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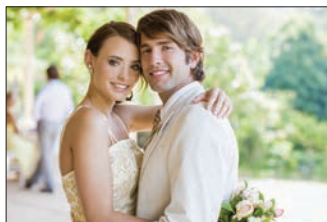
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St. Patrick's Day Parades

Irish season returns with slew of St. Patrick's Day parades

BY TOMMY WATTERS
N&D MAGAZINE

Get ready to enjoy the Irish season this year by attending all the festive parades the Jersey Shore has to offer. Year after year, many municipalities host St. Patrick's Day parades, with hundreds of thousands of people, both residents and tourists, coming out to see the orange, green and white festivities up close. This year, many of the famous parades are back and plan to be bigger than ever, with parties going on not only in the streets, but throughout the entire towns, in bars, clubhouses and residents' homes. Listen to the incredible pipe bands, watch decorative floats pass by and so much more this March.

BELMAR/LAKE COMO

The Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade is returning for a stroll down Main Street on Sunday, March 3 beginning at 12:30 p.m. on 22 Avenue in Lake Como. Get ready for one of the most famous and largest St. Patrick's Day parades in New Jersey.

This year is the first time that there will be four grand marshals – Edward Neafsey and the Casserly sisters, Michelle, Kacey, and Meghan Levis. These individuals embody the spirit of the Irish American community and have made significant contributions to the community and promotion of Irish heritage.

All attendees should expect to be one of roughly 200,000 spectators viewing the over 5,000 marchers and roughly 50 bands, if previous years are anything to go by.

For more information, visit belmarparade.com.

OCEAN COUNTY

Get ready to enjoy the luck of the Irish at this year's Ocean County St. Patrick's Day Parade. It will step off at noon on Saturday, March 9, going down The Boulevard in Seaside Heights.

This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal Kevin Goeghegan, a Toms River councilman. The Irishwoman of the year title will be bestowed upon Erin Ryan.

Can't make the parade? That's all right! B98.5 will have a live broadcast from the grandstand.

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade committee members include President Tom King, Vice President Pat Jockel, Treasurer Brian Morton, Secretary Robyn King and Trustees Bernie Mackle, Erin Ryan, Denis Kelly, Peg Hurley and Mike Yeager.

Spectators can enjoy floats that will be in the theme of Saint Patrick and Irish or Celtic American.

For more information, to complete a march application or become a sponsor, visit ocstpatricksdaysparade.com.

FREEHOLD

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year in downtown Freehold at the Freehold Borough Arts Council's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17. Line up begins at 11:30 a.m. on West Main Street and the parade will step off at 12:30 p.m.

This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal Terri O'Connor and Community Grand Marshal Dr. Anne McLane Palaima.

There will also be multiple contests for participants, including best dressed baby under age 3, best dressed dog, best dressed adult, best decorated bicycle and best decorated motorcycle.

Many organizations will be hosting after parties once the parade has finished, all with live music and food and drink specials. The Freehold Elks, Knights of Columbus, American Legion and American Hotel will all have their doors open serving corned beef, platters, sandwiches and drinks. The Elks will also hold a 50/50 raffle at 5:30 p.m.

The Elks will have Junkyard Dogs playing from 1 to 6 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will host Jimmy & Gene's McMahon Clan at 1 p.m. The American Hotel will host the Eddie Testa Band around 2 p.m.

This parade would not be possible without the combined efforts of the Freehold Borough Arts Council, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 16, Freehold Columbian Club, Freehold Elks, Freehold Borough Police Department and many others.

For more information, visit downtownfreehold.com.

ASBURY PARK

St. Patrick's Day Parade fun returns for the 10th year to Asbury Park this year. The parade will be held on Sunday, March 10 starting at 1 p.m. This year's official headquarters and presenting sponsor will be Johnny Mac's House of Spirits.

The parade will begin at the staging area on Ocean Avenue, travel down onto Cookman Avenue, and end on Main Street. There will be an after-party hosted at the Wonder Bar with Big Bang Baby performing.

This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal Kerri Martin, founder of Second Life Bikes in Asbury Park.

"In 1974, for the first time, men and women of the Jersey Shore marched up Main Street in Belmar in honor of Saint Patrick. Formed and led by the newly formed Jerry Lynch Club, the parade was intended to be a showcase for the 'Irish Riviera.'"

The Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee website



BELMAR/LAKE COMO
Sunday, March 3
at 12:30 p.m.

OCEAN COUNTY
Saturday, March 9
at noon

FREEHOLD
Sunday, March 17
at 12:30 p.m.

ASBURY PARK
Sunday, March 10
at 1:00 p.m.

RUMSON
Sunday, March 10
at 1:00 p.m.

HIGHLANDS
Saturday, March 23
at 2:00 p.m.





COURTESY OF RUMSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The Second Life Bikes program lets kids ages 12 to 18 years work for 15 hours on repairing and fixing bicycles or doing other chores around the Second Life Bikes shop. Then, they get to choose and keep their own bike.

According to the parade's website, Ms. Martin said, "I am very honored to be chosen Grand Marshal. I have been around Asbury Park for a long time. Being Irish is dear to my heart and I think bikes in parades are a quintessential thing. So, this parade is near and dear to me," she said.

For more information, visit asburyparkstpatricksparade.com.

RUMSON

Come celebrate Rumson's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 10.

This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal Michael Del Priore, a retired professional in the Trust department of Chase Manhattan and the Bank of New York. Since then, Mr. Del Priore has worked as a consultant to several firms in the investment management business. Mr. Del Priore is affiliated with the Northern Ireland Children's Endowment, the Council of Institutional Investors, National Association of State Treasurers, National



COURTESY OF RUMSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



COURTESY OF RUMSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



COURTESY OF RUMSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Council of Public Employees Retirement Systems, National Association of Securities Professionals and the National Council of Teachers Retirement Systems. He also served as a trustee of the Monmouth County Visiting Nurses Association for 40 years, the Monmouth Medical Center Foundation for 30 years and has helped fund Roberts & Ryan Inc., which is a service-disabled veterans firm that supports wounded veterans.

This year's parade beneficiary is the Monmouth Conservation Foundation established in 1977 by a group led by Judith Stanley Coleman and Michael Huber. The foundation's mission is to obtain and preserve open space, farmland and conserve natural habitats throughout Monmouth County in support of recreation, agriculture, clean water and wildlife for long term sustainability.

For more information, visit rumsonspatricksdayparade.org



MARK R. SULLIVAN N&D MAGAZINE

HIGHLANDS

Prepare to paint the town green with the 20th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 23 at 2 p.m.

This year the parade will honor Grand Marshal Timothy Hill, who "has deep roots in Highlands," according to the website. He married a local girl, Laura Horan, whose family was very involved in the community; her late mother, Jane, was the co-founder of the Highlands Historical Society. Mr. Hill's late great uncle Joseph Dempsey served as mayor in 1949 and 1950.

