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Summer 2017

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from Brigantine to Cape May

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Welcome to Jersey Shore Living

Rule No. 1: Don't forget to reapply

As I write this, my first sunburn of the summer is in that in-between phase where the pre-peeling itch has started but my skin is still tender and raw.

(Yes, I use sunscreen; I'm just bad at reapplying, and because I'm an avid beach-reader, I tend not to rotate.)

But chances are you came here to do more than spend a day burning through your to-read pile. And boy howdy, you've come to the right place.

From lifeguard races to checking out the world's largest organ, the Jersey Shore is chockablock with things to do, even on a rainy day.

Consider Jersey Shore Living a sampler platter of what to do and where to go this summer. Inside you'll find cool things on and off the beach from Brigantine to Cape May.

So keep this magazine handy as you fill in the gaps in your vacation itinerary. You can add it to your beach-reading pile.

But please, don't forget to reapply.

— Dan Grote, Editor

Jersey Shore Living Magazine

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Brigantine

Farmers Market offers more than Jersey Fresh

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

BRIGANTINE — Residents and visitors to this Jersey Shore town will find it's a family affair at the local Farmers Market offered 8:30 a.m. to noon every Saturday morning in Haneman Park at 15th Street South and Revere Boulevard.

In addition to buying fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood, you can learn, listen, create and share.

A dedicated team of about 80 volunteers work through the summer to make the market come to life, greeting visitors, offering assistance and organizing a myriad of fun things to do.

"You don't find that at other markets," co-Chairwoman Fran Paullin said. "For us, the market is a labor of love. It gives us great joy to see people have fun."

The vendors — about 50 of them offering everything from traditional and organically grown produce, fresh day-boat scallops and locally made sausages to artisan breads, exotic mushrooms and prepared vegetarian meals — have become like family, she said.

"They are very friendly and knowledgeable about their products and are willing to explain the growing, harvesting or food-making process to their patrons," she said.

But it's the ancillary activities and services offered that make a visit to the Brigantine Farmers Market a must for weekend warriors.

There's live music in the gazebo and cooking demonstrations every week.

On a recent Saturday, chefs Josh Gamble and Salvatore Giambrone, both caterers from Egg Harbor Township, got there early to visit market stands and purchase fresh ingredients before demonstrating how to make seared yellowfish tuna and sautéed sausage over a rainbow chard salad.

"You want to keep things as fresh as possible so you don't lose the nutritional integrity of the products," Giambrone said.

They like to ask a lot of questions at the market, including a challenging weekly trivia question for which you can win a $25 gift certificate to a local business, or simpler questions such as what you bought at the market or what brought you there.

"We use the responses to help us improve our

See BRIGANTINE on Page 8

Sharon Lavinson of Brigantine is the greeter who will let you know what's happening next at the Brigantine Farmers Market.

NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY

Josh Gamble and Salvatore Giambrone, both caterers who live in Egg Harbor Township, conduct a cooking demonstration at the Brigantine Farmers Market.

Brigantine

continued from Page 8

marketing plan and tell us where to spend our marketing dollars," Paullin said. "We even polled our vendors and found they like our market more than the others they attend. What we offer here is second to none."

You can even take advantage of the used book sale at the Atlantic County Library/Brigantine branch cart and purchase a hardback or paperback perfect for beach reading.

To keep patrons apprised of what's going on that day, volunteer Sharon Lavinson walks around with a megaphone announcing what's up next.

The Brigantine market is famous for its pie-making contests.

"For the last three years, our winners went on to compete in the NJ Peach Pie contest," co-Chairwoman Chrissy Lauletta said.

The Brigantine Green Team is responsible for planning market activities that aim to educate the public about sustainability through hands-on activities offered around a weekly theme. This year's themes include Wildlife, Under the Sea, In My Garden, Surf's Up and Fitness Fun.

Now in its fourth year, the market attracts about 500 people during the early season, but when vacation season rolls around in July and August, attendance rises to more than 1,000, market Manager Dave Roantree said.

"We've grown in size each year," Roantree said. "We started with 20 vendors for eight weeks and now have 50 vendors for 16 weeks. The footprint where we started was 1½ blocks, but we've doubled that to three blocks. We are now at our maximum location-wise, but we still have some room to grow."

As in most shore towns, the market is plastic bag-free. But Brigantine took it a step further and in 2016 banned plastic straws and water bottles in the park. In addition to encouraging visitors to bring their own reusable bags, they suggest bringing a reusable water bottle or purchasing a stainless steel canteen with the market logo at the information tent that can be refilled at the bottle filling station the Green Team helped get installed at City Hall, which is located across the way.

"We put the onus on vendors and patrons to help keep our beaches and ocean clean," Paullin said. "It's heartwarming to see them take to it. We are concerned about the health of the island and the sea and land life on the barrier island."

The next tent over is the Market Valet, where shoppers can drop off their bags and continue shopping.

"It's just like a coat check," volunteer Elaine DeSandro of

NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY

At the Kids Tent, children paint seashells.

See BRIGANTINE on Page 10

Brigantine

continued from Page 9

Brigantine said as she collected a patron's bags and stored them in a shady spot.

Local resident Jennifer Fischer said she comes every week for the cookies and flowers, and to catch up with neighbors, but mainly because her children wake up early Saturday morning and nudge her out the door.

"My kids love to come to the Kid's Tent," Fischer said while watching her daughter Sierra, 6, and twins Isabelle and Kayliegh, 4, paint seashells. "It's nice to walk around and see everybody. It's a good way to keep up on what's going on, and I love to support the Green Team. I love it that it's plastic bag-free. I bring my own bags because that's what I'm trying to teach my children."

John Guy, who travels from Mullica Hill to his second home in Brigantine, gave the market two thumbs up.

"People are so friendly here. The vendors like to answer questions, and there's always a volunteer in green T-shirts who is willing to help," he said.

Giving back is also a staple at the market. At the end of each market, vendors donate some leftover product for the True Spirit Coalition's food pantry for distribution to the community.

"It gives the pantry an opportunity to have some fresh fruits and produce for their clients," Lauletta said.

NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY

Chef Salvatore Giambrone of Egg Harbor Township sautees some fresh rainbow chard he picked up at the market.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

1. Visit The Cove. You can drive your 4-wheel-drive vehicle right onto the beach at the south end of Lagoon Boulevard with a permit. Great view of Absecon Inlet and Atlantic City skyline.

2. Visit the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, 3625 Brigantine Blvd. Dedicated to rescuing distressed sea life, including seals, dolphins and sea turtles.

3. Bird-watching in the north end, East Beach Avenue and 14th Street North. Two-story viewing platform offers an excellent vantage point for wildlife observation, including piping plover, black skimmer, American oystercatcher and least tern.

4. Learn the history of Brigantine, including how it got its name. Brigantine Historical Society, 3607 Atlantic Brigantine Blvd. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday. 609-266-3437.

5. Plan a golf outing. Links of Brigantine Beach, 1075 N. Shore Drive. Authentic Scottish links. Tuesday golf and lunch $49, senior rates and sunset specials. See brigantinegolf.com.

6. Spend the day fishing. Book a charter aboard the Babu III, and hook tuna, shark, flounder or blues. Guided bay tours. Babu Sport Fishing Charters, 219 Second St. North, 410-320-9351.

