

December 2024

© Best Version Media

MANASQUAN-BRIELLE

Living



INSIDE:

Kindness Matters at Cafe
We Want Your Pet Pics!
MHS B-Ball Tips Off!
Family Resources

Smith Family:
Making People Happy
in Heart, Body, and Mind

Cover Photo by Amy Nolan Photography

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

A BEAUTIFUL NEW YOU

Start living your best life and loving the way you look



Introducing eCO2 lutronic — a fractional ablative laser used for complete skin resurfacing for deep lines and wrinkles around mouth, forehead, eyes and nasolabial folds.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Improves acne and surgical scars
- Reduces sun damage and age spots
- Eliminates skin tags

FREE CONSULTATION

FALL SPECIAL: \$500 OFF TREATMENTS
Which can be done in ONE SESSION
or divided into 3 SESSIONS for less social down time

Botox, facial fillers, laser resurfacing and hair removal, and body contouring services such as laser liposuction and cellulite reduction offered.

600 Warren Ave. Suite 104
Spring Lake, NJ 07762
732-384-5365 | lasemedica.com



Weight loss, Botox & laser VIP Memberships Available
Check out our website for more information
Gift Certificates Available to Purchase on the Website



ANSELL.LAW

ANSELL GRIMM & AARON, PC

Serving New Jersey's Legal Needs for 95 Years

A Full-Service Law Firm

(732) 922-1000 • ansell.law

Princeton, NJ | Woodland Park, NJ | **Ocean Township, NJ** | New York, NY | Newtown, PA

HOURS

Tues-Thurs: 11am-11pm
Fri-Sat: 11am-Midnight
Sun: Noon-11pm



Dine-In, Take-Out,
Delivery: order online
through ChowNow app

PIZZA • PASTA • CHICKEN • VEAL • SEAFOOD • STEAKS



(732) 223-3324

15 Broad St., Manasquan, NJ

squantavern.com

Feedback/Ideas/Submissions

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the fifth of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: hmistretta@bestversionmedia.com

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency

Manasquan: text "Join MANASQUAN" to 66893 to enroll

Brielle (732) 312-6512

Police Department

Manasquan.....(732) 223-1000

Brielle.....(732) 528-5050

Fire Department

Manasquan.....(732) 223-0929

Brielle.....(732) 528-5856

Village/City/Town Hall

Manasquan.....(732) 223-0544

Brielle.....(732) 528-6600

Library

Manasquan.....(732) 223-1503

Brielle.....(732) 528-9381

Parks and Recreation

Manasquan.....(732) 223-0544 ext. 260

Brielle.....(732) 528-6600

School District

Manasquan.....(732) 528-8800

Brielle.....(732) 528-6400

Content Submission Deadlines

Content Due	Edition Date
Dec. 5	January
Jan. 5	February
Feb. 5	March
Mar. 5	April
April 5	May
May 5	June
June 5	July
July 5	August
Aug. 5	September
Sept. 5	October
Oct. 5	November
Nov. 5	December

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and editorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners' associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted, inclusive of materials generated or composed through artificial intelligence (AI). All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2024 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.

Dear Manasquan-Brielle Community,

As we embrace the magic of December, there's a sense of reflection, gratitude, and togetherness in the air. The holiday season reminds us not only of the joy of giving but also of the power of community, something we are fortunate to experience every day here in Manasquan and Brielle.

Our cover story this month highlights a family who embodies the spirit of generosity and community: Mike and Linda Smith and their family, the heart and soul behind the beloved Paramount Diner. For years, the Smiths have done more than serve delicious meals; they've served our town with kindness and care, giving back in ways both big and small. Whether it's organizing food drives, sponsoring youth programs, or lending a helping hand when someone is in need, Mike and Linda have made philanthropy a way of life. Their story is a beautiful reminder of how small actions, done with great love, can create a ripple effect throughout a community.

During this season of giving, it's inspiring to see neighbors supporting neighbors, and local businesses investing in the well-being of the place we all call home. The Smiths' example reminds us that we each have the power to make a difference, whether through acts of kindness, volunteering, or simply showing up for one another.

As you enjoy the festivities this month, tree lightings, holiday markets, and spreading holiday cheer to someone who might need it most are just a few ways we can strengthen our wonderful community.

On behalf of the entire *Manasquan-Brielle Living* team, I wish you a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, gratitude, and hope for the new year ahead. Thank you for being part of this community and for making it such a special place to live.

Wishing you peace, happiness, and all the blessings of the season.



Warmly,

Scott & Jodi Navitsky

Publishers, *Manasquan-Brielle Living*



As a follow-up to our piece on page 7 of the November issue, one reader wrote in to question the definition of Manasquan as his daughter did extensive research while a student at Manasquan High School. Although some sources have cited the definition as "stream of the island of squaws," squaw has been deemed as a derogatory female term. The more culturally appropriate definition is "a place to gather reeds and grass." This detail as well as much more history can be found at Squan Village Historical Society at 105 Street, (732) 223-6770, and you can share questions with Mike Keenan at sean.matthew.keenan@gmail.com, or Jim Rementer, who leads the Lenape Talking Dictionary, at jimrem@aol.com.

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

PUBLICATION TEAM



Content Coordinator:
Heather Mistretta



Designer:
Madison DeMeuse



Contributing Photographer:
Amy Nolan

ADVERTISING

Contact:
Jodi Navitsky

Email:
jnavitsky@bestversionmedia.com

Phone:
(732) 539-9984



With more than 35 years in the industry, Stephanie is a personable, trustworthy jewelry designer who has an eye for creating unique and gorgeous pieces, using either her own supplies or heirloom pieces supplied by her clients.

Stephanie Bogetti | Personal Jewelry Consultant | 631-838-1151

To learn more about becoming an expert contributor, contact BVM at jnavitsky@bestversionmedia.com or (732) 539-9984.