There will be over 100 marching groups including bagpipers, bands, Irish dancers, and decorated floats. The parade will set sail starting at Waterwitch Avenue and extend down to Bay Avenue.

For more information, visit highlandsnj.com.



MARK R. SULLIVAN N&D MAGAZINE



MARK R. SULLIVAN N&D MAGAZINE



COURTESY OF STEPHEN LACKO

The Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade will have four grand marshals for the first time in its history. Pictured are Irish-American community members [from left] Megan Levis, Ed Neafsey, Kacey Casserly and Michelle Casserly.

Four grand marshals set for St. Patrick's Day parade

BY GIANNA MEHES AND ALEX LAMATTINA
N&D MAGAZINE

For the first time in the parade's history, four individuals have been chosen to lead the annual Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The three Casserly sisters [Michelle, Kacey and Megan], alongside Edward Neafsey, will be honored together as grand marshals of the 51st St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, March 3.

HON. EDWARD NEAFSEY

Mr. Neafsey is a decorated Irish-American who has been a Jersey Shore resident for four decades.

Born in Elizabeth and raised in Linden with his seven siblings, Mr. Neafsey is the oldest child of Edward "Bud" Neafsey Jr. — a former grand marshal, himself — and Agnes Murphy Neafsey, whose families have ties to County Cork and Wexford in Ireland, thus securing him dual citizenship.

He has previously worked as a career public

servant at the county, state and federal levels, though most of his work had been with the state, with various roles as assistant counsel and commissioner for enforcement to governors and authoring various published legal pieces.

He was also a certified criminal trial attorney, monitoring murder cases as a military lawyer, defense attorney, prosecutor and judge. Additionally, he served as an active member of the New Jersey State Bar Association for more than 45 years and spent time as a coach and judge in the Mock Trial

Program for high school students pursuing law, according to a press release.

In present day, he serves on the New Jersey State Bar Association's Board of Trustees and is an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School. He is also a long-time member of FSOS Foundation and the NJ State Hibernians Freedom for All Ireland Chair.

Mr. Neafsey is also a member of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, a Belfast, Ireland-based human rights group.

When the state Legislature's bipartisan resolution designating March as Irish-American Month was signed into law in 2022, it recognized notable Irish-Americans from New Jersey, which included the Jersey Shore judge for his "human rights activism," the press release says.

The former public servant was named "Irishman of the Year" by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, in Union County, and by the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore, of Belmar.

"Ed's late wife Jane supported the Belmar & Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade and she held an open house every parade day," stated the press release. "Ed is humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of his father, who was the 2008 parade Grand Marshal, and his sister Margaret, who was the 2019 Deputy Grand Marshal."

"To be Grand Marshal is very special. I do think of my father who was grand marshal in 2008 and my sister Margaret who was deputy grand marshal in 2018," said Mr. Neafsey in the press release. "It is a special honor for me and for my family. I'm excited to march and represent the strong and the proud Jersey Shore Irish-American community."

CASSERLY SISTERS

For the three Casserly sisters, the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade has become a long-standing tradition. The eldest three of four children of Michael and Joan Ann Casserly, the family grew up in Sussex County and are all graduates from High Point Regional High School.

The siblings all share treasured memories of attending the annual parade since childhood, as their Irish heritage is an important part of their family. According to the press release, their ancestral roots can be traced back to their paternal great-great-grandfather to County Roscommon, who emigrated to America through Ellis Island.

The Casserly family frequently includes bagpipes at their family events, stated the press release, as several aunts, uncles and cousins are members of the Staten Island Pipes and Drums, the Port Authority Pipes and Drums and the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh Jersey Shore Pipe Band.

Growing up as parade attendees from Jersey

City to the Jersey Shore, the sisters have been proud Belmar Parade Committee members since 2013, after being introduced to the committee by former Deputy Grand Marshal Sharon Day.

The sisters first began their involvement with the annual parade celebration by designing and selling commemorative parade T-shirts to help fundraising efforts, which is a tradition that has continued through to this year, as well.

"The Casserly sisters are truly humbled and honored to be part of a storied Irish tradition which is incredibly meaningful for their entire family and all of their friends," stated the press release. "They are exceedingly proud of their heritage and the characteristics that it represents: loyalty, resiliency, friendliness, hospitality and a strong sense of community."

MICHELLE CASSERLY

The eldest sister, Michelle, has been involved in Belmar for the majority of her professional career and has been a die-hard sports fan all of her life.

According to the press release, the grand marshal previously worked in communications in Charlotte, North Carolina. She then returned to New Jersey, working with the Jersey Shore BlueClaws baseball team in Lakewood and later gained experience in other industries, including hospitality and pharmaceuticals, before moving to the nonprofit sector.

In April 2022, she moved to the role of senior events & experiential manager, government systems with Viasat, a global communications company. According to the press release, since joining the California-based company, she has traveled around the world.

Michelle also previously served on the Belmar Zoning Board and served as a volunteer basketball and soccer coach for the Belmar Recreation Department.

"Our favorite part of the parade season and parade weekend are the opportunities to bring people together to celebrate our Irish culture and heritage," Michelle stated in the press release. "We are excited to see all of the smiling faces and folks wearing shamrocks and are praying for a great weather day."

KATHLEEN 'KACEY' CASSERLY

Kacey, the middle Casserly sister, received her degree in elementary education and history from The College of New Jersey and has been a teacher in the Matawan Aberdeen School District for close to two decades, the committee said.

She also possesses both a graduate degree in special education and a master of arts degree in reading from New Jersey City University.

Kacey has also worked for the Belmar beach-

front, working her way up from badge checker to co-director of operations. She was also recently sworn in to serve on the Belmar Library Board of Trustees.

"Being named one of this year's grand marshals is an exciting honor and to share this honor with my sisters, Megan and Michelle, is truly special," Kacey stated in the press release. "I've been fundraising for the parade for almost a decade and it's been an opportunity to connect with the people of Belmar. It's moments like this that make me proud to call Belmar home."

MEGAN LEVIS NÉE CASSERLY

Megan, the youngest sister in the trio, played soccer, basketball and softball through her school years and attended The College of New Jersey, where she graduated with a degree in elementary education and history.

Following her graduation, she moved to Belmar, where she worked on the beachfront while completing postgraduate studies at New Jersey City University. She started her career as a special education teacher in 2008 in the Marlboro School District and later joined the staff of Belmar Elementary School in 2016, where she currently teaches.

Megan met her husband, Belmar Councilman Mark Levis, on an "Irish night" at Connolly Station in 2008 and later got engaged during their first trip to Ireland in August 2011, while they were visiting the Aran Island, Inis Mór.

The pair were married at St. Rose Church the following year and since have three kids together [Molly, 10, Morgan, 8, and Max, 5] who have also grown up enjoying the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrations, just like their mother.