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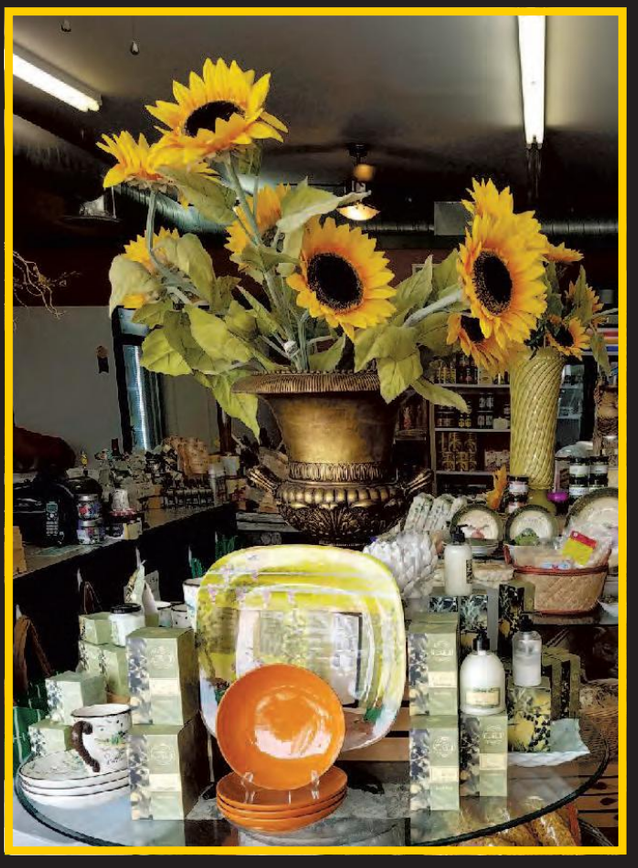

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DALE GERHARD/PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

The Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall pipe organ was heard for the first time by visitors, after a lengthy restoration project. Organist Steve Ball played the first of a series of weekly summertime recitals that will be open to the public.

Tour the world's largest organ in Atlantic City

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall has a storied past. Built in 1926 and named a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1987, the hall hosts Miss America, and its alumni include the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Democratic National Convention.

It is also home to the largest musical instrument on Earth: a Midmer Losh organ that was specifically designed to deliver perfect sound to the interior of the hall.

The organ includes about 33,000 pipes and requires nearly 600 horsepower to operate the blowers. It has not functioned fully since the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944, but after years of neglect, a full-blown renovation is bringing it back to life.

Staff organist Steven Ball performs free daily recitals, and the hall offers tours of the organ and its ongoing restoration. From May through September at noon, visitors should enter Boardwalk Hall through the front doors on the Boardwalk, and they will be directed to the recital and tour.

At 10 a.m. Wednesdays, there is a detailed Boardwalk Hall tour that includes the organ and is followed by the noon recital. Several times a year, the hall hosts silent movies with organ accompaniment, as was custom during the silent era.

"We really like it when our audience really gets in to being a part of the experience and booing with the villain and cheering with the good guys. We encourage participation," said Nathan Bryson, curator of the organs at the hall.

While all of the recitals are free, there is a charge for the silent movie. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Bryson said the organ functions at about 35 percent and the sound is still quite amazing.

"The Boardwalk Hall organ is honestly the best-kept secret in Atlantic City," said Bryson. "This is a really ambitious restoration project, and we have a full-time staff and volun-

See ORGAN on Page 13

Organ

continued from Page 12

teers who are working to bring it back."

An organist, Bryson said what makes playing an organ so different from playing a piano is that not only do you have a keyboard that you play with your hands but you also have a keyboard you play with your feet to add in all of the other instrument sounds and breaks.

"Using all of the different stops and sounds, it allows the organist to be like an artist that is able to paint and create something beautiful with a different palette," he said.

The restoration involves not so much replacement of pipes as it does time repairing and cleaning. Much of the time is spent working on the wind chest of the organ and replacing paper gaskets and leather straps, all painstakingly detailed but necessary work.

For additional information, visit boardwalkorgans.org, email info@boardwalkorgans.

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Lifeguards get to flex some MUSCLE in annual competitions

Ventnor's David and Andrew Funk compete in last year's Red Bull Surf and Rescue.

BY BILL LECONEY
Staff Writer

Lifeguard racing has been a unique summer tradition at the South Jersey shore for decades, and the Downbeach communities of Margate, Ventnor and Longport are the hub of that competition.

The competitors' families and other fans return to the beach every year to watch the races. It's free and it takes place on the beach, so the events take on a party atmosphere as spectators root for their favorites to swim, row, dash or paddle to victory.

There are longstanding rivalries among the various beach patrols, and the competitors are often current or former high school and Division I college athletes who take winning seriously. Last summer a former Wildwood Crest competitor, Joe Maloy, competed in the triathlon at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The rowing, running, swimming, paddleboarding and surf dash events also showcase the power, speed and lifesaving ability the male and female guards use in their work as protectors of the beach and surf.

The South Jersey lifeguard competition season packs 27 events in Cape May and Atlantic counties into about seven weeks of the calendar. It opens Friday, July 7 with the Capt. Michael D. McGrath Longport Memorial Lifeguard Races at the 33rd Avenue Beach in Longport.

The Chief Bill Kuhn Lifeguard Invitational takes place Wednesday, July 12 in Brigantine. The 53rd annual event, which features five relay races to flags 500 feet from the shore and back, begins 6:15 p.m. at the 16th Street beach.

The races are a four-person paddle relay, a three-boat surfboat relay, the four-person swim relay, the iron man medley relay (combining a swimmer, a paddleboarder and a two-person crew), and the rescue relay. In the final race, a swimmer, a paddleboarder and a crew will each bring back a guard who is waiting at the flag.

Most of the South Jersey beach patrol events have a doubles row, a swim and a singles row. The "Big Three" — the Dutch Hoffman Memorials, the Margate Beach Patrol World War II Memorials and the South Jersey Championships — have all three races. Other races include events such as a surf dash, a paddleboard race and a beach run.

For many years, the South Jersey lifeguard race schedule featured just a handful of events, but it has evolved and expanded over the past 25 years or so. There are even four events held exclusively for female lifeguards; other competitions often include some female competitors as well.

The first of the women-only races, the Longport Women's Lifeguard Invitational, takes place July 11.

All 15 beach patrols in the South Jersey Lifeguard Chiefs Association will come together

See LIFEGUARDS on Page 15

Ventnor's Colleen Callahan competes in last year's Red Bull Surf and Rescue.

Lifeguards

continued from Page 14

for the first time at the Atlantic City Classic July 21, a competition that begins a stretch of large races on four consecutive Friday evenings. The rest are the Dutch Hoffman Memorial Races in Wildwood July 28, the Margate Memorials Aug. 4, and the granddaddy of all South Jersey lifeguard races, the South Jersey Championships Aug. 11. As the 2016 champion, Longport will host this summer's South Jersey race.

In between, some other interesting competitions will be held.

The Red Bull Surf and Rescue lifeguard relay returns to Atlantic City for the third straight year July 18. Last year, Longport led an Atlantic County clean sweep of the event, which pitted 40 patrols from near and far, including Monmouth and Ocean counties. Longport won with a first-place finish in the final event, a swim-paddleboard-patrol boat relay. Brigantine was second and Ventnor placed third.

The John T. Goudy Memorial Rescue Races in Ventnor, scheduled for Aug. 18, also has a rescue theme where lifeguards bring back 50-pound dummies that are attached to flags in the ocean.

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ROUTE 52 CAUSEWAY *a destination in itself* Ocean City

DALE GERHARD / PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

The Route 52 causeway between Somers Point and Ocean City, has become a 'recreational destination' for people looking to enjoy its views and exercise on its double-inclined pathway. The fishing piers on the causeway are a popular attraction.

