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JULY 2022



Meet
**KEVIN
MONKO**

PLUS

- Should I File a Property Damage Claim?
- The Ritz Theatre Company Brings the Heat
- Thomas Sharp Elementary School Mosaic Mural Project

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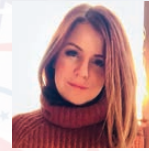


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3 Merion Ter	Collingswood	4	1/1	1,618	\$199,000	\$210,000	\$130
822 Harrison Ave	Oaklyn	3	1/1	1,120	\$250,000	\$210,000	\$188
8 E Narberth Ter	Collingswood	3	1	1,379	\$199,900	\$214,900	\$156
739 Maple Ter	Collingswood	3	1	1,092	\$249,900	\$250,000	\$229
2 W Palmer Ave	Collingswood	3	1	1,216	\$279,900	\$290,000	\$238
341 Park Ave	Collingswood	3	2	1,628	\$339,900	\$305,000	\$187
486 King Ave	Collingswood	3	1	1,152	\$235,000	\$309,000	\$268
34 Lincoln Ave	Collingswood	3	1	1,134	\$289,900	\$310,000	\$273
254 Woodlawn Ave	Collingswood	4	1/1	1,252	\$299,900	\$325,000	\$260
28 E Wayne Ter	Collingswood	3	1	1,576	\$325,000	\$345,000	\$219
725 Collings Ave	Collingswood	4	3/1	3,438	\$350,000	\$365,000	\$106
220 Richey	Collingswood	3	2	1,858	\$349,900	\$370,000	\$199
436 Comly Ave	Collingswood	3	2	1,650	\$349,000	\$375,000	\$227
233 New Jersey Ave	Collingswood	3	2/1	2,239	\$289,000	\$375,000	\$167
103 Ogden Ave	Collingswood	3	1/1	1,535	\$375,000	\$410,000	\$267

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from "I do."

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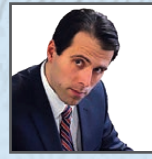
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Born and raised in Delaware County Pennsylvania, Mr. Honer has been a Collingswood resident for the better part of the past decade. In addition to his tax preparation and consultation services, Mr. Honer is an accounting teacher at the collegiate level. His professional licenses include a CPA, CFE, and Attorney license in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Lastly, he is a "die hard" Philadelphia sports fan, which he states, "usually leads to disappointment."

ARCHITECTURE: ROBERT ZMIJEWSKI "BOB Z, Principal/Owner



Remus Architecture, LLC
900 Haddon Ave, Suite 412
856-869-4980
bob@remusarchitecture.com
Robert Zmijewski, AIA, NCARB "Bob Z" is a long time Oaklyn, NJ resident. Bob is a registered architect in 12 states and has over 38 years of experience in building design, construction administration, building investigations, building inspections, and building audits. Remus Architecture is a Certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) that offers a wide range of design and planning services for new projects, renovations, and rehabilitations for both public and private sector clients. Remus Architecture's team includes 5 full time project managers with a support staff of 4. Under Bob's leadership, Remus Architecture provides an added dimension of proven design, planning expertise, and unique problem-solving abilities that result in the successful completion of projects that are aesthetically-pleasing, functionally efficient, and cost-effective.

AUDIOLOGY: JONATHAN S. AYES



Hearing Associates, LLC
d/b/a Associates in Hearing HealthCare
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856-988-1867 Ext. 219
Jon Ayes joined Associates in Hearing HealthCare in July of 2014 as Director of Operations. He became practice owner in November 2018. Jon brings 25 years of experience in managing health care practices in a manner that enhances patient experiences. When not working, Jon enjoys family time and a good golf game.

CHIMNEY SERVICES: KYLE JERMYN



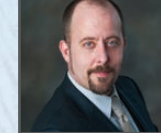
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856-433-0103
Alpinechimneyservicenj.com
Kyle Jermy, the owner of Alpine Chimney Service, is a 2nd generation chimney and fireplace professional. At 8 years old he started riding along to jobs with his father, Bob Jermy. Kyle Jermy is a Collingswood alumni and his family and business still reside in Collingswood.

DERMATOLOGY AND COSMETIC SKINCARE: DR. ANAMARIA NEWPORT, DMS, DMD*, MHS, PAC



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Owner of the Family Skin Care Center in Haddon Heights, NJ, Dr. Newport is a highly sought-after professional with extensive experience in dermatology, skincare, and cosmetic procedures using the latest technology and her own homeopathic style. A renowned public speaker, Dr. Newport is regarded as an "artist" in her industry working with patients of all ages and skin colors.

FAMILY LAW: JEFFREY ALAN KERSTETTER, ESQ.



Kerstetter Law LLC
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Born and raised on the shores of Lake Erie, Jeffrey Alan Kerstetter brings a blue collar ethic and sensibility to his practice of family law. Jeffrey takes pride in helping his clients find practical solutions to their legal issues, whether those issues are related to custody, alimony, child support, divorce, domestic violence, or post-judgment matters such as college costs or relocation out of New Jersey. Jeffrey graduated cum laude with Honors from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He then attended Rutgers - Camden School of Law, excelling in his litigation studies and working with the Domestic Violence Clinic first as a student and then, following graduation, as a legal intern. A solo practitioner since 2014, Jeffrey takes pride in providing personalized service to each and every client of Kerstetter Law, LLC.

FUNERAL SERVICES: JOHN E. WARNE, JR.



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(856) 854-0152 | (856) 547-1195 | fosterwarnefuneralhome.com
A lifelong resident of Haddon Heights, NJ, John is a 1967 graduate of Haddon Heights High School and a 1971 graduate of Seton Hall University. A licensed funeral director in NJ and PA, he started his career over 50 years ago at Foster's Funeral Home in 1971 and purchased the business which includes both Collingswood and Audubon funeral homes in 1994, adding the family name, Warne, in 2003. Marianne Carter Warne (Collingswood HS '68) and he were married in 1974 and have four children - Meggan, John III, Joseph and Katie - and seven grandchildren. Foster-Warne Funeral Home also includes Marianne, the secretary/office manager, John III and Joseph, both licensed funeral directors. "We strive to do our best to serve the needs of families in our communities - treating families as our own. Giving back to our communities is the backbone of our family business."