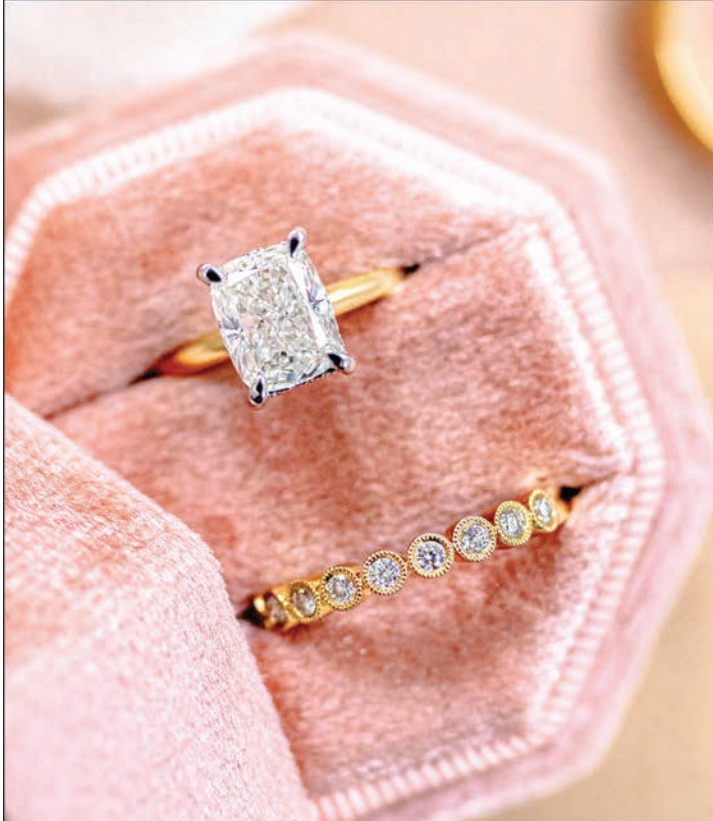
PARADE DAY

With a large Irish-American presence on the Jersey Shore, the annual Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade is a celebration of culture that includes music, food and entertainment.

Spectators can enjoy floats that will be in the theme of Saint Patrick and Irish or Celtic American heritage, barraged with green colors and decorations.

The parade will commence at 12:30 p.m., starting on 22nd Avenue and heading north on Main Street, ending on Fifth Avenue, according to the parade's website. Attendees should expect to be one of roughly 200,000 spectators viewing the over 5,000 marchers and roughly 50 bands, if previous years are anything to go by.

For more information about this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade, visit belmarparade.com.



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Irish Centre, Spring Lake



Hand-loomed natural ladies Aran cardigan
Irish Centre, Spring Lake



Connemara Marble Shamrock Pendant
Irish Centre, Spring Lake



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COOL THINGS TO DO

THIS WINTER



1

LACE UP YOUR SKATES AND GO ICE SKATING

The Jersey Shore Arena in Wall, Middletown Ice Arena in Middletown Township, The Ice Palace in Brick, the Howell Ice Arena in Farmingdale, the Red Bank Armory Ice Center in Red Bank and Ice at the Pier in Long Branch are some of the many rinks that Monmouth County has to offer. For an outdoor atmosphere, when weather permits, one can visit Holmdel Park in Holmdel, Shark River Park in Wall and Turkey Swamp Park in Freehold. Skaters must provide their own skates on the county park ponds.

2

WALK ALONG YOUR FAVORITE BOARDWALK

Monmouth County is lucky to be home to many beautiful boardwalks, graciously kept clean. If you are looking for a free activity to celebrate the crisp, cool air during winter, one can get some steps in with a view of the Atlantic.

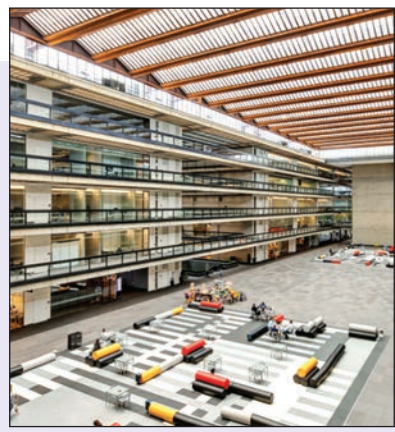




3

BUNDLE UP AND GO SLEDDING

This classic winter tradition rings in snow-fall. Thompson Park in Lincroft offers sled and ski rentals if there is snow on the ground [six inches or more] and conditions are safe. Snowshoe and ski rentals will be available until March 15 from 9 a.m. and equipment must be returned by 5 p.m. Holmdel Park, Shark River Park in Wall and Turkey Swamp Park in Freehold also welcome the public for winter activities.



4

VISIT BELL WORKS IN HOLMDEL

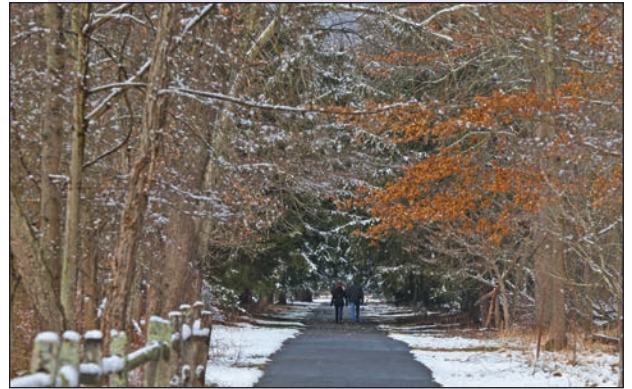
Bell Works is located at 101 Crawfords Corner Road in Holmdel and has a wide array of activities in one location. Bell Works is a multipurpose center containing public use basketball courts and areas with tables and seating to get work done. There are amenities such as a gym, public restrooms, shops and places to grab a bite to eat and drink. Bell Works hosts a Fresh Farmers & Makers Market every Wednesday and other seasonal markets to showcase local vendors and artisans. Bell Works offers OasisVRX, which is a virtual reality experience that offers over 20 single and group experiences, Swing Loose indoor and outdoor golf and Escapology, the live escape room.



5

ATTEND MANASQUAN COMMUNITY GAMING NIGHT

Retrofitted with new high-end equipment thanks to a donation from Intel, the Manasquan High School Esports Team now hosts periodic gaming nights open for all in the Esports Arena, located in the school's room 464. Some upcoming dates are March 1, March 28 and May 17. Each night lasts from 6 to 8 p.m., and is free to enter but costs \$5 to play.



6

TAKE A HIKE THROUGH ALLAIRE STATE PARK

Allaire State Park may be best known for its historic 19th-century iron making town, Allaire Village, but it is also home to over 20 miles of official, blazed hiking trails. Most trails around the historic village and family campgrounds are fairly flat and perfect for exploring during the winter season. Allaire State Park is home to over 200 species of wildflowers, trees and plants in addition to abundant wildlife. The Manasquan River winds through the park creating a serene hiking experience any time of the year.