BY COLUMB HIGGINS
Staff Writer

For some people, the Route 52 causeway is just another way into Ocean City, but for others, the bridge itself is the destination.

Completed in 2012, the $400 million span linking Somers Point and Ocean City is more than just a bridge; it has become a major attraction for anglers, runners, bicyclists and walkers.

The main draw is the 2.2-mile pedestrian lane that runs the entire length of the bridge, connecting to a bike path on the Ocean City side that runs to the island's southern tip, and on the opposite side is a short hop from the Somers Point bike path.

It's a hot spot for bird watchers, too, who flock to an islet known as Garrets Island just south of the Welcome Center. Staffed by the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce, the visitor's center offers restrooms, free maps and handouts listing restaurants, amusements and other area attractions, plus a spectacular view of the bay from the building's second level.

Curving around the center, the pedestrian path offers a vantage point for viewing egrets, glossy ibises, red-winged blackbirds and herons this time of year.

"You can see three eggs in a nest right down there ready to hatch," said Linda Woods, of Washington Township, who was standing with a pair of binoculars recently on a section of the path that overlooks a copse of trees.

Woods pointed to a yellow-crowned night heron in a nest just below. She has been watching it since Mother's Day.

"It's been about a month," she said. "I was hoping the eggs would have hatched by now."

Woods drives to the causeway a couple times a month to go bird watching,

Causeway

continued from Page 18

sometimes with her grandchildren or friends, and there is usually a crowd. On a late spring day, photographers with telescopic lenses stood ready to capture a perfect shot while other bird watchers crowded around with binoculars, chattering about the nesting birds like familiar neighbors.

All the while, bicyclists and walkers cruised by. While the pedestrian path is a year-round attraction, in the summer thousands of people use it every day.

It's a far cry from the old Route 52 causeway, which was built in the 1930s and was showing its age long before demolition started in 2006.

In the summer, the old causeway drawbridge had to be hosed down because it would expand in the heat and get stuck. The guardrails along the sides were so rusted state officials worried a vehicle would crash right through them in an accident. The lanes were narrow, and there was no shoulder.

The new, higher span has four fishing piers, a gazebo and a number of scenic outlooks.

From his spot on the fishing pier on Rainbow Island near the Somers Point side of the bridge on a recent day, Ed Newcom, of Williamstown, sat and watched the movers and shakers pass above. He said he knows families that bike back and forth on the bridge. Cyclists straining to go up the steep inclines near the bridge landings at each end make him shake his head.

Fishing is more his speed.

"They did a wonderful thing here," he said. "Everything is free. It's a great thing for the little guy."

Newcom has been coming to fish at the piers for four years. He brings a chair and only has one line in the water, unlike some others lining the pier who set out three or four. He hadn't caught anything by noon, but others had luck earlier on the outgoing tide, hooking flounder and striped bass.

Newcom said he likes to take his grandchildren fishing with him on occasion. The piers are isolated from the bridge traffic, so it is safe, he said.

"It's all enclosed; there's no cars passing by," he said. "You can spend all day out here for free."

There are two boat ramps nearby in Somers Point — one at the foot of the bridge on the north side and another at John F. Kennedy Park to the south — and a canoe and kayak launch on Rainbow Island. The boat ramps require passes. The cost is $70 for watercraft or boats without trailers, $110 for watercraft or boats with a trailer for Somers Point residents, and $80 and $120, respectively, for nonresidents. Senior citizens over the age of 62 pay $25 and $35, respectively, if they are residents and $30 and $40, respectively, if they live outside the city.

COLUMB HIGGINS

Ed Newcom, of Williamstown, fishes from a pier off the Route 52 causeway Friday, June 2.

Causeway

continued from Page 20

Things to do in Ocean City

Beaches

Beach tags are required for those 12 and older from June 3 to Sept. 4. Weekly tags are $10 and daily tags are $5, and can also be bought on the beach starting June 4. Only seasonal tags can be bought online.

Seasonal tags are $25 starting June 1. They can be bought at ocnj.us/beachtags or at City Hall, 861 Asbury Ave.; the Route 52 Welcome Center; the Henry Knight Building, 12th Street and Haven Ave; and the Ocean City Aquatic & Fitness Center, 17th Street and Simpson Ave.

Boardwalk

The boardwalk stretches 2.5 miles from St. James Place to 23rd Street, with plenty of amusements and shops in between. Bikes are allowed 8 a.m. to noon from May 15 to Labor Day. New pavilions on the ocean side offer a bit of shade.

Bayside Center

Recreation and education programs are offered at the Bayside Center, 520 Bay Ave. It is open to visitors 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting on the last Saturday in June to Labor Day. For information on camps, visit www.ocnj.us.

Dog Park

The Ocean City Dog Park at 45th Street and Haven Avenue is 42,000 square feet and open year-round. Hours are 8 a.m. to dusk seven days a week. There are separate areas for dogs of all sizes. To apply for a "Paw Pass," call City Hall at 609-399-6111.

Downtown

You can find just about anything in the stores and restaurants from Sixth to 14th streets on Asbury Avenue. Stop for a rest at Mark Soifer Park on the corner of Ninth Street and Asbury Ave.

Skateboard Park

Ocean City's Skateboard Park, 550 Asbury Ave., is open noon to dusk Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to dusk on weekends, weather permitting. Safety equipment is mandatory.

Municipal Golf Course

The Ocean City Municipal Golf Course is a 12-hole par 37 course at 26th Street and Bay Avenue. It is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through October, weather permitting. Clubs, hand carts and ride carts can be rented. No one under 12 is permitted without a parent.

Two golf clinics are scheduled, July 10-13 and July 31-Aug. 3. Cost is $50 per week. For more information, call 609-525-9304.

Corson's Inlet State Park

Corson's Inlet State Park is 341 acres connecting Ocean City and Strathmere. Lots of wildlife can be seen from the beach or the nearby dunes. A boat ramp is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year.

Boat ramp fees are $60 for an annual pass for New Jersey residents; $80 for non-residents. It costs $12 per launch for state residents and $20 for non-residents.