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The Alber Family has been serving the comfort needs of South Jersey homeowners for four generations. Bill earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University and has trained a team of home energy experts renowned for delivering high quality customer experiences. Their motto says it all: *We Fix Uncomfortable Homes!*

INSURANCE: JASON CONNELL



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Jason is the principal and owner of the Connell Insurance Agency, licensed in property, casualty, and life Insurance. He's a University of Delaware graduate and a long-term Collingswood resident. He and his family have been helping locals for the last four decades. Connell Insurance Agency (CIA), is experienced people serving the insurance needs of Collingswood citizens and nearby communities throughout South Jersey. Jason is a big advocate of consumers having choice and will work to find you the best coverage and price to fit your needs and budget. As an independent insurance agency, he works with numerous top-tier, leading insurance companies providing competitive options for his customer's needs. It's that simple and the origin of their slogan, "If you work with us, we will work for you."

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NEUROLOGY SPECIALIST: STEVEN M. BROMLEY, MD



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Dr. Steven Bromley, M.D. is a board certified Neurologist with more than two decades of experience in the medical field. Dr. Bromley owns and operates the South Jersey MS Center, a one-of-a kind, state-of-the-art private practice which treats MS and a variety of complex neurological conditions. Dr. Bromley has the highest of ratings and has received numerous accolades from his community.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST: MICHAEL S. KRESLOFF, MD



Kresloff Eye Associates | 900 Haddon Ave, Suite 102
Collingswood, NJ | 856-854-4242
www.kresloffeye.com | fb: [kresloffeyeassociates](https://facebook.com/kresloffeyeassociates)
Dr Michael Kresloff, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist, a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is a Wills Eye affiliated surgeon specializing in laser cataract and refractive surgery. His goal is to reduce or eliminate his patients' need for glasses through the use of specialized lenses that correct for prescriptions including astigmatism. He has been recognized by many online, local and national publications as a top doctor for his work and compassion.

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 Pennsylvania: 1352 South Street #C3 | Philadelphia, PA 19147 | (215)-800-1495
 New Jersey: 17 W. Ormond Avenue #100 | Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 | (856) 429-9419
 Dr. Tejy Thomas is a dual Ivy league trained and Certified

Orthodontic Specialist. In starting 'Center City Orthodontics', his vision was to have a patient centered orthodontic practice with the primary objectives of clinical excellence and patient experience. His team is proud to be able to serve the local area with their practice locations in Philadelphia and Cherry Hill. Dr. Thomas holds various positions at the state and national level with the American Association of Orthodontists, as the President of the Pennsylvania Association of Orthodontists and is currently serving as the Director of the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists. Furthermore, he has been recognized as one of the leading providers of Invisalign treatment for adults and teens in the country.

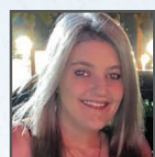
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 Dr. George Thomas Lynch, better known as "Dr. George" is

originally from Southern Delaware and received his undergraduate training at the University of Delaware. He then received his Doctorate at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Dental Medicine and further received his pediatric dental training at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Dr. George is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and an active member within the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and is excited to be serving the families within Center City Philadelphia and South Jersey. When Dr. George isn't "counting and brushing teeth," he can be found either at the gym, heading to the beach or walking his dog Hudson around the neighborhood.

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REAL ESTATE: ELIZABETH "LIZ" MASON



Sales Associate, Weichert Realtors
 Cell/Text: (856) 600-1822 | Office: (856) 394-5700
 Collingswoodrealtor.com | @Lizmasonrealtor
 Liz is a Collingswood local who is passionate about real estate and truly loves helping others through the process of home buying and selling. She's a twin mom, avid reader

and Little Free Library steward. If you're looking for a responsive and reliable realtor, or if you have any questions about the local real estate market, give her a call!

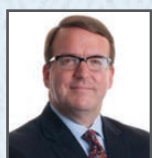
ROOFING & SIDING: TIM DASCENZO



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SENIOR LIVING: JIM CLANCY



United Methodist Communities at Collingswood
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 856- 854-4331 | collingswood.umcommunities.org
 Nestled in the quaint, vibrant town of Collingswood, New Jersey, Collingswood United Methodist Communities is a welcoming, full-service senior living community. Offering

a full continuum of care, its person-directed approach empowers residents to live a life of freedom and abundance. Collingswood is backed by the strength of United Methodist Communities, a nonprofit, faith-based organization that has served seniors for over a century.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT: FRANKIE FONTANEZ



Senior Vice President – Investment Market Manager
 200 Lake Drive E 3rd Floor | Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002
 Office: (856) 638-4868 | Cell: (215) 882-3048
 Frankie.fontanez@pnc.com
 As a Vice President and a Senior Investment Manager, Frankie Fontanez provides investment leadership in the

creation and implementation of investment strategies. Frankie also serves as an investment advisor for complex accounts. Frankie works with a team of investment advisors, experienced professionals in financial and estate services, trusts and banking services, to help clients achieve their financial objectives. Prior to joining PNC, Mr. Fontanez has spent over 30 years in the Financial Industry at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, with extensive experience in equities and options, also at Legg Mason/ Morgan Stanley as part of a Wealth Management Team with over \$500 million of assets working with individuals, entities and businesses. His professional licenses include Registered Investment Advisor, FINRA Series 7, 63 and 66 licenses. Mr. Fontanez currently resides in Collingswood, New Jersey with his wife and two children.



Meet

NORMA JEAN

A Pup with Pawly-Wood Glamour!

By KRISTEN JORGENSEN



HERE AT *COLLINGSWOOD LIVING* MAGAZINE, we believe every furry friend is special in their own way, but sometimes we meet absolutely "pawsitively purrfect" companions that deserve to spend a few moments in the spotlight! This month that honor goes to Norma Jean!

Norma Jean is a three-year-old Cavalier King Charles. She is sweet with a shy demeanor. She is new to Collingswood, and is loving every minute of exploring her new neighborhood – especially Knights Park.