BARBER

Sam McIvor
Jameson's & Ginger's Barbershop & Salon
 2153 NJ-35, Sea Girt, NJ 08750
 (732) 449-1322
mysite.vagaro.com/jamesonsandgingers



LONGEVITY & VITALITY HEALTH COACH

Michael Keenan, Founder & Owner
Core Cage Fitness
 93 Atlantic Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736
 (732) 515-4024
mike@corecagefitness.com
corecagefitness.com



COSMETIC AND VASCULAR PHYSICIAN

Rex Ghassemi, M.D.
Lasemedica Medspa and Vein Center
 600 Warren Ave #104, Spring Lake, NJ 07762
 (732) 384-5365
lasemedica.com



REAL ESTATE

Rob Kilbride,
Real Estate Broker-Salesperson
Kilbride Cagnina Group of Compass RE
 21 South Street, Manasquan, NJ 08736
 o: (732) 301-5050 | m: (732) 547-6374
rob.kilbride@compass.com
kilbridecagninagroup.com



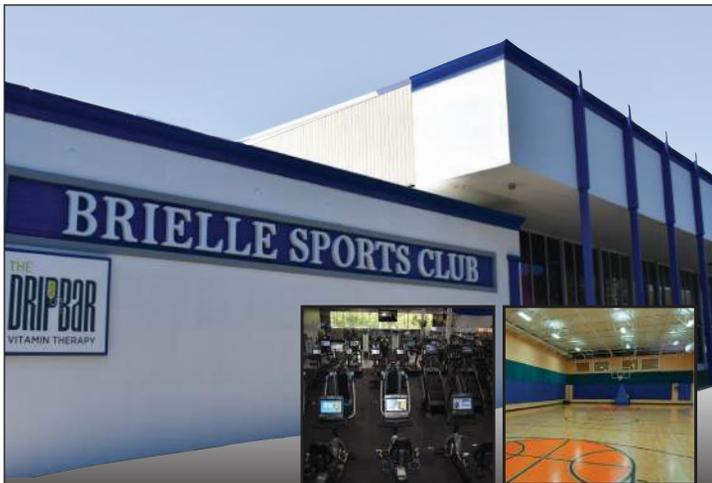
PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICE

Maid Gem Cleaning Service
 2220 Landmark Pl #1, Manasquan, NJ 08736
 (732) 334-7106 | (732) 334-3878
 Call or text the numbers for booking
www.maidgem.com



AUDIOLOGY EXPERT

Dr. Donna Merchant, Au.D.
New Jersey Hearing Health Center
 1673 Route 88, Brick, NJ 08724
 (732) 746-4604
www.njhearing.com



AMENITIES:

- Spacious Strength Training and Cardio Areas
- Personal and Small Group Training
- Kickboxing, Boot Camp, Yoga, Pilates and Spin Classes
- Full Size Basketball Court
- Complimentary Childcare
- Free Body Composition Scan

\$49.99 Per Month

Guest Pass

Free 3 Day



CONTACT US AT:
 732-528-6777
info@briellesportsclub.com
 629 Higgins Ave. Brielle, NJ 08730



THE
DRIPBAR
 BRIELLE
 AN IV VITAMIN DRIP EXPERIENCE

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Supervised Medical Weight Loss (Semaglutide):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Weight Loss • Improved Metabolic Health • Sustainable Results | <p>High Dose Vitamin C Therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune Support • Inflammation Reduction • Protect Cells from Damage | <p>Ozone Therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Pain • Improve Circulation • Immune System Stimulant • Anti-Inflammation | <p>NAD+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Production • DNA Repair • Aging & NAD+ Decline |
|---|--|---|--|

Feed your Cells. Fuel your Life.



629 Higgins Avenue
 Brielle, NJ
 732-416-7611

New Jersey Hearing Health Center

NJ HEARING HEALTH CENTER CARES ABOUT YOUR HEARING — *By Dr. Donna Goione Merchant*

New Jersey Hearing Health Center, a family-owned business providing professional, cutting-edge audiologic and hearing aid services to the community, opened in 1992 with the goal of providing comprehensive pediatric and adult audiologic services. For over 30 years, they have fostered their reputation of being honest, caring, and compassionate, always putting their patients' needs first.

The audiologists' hearing tests include comprehensive and accurate evaluations, which are used to fit the most appropriate hearing assistance options with a variety of solutions for all types of hearing loss and budgets. As part of the wide array of options, they offer state-of-the-art Bluetooth technology and assistive listening devices for patients with more specialized needs.

"At New Jersey Hearing Health Center, we believe that better hearing leads to a better life," said Founder Dr. Donna Goione Merchant who received a Doctor of Audiology from the University of Florida, and both a master's degree in Audiology and a bachelor's degree as a Teacher of the Hearing Impaired/Deaf from The College of New Jersey. She also holds a N.J. certification to teach the disabled. Prior to entering the field of audiology, Dr. Merchant taught high school resource room and briefly worked as a sign language interpreter.

Prior to opening her private practice, Dr. Merchant worked at Princeton Medical Center and served as clinic coordinator for the master's level Audiology program at The College of New Jersey (1992-1996). Currently the board president of the New Jersey

Academy of Audiology, Dr. Merchant has also been an assistant professor and clinical speech preceptor in the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department at Montclair State University.

She specializes in pediatric auditory disorders and has extensive diagnostic experience in childhood hearing loss and central auditory processing disorders. When she's not practicing medicine, she lectures and provides workshops on hearing loss, educational audiology, auditory disorders, and aural rehabilitation.

Dr. Nicole Piasentini, also at the practice, holds a clinical Doctorate in Audiology from Montclair State University and a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from James Madison University. She also has a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a member of the Educational Audiology Association.

Dr. Piasentini works with patients of all ages to identify hearing loss and work through rehabilitative strategies to improve communication, including hearing amplification devices when appropriate. She also works closely with Neptune Township School District to manage their Deaf and Hard of Hearing program.

The practice has continued to build on what it offers. Aural rehabilitative counseling is an integral part of all hearing aid evaluations and hearing aid orientations. Families are encouraged to participate in the entire evaluation and fitting process.

7 REASONS TO VISIT:

1. Educated patients are our best patients.

The Clinic provides their patients with educational materials about hearing loss and the technology options available so they can make informed choices.

2. Expertise and variety of services mean you get the care you deserve.

Their hearing care providers have the skillset to develop a comprehensive better-hearing treatment plan that incorporates the most effective hearing treatment options.

3. Detailed audiological testing addresses the specific nature of your unique hearing loss.

Their diagnostic examination accurately determines what listening environments are particularly problematic, and a treatment plan is developed specifically for individual hearing needs.

