morey's Pier consists of more than 100 rides and attractions which span three amusement piers and two beachfront water parks.

Voted one of the best amusement parks in the world in 2007 and considered the largest seaside park in Western Hemisphere, the family-owned and operated Morey's Pier has received countless awards, thanks in part to their company mission: "to create a spectacular family recreation experience in a safe, clean, friendly, unique environment."

Happy Anniversary! Wishing you many MORE!

A Wild Wood Substitute Heads to Town

The search for a long-lasting, reasonably priced, more environmentally friendly American-produced hardwood was on for the boardwalk renovation scheduled to begin in 2008. At least a portion of the boardwalk will be replaced with black locust. Depending on how durable the wood proved to be, it may also be used to replace sections of the boardwalk from and including Lincoln to Oak Avenues as well as the beach access tunnel at Schellenger Avenue during the renovation development next year. About \$5 million in funds supplied by USDA grants and Urban Enterprise Zone will pay for that section of work. City officials expressed concern that they find something sturdy enough to endure 50 years of heat and feet. Litigation involving bidders on the development resulted in delays. In January, bidders were being considered. Work was then scheduled to begin north of the Wildwood Convention Center with approximately \$150,000 from the capital budget funding the rehabilitation.

To date, Mayor Troiano will use yellow pine on the redecking and black locust on the permanent areas.

Accepting no Substitutes for a Safer, Smoother Ride

Following complaints that riders were getting their heads jostled through hairpin and corkscrew turns, the Great Nor'Easter, a popular roller coaster on Morey's Pier, got a new design. Pier employees tested the newly-designed ride, complete with new seat and restraint system, and found the ride to be much smoother and freer, allowing riders to move their head and arms more. The estimated \$1 million upgrade required approval from the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Tokens Substituted for Cash Make for another Safe Ride

In an attempt to maintain boardwalk safety, tokens will now be accepted on tram cars with the eventual objective of removing cash from all trams, according to Patrick Rosenello, executive director of the Special Improvement District. The tokens, which cost \$2.00 for a one-way ride, are sold at the Cresse Avenue tram office and the 16th Street location with other locations (possibly boardwalk businesses) being discussed.

North Wildwood is Doubly Green. . .

The 16th annual North Wildwood Irish Festival, a four-day event commemorating the Emerald Isle's heritage, drew crowds as well as envy from neighboring towns looking for their own luck of the Irish. The beautiful summer-like weather, in part, contributed to the success of Irish weekend held Sept. 20th to Sept. 23rd. The packed weekend presented a variety of vendors, live entertainment, and a warm, welcoming crowd as North Wildwood boasts the largest Irish Festival in the country.

On March 15th, 2008, North Wildwood had more than 20 groups participate in their growing St. Patty's Day Parade! even a Kazoo Band on the Tram Car rode down Atlantic Avenue.

On Another Green Note...

Green's Liquors Store at 26th & NJ is sporting an attractive brand new dark green 79K square foot shingled roof courtesy of Tomes Roofing & Siding.

Beach Breaking News... A Beachy 2008

North Wildwood's Oceanfront Beach Replenishment Project, a \$10 million venture to enhance the beauty of the beaches while supplying a crucial safeguard between the city and the sea, was expected to be completed prior to the summer season. The city knows how to get the new sand and exactly where it needs to go. Now, it's just a matter of when.

Beach Meets (fishing) Boat

Late winter found the Wildwood Crest rescue squad responding to a call that the scallop vessel, The Star 2, based in Cape May, ran ashore of the beach. Strong winds and waves propelled the Star 2 North toward the beach. Rescue squad workers approached the vessel from the beach and were able to safely escort its three crew members to shore. The Star 2 crew was responding to the vessel's engine trouble when it ran aground. Sea Tow and North Star Marina crews prepared for the process of removal which took several days.

More Beach Meetings. . .

Following a call from local police, the Brigantine Marine Mammal Stranding Center transported a stranded baby seal, found on Wildwood Crest's beach, to the center for

evaluation. In the span of two weeks, four seals had been found along beaches from Long Branch to Wildwood Crest.

A seal in need of rest (i.e. sunbathing) was captured on North Wildwood's beach and then released in a more secluded setting to recuperate, according to Sheila Dean, the center's co-director. Typically, the center leaves the animals be, unless they are considered to be in distress.

The center also responded to a call that a beached Striped Dolphin had washed ashore on Diamond Beach. The dolphin died shortly after they arrived. Striped Dolphins are deep-sea animals that only come ashore if they are sick or injured.