Norma Jean definitely loves her downtown strolls, and meeting new friends with her dog walker RoRo. In her spare time she enjoys chewing on her "lambies," and watching tv with her dads.

Please stop and say hi when you see Norma Jean, she doesn't bite or bark! You can also follow her on Instagram @normajeanthecav. ■

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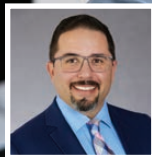
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expert contributor

Should I File a Property Damage Claim?



By JASON CONNELL

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE CAN PROTECT YOU from the unexpected. If your home is damaged or your belongings are stolen, it can help cover repairs or replacement, temporary housing and more. For example, if a tree falls through your roof, you'll likely file a property damage claim under your homeowner's policy. But what if you have an incident where you're not sure whether to file a claim? You might not know what is covered under your policy or whether your policy will cover all of the damages. Here are three questions to help you determine what to do next.

Is My Loss Covered Under My Policy? Understanding what caused the damages to your home or belongings and whether that damage is covered is key to determining whether to file a property insurance claim. Statistics compiled by the Insurance Information Institute show that wind and hail damage is the most common homeowners claim.

Your insurance policy sets forth what is covered and to what extent, so read your policy documents carefully. Once you understand how the damages were caused, you can explore if it might be covered under the policy. Some common causes of damage to your home, belongings and property include wind, hail, theft, fire, vandalism and water (burst pipe). Typically, flood, normal wear and tear, and earthquake are not covered by a standard homeowner's policy. To alleviate any confusion, you can also contact your insurance agent to differentiate coverage.

What's My Deductible? Although you may have a covered loss, the cost of the damages may not exceed your deductible, so you may not

want to file a claim. Minor damages, such as if a few roof shingles blew off in a windstorm, will often cost less to repair or replace than the total amount of your deductible. Generally, if you decide to file a claim that is paid, then your deductible will be subtracted from the amount of your covered loss.

Are There Special Policy Limits That May Apply to My Loss?

Payment for damage to certain types of property may have a special limit that applies to that type of property. For example, jewelry, comic books, collectibles or other valuables, may be limited. These sub-limits could be less than the total amount of damage to that property. This is something to consider when thinking about whether to file a claim.

If You Decide to File a Claim If you have decided to file a claim, you'll want to notify your insurance company as promptly as possible. Getting the process started will allow your insurance company to help you faster. In the meantime, if you make temporary repairs, you should keep a copy of all receipts and provide them to your Claim professional.

If you're reading through your policy and are confused about what's covered, know that you're probably not alone. "Am I covered for this?" is typically the number one question asked by customers. So, if you are also struggling with this question, ask your insurance company or agent to help with the answer. They are usually happy to help. ■

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Meet **KEVIN MONKO**
Ground Control to Collingswood

By KRISTEN JORGENSEN | Photos by BRIDGET MASSA

MEET OUR TOWN'S "GLAMOROUS GARDENING" rocker!

Only in Collingswood will you find an individual as unique as the town itself. A homegrown rockstar that is a walking juxtaposition of all that is unorthodox but with the approachability and familiarity of a small town feel, let us introduce you to Kevin Monko and his rockin' family!

Kevin was born and raised in Pennsylvania but became a Collingswood transplant 25 years ago when he and his wife Linda Figliola moved here from South Philadelphia. Linda, a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, worked as a product designer for The Franklin Mint and Lenox, among other places. Currently Linda has shifted her creative energies into a leather goods line under the label Linda Fig. Kevin graduated from Temple University with an English degree after a couple of years in radio, television, and film. But being a true creative, his interests and passions lead him into other fields of work and interests, mainly photography and music.

"I'm a professional photographer and have a couple of bands. MONKO is my band that plays my original songs, and



KEVIN, WIFE LINDA, AND SON JAKE

We would like to thank WILLIAM KIRBY LAW for bringing you this month's cover story

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Candy Volcano is a wild sort of “glam rock circus” with lots of singers and musicians focussing on 70’s tunes from people like Bowie, T. Rex, Sweet, Roxy Music and others like it.”

Kevin and his wife, met in 1988 while Kevin was working at Jerry’s, a restaurant in Philadelphia. “I was working a few days a week and she was a regular.” The two married in Philadelphia a few years later, and lived on Tasker Street in South Philadelphia for a few years before deciding to rent their home and move to the ‘burbs. “We had no intention of becoming landlords, but we couldn’t sell the space, so we just rented it instead. We’ve been very lucky to have great tenants, year after year.”

Kevin and Linda had their first child, Olivia, and decided to move to Collingswood when she was just two years old. Olivia, now an adult, grew up in town and graduated from Syracuse University. She is now living in Philadelphia writing, recording, and performing songs as Garnet Daze. The couple also have another child, Jake Monko, who’s a pretty big deal and considered a bit of a local celebrity. Jake is a Collingswood High School graduate and works a few days a week at the Candy Jar on Haddon Avenue, which is also where you can find him most of the time chatting up the locals. “Jake is awesome, everyone in town knows him. People tell us he should run for mayor,” Kevin laughs. When Jake isn’t busy at the Candy Jar, you can catch him on the basketball court. He was in 3 basketball programs in 2022, and one of his Special Olympics teams were also state champs in their division this year.

UNDER PRESSURE

Being a photographer in the middle of a global pandemic seems like a pretty bleak profession, considering the propinquity of your subjects. But Kevin knew how to pivot and get back to the roots of what photography really is, connection. “When the pandemic struck, and all of my photo jobs suddenly dried up, I was looking for a productive and fulfilling way to spend my days.

“I made an offer on social media, saying I’d come to your house, photograph your family from the front seat of my car, and send you high resolution black-and-white images to use as you please. If you wanted to donate any amount to the project, you could, but if you chose not to, or couldn’t afford it for any reason, the offer still stood. I enjoyed the challenge and the limited perspective and always came away satisfied with what we were able to capture. As people were hunkering down in their homes, I expected to be photographing a little more anxiety, if not despair, but the fact that people had something fun and different to downs often more likely to elicit the joy, even goofiness, that appears in many of the images. While most people I know were locked in their homes, I was lucky to be out seeing friends and meeting new people daily, albeit from 30-100 feet away. The community was generous, interest in the project was terrific, and I photographed over 300 homes,” explains Kevin. “The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a feature story on the project, and there were also features on ABC and Channel 17.” A book is also in the works and will be





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delivered in time for an exhibit at Perkins Art Center in Collingswood, NJ this coming November.