4. State-of-the-art hearing aids. They work with the world's best manufacturers, offering a complete lineup of the most technologically advanced hearing systems available anywhere.

5. Hearing aid fitting and programming that satisfies. Armed with an accurate diagnosis, their providers cater to your hearing needs with technology that is comfortable to wear and offers unmatched clarity.

6. Exceptional follow-up care. As part of their comprehensive better-hearing program, you'll receive cleanings, free batteries, and hearing aid refittings when changes in hearing and lifestyle occur.

7. We absolutely love what we do! We're motivated by helping people reconnect with their families and loved ones through better hearing, and our passion for better hearing means you get the best experience every time.



Services Provided:

- Diagnostic Hearing Tests
- Hearing Aid Evaluations & Dispensing

Dr. Donna M. Merchant, Au.D., CCC-A, ABAC
 Doctor of Audiology
 NJ Certified Teacher of the D/HH
 NJ Certified Teacher of the Handicapped
 Aud Lic. # 41YA00031700

Dr. Nicole Piasentini, Au.D., CCC-A
 Doctor of Audiology
 ABA Certificate Holder-
 Tinnitus Management
 Aud Lic. # 41YA00109400



1673 Route 88 W | Brick, New Jersey 08724 | www.njhearing.com | 732-746-4610

Office Hours | Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM



The family at Kindness Café receives grant funding from Impact 100 Jersey Coast



One of Nick's jobs at the Paramount Diner is to fold silverware.

A BETTER COMMUNITY, ONE CUP AT A TIME

By Heather Mistretta

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." — Aesop

An estimated 42.5 million adults have intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States today. Among that population, unemployment is twice as high.

Eighteen-year-old Nick works with the Kindness Cafe, a Manasquan-based nonprofit that provides meaningful employment opportunities for these individuals who are often marginalized in society.

In addition to his work at the cafe and at another location in Point Pleasant, Nick helps out at the Paramount Diner twice a week. He considers himself lucky, but Linda and Mike Smith, the owners of the diner, consider themselves the lucky ones to have his help and enthusiasm every Tuesday and Thursday. The day ends with Nick enjoying a cold Pepsi.

Kindness Cafe's doors opened on Main Street in Manasquan three years

ago thanks to the help of Melghan Badenhausen Kelleher and her Main Street Kitchen. Led by founder and Manasquan native, Chrissy Rice, it employed eight young adults with disabilities, serving coffee and croissants.

The impetus for the founding of the nonprofit began in Manasquan High School with the help of the on-campus Center for Learning and Independence (CLI) and Kim Murin, transition coordinator for the Manasquan School District and now Kindness Cafe board member. CLI supports students aged 18-21, providing employment four days a week. The younger students starting at age 14 are "Academy" students, who once they turn 16, are also eligible to work.

"Our district completely has our back," said Murin. "We're lucky that they support student achievement and understand and embrace our goal."

In December, the spot that brings purpose, inclusion, belonging, independence and lots of new

friendships to a growing number of deserving people found a new home at the Manasquan Bank on Route 71.

"The owners at Manasquan Bank have been so supportive over the past several months," said Rice, a former English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) teacher in Manasquan who was among those who were instrumental in bringing the 501 c 3 to fruition.

Today, the idea that started following a Today Show episode that highlighted a similar nonprofit currently employs 25 people and is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Employees working at the cafe range in age from teens to 50s. For many, the opportunities they offer these people help to close the gap created by what's called the "service cliff," the time following high school graduation when the services they had once received are no longer available to them.

But it's not just a job along with a paycheck each week. It's more than that. The Kindness Cafe gives

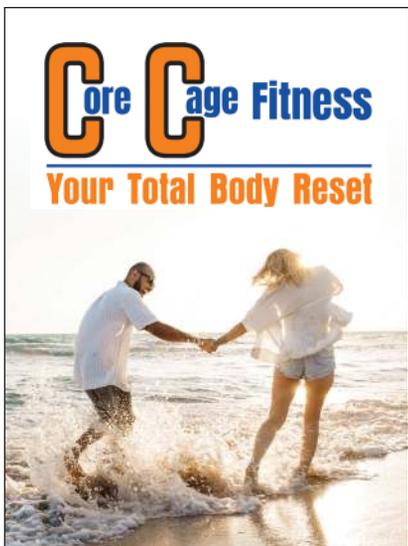
its employees community-based instruction like learning how to use a debit card and riding a train while fostering a sense of belonging, dignity and purpose.

"Everyone has a purpose in this life," said Rice. "We all have something to offer to make the world a better place for all!"

For Nick, who is considered a "super senior" since he has already completed a high school education, not only learns the inner workings of a restaurant, customer service and life skills; he hears from others that everyone has the ability to be a contributing member of society including himself.

"Working makes me feel like a grownup, and I like showing my boss that I can do a great job," said Nick.

Stay tuned for more about the Kindness Cafe and the families involved in an ensuing issue of *Manasquan-Brielle Living* magazine.



DID YOU KNOW THAT 41% OF ALL MILLENNIALS ARE TAKING ANTI-AGING MEDS?

YOU WORKED HARD TO LIVE IN A BEAUTIFUL HOME, DRIVE A LUXURY CAR, TRAVEL TO EXOTIC PLACES, SAMPLE THE FINEST EUROPEAN CUISINE, AND ENJOY AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LOVED ONE! AND YOU WANT IT ALL, EVEN PAST THE AGE OF 40!

WE HAVE THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO BUILD THE BODY YOU WANT AND ENJOY THE LIFESTYLE YOU DESERVE!

IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT LEARNING HOW TO LIVE STRONG, AND BE FIT, SEXY AND SMART UNTIL YOUR 80'S AND BEYOND, I CAN SHOW YOU HOW! CALL US FOR A COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION, AND LET'S NOT ONLY GET BACK IN THE GAME, LET'S WIN IT!



Manasquan resident Nancy Tigner visits the outside patio of the Paramount Diner every morning to enjoy a cup of coffee with her two golden retrievers, Sailor and Buoy. Mike Smith enjoys spoiling every dog with a piece of bacon.



Brielle residents Dakota and Utah are never far apart! (photo credit: Robin Maccaro)

The Pets of Manasquan and Brielle!