Fishing off the Right Pier

In an effort to lengthen the Wildwood Crest Fishing Club pier, one of the few New Jersey fishing piers, work to refurbish the Heather Road structure, at a cost of \$750,000, funded partially by a \$400,000 grant provided by the state Department of Affairs, has begun. Although doubled in length since its 1920's debut, the pier resides exclusively on sand. The first step in restoring the pier included replacing existing pilings and pier deck while making the pier code compliant and handicap accessible. Walters Marine Construction was granted the \$673, 773 contract last October focusing on the piers oldest part, which is located next to the street end. Commissioner Don Cabrera remained optimistic about the renovations. While maintaining its historic look and making it safer and more scenic, he hoped the pier would become a popular tourist attraction and a primary spot for beachfront weddings.

Wildwood Crest Fitness Park Opened on Oct. 1st.

Located along the east side of Ocean Avenue between Forget-Me-Not and Palm Avenues, the newly landscaped, lighted fitness park includes a cement walking/jogging track that circumferences the park and is 1,069 feet in length (five laps is just over one mile; 5,345 feet). Local and county officials were on hand for the ceremonial ribbon cutting and a ceremonial first walk/jog around the park by the Crest Memorial Elementary School cross country team. The park is a wonderful addition to the already community-friendly and beautified borough of Wildwood Crest.

Beyond the Beach...

Wildwood's Shining Stars

The first Wildwood By the Sea Film Festival, brought together by Paul Russo and Shawn Swords, showcased an entertaining variety of more than 100 independent films the last week in September. In addition to displaying original works of art by a talented community, the event's objective was also to extend shore activities after the season ended. The festival also encouraged filmmakers to consider Wildwood an excellent place to film with its accessibility and beautiful scenery. To find out more,

www.wildwoodbytheseafilmfest.com/

Wildwood's Rich History Shines

The limelight shone on the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, whose first light appeared in 1874, when it became one of seven recipients of the Historical Commission Awards distributed by the New Jersey Department of State on November 17th. Restoration on the building was on its fourth phase which involved upgrading the tower staircase inside the Swiss Gothic-style building as well as restructuring an outside staircase (known to have only been photographed once). Modern conveniences including a fire-suppression sprinkler system and a hidden air-conditioning system were added.

The fifth phase, currently in the planning stage, involves obtaining the adjacent lifeboat station and turning it into a museum and gift shop. New quarters would need to be found for the State Police, which currently resides there.

The state Historic Trust and the state Department of Transportation are among supporters contributing to the lighthouse restoration.

Hitting book stores soon will be Guardians of the Hereford Inlet-The History of the Hereford Lighthouse, Anglesea Life Saving Station and the U.S. Coast Guard Life Boat Station #133 by Steve Murray. It is the first book to document the history of each station and comes complete with nearly 300 photos, many never seen by the general public. (Above is the Anglesea Life Saving Crew circa, 1900.)

More Space for Wildwood History

City approval was granted to add more room to the Wildwood Historical Museum, located on Pacific Avenue. Good news for all of Wildwood's treasured antiques, including a cast-iron clock once considered a landmark in downtown Wildwood, which at present resides in the back room.

The fourth annual Fabulous Fifties Weekend was held Oct 19-21 at the Wildwoods Convention Center. Fabulous guests including Bobby Rydell reliving those “Wildwood Days,” along with Little Anthony & the Imperials and the Coasters, reminisced and sang about simpler times at a sold-out concert Saturday night. Also featured that weekend were a Friday night sock hop and an all-day Boardwalk “street” fair Saturday afternoon including vendors, contests, and the presenting of the Wildwoods Music Awards.

The Saturday night sold-out concert was simulcast in the Starlight Ballroom to a crowded-to-capacity audience that couldn’t get tickets.

The party continued Sunday afternoon when North Wildwood turned the municipal parking lot, located at the intersection of Olde New Jersey and Second Avenues, into a stage for the day complete with approximately 300 chairs. Although the crowds were estimated to be more than four times that number, no one seemed to mind the limited seating.

“Rockabilly” Charlie Grace, who entertained the crowds on Saturday afternoon at Fox Park, was on hand as was the popular Atlantic City band Better Half and Tru.

The idea behind the celebration, larger and more “fabulous” than any other year, was to extend tourist season while paying tribute to Wildwoods’ abundant musical history. The event has grown in popularity each year and contributes greatly to Wildwood’s economy.