LET'S DANCE

Another passion in Kevin's life is obviously music. A major audiophile, music is a big part of Kevin's day to day life, and he wanted to find a way to bring more of that into town.

"When I moved to Collingswood, I loved how close we were to Philly so I could continue to engage with my music community over there, but I soon discovered a wealth of incredibly creative musicians and artists here," explains Kevin. That lightbulb, "a-ha moment", was the birth of Porchfest which debuted in 2017.

"My friend Jake and I went to West Philly Porchfest a few years ago, and after describing it to my friend Stacey Downham, we decided we could do it way better here in Collingswood. Our friend Sara Breyer came onboard to help organize and it gets bigger and better every year. Our friend John Falco designs t-shirts and maps, we print the maps and schedules and people plan their day, criss-crossing town on bikes and on foot to catch all the great talent, both local and from out of town and then the Party family hosts an afterparty. It's a highlight of the year for a lot of people."

Another mashup of music and altruism assembled by Monko was The Beatles/Stones Invitational. Kevin explains, "A few years ago I convinced Ted Velykis at Collingswood Music and Sara O'Brien from Community Rocks to partner up with me and stage The Beatles/Stones Invitational, where we get 30 or so acts to perform one Beatles song and one Rolling Stones song, the public donates money, merchants donate goods and services for auction, and all the proceeds go to music lessons for kids. Because Ted also forgoes his cut of music lesson fees, we can really stretch the money and have managed to give years of lessons to a bunch of deserving kids. We even ask the performers to chip in and they do, which is fantastic."

WILD IS THE WIND

When Kevin isn't busy performing with his bands, or helping to rock Collingswood in the best possible ways, you can find this maverick volunteering in the Collingswood Community Garden on Washington Avenue or the Cattell Avenue location. The mission of the garden is to develop borough open space into community gardens, creating a place for neighbors to work collaboratively and experience the rewards of



KEVIN IN HIS MUSIC STUDIO

"When I moved to Collingwood, I loved how close we were to Philly so I could continue to engage with my music community over there, but I soon discovered a wealth of incredibly creative musicians and artists here."

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gardening. Kevin tends to his own crop plot quite often and spends time tending to the public community garden where they donate the harvested food to local food banks.

Another outlet of interest for Kevin and his wife is traveling to Cliff Island, Maine. "We have traveled to Cliff Island for two weeks every summer since I met my wife in 1988. We fish, hike and bike, take boat rides, do some sports, walk goats, play music, make art, slow down and spend time with friends from all over the country (and Europe) we've made over the years. We even occasionally take a dip in the chilly bay."

A local night out for the couple consists of dinner at their favorite local Italian restaurant, Zeppoli. "We absolutely love eating at Zeppoli." Kevin declares. "A fun fact, owner and chef Joseph Baldino used to be our paperboy in South Philadelphia years ago. It was awesome to see him open this great spot and have all the success of an excellent restaurant that people really enjoy."

With ending our interview, I asked Kevin what he loved most about living in Collingswood, to which he replied quickly "What I've learned living in this community is how eager people are to chip in and help out when presented with an opportunity. They want to participate in something they can get behind. Volunteerism lives here."

You can Kevin's photography work on his professional website at monkphoto.com.



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CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSAL IN FULL SWING
L-R: EDWIN "RICO" SANTIAGO (DIRECTOR), JORDAN EDMONDSON (BENNY), AND JULIÁN PÉREZ (USNAVI)

By ROBERT REPICI
Communications Manager, The Ritz Theatre Company

LIGHTS UP ON WASHINGTON HEIGHTS! Ready and raring to fire up summer with the final show of its "Grand Reopening" season, The Ritz Theater Company is proud to present *In the Heights*, the Tony Award-winning musical (and enduring cultural phenomenon) by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Quiara Alegria Hudes. Directed by Edwin "Rico" Santiago, the production runs at The Ritz from July 15th through July 31st.

"When I first saw *In the Heights* on Broadway, I was overcome with emotion after the opening number," recalls Mr. Santiago. "I was watching a musical about people, my people, that wasn't *West Side Story*. Each and every character was someone in my life. It's very personal to me. As if I'm directing what a day in the life was like for me growing up in Camden. Our neighborhood was a very close one. When one person succeeded, the entire neighborhood succeeded. It was commonplace to see my dad on the porch playing his guitar and have our neighbors step out with their own instruments and play along. All the while, we're dancing salsa on the sidewalk. I grew up listening to rap/hip-hop and Spanish music. It almost feels like this musical was written specially for me in some weird sense. I'm sure many other Latinx people who have heard the music or who have seen the musical feel the same way as I do. I had the honor of playing Usnavi in a production of *In the Heights* six years ago. Now I get to direct a new generation of phenomenally talented Latinx actors at the historic Ritz Theatre. I couldn't have asked for a more perfect way to spend my summer."

In the Heights tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood—a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest

struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind.

"Although this show is about the lives of a Latinx community over three days, I feel as though everyone, no matter where you're from, can relate to this show," says Mr. Santiago. "A lost loved one. Financial hardships. A strong focus on family and community. These are things that happen everywhere and will always be relevant to all communities. I can't emphasize this enough, but this cast is chock-full of amazingly talented Latinx and Black artists. If I want to see a show about what life is like in this community, then I want to see people who look like me, my family, and my friends. People who go through real-life experiences and struggles just like the next person. It was very important to me to have the community I grew up in represented. I think audiences will see and appreciate it."