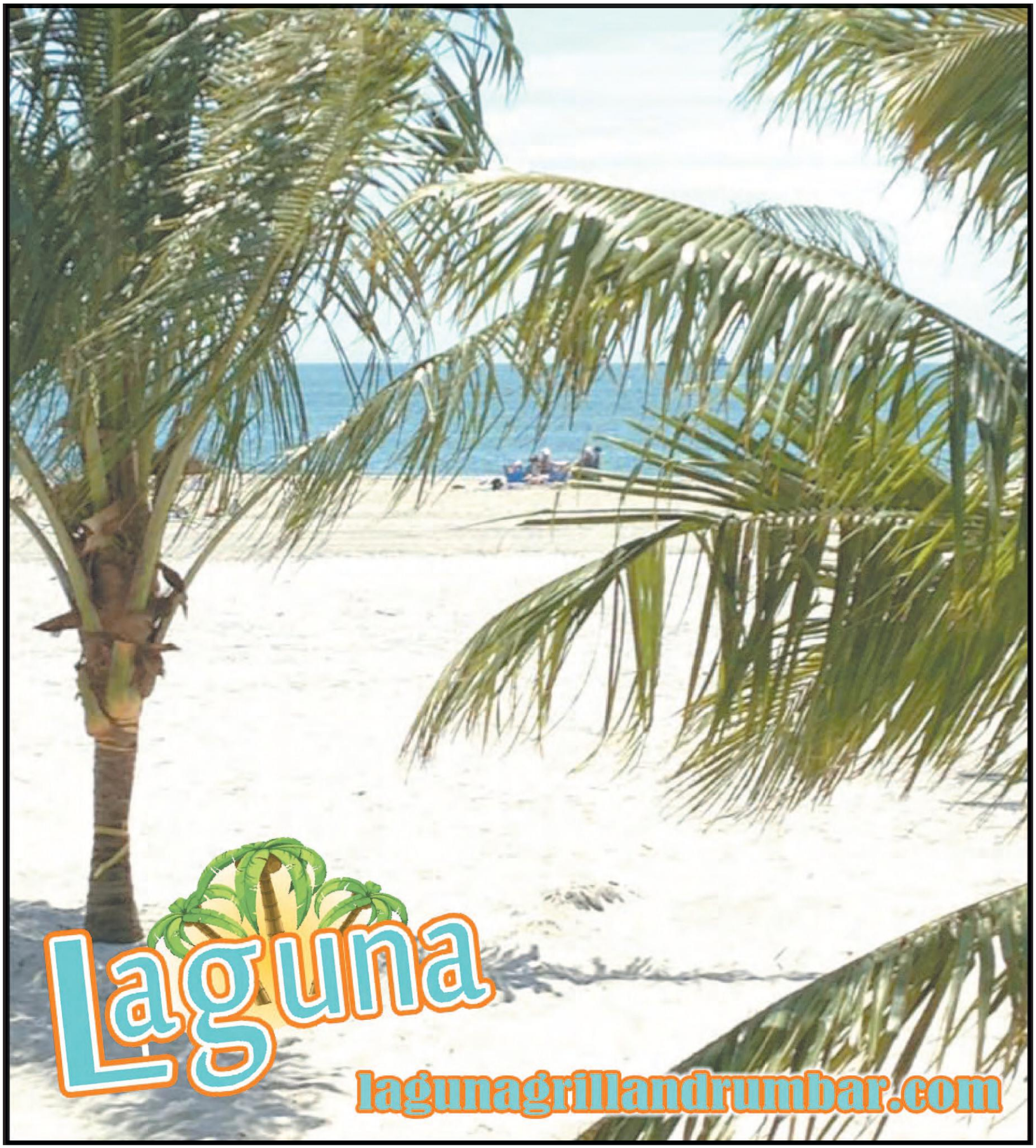
Veterans Memorial Park

The park at Fifth Street and Wesley Avenue has a memorial wall honoring those who died in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The surrounding park has walking paths and plenty of trees for shade. The Tabernacle grounds are adjacent to the west and Ocean City High School is to the east.

Ocean City Community Center

The Ocean City Community Center, 1735 Simpson Ave., offers something for everyone. The Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, Historical Museum, Aquatic and Fitness Center, Arts Center, and Ocean City Free Public Library are all open to the public. For more information, call 609-398-6900.

The Welcome Center on Garrets Island is staffed by the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce.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STRATHMERE AND SEA I

DALE GERHARD
Whale Creek Marina, Strathmere.

BY LAURA STETSER
Staff Writer

STRATHMERE — After you've chilled on the beach for a few days and hit the boardwalk, it may be time to check out the quieter side of the Jersey Shore and take relaxation into a lower gear.

The calm back bays around Strathmere are the perfect spot to take the pace of vacation down a notch, and Whale Creek Marina, at 100 Taylor Ave., can provide all you need to do it.

"We have great waterways and great natural resources," said Morgan Delany, owner. "It's an awesome spot for kayaking out here."

Delany, who bought and renovated the marina about 10 years ago and lives above its bait and tackle shop, offers high-tide kayak tours throughout the summer that give visitors a glimpse of the wildlife, the ecosystem and the beauty of the creeks, tributaries and other offshoots of the bays that are a world apart from the main stomping grounds.

The full-service marina has been around for decades, Delany said.

"This place is ancient. It became a marina in the 1940s, but it was used as a gentlemen's hunting club long before that."

He said that during the renovation he found newspapers dating back as far as 1906.

The property is located along what is generally known as Whale Beach, a strip of sand that straddles the boundary of Strathmere and Sea Isle City near Corsons Inlet State Park. Its name came from the whales that beached themselves along the sand there in the 1950s. The area is part of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route.

"There's no lifeguards out here, no beach tags. It's just a wide-open area that's great for exploring," Delany said.

Whale Creek Marina also offers hourly and daily boat and kayak rentals and has fishing poles and crab pots for beginner or occasional anglers to try out.

"We have a throwback type of feel," he said. "We are not the super-commercial kind of place. We offer reasonably priced kayak and boat rentals. Our boats are 16 foot, 8 horsepower. We have a few pontoon boats, which people seem to like, too."

Boat slips are available for rent, and there is a public boat ramp next to the marina. Delaney said his staff is happy to lend a hand or answer any questions for boaters.

"It's a great spot to stop and surf fish for a while. We are happy to give advice on the spots where the fish are biting or explain how to navigate the creeks and waterways. We never want to see

Marina

continued from Page 23

someone run aground. So we give them advice and send them on their way."

The marina also sells fresh and frozen bait and a full line of tackle supplies, as well as refreshments and gasoline. It is a five-minute drive from both Sea Isle City and Ocean City and has free parking.

Delany recommends making reservations for rentals on the weekends.

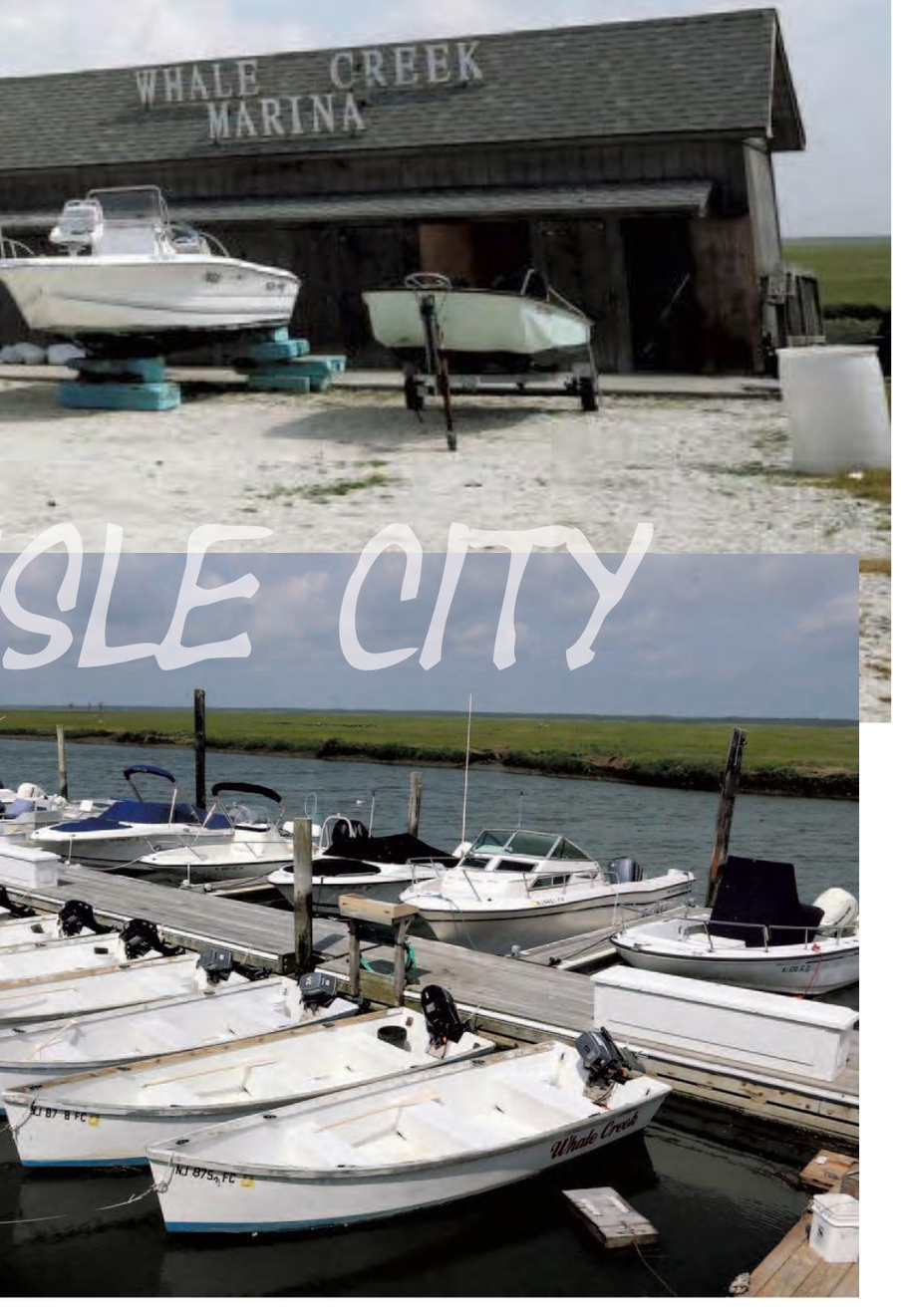
Boats and single and double kayaks are available. Boats, which hold up to six people, are $74 for a four-hour rental or $94 for a full day. No boating license is required. A driver's license is required as a security deposit.