Tourism Takes a Step Forward

The Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement & Development Authority (GWTIDA) launched a new six-week marketing campaign in May. The campaign targets the Philadelphia, northern Jersey, and to a lesser extent, New York, Canada, and southern Connecticut markets by way of TV, cable, radio, print media, and highway billboards.

The GWTIDA also launched an “intercept-market campaign” intended for current Wildwood vacationers through regional radio and possibly cable TV.

Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce Members Fill Up on Information at the Chamber Luncheon

Mayors of North Wildwood, Wildwood, and Wildwood Crest attended a luncheon April 9th at Garfield’s. Mayor Bill Henfey (aka Blacktop Billy) discussed North Wildwood’s street program, which at present includes repairs to 17 blocks. An additional \$3 million is expected to be spent on the program this year. Funding through grants and loans was

successful, with approximately 25 percent of the income from grant money. A \$500,000 grant will also contribute to a \$1.5 million project to expand City Hall.

Also on the menu, Wildwood Mayor Ernie Troiano spoke about the progress made on Pacific Avenue and anticipated four new restaurants opening by summer. Business owner Wally Lerro discussed his plans for a two-floor restaurant and bar called The Deck on Holly Beach.

The mayor also talked about the road work being done in the city, as well as construction at the city's new community center, which will replace the Wildwood Recreation Center, located on east Rio Grande Avenue, and will provide youths with an athletic complex. Mayor Troiano discussed the approval of six high-rise condotels and the state's Coastal Areas Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) rejection of the 25-story Nouveau Wave Hotel.

The city worked to meet the state's criteria and is awaiting approval.

Meanwhile, Wildwood Crest Mayor Carl Groon also discussed street repairs. Seaview Avenue, one of the region's oldest roadways, is part of a refurbishing project that includes replacing sewer lines and curbs as well as new asphalt. The project will be divided into four phases with a cost of \$2.9 million per phase.

Come summer, the borough's 90-year old fishing pier will be able to accommodate walkers thanks to Walters Marine Construction. The \$673,773 contract, which included making the aged pier handicap accessible, was funded by a \$400,000 grant from the state Department of Community Affairs as well as an estimated \$350,000 in bonds.

Each mayor look optimistically toward another great summer at the shore!

What's on the Menu in 2008?

Wildwood's Menu Adds on Three Upscale Restaurants

Three upscale, year-round restaurants, initially scheduled to open in late April, will line the corner of Schellenger and Pacific Avenues. In January, local businessman Joe Palombaro met with Wildwood City Commission to discuss plans for his restaurant complex that would replace his nightclub Club Shakers. Access and fire safety was discussed at the meeting, with a detailed fire safety presentation given before the Wildwood Planning Board. The building would house three restaurants with an adjoining open-air, outdoor-seating courtyard. The restaurant "Tangerine" and a Japanese cuisine restaurant would occupy the first floor. Occupying the second floor would be a restaurant-club called "Coconuts." Tangerine and Coconuts would provide entertainment.

Pacific Avenue is Looking Up....

Over on Oak & Pacific Avenue is a new establishment taking shape. Bolero Resort owner, Wally Lerro intends to have The Deck opened in time for the summer. Above are the Burdsall Builders and below is Wally Lerro himself.

A Room with a (Garden) View

North Wildwood now has its very own Garden of Eden. With the demolition of a single-family home at 18th & New Jersey Ave. on December 14th, the new, two-floor garden-themed restaurant with al-fresco style dining will be open for the 2008 season. The first floor contains 50 seats while the second floor houses 52 "open air seating," a popular floor plan in Florida and Las Vegas. A roll-out canopy covers a portion of the second floor, which will only be used during the warmer months. Kudos O'Brien family!

Still Hungry?

Boyd's Texas Style Barbeque, located in the Villas, was scheduled to open at a second location in May on the boardwalk near Sam's Pizza and Sand Jamm, across from Stewart's and around the corner from Groff's! Cape May County native Boyd Lafferty perfected his barbequing technique while living in Texas then brought it home to Cape May County.

Ye Old Anglesea Pub in the Anglesea section of North Wildwood has been taken over by new owners! They're hoping to be open sometime in May.

Keenan's is now 5 places in 1! Keenan's, Peggy's Patio, Cabana bar, Husky McCluskey's, & the all new Angry Jack's, formerly 2nd Street Annie's.

Opening on June 5th for their 84th Season is Groff's Family Restaurant at Magnolia & the Boardwalk.

Crab Island at 26th & park opens for their 6th season with an all new \$10 Bottle of Wine Night on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Temporarily off the Menu on the Bay...