Rounding out Mr. Santiago's creative team on this project are music director André Vermeulen, choreographer Katharina Muñoz, and stage manager Mia Rose DiFilippo. In relation to the cast, the production features Julián Pérez as Usnavi, Melany McCarson as Vanessa, Jordan Edmondson as Benny, Naomi Serrano as Nina, AJ Mun as Sonny, Carmen Delia Bryant as Abuela Claudia, Erik Medina as Kevin Rosario, Krista Reinhardt as Camila Rosario, Jen Rosario as Daniela, Emily Colón as Carla, Sanya Johnson as Graffiti Pete, Kyrus Keenan Westcott as Piragua Guy, and performers Kyra Janaé Bryant, Audrey Floyd, Evan Hairston, Armando Mendez, Tiara Nock, Jeremiah Rosado, and Kyle Smith as members of the show's versatile ensemble. All are incredibly excited to bring this vibrant, dynamic, high-energy musical to the Ritz stage and to share this story with the entire community.

"Having people in the audience being able to look up at the stage and see people who look like them was a very big deal for me," says Mr. Santiago. "Representation matters. I've been involved in theater for over 35 years and this is the most diverse cast I have ever worked with. I wanted to make sure that the artists who were involved in this project had the same passion about representing their community as I did. My production staff and I have really made a concerted effort to incorporate different styles of movement in the show from hip hop to salsa. There's something for everyone in this show. We focus on family. Ultimately, I want the young Latinx people who come to see this show know that there is a place for them at The Ritz. There is a place for all of us in the theater. Who knows, maybe this will inspire someone to create the next diverse and inclusive blockbuster like *In the Heights* or *Hamilton*. That's what it's really about." ■



CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSAL CONTINUES ON - AT CENTER: MELANY MCCARSON (VANESSA)

The Ritz Theater Company
presents
IN THE HEIGHTS
July 15-July 31, 2022

Directed by
EDWIN "RICO" SANTIAGO
Music & Vocal Direction by
ANDRÉ VERMEULEN
Choreography by
KATHARINA MUÑOZ
Stage Management by
MIA ROSE DIFILIPPO

Cast

Julián Pérez as Usnavi
Melany McCarson as Vanessa
Jordan Edmondson as Benny
Naomi Serrano as Nina
AJ Mun as Sonny
Carmen Delia Bryant as Abuela Claudia
Erik Medina as Kevin Rosario
Krista Reinhardt as Camila Rosario
Jen Rosario as Daniela
Emily Colón as Carla
Sanya Johnson as Graffiti Pete
Kyrus Keenan Westcott as Piragua Guy
Ensemble: Kyra Janaé Bryant, Audrey Floyd, Evan Hairston, Armando Mendez, Tiara Nock, Jeremiah Rosado, Kyle Smith

Performance Dates & Times

Friday | July 15 | 8 pm
Saturday | July 16 | 8 pm
Sunday | July 17 | 2 pm
Wednesday | July 20 | 7:30 pm
Friday | July 22 | 8 pm
Saturday | July 23 | 8 pm
Sunday | July 24 | 2 pm
Wednesday | July 27 | 7:30 pm
Friday | July 29 | 8 pm



DIRECTOR EDWIN "RICO" SANTIAGO IN THE MIDST OF SHAPING A SCENE IN THE SHOW

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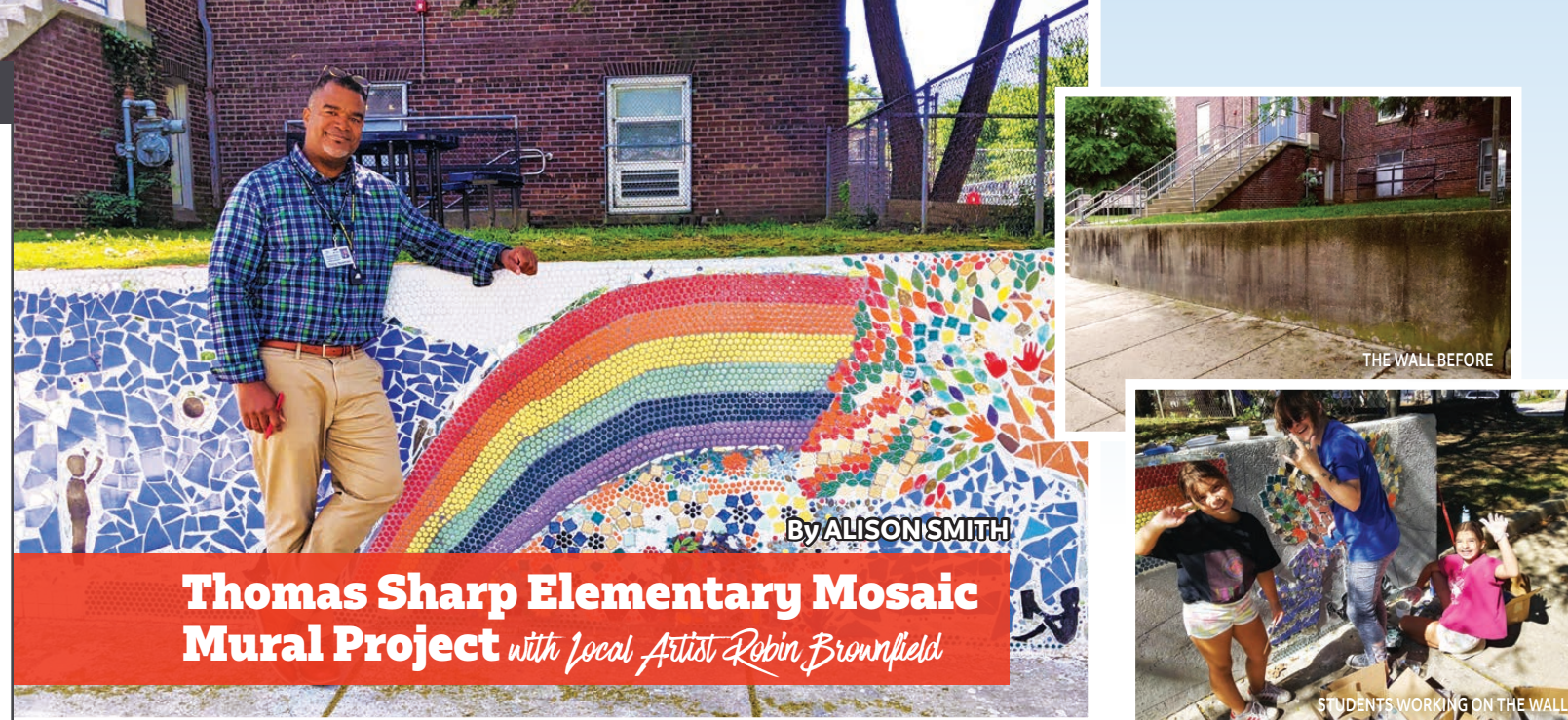
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Thomas Sharp Elementary Mosaic Mural Project with local Artist Robin Brownfield

By ALISON SMITH

LAST YEAR WAS THE FIRST SCHOOL YEAR with our new Principal, Mr. Doug Newman. One of the first things he noticed was that the school needed dressing up, as we have a 66-foot retainer wall on the outside of the building that needed an upgrade. I suggested reaching out to my neighbor Robin Brownfield to do one of her mosaic pieces. We never imagined that Robin would take on the entire wall but maybe a section.