The rental fee for a single kayak is $20 for one hour, $40 for four hours or $60 for a full day. A double kayak is $30 for one hour, $50 for four hours or $80 for a full day.

Fishing rod rental is $5, crab trap rental is $3 and a net is $1.

Boat slips are available for vessels up to 26 feet on an annual, monthly, weekly or daily basis. Call ahead for availability and pricing.

Live bait specials and other information are available at whalecreek-marina.com.
Call 609-263-6093.



THINGS TO DO IN STRATHMERE/SEA ISLE CITY

Bike along Promenade
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Cape May County Library/Sea Isle Branch
4800 Central Avenue, Sea Isle City
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29th Street Beach — Tuesdays June 27-Aug. 2)
94th Street Beach -Thursdays, June 29-Aug. 31

Kids Activity Zone
36 Street Beach
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Sea Isle Historical Museum
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85th Street Park at corner of 85th Street and the beach

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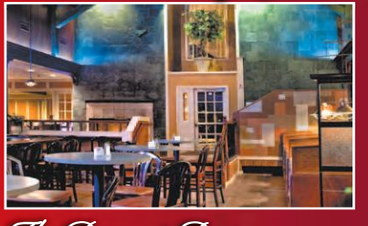

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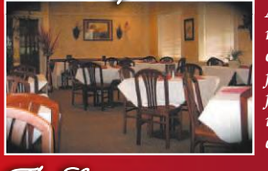

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DALE GERHARD/PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

The Stone Harbor Movie theater on 96th Street in Stone Harbor, opened in July after extensive renovations, bucking the trend of recent movie theater closing along shore communities.

Drink, dine and catch a movie

all at the same time at Harbor Square Theatre

BY EMILY LINGO
Staff Writer

For a night out after a day on the beach, or somewhere to escape when the weather gets too hot or rain puts the kibosh on a trip to the water park, nothing beats the Harbor Square Theatre for a high-end movie experience.

Located in downtown Stone Harbor, the theater sits amid a block of boutiques, art galleries, specialty shops and restaurants.

Owners Brett DeNafo, Clint Bunting and Scot Kauffman gutted the 1949 theater in 2016 and completely renovated it, bringing it into the modern era while keeping its art deco vibe.

"We brought it back to its glory days," DeNafo said.

Guests can enjoy a movie while relaxing in stadium rocker seating with 7.1 Dolby surround sound. The theater originally had six screens, but during the renovation two of the theaters were combined to create one viewing room with a massive 55-foot curved screen.

DeNafo said he and his partners wanted to make going to the movies an experience that cannot be created at home.

They enhanced the atmosphere by adding the Harbor Burger Bar, located at the entrance.

The eatery offers appetizers including truffle fries, fried calamari and buffalo chicken egg rolls, plus salads, flatbreads, specialties such as the classic crab cake sandwich and tuna tacos, and more than half a dozen gourmet burgers.

Top it all off with a selection from the craft beer and wine list, and enjoy at the bar or a table, or take it with you into the theater.

See THEATRE on Page 24

Theatre

continued from Page 24

Anything ordered at Harbor Burger Bar can be taken inside the theater to enjoy while watching the movie.

"We are the only theater in South Jersey to offer this," DeNafo said.

He praised Stone Harbor's safe and inviting environment, which makes a theater outing easy on families.

"It's a good place for families to enjoy. Parents can drop their kids off at a movie they might not want to see, and they can sit out front at the Burger Bar eating, drinking, and watching something on the TVs," he said.

The theater also opens its doors for events. Once a month it presents a Live Music Series where bands from all over the area hit the stage to rock out. There are comedy performances, and paint nights for people who want to express their artistic side.

See THEATRE on Page 26

Burger Bar at Stone Harbor theater.

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Theatre

continued from Page 25

Karle Yanocha, a radio personality and stand-up comedian from Absecon, said performing at the theater is "unique and fun."

"Prior to my show at the Harbor Square Theater I hadn't performed comedy at a movie theater, but it was a fantastic experience," she said.

"It was great to see a venue embrace comedy south of Atlantic City. They also provide great menu items and drinks, so it was a cool place to hang out."

Harbor Square Theatre is open year-round at 271 96th St. Movie tickets are $12 for adults and $10 for children, seniors and military and can be purchased online or at the theater.

For information and show times see harborsquaretheatre.com or call 609-830-3566.

THINGS TO DO IN STONE HARBOR AND AVALON

7 Mile Beach

Avalon beach tags are honored on Stone Harbor beaches and Stone Harbor beach tags are honored on Avalon.
Avalon beach tags can be purchased at Avalon Community Hall, 30th Street and Avalon Ave.
Stone Harbor beach tags can be purchased 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Stone Harbor Beach Tag Office, 95th Street and the beach.

Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary

Tours run 10 a.m. every Saturday in July and August and 10 a.m. every Sunday June 5 – Aug. 27. All Tours begin at Egret Espy Trail entrance at 114th Street and Second Avenue.

Stone Harbor Farmers Market

The market runs 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. every Sunday June 15 – Sept. 7 at Water Tower Plaza, 95th Street and Second Avenue. Attending the market is free of charge.

Stone Harbor Garden Club

For the past forty years, the Garden Club has been taking on beautification projects all over the borough. Fundraising projects include plant and bake sales, fashion show, house and garden tour and the annual yard sale.

Stone Harbor Museum

9410 Second Ave.
The museum features over 50,000 artifacts, displays, videos and more. Admission is free; hours are 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, June 12- Sept. 9.