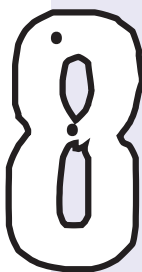
7 VISIT JENKINSON'S AQUARIUM AND MAKE FRIENDS WITH FISH

Summer time might be the right time for Jenk's boardwalk, beach and club, but winters are for the aquarium. Visit this boardwalk gem to see exhibits including Atlantic sharks, Pacific sharks, coral reefs, penguins, seals and more. Not only can you see these creatures, you'll be able to touch live animals like stingrays and sea stars in the touch tank on the second floor. Friendly and knowledgeable staff will make your visit an enjoyable and educational experience. The aquarium is open year round. Visit jenkinsons.com/aquarium for hours, as well as feeding times so you can be sure to see the most action during your winter visit.



8 GRAB YOUR SKIS AND HIT THE SLOPES

Yes, you can find ski slopes right here in the Garden State! Here's some of your options: Big Snow American Dream (ski indoors at this resort found inside New Jersey's American Dream in East Rutherford); Campgaw Mountain in Mahwah (a NYC skyline view and plenty of varying levels of slopes, lessons and tubing opportunities); Mountain Creek in Vernon NJ (a full ski resort with resort lodging, skiing, tubing, lessons and more). You can also give cross country skiing a try at High Point Cross Country Ski Center in Sussex, where snowshoe and cross country trails take you through High Point State Park.



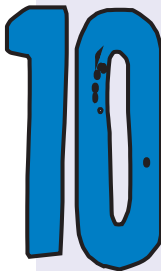
9 VISIT THE ROBERT J. NOVINS PLANETARIUM AND SEE THE STARS

On a cold and clear winter's night, you can see the stars shining over New Jersey. Take a trip to The Robert J. Novins Planetarium located on the Ocean County College campus in Toms River to learn more about what you're seeing in the sky. You'll have a chance to explore the universe by seeing the stars and planets as you have never seen before during the planetarium's laser shows, sky shows and full dome movies shown in their 103-seat dome theater. Visit ocean.edu/planetarium to purchase your tickets in advance. Planned March laser shows include "Laser Bon Jovi," "Laser Zeppelin" and "Laser Queen," as well as, movies and sky talks such as "The Stars from my Backyard," "Experience The Aurora" and "Wonders of the Seasonal Sky."



10 POSE WITH ART AT GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

Grounds for Sculpture, located in Hamilton, is a museum, sculpture garden and arboretum where art and nature are always at play. You'll want to find a warmer winter day — or wear a warm coat — for the outdoor areas at Grounds for Sculpture, but you'll enjoy nearly 300 contemporary sculptures area sites across 42 landscaped acres, during your visit. Indoors, temporary exhibitions from established and emerging artists are featured in six galleries. Entry to Grounds For Sculpture is by advance timed ticket and capacity is limited, so make your reservation in advance of your visit. Plan to visit Rat's restaurant for sustenance while you enjoy the beauty of the grounds.





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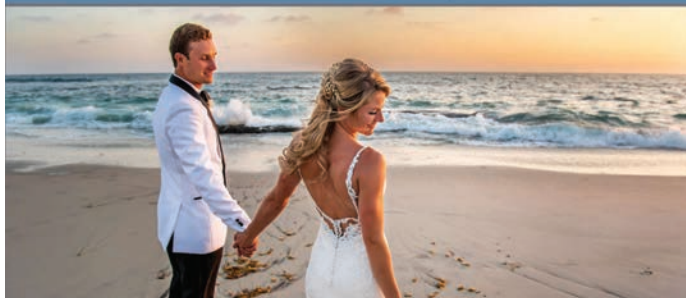
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Local book shops fulfill the need to read

Booksellers share perspectives on how indie bookstores survive — and thrive — along the Jersey Shore

BY ALEX DYER
N&D MAGAZINE



Kelly Coyle Crivelli, owner, Little Point Bookshop

This February, Point Pleasant Beach's Little Point Bookshop celebrated a significant milestone, especially in the life of a small, independent business — five years of operation.

The Little Point Bookshop has become something of a hub for readers in northern Ocean County, noted for its events and its location on Arnold Avenue. Night & Day recently sat down for interviews with several booksellers — the Little Point Bookshop in Point Beach as well as Spring Lake's Thunder Road Books and Manasquan's BookTowne — to learn more about how they manage to not just remain operational, but rather flourish in their own local settings.

Kelly Coyle Crivelli, the owner of Little Point Bookshop who works in publishing by trade, began by explaining how she came to own the Little Point Bookshop in the first place.

"I have a big family; my mom is retired. I had three kids at the time who were going to college ... and I said, 'I need to do a little something else,'" she said. Ms. Coyle, who is from Freehold originally, said that she was initially seeking out a spot in her hometown. "I wanted to figure out something to keep my mom busy — something we could do together ... So, we decided to open a little bookstore."

"There was a spot there I wanted to open the store in originally," she said, pointing just across the street from the Little Point Bookshop's current location. "My sister and I were walking past that little store across the street... [we said] 'let's just try it; if it doesn't work, it doesn't work. But then it just kept working.'"

She told Night & Day that the bookshop faced a big hurdle immediately after its opening, due to the COVID pandemic. However, she explained, the business managed to adapt to the new status quo by setting up a successful book delivery service to remain plugged-in to the community.

"What happened was ... we got more dedicated customers, because we were able to connect closer," she said. "People that usually went back to their regular houses — not their shore houses — during COVID just stayed ... we got more of a loyal following during COVID. We were here, we were open, we did as many events outdoors as possible ... we stayed connected."

Kate Czyzewski, the general manager of Thunder Road Books, told Night & Day that there had been a bookstore, Fireside Books, in Spring Lake before Thunder Road's founding by film producer and New Jersey native Basil Iwanyk. However, she said that it was quite some time since that store was operational, according to her customers.

"When we talked about opening in May of 2021, the [Spring Lake] families were already super excited when we were under construction because there hadn't been a bookstore there in so long," she said, "and obviously the downtown of Spring Lake is such a thriving downtown, so it made sense that a bookstore would be here."



Downtown areas and bookstores tend to go together frequently, as observers might notice on a stroll down a given main street. Local downtowns are bolstered by having such independent, unique perspectives and bespoke experiences, say the booksellers.

Peter Albertelli, owner of Manasquan's local bookstore BookTowne, said that many of his customers have expressed to him just how grateful they are to have such an institution as BookTowne right around the corner.

"I have customers coming in all the time that ... feel like it's a necessity to have a community bookstore," he said, noting that "... a bookstore is passion, creativity and a community that supports you — those are the three main keys, I think, of an independent bookstore."