Following an incident on 07/07/07 at approximately 7:00pm in which part of a concrete floor collapsed, the Crab House, located on Ocean Drive between Cape May and Wildwood Crest, will remain closed until the 2009 season. Steel cables used to support the concrete flooring eroded due to 35 years of saltwater and dampness. No one was seriously injured, thus making it their luckiest day by far! Decisions regarding the restaurant, owned by Jim Salasin and his Big Fish Restaurant Group, continue. When reopened, expect similarities to the Two Mile Landing and Crab House structures.

On the Menu on the Bay...

Sunset Bay Restaurant on the bay in North Wildwood will be opening for its 12th Season! We just want you all to know that the reason this place is such a beautiful island paradise is because owner/creator, Steve Narrigan is there almost every day of the year, all winter long, working on his various projects, rain or shine! Sunset Bay is an asset to our island! His trailer load of palm trees arrived on May 5th!

Off the Map on the Bay and for the Birds!

No longer will boaters be able to cast anchor off the coast of Hereford Inlet. Only shorebirds will have the privilege of being allowed to flock to Champagne Island this summer. State officials are closing the island in Anglesea to boaters in order to protect the birds that nest there like terns, piping plovers and skimmers.

Mike Porch at Main Street Wildwood reports on the progress over the winter along Pacific Avenue. . .

Pacific Avenue is coming alive with new construction and renovation activity after a quiet winter.

Main Street Wildwood is pleased to report that, despite a nationwide economic slowdown, this is the sixth consecutive year with significant investment in the downtown Wildwood commercial area, adding 40+ net new businesses and dozens of jobs. This

continued redevelopment progress has added many new services, dining and entertainment options for both residents and visitors alike.

At the north end of Pacific Avenue, Good Night Irene's has been a tremendous success. Local attorney David Stefankiewicz has completely transformed the former Poplar Cafe into a destination meeting place with over 30 draft beers and brick oven pizza. Across the street, demolition is ongoing at the former Magnolia Motel and Restaurant. Modern residential units are planned for the top floor with new commercial space at street level.

Construction is underway at the southeast corner of Oak & Pacific Avenues, with local hotelier Wally Lerro and partner bringing a new restaurant and Irish pub to the downtown. An exciting feature of the project is the planned open-air second floor seating area overlooking Pacific Avenue. One block down at Schellenger Avenue, the final administrative hurdle has been cleared for a unique three-restaurants-in-one-location establishment, including a second floor open-air terrace with a retractable roof.

City Nightclub, which continues to build a loyal following, has added additional retail space for a package goods store. The block between Spicer and Garfield, anchored on one end by the award-winning Juan Pablo's Margarita Bar, has three new business projects in the works. Steve Mainardi's Kahuna's has undergone an extensive renovation, adding a large commercial kitchen for a new upscale eatery. Next door, in a former pizzeria, two local businessmen are planning a breakfast and lunch restaurant. Two doors down at 3809, Stadium Steaks has brought authentic Philly steaks to Pacific Avenue.

"Neon artist Fred Musso has brought his Ultra Neon workshop and gallery to Pacific Avenue across from the VFW at Spicer Avenue."

A complete top-to-bottom renovation is taking place at 3921 Pacific Avenue, at Spencer, adding upgraded retail space at street level and improved housing units above. Next door, one of Pacific Avenue's greatest attractions, the Wildwood Historic Museum, has recently been granted approval for an approximately 1000 sq. ft. addition to house their growing collection.

Greg Sykora, a South Jersey entrepreneur, is renovating the former Fox Brothers store, reputedly the oldest retail location on Pacific Avenue. Sykora has also recently purchased the former Stiles Pharmacy at Baker Avenue. A renovation has begun with a new business to follow.

New retail stores at 4504 and at 3411 Pacific Avenue, City Limits and Urban Boutique, respectively, have opened to cater to local clothing needs. At Burk Avenue, additional parking to meet the downtown's growing demand will be constructed.

Since the start of the last tourist season, 10 new residential units have been completed at Andrews Avenue next to La Piazza Cucina. More people living in proximity to Pacific Avenue will help create demand for the goods and services offered by downtown.

businesses. On Rio Grande Avenue, just east of Pacific, stop in and see George for his delicious freshly baked Wildwood Soft Pretzels.

The Wildwood Business Improvement District (WBID) has continued their capital investment in the downtown with new sidewalks and curbs to enhance the appearance of Pacific Avenue. Phase Three of the Pacific Avenue Streetscape Project has recently been completed. The next phase of this project will include new streetlights to further enhance the downtown's aesthetic appeal.