Stone Harbor Point

2nd Avenue and 122nd Street
A designated conservation area featuring nature walks, fishing, beach combing and bird watching. Areas may be roped off in Spring and Summer due to beach nesting birds. Open daily from dawn to dusk; beach tags required 10 a.m. 5 p.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Avalon History Center

215 39th St.
Explore new exhibits and programs about the history of Avalon. Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Veterans Plaza

21st and Dune Drive
Free music every Thursday night all summer.

Ocean Galleries

9618 Third Ave., Stone Harbor
297 22nd Street, Avalon
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Avalon Golf Club

1510 N. Route 9
Rates vary throughout the year. See www.avalongolfclub.net.

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WILDWOOD

Wildwoods Boardwalk:

home of junk food, thrill rides, tawdry tees and tram cars

DALE GERHARD / PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY
Fourth of July Fireworks light up the evening sky over Mariner's Landing Pier.

A Photo of The Condor ride on Morey's Pier in North Wildwood during the evening hours.

BY JACK TOMCZUK
Staff Writer

The Wildwoods Boardwalk has entertained generations of families — for some, a summer wouldn't be complete without a stroll down the famous wooden walkway.

No visitor to this doo-wop themed resort wrapped in neon should return to normal civilization without first experiencing the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of the boardwalk.

The 38-block spectacle, which stretches from Cresse Avenue to 16th Avenue, features a variety of attractions. But first and foremost it is a public gathering space, so take in the carnival-like atmosphere. It's a great place for people watching.

Walk along the boards — careful, some might be a bit loose underfoot — and a view the seemingly endless row of souvenir and T-shirt shops, where many of the tees flaunt morally questionable messages ("Bad choices make good stories" isn't the worst of them).

Part of the boardwalk experience is the food. The fare is unapologetically junky — stuff you might feel guilty about if you ate it at home.

Still, the temptation is hard to resist, and the choices are many. Pizza, frozen custard, fudge, fried Oreos and funnel cake are some of the more popular options.

"I love the pizza and the fries," said Dom Centeno, 26, of Vineland, who said he has been making the trip to Wildwood for years. "The Curley's Fries are hands-down the best thing on this boardwalk."

Curley's Fries, which has two locations along the boards, is a longtime favorite. The fries are hot, salty and cut thick, and these days they can be ordered with Old Bay seasoning, sea salt or Cuban spice.

For others, the first stop is one of the many arcades. Yolanda Fraser, 56, of Verona,

See BOARDWALK on Page 29

Boardwalk

continued from Page 28

Essex County, said her kids love to play the arcade games, which range from Skee-Ball to modern video games.

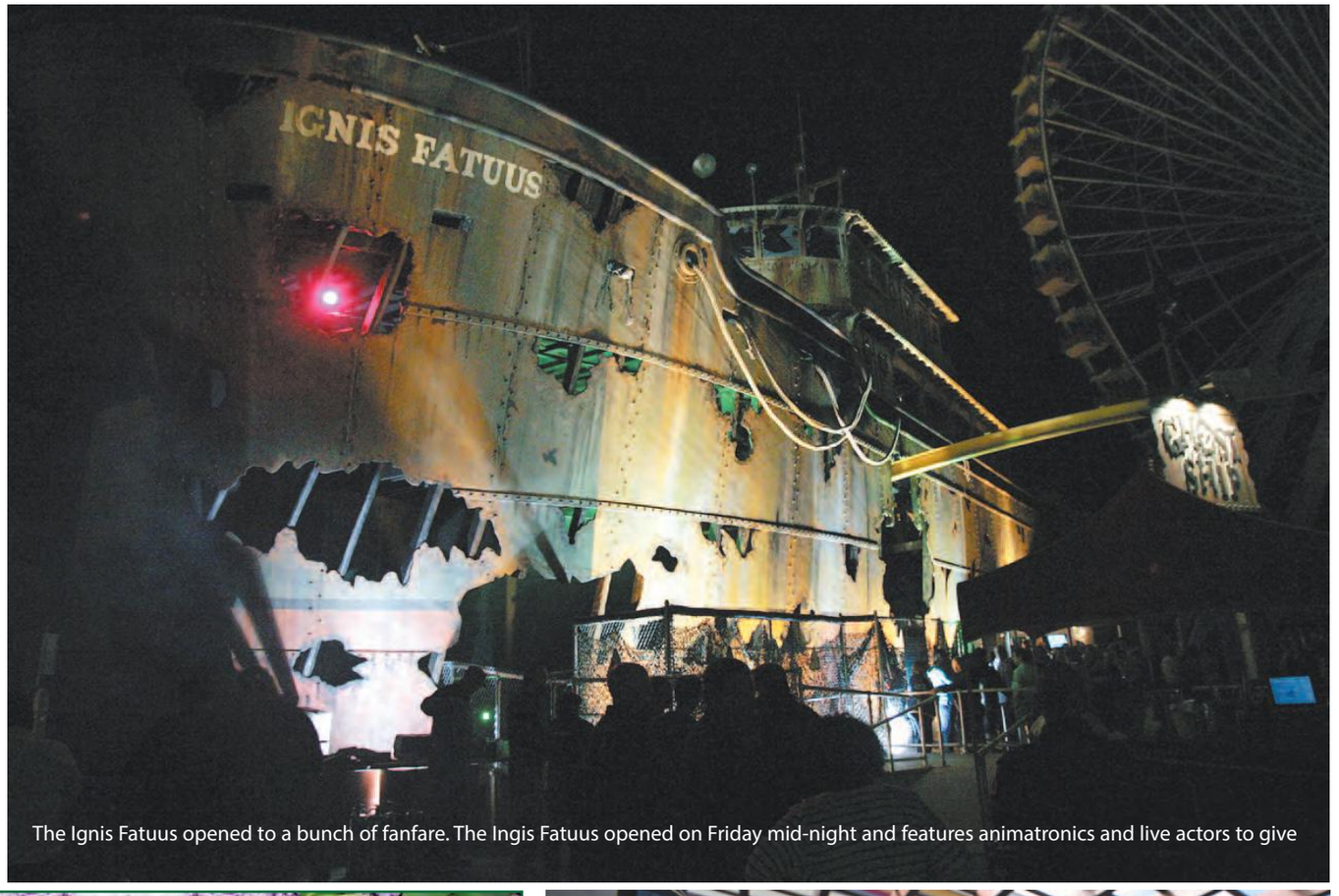
"They don't want to come out of the arcade," said Fraser, who has been visiting the boards for 20 years. "We play too."

Games of chance and skill are never far away on the boardwalk. Attendants manning carnival-style games often try to draw folks in to play a round. Don't worry. It's not impossible to win — just hard.

The boardwalk also provides access to all three amusement piers operated by Morey's Piers — Mariner's Landing, Surfside Pier and Adventure Pier — which are spaced out along the boards and offer roller coasters, kiddie rides and other amusements.