He also said that one of the biggest advantages, for customers, in going to an independent bookstore as opposed to a large chain is the personalized aspect of having a local vendor — and fellow literature fan — give recommendations. His position was echoed by Ms. Coyle.

"I think we keep it personal," said Ms. Coyle. "We don't have a ton of everything; we have a very curated list of books ... it's not as overwhelming. People enjoy that; some people come in and they don't even look. They just come in and ask you, 'OK, what am I reading next?' You get to know what people like."

For some booksellers, the gig was not their first. For example, prior to owning BookTowne, which he has for five years, Mr. Albertelli worked in the music industry. However, he did say that his life and many of his experiences have somewhat centered around words and their sheer power.

"It's not a long story ... The effect of words on me has been a part of my entire life," said Mr. Albertelli, who studied theater at New York University. "The playwright's words in a script have affected me; I worked in the music industry for 27 years, so the lyrics from the songwriter have affected me; now, I own a bookstore here and the words on the page affect me."



**Basil Iwanyk, owner,
Thunder Road Books**



**Kate Czyzewski, general
manager, Thunder Road Books**



Peter Albertelli, owner, BookTowne

Mr. Albertelli had worked as a music programmer on MTV and music marketer for his own promotion company, working with such pop icons as Lady Gaga. He began working part-time at BookTowne after leaving his nearly three-decade career in the music industry. Eventually, he took the keys to the store from previous owner Rita Maggio.

"Words are magic," he said. "I feel like putting words together in a certain way totally affects me."

Ms. Czyzewski told *Night & Day* that she met Mr. Iwanyk, owner and founder of Thunder Road Books, following an author event in town. She had attended the event as part of her hobby as a "bookstagrammer" — a term for someone who blogs on Instagram about literature. The owner of Whimsicality, the interior design shop where the event was held, took Ms. Czyzewski's number, calling her a year-and-a-half later with an offer from Mr. Iwanyk to help run his store.

"Basil grew up in New Jersey, moved out to [Los Angeles], struck it big with the film industry, and ... during COVID, he and his three young boys decided to come back to Spring Lake and ride out the pandemic. In Spring Lake it was a little less chaotic than out in L.A. for the boys, and they fell in love with being year-rounders in Spring Lake."

She said that, like many patrons of indie bookstores, Mr. Iwanyk would seek out local bookstores on his down time when he was traveling, sparking him to try his hand at the trade.

"What he loved very much when he was traveling to film for his film company was that he always found bookstores in his travels," she said. Mr. Iwanyk is known in the film industry for having produced movies like "Sicario" as well as the John Wick series of films. "During the hustle and the bustle of filming and all of those projects that took him around the world, it was a relaxing thing for him to always find the neighborhood bookstore wherever he was filming. And he felt that Spring Lake needed that."

Ms. Coyle told *Night & Day* that they held a big party for the store's actual birthday, which was Feb. 3. While the milestone feels important, she said, the staff of Little Point Bookshop aims to simply keep that strong bond between the store and the community as healthy as possible through their events and thoughtful curation.

"People have maybe become more passionate about their small towns since COVID, and remembered how important they are," said Ms. Coyle.

While it isn't easy to be an independent bookseller by any means, these small businesses act as social pillars for the community, and their popularity and staying-power paint a hopeful picture of the future. With Little Point Bookshop's triumphant fifth birthday in the rearview, as well as other indie bookstores in Monmouth and Ocean thriving in their own downtowns, it will be little wonder when more birthdays are celebrated in the years to come.

WHAT ARE BOOKSELLERS READING?

LITTLE POINT BOOKSHOP

Kelly Coyle Crivelli
618 Arnold Ave
Point Pleasant Beach
thelittlepointbookshop.com

Nonfiction "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen" by David Brooks

Fiction "Table for Two" by Amor Towles [available April 4]

THUNDER ROAD BOOKS

Kate Czyzewski
1108 3rd Ave, Spring Lake
thunderroadbooks.com

Nonfiction "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder" by David Grann

Fiction "The Waters" by Bonnie Jo Campbell

BOOKTOWNE

Peter Albertelli
171 Main St, Manasquan
booktowne.com

Nonfiction "Solito: A Memoir" by Javier Zamora;

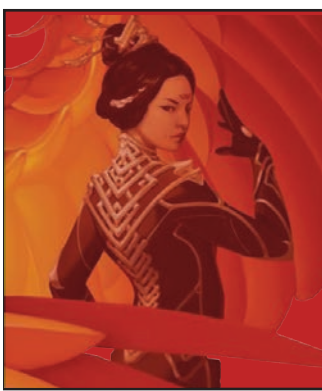
Fiction "Juno Loves Legs" by Karl Geary



TUNE IN

A look into popular media

SCOTTY BEYER N&D MAGAZINE



COURTESY OF ASHMACKENZIE.COM

BOOKS

"Iron Widow" is the first novel by breakthrough author Xiran Jay Zhao; a dark and gritty futuristic fantasy story that bursts at the seams with fury, passion, and raw power. A sequel "Heavenly Tyrant" will arrive on April 30, and a film adaptation is on the horizon, so get your hands on the story critics have called "a primal scream of a book" before the spoilers are inescapable! Recommended for 16+ for violence.



COURTESY OF THEGARDENSTATE.COM

PODCASTS

If you were on YouTube in the good ol' days, some familiar faces are back to greet you, including "The Garden State." Originally known for clean comedy videos, Josh Chomik and Josh Sobo are back to discuss the culture and current events of their home state, the best state, the Garden State. If you like down-to-earth podcasts featuring hosts with great chemistry, you'll have a hard time not enjoying these two. Recommended for ages 13+



COURTESY OF HOW TO COOK THAT - REDDIT

KID-FRIENDLY MEDIA

Ann Reardon runs the YouTube channel "How to Cook That," and if you've ever experienced a kitchen nightmare in your own home, she can help you salvage it. Food science lessons, recipes in a step-by-step format, and informative segments about kitchen hacks that may cause more harm than good. Think "America's Test Kitchen" meets "Mythbusters." Suitable for all ages.

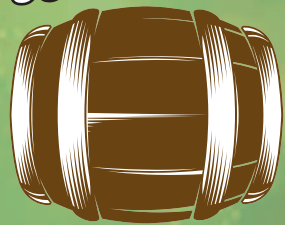


COURTESY OF APPLE TV+

TV

Get to know the character Franklin a bit better in a TV special all his own in "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home Franklin." In this exclusive special, we get to see the friendship between Charlie Brown and Franklin Armstrong at the very beginning. Sporting a gorgeous ink-and-paint style and re-creating the 1968 comic strip that de-segregated the Peanuts comic, since February 16, Franklin has been waiting on Apple TV+ to steal your heart. Rated TV-G.

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windwardtavern.com

If you're wondering what local businesses are on the move in your favorite towns in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, we've got the scoop for you. Here's what we're seeing and hearing on the local scene.