By Heather Mistretta | Photos by Robin Maccaro

It has been said, "The purity of a person's heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals" (*Théophile Gautier*). In Manasquan and Brielle, it's safe to say we love our pets and consider them part of our family! From parades and sporting events to parks and the Paramount Diner patio, our pets join us everywhere. To honor that love, we're introducing a new series in Manasquan-Brielle Living called "The Pets of Manasquan & Brielle."

Each month we will feature photos of the pets you love sent in by you. From the Golden Retriever named Sailor to the Calico named Josie, we'll showcase your pets on their own page of our magazine.

You can submit your photos (and their names) by sending them to hmistretta@bestversionmedia.com. We look forward to seeing your canine and feline (& other) friends! Stay tuned for a writing contest coming soon!

Please note: We can only print a maximum of 10 photos each month, and only photos with a minimum resolution of 300 dots per inch (DPI) will be accepted. This resolution ensures that the image will appear clear and sharp in print. Images with lower resolution may appear blurry or pixelated.

Opening December 2024

AIN
AMY NOLAN
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

74 Main Street, Manasquan 347.556.2701 amynolanphotography@gmail.com

SPRING LAKE TAP HOUSE

A MODERN TAKE ON
YOUR LOCAL SPORTS BAR



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM
AND BE THE
FIRST TO
KNOW ABOUT
OUR AMAZING
SPECIALS!

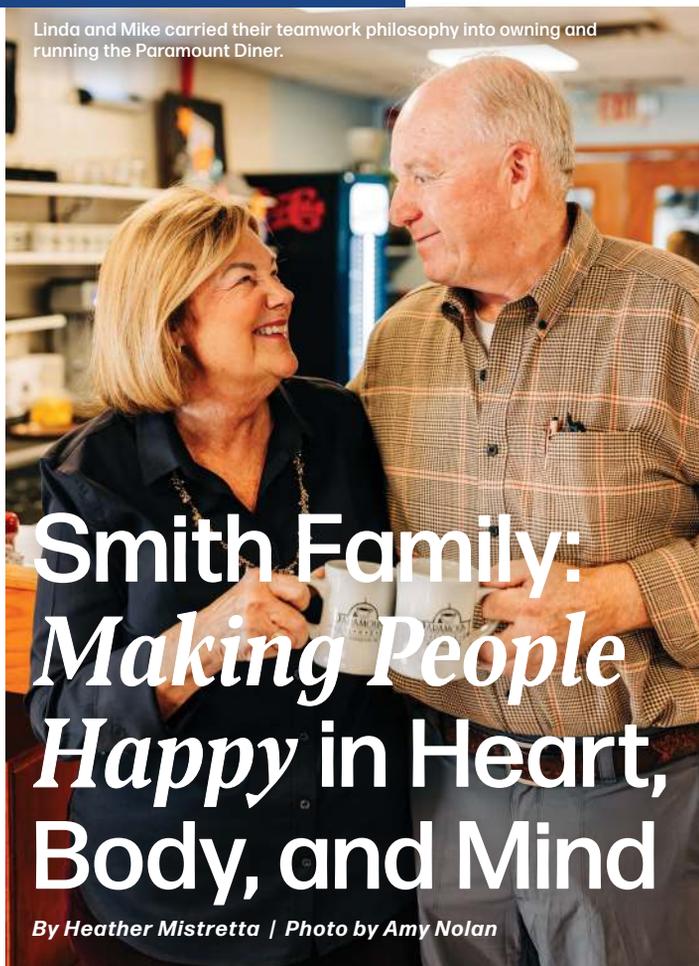


**KITCHEN HOURS:
11AM-10PM DAILY**

**BRUNCH:
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
11AM-2PM**

810 HIGHWAY 71, SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS
732.282.1531 | [SPRINGLAKETAPHOUSE.COM](http://springlaketaphouse.com)

Linda and Mike carried their teamwork philosophy into owning and running the Paramount Diner.



Smith Family: Making People Happy in Heart, Body, and Mind

By Heather Mistretta | Photo by Amy Nolan

"The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions - the little, soon forgotten charities of a kiss or a smile, a kind look or heartfelt compliment."
 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge

It has been said that a smile is the universal language of kindness. For Linda and Mike Smith, who on September 25 celebrated 48 years of marriage, they speak that language every day, whether they are home in Brielle, visiting with family, running their business in Manasquan

or somewhere in between. Together, they have sewn a tapestry of kindness and determination throughout the community.

Mike, who grew up in Brielle with eight brothers and sisters, learned early on that working hard and helping others were values to embrace. The family regularly welcomed friends to their dinner table. At 12, Mike worked out a deal with the local mayor, George Dempsey, to pay for a lawnmower in installments so he could walk door to door mowing his neighbors' lawns.



Mike hiked for five days in Yosemite Park with their daughter, Catherine.

His family owned the Stewart's Root Beer in Brielle where he first met Linda who had moved to the area from Sussex County when she was 18. Years later in 1976, they would be the first couple married at Granden Hall at the Brielle Fire House. They later had two daughters, Erin and Catherine.

Erin, 41, who is among the senior management at Mejluri Jewelry, lives in Washington Crossing, PA, with her husband, David Perini, who is a chef and culinary director of nine restaurants in Peddler's Village in Lahaska, PA.

Catherine, 36, worked in the fashion industry in New York City, before moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, CA, where she is now part of the management team at a biotechnology innovation firm.



Linda and Mike shown here with their daughters, Erin and Catherine.

THE PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

It was 2023, and Linda had just retired from her career in healthcare. Mike had retired from the police force years earlier to pursue other ventures like landscaping, bakery and coffee business, foreign currency trading and antique restoration, the latter of which he still does today. From refurbishing pianos to the complete restoration of the main altar at All Saints Church in Bay Head, Mike said he loves the creative challenge. This thrill became apparent when he approached Linda, asking if she would rather have diamonds or a diner after retirement.

"Nothing like a good surprise," joked Mike who added that the previous owner was retiring from his ownership of the diner that has been a fixture in Manasquan since 1931. Mike had been going there as a customer almost every morning for 30 years!

Linda clearly chose the latter.

When the couple, whose personalities seem to fit together like a beautiful puzzle, opened the doors of Paramount Diner for the first time in 2023, former Mayor Dempsey was their first customer. Today, he has his own honorary counter stool.