If thrill rides are your thing,

See BOARDWALK on



The Ignis Fatuus opened to a bunch of fanfare. The Ingis Fatuus opened on Friday mid-night and features animatronics and live actors to give

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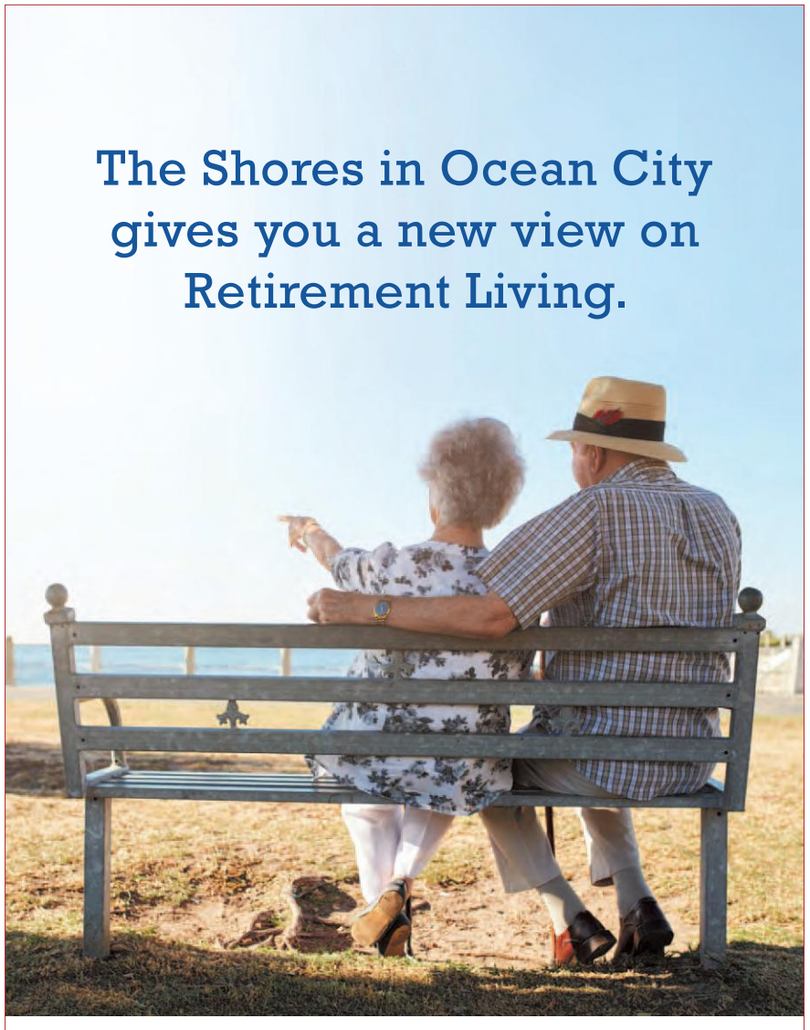

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Boardwalk

continued from Page 29

you might want to check out Surfside Pier's Great Nor'easter, a roller coaster that recently underwent a $5 million renovation that included laying 2,170 feet of new track for a smoother and faster ride, according to Morey's.

If you're new to the Boardwalk, don't fret. Quite a few among the throngs of people on the boards are making their first trip to the Wildwood area. On a sunny day in June, Jessica Simonic gave her first impression of the place.

"It's nice," said Simonic, 22, of Pittsburgh. "I like the little shops."

Casey Wood recently made the trip down from Brick Township. It was first time he had been to the boardwalk with his 1 1/2-year-old daughter.

"It's amazing," Wood, 34, said. "It's huge."

Just make sure you watch the tram car, please.

Other cool things to do in the Wildwoods

- Take a ride on the Giant Wheel at Mariner's Landing. You can see for miles on a clear day atop this 156-foot Ferris wheel.
- Walk along North Wildwood's seawall. This capped seawall, which starts near Second and JFK avenues, provides great views of the Atlantic Ocean and Hereford Inlet.
- Watch the sun go down at Sunset Lake along New Jersey Avenue near Rambler Road in Wildwood Crest. While part of the back bay system and not a true lake, it's nonetheless a beautiful place to watch the sun set over the water.
- Enjoy the island's free beaches. All of the beaches in the Wildwoods are free access, so you can take a dip in the Atlantic without taking out your wallet.
- Check out the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, 111 N. Central Ave. in North Wildwood. Built in 1874, the historic lighthouse is surrounded by gardens. Tours cost $6 for adults and $3 for children under 12.
- Grab a drink in the North Wildwood bar district. The bars clustered in the area around Olde New Jersey Avenue often feature live music in the summertime and an even livelier atmosphere.
- A stop at the the George F. Boyer Historical Museum, 3907 Pacific Ave., Wildwood, will bring visitors back to Wildwood's doo-wop glory days. Open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Saturday until Sept. 30.
- Cycle down the wooden walkway as the sun comes up. Bikes are allowed on the Wildwoods Boardwalk 5 a.m.-11 a.m. weekdays and until 10:30 a.m. weekends and holidays.
- Get wet and wild at one of the island's waterparks.

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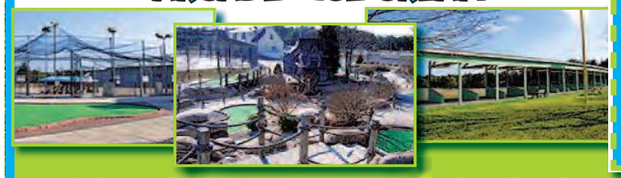

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Cape May Lighthouse offers a thrilling view of the shoreline

BY R.J. LIBERATORE JR.
Staff Writer

About 2.5 million people have made the steep climb up the 199 steps of the Cape May Lighthouse to find a big payoff at the top.

"The view. It's gorgeous," said Susan Krysiak, communications coordinator at the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities.

"It's one of my favorite places in Cape May. It offers a very extensive view."

Krysiak said she has ventured to the top of the 157.5-foot lighthouse often, sometimes as many as three times in a day.

"It's really thrilling," she said. "Most people are really excited. It really does get your heart pumping."

At the top, a glance to the south shows the wide expanse of the Atlantic Ocean where it meets the Delaware Bay. To the south lies Cape May Point. In the east lie Cape May, Diamond Beach and the Wildwoods. To the north is Cape May Court House.

"That view is so dramatic and wonderful," Krysiak said. "If it's a clear day, you can see all the way to Delaware. You can see the ferry boats coming in and out."

The view entices people of all ages to make the climb, she said.

"Sometimes fathers will carry their 1-year-olds to the top," Krysiak said. "Mom and dad and kids all go up together."

The lighthouse keeper, who is in his 90s, goes up to the top regularly, she added.

Krysiak said everyone feels something special when they reach the top of the cast iron staircase and open the door to a walkway that offers a 360-degree view.

"When you open the door, you always feel the sea breeze," she said. "Sometimes it's pretty strong."

One staircase carries viewers up and down the lighthouse, she said, with a single-file line going up and a single-file line coming down.

"Most people are really excited. You can see it as they are passing each other, going up, coming down. It's a little bit easier coming down," Krysiak said. "People are always beaming and smiling and having a good time."

See LIGHTHOUSE on Page 32

Cape May

DALE GERHARD/PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY
Cape May Lighthouse sunset

Sunset Beach near Cape May Point, is a favorite location for people to search for Cape May Diamonds. The semi-precious stones are quartz that tumble down the Delaware River, and because of the unique currents and geographic conditions, wash up on the shores of Sunset Beach.

Lighthouse

continued from Page 32

The lighthouse was not the first one built in Cape May, according to Krysiak.

"The other two were lost to the water," she said.

The first 68-foot tower was built in 1823 about 1,750 feet west of the present lighthouse. However, it was discontinued on May 1, 1847 when the sea surrounded the tower at high tide.

A second beacon was built in 1847 about 600 feet south of the current lighthouse. Poor construction and an approaching sea led to the its short lifespan.

Construction on the third lighthouse began in 1857, and it was first lit on Oct. 31, 1859.

See LIGHTHOUSE on

DALE GERHARD / THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

Bob Heinly, a Cape May historian, who works for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, said Cape May County was at the center of activity during World War II and the fire tower located on Sunset Boulevard near Cape May Point, was part of a defensive fortification to protect the Delaware Bay from enemy ships and subs during the war.