The work began in the fall of October 2021. Participation to work on the wall was offered and just about every Saturday with some Sundays, many of us were showing up to help.

We spent most of the Fall until the weather wasn't cooperating and then picked back up in the Spring. It's finally done and we are so proud of it.

The plaque we will be unveiling at the dedication/ribbon cutting will say:

"Childhood Memories"

These walls are dedicated to the children, teachers, staff, parents, family, friends, and community. We learn and share through play and creativity, through reading, thinking, and daydreaming. We learn through running, jumping, singing, shouting, talking, laughing, crying, observing, feeling, and quietly listening to the world. These walls are dedicated to curiosity and finding answers, to memories and making future memories.

By Robin Brownfield with support from the Thomas Sharp Elementary PTA and Sharp Community

Here are some quotes from some of the community that worked with Robin:

"I enjoyed working on different parts of the mural and really appreciate the overall experience. I like how the rainbow, the hands and the tree turned out... 'that's because of her vision.' Robin is truly a creative, talented artist that Sharp was fortunate to have on board working with us. Things are happening here at Thomas Sharp Elementary. The school is changing, just take a look!"

—Douglas Newman, Principal, Thomas Sharp Elementary

"It was truly wonderful to be a part of the mural experience. It was really amazing being able to work with Robin, our Famous Mural Artist. The mural project not only brightens our community, it brought our community together to learn, have fun, and build."

—Doreen Miller, Resident

"The mural was always so fun to go to. I would always have fun working, and talking to my friends in the process. You always worked SO hard, and no matter the day, you would always be there. After school, and even on the weekends, you would be there. This mural is making Sharp more fun for everybody. I enjoyed going to the mural because I knew it would make Sharp even better. Thank you, Mrs. Robin!"

—Julietta Santos-Serrao, 5th grade Sharp Student

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July EVENTS

At the time this magazine went to print, all events, times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information.

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MON., JULY 4

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Scottish Rite Auditorium, 315 White Horse Pike, Collingswood

Learn about animals that live in coral reefs and see a live animal!

TIME: 12-12:45 PM | COST: Free
www.collingswoodlib.org/eventcalendar

SUN, JULY 24

Sixth Annual Collingswood Masters Swim Meet

Roberts Pool, 215 Hillcrest Ave, Collingswood
Swimmers ages 19-119 from all communities are invited to participate in a for-all-skill-levels swim competition.

TIME: 9 AM-2 PM
www.collsmarlins.com/marlins-masters-meet.html

TUE, JULY 26-THU, JULY 28

Disney's "The Little Mermaid Jr."

Collingswood Middle School, 414 W Collings Ave, Collingswood

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Odyssey of the Mind

COLLINGSWOOD RECREATION PROGRAM

By BEN GARVEY
President, Collingswood Recreation Program Odyssey of the Mind

Division 1 (grades 3-5)

Problem 1 – Escape vroOM

- Coastal Plains Regional: 1st place
- State Finals: 2nd place
- Coaches: Doug Robbins & Patrick Reidy

Problem 1 – Escape vroOM

- Coastal Plains Regional: 2nd place
- State Finals: 4th place
- Coaches: Kenneth Allendoerfer & Nancy Hislip

Problem 3 – Classics... (Name Here) The Musical Production

- Coastal Plains Regional: 1st place
- State Finals: 3rd place
- Coaches: Andrea Haines & Jess Todd

Problem 5 – Life is a Circus

- Coastal Plains Regional: 2nd place
- State Finals: 3rd place
- Coaches: Regan Kaiden & Maria Hadjitheocharous

Division 2 (grades 6-8)

Problem 3 – Classics... (Name Here) The Musical Production

- Coastal Plains Regional: 2nd place
- State Finals: 2nd place
- World Finals: 10th place
- Coaches: Urmila Malvadkar & Dolores Reilly

Problem 5 – Life is a Circus

- Coastal Plains Regional: 1st place
- NJ State Finals: 3rd place
- World Finals: 24th place
- Coaches: Angie Patterson & Corrine Blake

Division 3 (grades 9-12)

Problem 2 – Odyssey ReOMvention

- Coastal Plains: 1st Place + Ranatra Fusca Award
- NJ State Finals: 1st Place, NJ State Champions
- World Finals: 5th Place + Ranatra Fusca Award
- Coach: Stephen Hwang

Problem 5 – Life is a Circus

- Coastal Plains Regional: 1st place
- NJ State Finals: 2nd place
- World Finals: 11th place
- Coaches: Ben Garvey & Kelly Zenfell

THE TENTH SEASON OF ODYSSEY OF THE MIND IN Collingswood, part of the Collingswood Recreation Program, recently concluded – its most successful yet! We fielded 8 competitive teams (3rd-12th grade) and a non-competitive Primary Club (2nd grade). The program involved more than 60 Collingswood kids and more than 20 adult volunteers who served as coaches, judges, and workshop instructors. All 8 of our teams competed at the Coastal Plains Regional Tournament in March, held at Woodstown High School and at the New Jersey State Finals in April, held Princeton High School. Four of our teams advanced to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, held May 25-28 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Our teams placed 5th, 10th, 11th, and 24th in the world for their respective problems, competing against teams all over the country and the world, including strong teams from Poland and South Korea. The detailed results are shown at left.