While talking with the couple, it quickly became evident that this was just one example of the personal care they show each customer who walks through the diner's front door. The "usual meal" diners, churchgoers on Sundays, summer regulars, Nancy with her two Golden Retrievers, Sue and Bob Starr and the owners from Allaire Community Farm are just a few examples of this commitment.

"We love the Paramount. They're the best—the family and staff. They make everyone feel comfortable,"



With one of the largest and most experienced criminal defense teams in New Jersey, the Law Offices of Jonathan F. Marshall bring decades of insider knowledge as former prosecutors to fight for your rights in criminal and DWI cases.

MEET OUR CRIMINAL ATTORNEYS

• Jonathan F. Marshall • Colin E. Bonus • Jason A. Seidman • William E. Wackowski • Thomas C. Huth • I. Paul Koutouzakos • Matthew J. Dorry • Abraham N. Basch
 Brian C. McCauley • Louis A. Pintaro • Darryl K. Richardson • James P. Mastronardi • Christopher G. Pollard • Porfirio A. Gutierrez • Ryan F. Farrell

WE HAVE OFFICES IN FREEHOLD, MIDDLETOWN AND TOMS RIVER



"Your Rights, Our Priority. Defending You Every Step of the Way."

said Ray Summers who manages Manasquan Lighting just a few doors down. He added that the owner, Frank Calabrese and his extended family all go there regularly: "They love the chicken soup and pancakes!"

It could be why the diner has been dubbed "the *Cheers* of Diners."

"Sometimes I feel like it's an extension of my dining room as a kid," said Mike, who added that seven years ago, he and Linda moved out of the Point Pleasant Beach home where they had raised their family and into the 600-square-foot cottage in Brielle he had bought when he was 20 after deciding that the small home was perfect for their golden retrievers.

That same gracious energy they show to those walking through the front door is exhibited toward their staff and the community members who are all too willing to help them. Their daughter, Erin, is often seen at the diner helping out.

"I never ask staff to do something that I didn't do myself. We need to lead by example," Mike said in between talking with one of their servers, making sure she ordered her free lunch to take home.

Since 2023, they have cultivated a new culture for their staff, adding a paid vacation to their benefits among other perks. Chefs Hugo and Armando have been their friends for the past 18 years and continue to be loyal and dedicated staff members.

"They prepare everything to order and from scratch," said Linda, who added that they often tap into local vendors like Point Lobster for their ingredients. "This helped make the decision to step into our retirement years with a small community diner easier! Our specials change with the season. For example, spring is salads and avocado; summer means fresh lobster rolls and only Jersey tomatoes; fall is pumpkin everything; holiday with some warm soups and gingerbread pancakes."

Another regular staff member is 18-year-old Nick who comes in to work for a couple of hours every Tuesday and Thursday as part of the employment program at Manasquan-based Kindness Cafe (see story on page 6).

"We love having him here, and his parents are regular customers," said Linda.

CONNECTIONS RUN DEEP

The web of connections that Linda and Mike have spun over the past five decades is evident at 130 Main Street every day. They take birthdays pretty seriously, offering the birthday boy or girl an ice cream sundae—yet another example of how they make people feel special. Birthday parties are commonplace at the diner, and a \$50 gift card is given out once a month to one lucky customer.

On Sundays, pastors and parishioners from all five local churches can be seen eating in the diner that was one day part of a local church's sermon!

AN OPEN DOOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Just months after opening in 2023, Linda and Mike opened their doors to everyone for a free, collective Thanksgiving breakfast. This year, they did the same, serving pancakes, bacon, juice and coffee all morning from 7-11 a.m.!

"We've received an outpouring of support from the community. It's our way of giving back," said Linda.

On December 8, they will also welcome the community—both



Linda and Mike recently vacationed to a Vermont farm with their daughter, Erin and her husband, David.

human and canine—once again for the Santa Paws is Coming to Town event, featuring photo taking with Santa. Their niece and godchild, Gwynne Alden, a country singer and songwriter who also graduated from Manasquan High School will be part of the festivities.

When it comes to the Smith Family, the giving never stops, nor does the smiles.

"We always try to do our best," said Linda. "It's a good life and a wonderful way to enjoy retirement together."

For their customers, the Paramount is a great place to take "a break from all your worries," where "they're always glad you came."

THE LUXURY DIVISION

at The Kilbride Cagnina Group | Jersey Shore Real Estate Experts



1800+ TRANSACTIONS SINCE 2005

\$1 BILLION+ SOLD SINCE 2005

YOUR JERSEY SHORE NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERTS

The Luxury Division at Compass was developed to elevate the level of support, enhance the aesthetic of marketing elements, and provide exposure for exclusive properties. As commanded by elite properties, The Luxury Division takes all aspects of the preparation, promotion, and ultimate sale of a luxury property to the highest standard, unlike any other brokerage.

- CURATED LISTING STRATEGY
- WEALTH MAPPING
- IN HOUSE DESIGN TEAM
- MULTI-CHANNEL MEDIA PLAN
- COMPASS LUXURY TOOLS
- NATIONAL NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Fair Haven Office
623 River Road
Fair Haven, NJ 00704
O 732.936.5248

Colts Neck Office
36 Leland Road
Colts Neck, NJ 07722
O 732.252.2460

Manasquan Office
21 South Street
Manasquan, NJ 08736
O 732.301.5050

COMPASS RE

The Kilbride Cagnina Group is a team of real estate salespersons affiliated with Compass RE. Compass RE is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.

DEC. 25-JAN. 2: Hanukkah

JAN. 15: Martin Luther King Jr Day

FEB. 28-MAR. 30: Ramadan



Manasquan's 2024 Christmas ornament, designed and created by Karen Ryan, can be purchased for \$15 at four locations: Bouquets to Remember, Manasquan Lighting, Mertens Jewelers and Yellow Daisy.

DEC. 7-21

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas, the Musical"
Algonquin Theatre
 Based on the Paramount Pictures film.

DEC. 8

Santa Paws is Coming to Town
 12 p.m.-2p.m.
 130-132 Main Street
 Free pictures with Santa and music by Gwynne Alden.