Island realtors have reported a double digit increase in rentals for the coming tourist season. We are hopeful that a strong tourist season will generate increased demand for downtown goods and services, revenue and the interest necessary to continue Pacific Avenue's redevelopment progress.

Main Street Wildwood is a 501(c)3 non-profit downtown revitalization organization. Information about its services can be obtained by calling 609-729-6818.

A few more Pacific Avenue news-bits. . .

Pete and Celeste DeAngelis have relocated their namesake Italian eatery. . .again, back to North Wildwood at 6th & NJ Ave. Same great everything with the South Philly taste!

Papa John's closed for business for good. Relocating and moving into their Oak & Pacific Ave. location is Alumni Grill up from Cedar Ave.

Vince Chiarella's Gia at Glenwood and Pacific has been a spectacular recent addition with a beautiful Tuscany-inspired renovation and excellent Italian cuisine. It was one of the few fine dining restaurants that remained open during the quiet winter season. Others included Alfe's, La Piazza & JP Prime.

Digging for Old Gold. . .

"Gold is a treasure, and he who possesses it does all he wishes to in this world, and succeeds in helping souls in paradise," Christopher Columbus eloquently declared.

As gold prices soar, treasure seekers can rely on The Jewelry Studio in Stone Harbor for the best gold prices with immediate payment for their old gold.

Patrice Gear, Gregg Metzler & Natasha Webster

Hearts On Fire and Dream diamonds are exclusively shown and sold at the Jewelry Studio in Stone Harbor, the experts in showing you the unique beauty and value that comes from superior craftsmanship. In addition to in-stock pieces, the staff at Jewelry Studio can provide you with the most up-to-date availability and pricing of all Hearts On Fire diamonds and jewelry. Stop in at Jewelry Studio, your exclusive dealer at the shore for 'Hearts on Fire', the world's most perfectly cut diamond.

Wildwood Crest Works on Creating Sweeter Days

The year began on a cool note with borough commissioners in talks to increase the number of ice cream vendors, with veterans getting preference, from 5 to 7. Approval is needed via an ordinance amendment. When safety and traffic issues were considered, borough Police Chief Thomas DePaul assured the commissioners that 2 more ice cream trucks on the streets, with a time limit, would not cause any additional trouble.

While in Wildwood Crest... Cabrera Realty purchased the By-the-Sea Realty office and business located at 6201 New Jersey Avenue. The sales and rental business has moved to this location. Cabrera Property Management remains at 8700 New Jersey Ave., Wildwood Crest.

The Days of Creating Artists While Controlling Smoke

Students ranging from fifth to eighth grade can now partake in three hours of applied lessons provided by local artists Cheryl Crews, Janet Payne, and Amanda Vernon at the Center For Community Arts at Cape Assist on New Jersey Avenue. The free weekly Youth Arts Program was recently brought back to Wildwood. Students have the option of signing up for all 14 classes or attending their chosen classes.

Children ages 6-10 can participate in the free weekly "art at the library" program.

In addition to making Cape May County a more artistic place, Cape Assist, the Community Partnerships Coalition of Cape May County, sponsored a free program focused on decreasing tobacco use. The "Understanding Advocacy and Developing an Action" training program strives to build up a community of volunteers working toward controlling tobacco use.

Working with the Tides

The second phase of the seawall project, which focuses on protecting the north end against storms and waves, began with a request from R.E. Pierson Construction Co. to

expand to a 12-hour working day. Their objective, according to Project Manager Frank Branagan in a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, is to produce more efficiency leading up to and just after low tide while ultimately shortening the project's length. The letter was passed along to City Council, who at a January meeting approved the request. 26% is state funded while 9% is funded by North Wildwood. Phase I, which extends from Second Ave. to the Angelsea Beach Colony, is completed. Phase II, giving special consideration to nature, includes replacing various oceanfront coverage.

Saturday Sidewalk Sales... on the corner of Rio Grande & New Jersey continue to grow. KONA Sports on the north side and BLOCKBUSTER on the south. You'll find great sales at both! If you Buy 2 previously viewed movies at Blockbuster, you'll get 1 FREE! or buy 4 for \$20.00!

Meanwhile, here at The SUN we ponder the numerous changes that have occurred since this column last appeared in May 2007. We are inspired by what Winston Churchill has to say, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." Looking back and beyond (with an awesome ocean view for every season), we see our small town thriving, enduring economic ups and downs as we happily move toward another great summer at the shore!

Written and composed by Meg Corcoran / Dorothy Kulisek