Lighthouse

continued from Page 33

"It's gorgeous," she said. "It's one of my favorite places in Cape May. It offers a very extensive view."

In 1986 the lighthouse was leased to the Mid-Atlantic Center for Arts and Humanities by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry, which leased it from the Coast Guard.

MAC's 1988 public safety program allows the public to climb all the way to the top.

Cape May Point State Park also has a network of nature trails.

"You can pass by the lakes and see wildlife. You can see swans on the lake," Krysiak said.

In the spring and fall, bird watchers arrive at the park to observe the migrating birds, she said.

"It's one of the best places in the country for bird watching," she said. "You see a lot of birders daily during the migration season."

They bring their telescopes, binoculars and cameras.

"They learn about nature," she said. "They come here looking at the birds, listening to them and identifying them. It's a great activity for families."

On the beach there is a military bunker that was built as part of the Harbor Defense Project of 1942. The bunker was covered with sand to look like a hill from the air.

While it was built 900 feet inland, by the mid-1990s the bunker had become surrounded by water. But since then sand has built up around it, allowing people today to walk up and touch it.

Cape May Lighthouse is part of the annual Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey, which challenges people to visit as many New Jersey lighthouses as they can in one weekend, Oct. 21-22. For details see lhchallengenj.org.

Other attractions

World War II Lookout Tower

One of 15 towers built in 1942 as part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles, Fire Control Tower No. 23 is the state's last remaining World War II lookout tower. It is on Sunset Boulevard. Tours are available.

Emlen Physick Estate

The circa 1879 Emlen Physick Estate at 1048 Washington St. is a mansion attributed to Victorian architect Frank Furness. The property is now a museum operated by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities. Tours take about 45 minutes and end with a visit to the 1876 Carriage House where visitors can view an exhibit in the Carroll Gallery. See capemaymac.org/physick-estate-tours for details.

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Tuscan Clam Chowder ~ Chopped Clams, Tomato, Root Vegetables, Clam Broth 7

New England Clam Chowder ~ Chopped Clams, Potato, Bacon & White Clam 7

Crispy Rigatoni ~ Stuffed Rigatoni, Fresh Ricotta, Smashed Tomato, Garlic Cream & Italian Spice 10

Wild Mushroom Ravioli ~ Mozzarella, Garlic Herb & Rosemary Wine Sauce .. 10

Pernod Baked Oysters ~ "Casino Style" With Prosciutto, Sweet Red Peppers & Fennel 13

Baked Crab Cakes ~ Lump Crab, Italian Fruit Salsa, Amaretto Drizzle 16

Baked Eggplant Rollatini ~ Ricotta, Mozzarella & Tomato Herb Sauce 9

Garlicky Clams ~ Sweet Basil, Jersey Tomato, Extra Virgin Oil & Clam Broth 15

Crispy Calamari ~ Crispy Fried With Chefs sauce trio..... 12

Chardonnay Mussels ~ Saffron Broth, Lemon Grass, Tomato & sautéed Fennel..... 13

OCEAN SELECTION

Swordfish ~ Grilled, Thick Cut With A Rich Meaty Flavor 29

Grouper ~ Sautéed, Firm Flakey Fish With A Sweet Ocean Flavor..... 29

Mahi Mahi ~ Sautéed Sweet Firm Florida Fish With Mild Ocean Flavors..... 29

Atlantic Salmon ~Grilled, Full Flavored Fish Higher In Natural Fish Oils 27

Sea Bass ~ Sautéed, Sweet Dense White Fish W/ Firm But Delicate Texture... 32

Yellow Fin Tuna ~ Grilled Rare, Sushi Grade W/ Firm Steak Like Flavor..... .28

BUTCHER BLOCK

Filet Mignon ~ Tender 10 oz Portion Of Beef Tenderloin 42

Veal Rib Chop ~ 14 oz Center Cut Bone In Rib Chop..... 42

Grilled Chicken Breast ~ Moist Tender Breast Of Chicken 22

Pork Tenderloin ~ Tender, Lean, Full Of Flavor..... 25

New York Strip ~ 12 oz Great Marbling, Rich Steak Taste..... 34

GREENS

Chopped Greens ~ Tomato, Gorgonzola, Cucumber, Honeyed Pistachios & Champagne Vinaigrette..... 8

Crispy Romaine ~ Focaccia Croutons, Shaved Parmigiano & Anchovy "Caesar Style..... 8

Baby Greens ~ Gorgonzola, Bosch Pears, Candied Walnuts & Mixed Berry Vinaigrette..... 8

Arugula ~ Sweet Roasted Peppers, Tomato, Shaved Parmigiano & Balsamic Vinaigrette..... 8

CLASSIC SIDES

Broccoli Rabe ~ Roasted Garlic, Crushed Red Pepper, Extra Virgin Oil..... 10

Pasta Red ~ Rigatoni, Crushed Tomato, Sweet Basil, Garlic & Virgin Oil 6

Sautéed Spinach ~ Roasted Garlic, Crushed Red Pepper, Extra Virgin Oil 8

PASTA

Grilled Chicken Sausage ~ Broccoli Rabe, Chicken Sausage, Garlic, Tomato, Virgin Oil & Rigatoni Pasta 22

Little Neck Clams ~ Shaved Garlic, Spiced Virgin Oil, Italian Parsley, Linguini With Red Or White Clam..... 23

Sautéed Shrimp ~ Linguini, Tomato, Smashed Garlic, Sweet Basil, Fresh Mozzarella & Virgin Oil..... 26

Chicken Farfalle ~ Broccoli Florets, Smashed Garlic, Sundried Tomato & Artichokes 22

Zuppa Di Baia ~ Braised Clams, Mussels, Shrimp& Calamari Over Linguini In Tomato Seafood Broth..... 36

Penne Alla Vodka ~ Sweet Peas, Prosciutto, Mushrooms, Basil & Tomato Vodka..... 22

Rigatoni Bolognese Ragu ~ Braised Beef, Veal & Pork with Root Vegetables, Tomato& Red Wine Ragu..... 23

Linguini Tossed With Fresh Tomato Sauté Extra Virgin Oil, Garlic, Sweet Basil & Fresh Mozzarella..... 21

Baia's Classic Red Sauce ~ Slow Cooked Smashed Tomato, Garlic, Sweet Basil &Virgin Oil Served with choice of Linguini, Penne Or Rigatoni..... 17

BAKED CLASSICS

Veal Parmigiano ~ Rigatoni, Shaved Romano, Smashed Tomato, Basil & Baked Mozzarella..... 26

Chicken Parmigiano ~ Linguini, Shaved Romano, Smashed Tomato, Basil & Baked Mozzarella 25

Baked Ravioli ~ Spinach Ravioli Baked Mozzarella, Tomato Blush Sauce..... 23

Baked Lobster Ravioli ~ Crab Meat, Tomato Sherry Blush Sauce 28

OCEAN FAVORITES

Iced Shucked Clams ~ Long Island Clams, Half Dozen..... 9

Iced Shucked Oysters ~ Cape May Salts, Half Dozen..... 16

Chilled Jumbo Shrimp ~ Four Chilled Shrimp, With Balsamic Lime Cocktail ... 16

Sushi Tuna Taco ~ Mango, Ginger, Seaweed salad, Avocado & Sesame Carrot Slaw 13

Alaskan Snow Crab ~ Pound & Half, Lemon & Garlic Butter Steamed.....**Market**

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