DEC. 10

"It's a Wonderful Life"
 7:30p.m.
Algonquin Theatre
 Complimentary screening of iconic 1946 film.

DEC. 14

The Magical Ornaments Holiday Showcase
 3 p.m.
Grace Kelly Studio at 718 Union Avenue
 Call (732) 329-7972 for more information.

DEC 14

3rd Annual Manasquan Holiday House Tour
 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
Starts at the Woman's Club at 62 Main Street
 For more details, contact Pauline at 917-648-1820.

DEC. 19

Coastal Crafts Ugly Holiday Sweatshirt Party
 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Wonderland & Sea in Manasquan

DEC. 19

Chris Pinnella's Christmas in Manasquan
 7 p.m.
Manasquan High School
 A fundraising concert for the Manasquan HS Upgrade Project
 Box office: (732) 974-8990.

JAN. 5

"Father Alphonse's New Year 2025"
 3 p.m.
Algonquin Theatre
 Presented by Father Alphonse's Orchestra of St. Peter.

FEB. 1

The Tony Bennett Songbook with Chris Pinnella
 2 p.m.
Algonquin Theatre

Does your business have interest in sponsoring Manasquan-Brielle Living's monthly Calendar of Events? Please email Heather at hmlstretta@bestversionmedia.com.

Escape. Indulge. Embrace The Jersey Shore



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL MISTLETOE BALL DECEMBER 21ST, 2024



700 HWY 71 SPRING LAKE, NJ 07762 • 732.449.3666 • THESHORECLUBNJ.COM

DEC. 14

Coastal Crafts at Made in Monmouth
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Brookdale Community College

Other Spring Events:

Pee Wee Soccer Clinic in April: Open to Brielle residents ages entering 4-year-old preschool in September through 2nd grade. Emphasis is on skill training. Each participant will receive a T-shirt and a soccer ball and five weeks of coach-led skills training. Registration will begin in mid-February.

Tennis Clinics in April: Registration for divisions K through 2nd grade and 3rd to 6th grades will begin in February.

May 1: Deadline for The Brielle Recreation Committee's \$500 scholarship program for a Brielle resident entering college or trade school in September 2025. The selection will be based on academic achievement and volunteer service to the community of Brielle.

Brielle Library: Learn more about yoga, reading and more on its website at briellelibrary.com/calendar, including...

DEC. 10

Manasquan-based BookTowne welcomes Abbott Kahler, author of *Eden Undone*.
6 p.m.
Brielle Library
Tickets can be found at www.booktowne.com

JAN. 14

Afterschool S.T.E.A.M. Adventures with Ms. Linda
3:30 p.m.
Brielle Library

JAN. 9

Pink Moon Calming Core Yoga (Weekly Classes)
7:30 p.m.
Brielle Library

FEB. 2

Yin & Meditate in the Yoga Room
6 p.m.
Brielle Library

JAN. 13

Art Class in the Kids Room
10:30 a.m.
Brielle Library

MARCH 31

Deadline to submit an entry to the eBuild a Snowman contest
Photos (including child's name and address) can be dropped off at Borough Hall or email to townhall@brielleboro.com.

With winter approaching, the streets are aglow with the excitement of the upcoming holidays and the new year. Be sure to check out what new events, activities and scenic wonders are available to you and your family in the area. Mark your calendars, grab your loved ones and get ready to experience the best of what the next two months hold in Manasquan and Brielle.

HAIRCUTS & STYLING • HAIR COLOR • HAIR EXTENSIONS • WAXING • EYELASHES • MAKE-UP



732.366.9636
www.ivyrosehairstudio.com



600 Union Avenue Suite 3, Brielle, NJ 08730



SPENGA®

ASK US ABOUT OUR FREE MEMBERSHIPS WITH NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2025



SPIN

STRENGTH

YOGA

WALL, NJ • SPENGA.COM • 732.876.9375



GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Compiled by Scott Navitsky | Photos by NJ Advance Media

"The true warrior understands and seizes that moment by giving an effort so intense and so intuitive that it could only be called one from the heart." – Pat Riley, who is regarded as one of the greatest NBA figures of all time both as a coach and executive and won five NBA championships as a head coach.

Manasquan High School's basketball teams have won many championships over the years. The girls basketball team has won nine state championships, tying for fourth-most in the state and finishing the 1987 season with a 27-3 record. There have been many notable alumni throughout the years, including Doris Burke '83, who went on to be a sideline reporter

and color analyst for the NBA on ESPN; and Chip Hirst, a standout pitcher and recipient of the 1970 Frederick Lyman Abbott Basketball Award. The Big Blue Warrior star finished his career as the Shore Conference all-time career leader in wins (33), a record that stood for 36 years until Toms River East and Rutgers University pitcher topped it,

winning his final high school game in 2006 to finish with 34.

Led by Coach Andrew Blodeau, the Manasquan boys basketball team finished last season with a record of 23-7. The girls team, led by Lisa Kukoda, finished the season with a record of 26-5. Let's see what they can do this winter!

BASKETBALL Boys Varsity

	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday	12/14/24	Open (Rutgers Prep @ Montgomery H.S.)	Away	2:00 PM
Monday	12/16/24	St. Rose High School, Belmar	Home	6:30 PM
Saturday	12/21/24	Rumson-Fair Haven H.S.	Away	1:00 PM
Friday	01/03/25	Freehold Boro High School	Away	5:30 PM
Monday	01/06/25	Open (Ewing High School)	Home	6:30 PM
Tuesday	01/07/25	Jackson Memorial H.S.	Home	6:30 PM
Friday	01/10/25	Point Pleasant Borough H.S.	Home	6:30 PM
Saturday	01/11/25	Open (CBA (Boardwalk Showcase))	Away	TBA
Monday	01/13/25	Brick Memorial H.S.	Away	6:30 PM
Thursday	01/16/25	Howell High School	Home	6:30 PM
Sunday	01/19/25	Open (Don Bosco @ Caldwell High School)	Away	3:00 PM
Wednesday	01/22/25	St. Rose High School, Belmar	Away	6:30 PM
Friday	01/24/25	Jackson Memorial H.S.	Away	6:30 PM
Saturday	01/25/25	Open (Lenape H.S. (Jeff Coney Classic) @ Rancocas Valley H.S.)	Away	1:30 PM
Monday	01/27/25	Point Pleasant Borough H.S.	Away	6:30 PM
Thursday	01/30/25	Brick Memorial H.S.	Home	6:30 PM
Saturday	02/01/25	Red Bank Regional High School	Away	1:00 PM
Tuesday	02/04/25	Howell High School	Away	6:30 PM
Friday	02/07/25	Open (Gill St. Bernards (Metro Classic))	Away	TBA