In addition to their amazing 5th place finish at World Finals, our Problem 2, Division 3 team received a Ranatra Fusca Award. This award is given to a team or individual for demonstrating outstanding creativity and it embodies the highest honor in OM. This is the first Ranatra Fusca received by a Collingswood Rec OM team at World Finals. In particular, the judges were blown away by the fully playable pipe organ that the team created mostly out of scraps and trash, and which was powered by an air mattress.

Congratulations Quincy Brown, Jack Chunko, Jacob Egerton, Jacob Hwang, Matthew Hwang, Ezra Tapper, and Daniel Wynne for your outstanding creative achievement. And thank you to their longtime and patient coach, Stephen Hwang, who has been an OM coach with our program for the past 9 seasons.

Finally, one of our graduating class of 2022 OMers, Muriel Celia, was honored by the New Jersey Odyssey of the Mind organization with the Rita Ostroff Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship for her 8 seasons as an OMer and her commitment to the values of OM: teamwork, creativity, and perseverance. Though she did not compete in OM herself this season, Muriel served as an assistant coach for one of our Division 1 teams. Congratulations Muriel and good luck in college and beyond!

Collingswood Rec OM is one of the largest and most successful OM programs in New Jersey due to the support we receive from the Collingswood community, especially the Recreation Program headed by Jacob Goodman. Given all the disruptions and



uncertainty of the past two years, it was great to be back in person this year and we are incredibly proud and grateful to have had such a successful season. Congratulations to all our teams and thank you to our hardworking coaches, judges, board members, booster club, and other volunteers.

What is Odyssey of the Mind?

Odyssey of the Mind, known as OM, is an international creativity competition for kids. Teams develop creative solutions to problems and bring their solutions to regional, state, and world competitions. Participating in OM helps kids learn problem-solving, teamwork, inventing and testing, improvisation and performing, visual art and design, engineering, mechanics, and building, writing and storytelling, and presentation skills. OM is also a lot of fun. Kids are encouraged to pursue their ideas with minimal assistance from adults, which can lead to innovative, unexpected, and amazing results! In the past 10 seasons, our Collingswood Rec OM teams have won numerous regional and state awards for their solutions. 20 of our teams have competed at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Any child in grades 3 through 12 who lives in or goes to school in Collingswood, Oaklyn, or Woodlynne is eligible to participate in Collingswood Rec OM. The season begins in the fall and the tournaments occur March through May.

We are always looking for adults to serve as volunteer coaches, instructors, judges, and other roles. The number of teams is limited by the number of available coaches, so please consider joining us! Mentoring and free coach training is available.

For more information about the program, visit our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/collingswoodom. For additional information about Odyssey of the Mind visit www.odysseyofthemind.com and njootm.org.



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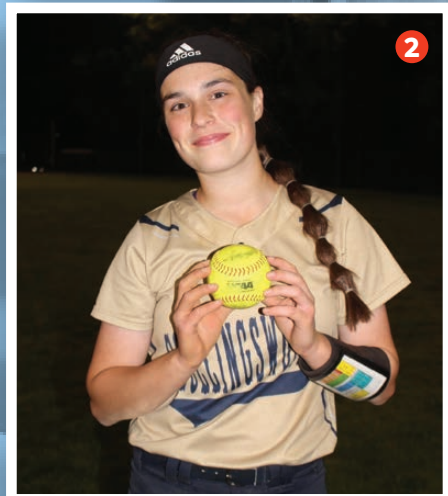
Collingswood SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

By KRISTEN JORGENSEN

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1

1. Congratulations to **Noelle** and **Isabella** to being named to the all tournament team today. Great job today, ladies!

2. We wish our seniors congratulations on a successful career. They will be missed next year.

3. Congratulations to freshman **Piper Wright** for 2nd team All Conference Liberty Division and setting the school record for strikeouts at 125.



3



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Meet Local Artist: Justin from Cedarwood and Oak

By KRISTEN JORGENSEN



MEET LOCAL ARTIST JUSTIN MCCARTY from Cedarwood and Oak Design Studio!

What's the name of your business?
Cedarwood and Oak Design Studio, Justin McCarty.

What does Cedarwood and Oak Design Studio specialize in?

Home décor, handmade art, and furniture restoration.

What inspired you to create your business ?

I recently moved back to the area in the summer of 2021 and I wanted to make a creative outlet for myself. I have always loved working with interior spaces, designing and creating things for the home. This is a business fueled from passion.

What inspires you as an artist ?

Inspiration is found everywhere. I tend to channel from different periods throughout time. I particularly love the mid century modern era of the 1950's and the art from the 1970's era. I also have a deep love of the décor and the nostalgia of the Titanic era of the early 1900's.

Why do you love creating ?

I love creating because it allows for me to express myself. Whatever I'm feeling, I get to let it out through creation. It's a cathartic process of self expression.

Other artists you love or inspire you?

Keith Haring, Michael Basquiat, Herman Miller, and Vivian Westwood

Where can we shop your art work?

Cedarwoodand oak@gmail.com to be contacted for purchasing and custom projects.

You can also find me at local fairs or follow us on our social media to find out more information @Cedarwoodandoak on Instagram! I also hope to have an online store soon! ■



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The Summer's HOTTEST Accessory: LASH LIFT AND TINT AT SKINTEGRITY SPA



By KRISTEN JORGENSEN

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE SUMMER MONTHS and the hot, muggy weather that accompanies it, we are with you on TEAM no makeup.

As good as going *au natural* on your face feels, we totally understand that sometimes it's hard to ditch all our routine makeup habits. The good news, and great summer solution, is you can look great and cut down on makeup with lash lifts and tint. Throw perfect brows in for good measure, and you can feel confident stepping out into the summer heat. Added bonus, less makeup application, equals more time to enjoy the beach and outdoors.

So what's a lift and tint?

A lift does just what it sounds like it does; it lifts, curls, and gives your natural lashes definition. The tint then makes them darker and more noticeable.

Sounds great, right? Keep reading, it gets better.

The procedure lasts about 45-60 minutes.

First, your lashes are thoroughly cleansed. There can't be anything on them!