Now Open!

Little Dom's opens in Sea Girt

Dominic Bossone, Jr. is no stranger to the pizza and Italian food business. Yes, he's one of the Squan Tavern Bossone's and he's got the recipes to prove it. Little Dom called his opening day, "a day months in the making!" He added, "finally we'll be doing what we love, serving the local community the best food around!"

Using the freshest ingredients to prepare some of our classics and some new creative preparations!" The 529 Washington Blvd, Sea Girt location is a BYOB with table service and take out. The menu offers appetizers, grandma's favorites, seafood, baked dishes, pasta, sandwiches, salads and of course, pizza.



Bakes Brewing Co. now open in Wall Township

Wall Township resident Jeff Baker's vision — ten plus years in the making — has come to life and the doors are open at 1718 Highway 71, in the former Sonetronics building. Bakes Brewing Company lives by a simple mindset: brew the best beer possible — period. But it turns out the team at Bakes is also pretty good at ambiance. Visitors to the location have raved about the tasting room atmosphere where both good beer and good times are flowing. Tasting hours this winter are Fridays 4 to 10 p.m., Saturdays 12 to 10 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 6 p.m. Locals will likely enjoy familiar-named brews like Belmar Blvd. IPA, Sonetronics IPA, and Hurley's Pond IPA. bakesbrewing.com

New Menu

Reef & Barrel, Sea Girt

Reef & Barrel launched a new menu in February with plenty of mouth-watering options to enjoy in their effort to "kick things up a notch!" Executive Chef Mike Herman brings his culinary expertise and innovative flair to a menu filled with classics like wings, cheeseburgers and sliders, but also adds new flavors like jambalaya, short rib ravioli and even duck risotto. Their turkey burger is what they call a "healthy-ish indulgence" with lean juicy, lean ground turkey piled high with tangy pickled red onion, creamy avocado slices, and a zesty Baja sauce all on a toasted bun. reefandbarrel.com



Ribbon Cuttings



Four ribbon cuttings were performed at the end of January in celebration of four local businesses joining the Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce. The new chamber of commerce members who were joined by Mayor Doug Vitale and members of the chamber of commerce are [clockwise from left]: Daniel's Bistro, ribbon cut by Chef Moussa Bass and owner Kim Bass; Over the Moon Dog Grooming, ribbon cut by owner Vanessa Novak; Brass Lantern Antiques, ribbon cut by owners Christine and Tyler Offenfort; and FBM Bridal, ribbon cut by owners Melinda Oldt and Heather Meyers.



Coming Soon...

Livoti's is coming to Brick Township

The fifth location of Livoti's Old World Market opens on March 7 in the Laurel Square Plaza. Livoti's Old World Market is a complete Italian inspired market that boasts a full bakery, produce, deli, grocery, dairy, frozen, seafood, pizza, meat, and floral department. Livoti's other locations include Aberdeen, Marlboro, Middletown and Freehold.

Livotisoldworldmarket.com



BRADLEY BEACH SHAMROCK HUNT

Bradley Beach's Tourism Commission is holding its annual Shamrock Hunt this year in the leadup to St. Patrick's Day. From March 11 to March 17 — St. Patrick's Day — magic rocks with shamrocks painted on them will be hidden at landmarks all around Bradley Beach; the boardwalk, Main Street, Riley Park, etc. Those who find a lucky rock in town should email tourism@bradleybeachnj.gov to claim their prize. Winners of the Shamrock Hunt can even win prizes from participating Bradley Beach businesses including these who have committed to date: Stockroom Modern General Store, Patrick Parker Realty, Green Lotus Yoga, Bradley Bleach Laundromat, Katora Realty, D'arcy's Tavern, Vic's, Jersey Shore Fitness Shop, FINS, Pasch Realty, Panchos & Juanchos, Lash and Brow Boutique, Paws and Anchor, Bradley Brew Project, The Perfect Perk Cafe and IdleHand Barbershop, Country Farms and Pagano's UVA.



COURTESY OF JOSEPH MURPHY/SILVERBALL

OPEN PINBALL TOURNAMENT AT SILVERBALL RETRO ARCADE

The public is invited to attend an Open Pinball Tournament at Silverball Retro Arcade in Asbury Park on Saturday, March 2, starting at 11 am. The competition is open to all ages and skill levels. Twelve rounds of group match play will lead to 8 finalists competing for victory. There is no pre-registration required; games will start at 12 pm. There is an entry fee of an all day pass (\$25) and a tournament fee of \$10. Visit Silverball Retro Arcade on Facebook for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FOURTH WAVE FEST

Date: Saturday, March 3
Time: Doors open at 3p.m., show begins at 3:30 p.m.
Location: Asbury Lanes, Asbury Park

A women-led day of music designed to elevate and emphasize women's role in the music business will benefit 180 Turning Lives around, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in all of Monmouth County. All of the acts at Fourth Wave Fest are women-led and New Jersey based. Acts include: Des and the Swagmatics, Ryver Bey, the Gab Cinque Band, Teen Idle, A Real Human Jazz Band, Carlotta Schmidt and Anointed Friends. The festival will also feature door prizes valued at over \$1,000 that will be given away throughout the festival and entertaining content celebrating women in music history, provided in conjunction with Steve Van Zandt's organization, Teach Rock. Tickets are \$35 in advance, and \$40 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at asburylanes.com, and more information about the event can be found at fourthwavefest.org.

EASTER BUNNY

Date: March 10 [rain or shine]
Time: 1 to 4 p.m.
Location: Jersey Shore Animal Center, 185 Brick Blvd., Brick Twp.

The event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature a doggy Easter egg hunt, a meet-and-greet with the Easter Bunny and a chance to capture your Easter moment in a photo [must bring your own phone and camera]. Donations to the animal center are appreciated and available for purchase will be new merch, baked goods and raffle tickets. All pets must be leashed.

SQUAN-A-THON

Date: March 22 - 23
Time: 8 p.m. - 8 a.m.
[public is allowed until 11 p.m.]
Location: Manasquan High School, Broad Street, Manasquan
squanathon.com

All night dance event raising money for local families fighting pediatric cancer. Entertainment will include inflatable bouncy houses, games, live performances and other exciting events. To donate, venmo [@squanathon-ftk](https://www.venmo.com/@squanathon-ftk) or make a tax deductible donation to Squanathon, Manasquan High School, 167 Broad Street, Manasquan NJ 08736.

SKATEPARK BONANZA

Date: Saturday, March 23
Time: Noon - 6 p.m.
Location: Salty's Beach Bar, 1705 Main St., Belmar
friendsofbelmarskatepark.org

First official fundraiser from the Belmar Skatepark Committee will be an all-ages event to raise funds to build a new Belmar Skatepark. Fundraiser will run throughout the day and include prize giveaways, as well as live musical performances by Beach Music Rock Band, Anthony Ferraro & Friends and Neon Garage. Cash only cover to enter; adults cost \$20, kids 12 and under cost \$10. More information found online.