BASKETBALL Girls Varsity

	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday	12/17/24	Trinity Hall	Away	5:15 PM
Thursday	12/19/24	Ranney School	Home	5:15 PM
Saturday	12/21/24	Open (Showcase)	Away	TBA
Sunday	12/22/24	Open (Showcase)	Away	TBA
Saturday	12/28/24	Open (North Plainfield H.S. @ Holmdel (Holiday Tournament))	Away	3:15 PM
Monday	12/30/24	Open (Mount St. Mary @ Holmdel (Holiday Tournament))	Away	5:00 PM
Saturday	01/04/25	Open (Chatham High School)	Away	1:00 PM
Tuesday	01/07/25	Jackson Memorial H.S.	Away	5:15 PM
Friday	01/10/25	Neptune High School	Away	5:15 PM
Sunday	01/12/25	Open (Hoop Group @ Brookdale)	Away	TBA
Monday	01/13/25	Wall High School	Home	5:15 PM
Thursday	01/16/25	Howell High School	Away	5:15 PM
Saturday	01/18/25	Middletown High School North	Away	11:30 AM
Tuesday	01/21/25	St. Rose High School, Belmar	Home	5:15 PM
Friday	01/24/25	Jackson Memorial H.S.	Home	6:30 PM
Saturday	01/25/25	Open (Glouster Catholic H.S.)	Home	TBA
Monday	01/27/25	Neptune High School	Home	5:15 PM
Thursday	01/30/25	Wall High School	Away	3:45 PM
Sunday	02/02/25	Open (Shore Challenge @ Holmdel H.S.)	Away	TBA
Tuesday	02/04/25	Howell High School	Home	6:30 PM
Friday	02/07/25	St. Rose High School, Belmar	Away	5:15 PM



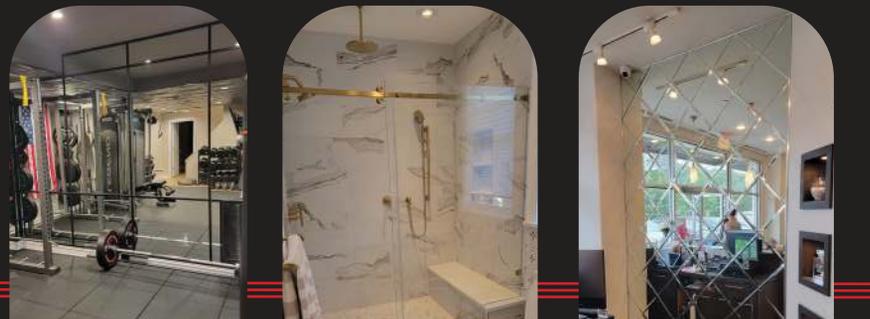
Manasquan Glass, Mirror & Shower Doors

Jersey Shore's #1 Custom Glass & Mirror Specialist for over 50 Years

209 Parker Ave. (Rt 71), Manasquan, NJ 08736

732-528-1112

manasquanglass.com





A Vision of Color Rolls into Town

By Heather Mistretta

Thirty-four racers, their families and community members turned out on October 5 for the annual Coaster Derby on Schoolhouse Road in Brielle. Sponsored by Brielle Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Brielle Fire Company, the race welcomed boys and girls in second through eighth grade that live in the southern Monmouth area. Each racer received a commemorative T-shirt, sticker, gift certificates, juice and candy.

Winning this year were first through sixth grade: Liam Lafferty 30.87, Jack Shortledge 31:10, Russel Michalitsinos 33.81, Colton North 33.94, Ella Hoppe 35.13, and Gus Conboy 35.91.

The top four winners chose between a scooter, air pods, portable speaker, and a bicycle. The Driver's Award, which is picked by the racers, was given to Colton North in car 24.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MANASQUAN!

By Heather Mistretta

Congratulations to Manasquan on their victory this year in the annual Manasquan Inlet Tug of War, sponsored again by Jersey Mike's in conjunction with 95.9 WRAT! All proceeds

generated from the event were dedicated to bolstering the recreation departments of both Manasquan and Point Pleasant Beach, reinforcing their vital roles in promoting community engagement and wellbeing.



YOUR
DINING
DESTINATION
AT THE
JERSEY
SHORE



CATERING
OFFERED FOR
BOTH PICKUP &
DELIVERY!

732.280.7501
703 BELMAR PLAZA
BELMAR, NJ 07719

The Winning Scarecrows!

Organized by the Manasquan Chamber of Commerce

The winners of the Main Street Scarecrow Contest:



First place went to Harry Potter Pumpkin head by the Stoffel Family.



Second place went to the Fisherman by Axel Arronson.



Third prize went to Grateful by Stacy Mack.

Staying Connected with Neighborhood Clubs

By Christina Novak

My mom's friends used to gather once a week for art club, rotating around to each other's homes. Each friend would bring an art project they were working on, varying from painting to rubber stamping and greeting cards to jewelry-making. Everyone would lug in their art supplies and set up their stations around the kitchen table. Then

they'd talk and laugh all night long. Art was their excuse to get together, and friendship grew out of their shared interests.

Maybe you've been thinking of starting up a neighborhood group to get to know your neighbors better. Check around and see if there are any existing groups in your neighborhood. If not, how about starting up your own? All you need is one other neighbor with an interest similar to yours. Set a date and time and invite others to join you.