Next, gel pads are applied to your bottom lashes so they can't get in the way of the top ones getting all the attention.

Once those are on, a small, medium, or large rod (depending on your lash size) is placed. A gentle adhesive is applied to the lashes to lift them onto the rod.

The first step in the actual processing; the setting solution. This is essentially a gentler version of a perming solution (hello 7th grade flashbacks) that allows your lashes to curl over the rod. This sets for 5-10 min. This is then removed.

Next, a neutralizing solution is applied to deactivate the setting solution. This sets for 5-7 min.

Last but not least, a tint is applied and this sits for a few minutes before getting removed. *Voilà...* you have beautiful lashes!

Your lashes will stay lifted and tinted for 6-8 weeks, depending on how fast your lashes fall out and replace themselves.

We lose 1-5 lashes everyday and once the new ones in, they grow in straight. So if you want to keep these beautiful lashes the way they are, just schedule an appointment every 5-7 weeks! ■




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eat local



Something About Sandwiches

By KRISTEN JORGENSEN

HHEY, I'M KRISTEN, THE FACE, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND writer behind "Eat Local" and a few other things here at *Collingswood Living* magazine. I adore food. Eating it, cooking it, photographing it, promoting it, and most importantly, sharing it with others!

For the July edition of *Collingswood Living*, I really wanted to share with you one of my favorite subjects - the "sandwich!" I mean what's not to love really? I truly believe people don't realize how much they love a good sandwich. They're insanely versatile and perfect for so many different occasions. Alongside that, I LOVE being creative with food, and with sandwiches the possibilities are just absolutely endless.

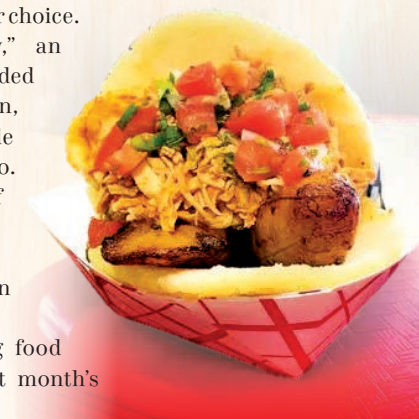
My first favorite local sandwich comes from the "OG of Collingswood" sandwich spots, **The Pop Shop Collingswood!** There's never a shortage of sandwiches to choose from at The Pop Shop, but my favorite "go to" is without a doubt "The Honeymoon" chicken sandwich. This crazy concoction consists of grilled chicken, honey mustard, avocado, caramelized onions, and cheddar on ciabatta. Its a mixture of classic, crazy, simple and fun ingredients, all rolled into one sandwich. The only problem with visiting the Pop Shop is they run monthly specials, which offer limited edition sandwiches for the month, causing the problem of slight betrayal to my classic favorite. The "other" sandwich I'm digging on this month's special board was their "Blueberry Balsamic Grilled Cheese" - a classic grilled cheese paying homage to the "Jersey Blub" and all it's blueberry goodness and glory. This sandwich was an "ooey- gooey" mess of blueberry jam, spinach, and mozzarella cheese, on my favorite type of sandwich bread - sourdough! Both sandwiches were served with fries and a zesty pickle!

To enjoy another local sandwich, I didn't need to go to far, just right down the road a few doors to **Maria's Bread Shop**. A new kid

on the block to Collingswood, Maria's Bread Shop has been slinging sandwiches for years at their Philly location. My favorite is the shaved pork loin sandwich made with fresh Smith Poultry Pork loin, provolone, and broccoli rabe pesto on toasted sourdough. It's nice - real nice, and you should probably treat yourself.

The final sandwich on this edition of "Eat Local" comes from **Que Rica's** and I don't even know where to begin to explain the deliciousness of this sandwich. Que Rica's is also located on Haddon Avenue, but in Westmont. Que Rica's proudly brings authentic and locally inspired South American flavors and Venezuelan street food to South Jersey. There is a ton of great options on the menu to please the palate of any proper foodie, but to stick to the theme, I ordered one of their arepas. An arepa is certainly not a standard looking sandwich, but it still counts in my book and they're a staple of Venezuelan cuisine. Light, fluffy and handmade with corn, they're made daily at Que Rica's and are stuffed with fillings of your choice. I ordered the "Shaggy," an arepa stuffed with shredded chicken, sweet plantain, fried queso blanco, pico de gallo, and cilantro mojo. It was nothing short of "ahhh-mazing" and I can't wait to go back and order something else in the name of research!

For more intriguing food lore, stay tuned for next month's "Eat Local!" ■



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Pride Parade



Kim Goodman from Upcycle Fitness was pumped to strut in the parade and support HTEI too!

Collingswood Living was a proud sponsor of this year's Haddon Township Equity Initiative Pride Parade!

This is just ahhhazing! Local artist Tatiana @tnieves_ had a vision to celebrate love and painted this storefront to kick off Pride Month. We think she nailed it!



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THAI Chicken SALAD

By MADISON FARKAS

INGREDIENTS

SALAD

- 3 chicken breasts
- 1½ cups broken vermicelli noodles
- 2 cups fresh bean sprouts
- 4 green onions, sliced
- 3 cups lettuce, shredded
- ¼ cups crushed salted peanuts
- ¼ cup cilantro

DRESSING

- ⅓ cup Thai peanut sauce (see below)
- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- ½ tsp. sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 Tbsp. cilantro, minced

THAI PEANUT SAUCE

- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup lime juice
- ¼ cup rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. fresh ginger
- 1 Tbsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ cup chicken broth

DIRECTIONS

1. Brush the chicken with oil and your favorite spices and grill until cooked through.
2. Soak the vermicelli in hot water for a few minutes until al dente. Strain out the noodles with a pasta server and bring the water to a boil.
3. Blanch the bean sprouts for 30 seconds and drain the water.
4. Rinse the noodles and bean sprouts in cold water, and place them in a large serving dish. Then, top them with lettuce and half the green onion.
5. In a sealable container, shake all dressing ingredients. Then, pour the dressing over the salad and toss lightly. Garnish with peanuts, cilantro and the remaining green onion. ■



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