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3/16 Uncle Vinnie's Presents Tara Cannistraci & Jay Black
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3/5 Peter Frampton: Never Ever Say Never Tour
 3/6 Rhythm of the Dance
 3/7 Jeff Ross
 3/8 Lewis Black: Goodbye Yeller Brick Road, The Final Tour
 3/9 Joe Gatto's Night of Comedy
 3/10 The Cancelled Podcast Tour with Tana Mongeau and Brooke Schofield
 3/21 Kathy Griffin
 3/23 Leanne Morgan: Just Getting Started
 3/26 Guster: We Also Have Eras
 3/28 Gaelic Storm & the High Kings: The Mighty Tour II
 3/29 Bobby Collins
 3/30 Anthony Rodia: Totally Relatable Tour

THE VOGEL
99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank
(732) 842-9000 thebasie.org

3/3 An Evening with Haken
 3/4 Marc Broussard — Carencro 20th Anniversary Tour
 3/7 Paul Thorn & Steve Poltz
 3/8 Patrick Hinds: Patrick's Traveling Book Party
 3/9 Led Zeppelin: Led Zep's Greatest Hits
 3/14 Boney James
 3/15 Lakehouse Music Academy Moto Records Showcase
 3/17 Frank Ferrante in 'An Afternoon with Groucho'
 3/20 DERVISH: 30th Annual US Tour

3/22 Luis J. Gomez
324 Raul Midon
3/26 Rick Wakeman
3/28 Eric Hutchinson Band
3/29-30 Rebirth Brass Band
3/30 Chris Covert

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Ocean County College
1 College Dr, Toms River
(732) 255-0500 grunincenter.org

3/1 The Princeton Singers — Love Is In The Air
3/3 123 Andres
3/8 Afternoon Recital: Nina Siniakova & Arturo Delmoni
3/8 The Doo Wop Project
3/13 Rhythm of the Dance
3/15 ELLA the Early Years
3/24 Time for Three
4/3 Twinkle Time!

POLLAK THEATER
Monmouth University
400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch
(732) 263-6889 pollaktheatre.com

3/25 The Immortals
3/30 Mary Gauthier

THE STRAND THEATER
400 Clifton Avenue, Lakewood
(732) 367-7789 strand.org

3/2 The Doobie Others
3/23 Creedence Revived

THE STONE PONY
913 Ocean Avenue, Asbury Park
732-502-0600 stoneponyonline.com

3/2 Splintered Sunlight
3/8 Turnover with MSPaint & Drook
3/9 Illegally Blind
3/14 Glen Hansard
3/15 Stir Crazy
3/16 EMO Night Brooklyn
3/22 Obey Your Master
3/23 Waiting on Mongo
3/24 Paint the Pony Purple

THEATER

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2/24-3/3 'Misery'
3/9 Asbury Shorts: World's Best Short Films
4/6-4/21 'Fiddler on the Roof'

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3/1-3 'Ragtime the Musical'
3/16 'Jesus Christ Superstar'

JERSEY SHORE ARTS CENTER
66 South Main St., Ocean Grove
732-502-0050
jerseyshoreartscenter.org

3/14-17 Sondheim Tribute Revue

SPRING LAKE THEATRE
300 Madison Ave., Spring Lake
(732) 449-4530
springlaketheatre.com

3/2 2024 Oscar Nominated Shorts
4/12-27 'HMS Pinafore'

TWO RIVER THEATER
21 Bridge Ave., Red Bank
(732) 345-1400 tworivertheater.org

3/1-10 A Little Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost
4/6-28 'A Thousand Maids'

MOVIES

THE SHOWROOM CINEMA
700 Cookman Avenue, Asbury Park
732-502-0472
showroomcinemas.com

BASIE CENTER CINEMAS
36 White Street, Red Bank
thebasie.org/venue/basie-center-cinemas

SMODCASTLE CINEMAS
82 First Ave., Atlantic Highlands
732-204-2454
smodcastlecinemas.com

ALGONQUIN ARTS THEATRE
Asbury Shorts: World's Best Short Films

Asbury Shorts is New York City's longest running exhibition of award-winning short films and producer Doug LeClaire brings the World's Best Short Films back to the Algonquin on Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. Produced as a fast-paced event in a Short Film Concert format, the program features the best in comedy, drama and animation by combining classic shorts with new international festival winners. A rare opportunity to see world-class short films on the big screen in a theatrical setting. Visit algonquinarts.org for tickets.

SPRING LAKE THEATRE
Oscar Nominated Shorts
The Lighthouse International Film Society presents the 2024 Oscar Nominated Documentary Shorts and Live Action Shorts. Lighthouse International Film Society will screen two programs of short films in the Live Action, and Documentary categories. These special screenings are available to watch on the big screen for only a limited time at the Spring Lake Theatre.



GO BACK IN TIME ON THE MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD

Monmouth Battlefield State Park's Visitor Center is the starting point for a tour back in time to learn how over 2,000 British infantry rushed the hedged fence and its 800 Continental defenders. The charge briefly stalled there as the two sides fired at each other at point-blank range. The hedgerow saw some fierce fighting and changed hands at least eight times during the battle. The tour also visits Oswald's Knoll and follows the Americans retreat to the Parsonage Farm where they held off the British and the Battle of Monmouth ended. This free event on Sunday, March 3 begins at 1:30 pm at the visitor center. Appropriate hiking attire is encouraged. In the case of inclement weather, call the park office for information at 732-462-9616.



BROWSE HANDMADE GOODS AT BELL WORKS

Once a month Bell Works hosts a Makers Market on Saturdays, 12 to 5pm and Saturday, March 9 is the next event. You'll find a vibrant selection of handmade goods, vintage, food and more from the best local makers and food purveyors in the area, all in the beautiful background of Holmdel's Bell Works. Visit bellworksfresh.com for more information.

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MARK R. SULLIVAN STAR NEWS GROUP

Clockwise from above: 'Special' Prime Reserve Bone In Pork Chop, Artichoke Hearts Francaise, Rigatoni Bolognese

Better than grandma's

Fratello's Restaurant has mastered Italian, seafood and steaks

At the entrance to the quaint town of Sea Girt — where the Cedars Meet the Sea — lies an Italian dining gem that is best known for classic Italian dishes and perfectly poured martinis. Start your meal with the tasty Artichoke Hearts Francaise which offers a generous portion of artichoke hearts popping with flavor. The Rigatoni Bolognese easily tops the fan favorite dishes at Fratello's. "It's absolutely the best," owner Chris DeCresce says. "It's better than grandma makes and we hear that from all the Staten Islanders." But, the 14-ounce "Special" Prime Reserve Bone In Pork Chop is the real show stopper. Grilled with sauteed onions, roasted peppers, hot cherry peppers, a white wine

FRATELLO'S
 810 THE PLAZA, SEA GIRT
 732-974-8833
 fratellosnj.com

vinegar reduction and served with a creamy side of mashed potatoes, this cut of the chop is mouthwatering and the marriage of the peppers and reduction are bursting with flavor. You're going to want to wash it all down with one of the many martinis that Fratello's has to offer. The Joyful Almond is a nice winter-friendly cocktail that is made with Grey Goose Vodka, Bacardi Coconut Rum, Frangelico, Dark Creme de Cacao and a splash of cream. Chris DeCresce continues his 17-year run of providing both delicious food and appealing atmosphere at this restaurant's spacious booths and welcoming bar. You'll be glad you popped in, whether you came for the food, the drink or the atmosphere.