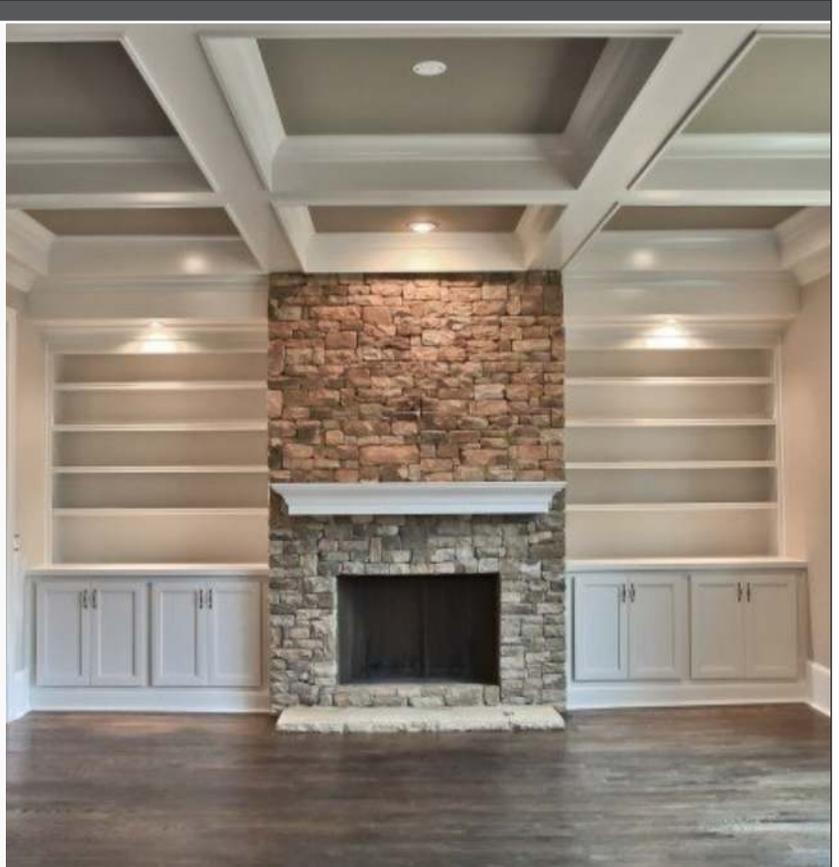
The possibilities are endless: bridge, poker or mahjong game nights, golf outings, dinner parties, book clubs, Bible studies, family movie nights, playgroups, traveling clubs, walking buddies, knitting niches, you name it!

If you are the member or leader of a new or existing neighborhood club, submit information about your group to this magazine at www.bestversionmedia.com or email hmistretta@bestversionmedia.com. We'd love to hear about it!



Crafting Quality, Delivering Durability – 30+ Years of Expert Service You Can Trust

Interior and Exterior Renovations
Additions | Kitchens | Decks
Porches | Bathrooms | Basements



732 558 8110 | ab-contracting.com | Alainbagagem@verizon.net

The Manasquan and Brielle Communities Care:

FAMILY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Compiled by Heather Mistretta

Shore Community Alliance (to help prevent alcoholism and drug abuse): (732) 223-6419

The Alliance serves the communities of Manasquan, Brielle, Sea Girt and Spring Lake Heights. It sponsors Parenting Workshops, programs for seniors, Project Graduation, Babes for elementary schools and many other important programs.

Samaritan Center of The Shore (located in Manasquan): (732) 223-HOPE (4673)
www.njsamaritan.org

The Samaritan Center is a place for families and individuals to turn for counseling, educational opportunities, and spiritual enrichment. The 501c (3) non-profit provides individuals, couples and families professional counseling in a confidential, calm and serene environment.

RAFTS NJ (located in Manasquan): (833) 227-6237 www.rafts.nj.org

RAFTS Inc. is a non-profit, non-clinical, peer-based recovery community organization providing support and resources to individuals and families impacted by substance use and related disorders. This includes in-house meetings and transitioning to outside meetings, family education, peer recovery coaching, telephone recovery support and sober living assistance. They also conduct training programs for peers using the latest evidence-based curriculums and various community events. Through these efforts, RAFTS aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote long term recovery.

Churches of the Manasquan Area

Ministerium: (732) 223-0898
www.manasquanareachurches.org
or www.manasquanfoodpantry.org

» **The Manasquan Food Pantry** is a non-denominational ministry of the Manasquan Ministerium, 14 churches in the communities of Manasquan, Brielle, Sea Girt, Spring Lake

and Spring Lake Heights and is supported by other local organizations. It operates under the guidance of the Manasquan Presbyterian Church and Fulfill. Volunteers come from a variety of occupations and lifestyles and from various congregations within the Ministerium, as well as from the community. Volunteers prepare food packages for families and individuals, and greet each client with a smile, offering friendly reassurance, or perhaps discussing times when they too needed assistance, or simply trading baking and cooking tips.

Operation Beachhead: www.opbeachhead.org

The Jersey Shore nonprofit offers veterans, troops, disabled individuals and their families, adaptive recreational, sports and social activities and hearing aid orientations. Families are encouraged to participate in the entire evaluation and fitting process.

Jameson's & Ginger's

-Barbershop & Salon-

Jameson's & Ginger's Barbershop & Salon in Sea Girt, NJ, is the perfect destination for all your grooming needs. With a team of skilled professionals that caters to men, women and children, you can expect top-notch services tailored to your style.



Sam: The owner and a master barber with 15 years of experience, Sam excels in straight razor shaves, skin fades, kids cuts and trendy haircuts, ensuring you leave looking sharp and stylish.

Whether you're in need of a haircut, shave, or blowout, Jameson's & Ginger's is ready to provide you with an exceptional experience!

(732) 449-1322

2153 NJ-35, Sea Girt, NJ 08750

mysite.vagaro.com/jamesonsandgingers





CALL NOW:
732-334-3878

NEW!
NEW CLIENTS ENJOY
\$20 off
YOUR 1ST CLEANING

SCAN HERE

- WEEKLY OR MONTHLY HOME CLEANINGS
- CONVENIENT SCHEDULING AROUND YOUR LIFESTYLE
- FLEXIBLE SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS
- PROFESSIONAL AND FULLY INSURED CLEANING TEAM

MAIDGEM
CLEANING SERVICES



Del Virginia
REALTORS

20+ Years of Trust, Now in Your Neighborhood
Your Local Real Estate Expert, Ready to Help!

Gaetana Del Virginia CDPE, SFR Broker/Owner
Danielle Del Virginia Koc Broker/Manager
38 Taylor Avenue · Manasquan, NJ 08736
delvirginiarealtors@gmail.com
DelVirginiarealtors.com
Gaetana 732-310-1198 | Danielle 848-992-0661