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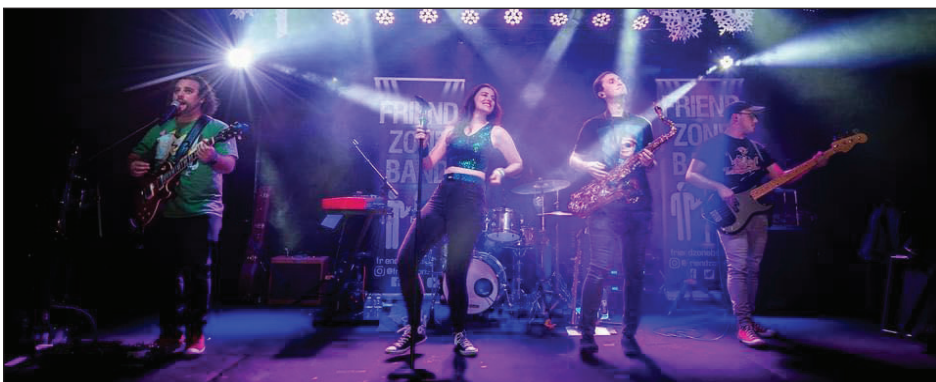
730 Airport Rd.
Lakewood, NJ
732-905-6888

shoreshotpistolrange.com



JESSICA ROSE

You can catch Jessica Rose performing at River Rock on Saturday, March 2 from 6 to 9p.m. This pop/rock/country artist is based out of New Jersey and Nashville, TN. Jessica plays her original music, as well as your favorite covers. Riverrocknj.com



FRIEND ZONE BAND

Salty's Beach Bar, on Main Street in Belmar, plays host to Friend Zone Band on March 15 at 8 p.m. This talented cover band plays a variety of classic rock, 90s and current chart toppers. Their energetic style will have you dancing all night long. Saltysbeachbar.com



WAITING ON MONGO

Asbury Park's funk, groove and improv masters return to The Stone Pony, on Ocean Avenue in Asbury, for their single release show on Saturday, March 23. With strutting guitar riffs, transcendent horns and heady organ depth, the Waiting on Mongo live performances take you on a cathartic journey where you shed the weight of the world with everyone in attendance. Doors open at 7:00, Show starts at 7:30. Tickets \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door (plus applicable service charges). Stoneponyonline.com

BAR A

Lake Como
bar-a.com

Fri. 3/1: DJ Rob Busch, Joe Baracata Band, Retro Night DJ Kirk Lopez; Sat. 3/2: Bangin Cougars, Mushmouth Band; Fri 3/8: DJ Rob Busch, Pat Roddy Band, Retro Night DJ Kirk Lopez; Sat 3/9: Unity Tour Fundraiser: The Royals

HEIGHTS 27

Spring Lake Heights
heights27.com

Fri. 3/1: Suspects; Sat 3/2: Enjoy!

JOE'S SURF SHACK

Lake Como
www.jss.surf

Fri. 3/1: DJ Bluz; Sat. 3/2: Pat Roddy Band, DJ Funsize & MC Joe; Fri. 3/8: DJ Bluz; Sat 3/9: DJ Funsize & MC Joe

MJ'S RESTAURANTS

Bayville
mjsrestaurant.com/Bayville/

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Matawan

www.mjsrestaurant.com/Matawan

The Weekend with DJ Earth 'S'preme & Friends every Friday

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN

Spring Lake Heights
www.ssgpub.com

Fri. 3/1: Spare Parts; Sat. 3/2: Steve Rielly Band; Fri. 3/8: Kevin Hill; Sat. 3/9: Todd Robbins Band

TOMS RIVER BREWING

Toms River
www.tomsriverbrewing.com

Sat. 3/2: Bob Zgorzelski; Fri. 3/8: Kyle Ahern; Sat. 3/9: The Williamsboy

STONE PONY

Asbury Park
www.stoneponyonline.com/

Sat. 3/2: Splintered Sunlight; Fri 3/8: Turnover, MSPaint & Drook; Sat 3/9: Illegally Blind; Sat 3/15: Stir Crazy

WONDER BAR

Asbury Park
wonderbarasburypark.com

Fri. 3/1: Jarod Clemens; Sat 3/2: The Counterfeiters; Fri 3/8: The Wilson Springs Hotel Wildly Grown; Sat 3/9: Lip Critic & Smut

FOR MORE LIVE MUSIC LISTINGS GO TO:
ndmag.com

The Stone Pony



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SAT
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GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE

FRI
MAR 8

TURNOVER
WITH MSPAINT & DROOK

SAT
MAR 9

ILLEGALLY BLIND
'70S AND '80S FLASHBACK

FRI
MAR 15

STIR CRAZY
THE REUNION

SAT
MAR 16

EMO NIGHT BROOKLYN

FRI
MAR 22

OBEY YOUR MASTER
METALLICA TRIBUTE

SAT
MAR 23

WAITING ON MONGO

SAT
APR 6

START MAKING SENSE

SUN
APR 7

GIANT ROOKS

732-502-0600 ★ Tickets/Showtimes available @ stoneponyonline.com

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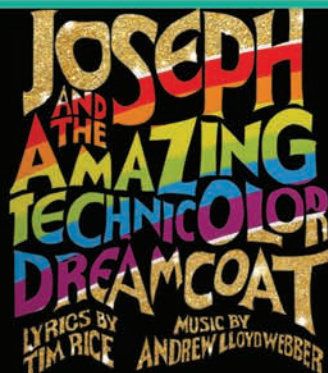
CATS

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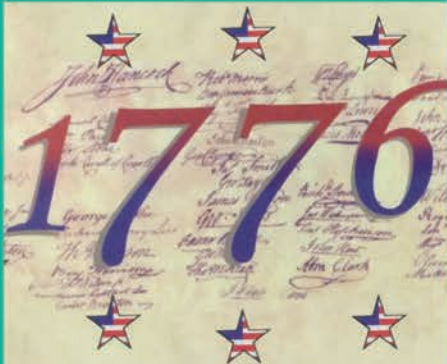
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AlgonquinArts.org