

EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY



Fall gourds and other produce have replaced the summer bounty at farmers markets. Here Stuart Faunes of Asprocola Acres in Millstone sells items at the Monmouth Beach Farmer's Market. **MICHELE J. KUHN**

IT'S YOUR TURN

Letters to the Editor

Misuse of Disability Placards

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to all of you using your deceased Aunt Rose's accessible parking placard. You know who you are. You tell your friends that you only use it when you're driving an arthritic friend. But that is not always the case. And either way, it's illegal. As it says right on the placard, you must also be carrying a current, valid Disabled Persons' ID card.

And I also see some people jogging out of LA Fitness and bouncing up into their Escalades in the accessible parking spot. Yes, "all disabilities aren't visible," but you people are kidding no one.

And the bad news for all of you is that the MVC (Motor Vehicle Commission) changed the law effective Aug. 1, 2013 that all persons using placards or plates must be medically recertified every three years as continuing to have a serious medical condition. The MVC website specifies these conditions. Being overweight or having an occasional "bad back" are not listed, since these affect between 60 and 80 percent of the population at some time.

The M.D. must also enclose a current prescription with a diagnostic code. When the new paperwork is submitted to the MVC, they will issue a new Disabled Person's ID, as well as a new placard or plate, which will be in a different format.

So, for all of you "poachers" out there, your placard/plate will expire in two years, Aug. 1, 2016. That is, unless you can convince an M.D. that Aunt Rose is still alive. Good luck.

Also, the New Jersey police should start asking people using the accessible parking spots, especially when they're jogging out of the gym or appear unusually fit, for their current Disabled Person's ID. The police are probably hesitant to do so for fear of

offending a legitimately disabled person. But the opposite is true. Those who are truly legit will be glad that someone is checking for the poachers.

*Kathleen McNellis
Middletown*

Kudos to Army Corps of Engineers, NJ DEP

To the Editor:

As summer 2014 ends, we extend our thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for their role in providing an outstanding season for New Jersey's beaches.

The entire shoreline from Sandy Hook to Cape May Point has never looked better as a result of the Corps post-Sandy beach replenishment projects. Thanks also to Gov. Christie and our Congressional representatives whose advocacy on behalf of our Sandy-devastated communities provided New Jersey with federal funding for the beach projects.

The Corps of Engineers and DEP Protection coastal engineers will continue their work along the shore over the coming months and into early 2015 including projects in Port Monmouth, Sea Bright, Long Branch, Elberon, Loch Arbor, Mantoloking, Long Beach Island, and Northern Ocean County from Berkeley Township to Point Pleasant.

One of every 11 people in New Jersey and adjoining states lives within 50 miles of the Jersey Shore and our beaches are the magnet that attracts people to the Jersey Shore to live and visit. The Jersey Shore's \$19 billion tourism revenues represent one-half of the state's total tourism dollars and Super Storm Sandy reminded us just how important our beaches are to the state's tourism economy.

Blessed by good weather, the summer of 2014 at the Jersey Shore delivered a much-needed economic boost.

As we move into the fall and winter seasons, we need to remember that our beaches require year-round protection and maintenance.

Volunteer to plant dunes and erect storm fences, participate in beach sweeps, support efforts to limit coastal development and let your elected officials know you appreciate their efforts to bring back and support our beaches.

*Margot Walsh
Executive Director
Jersey Shore Partnership*

Supporting Healthier Lives for All

To the Editor:

As a busy working mother, I often ask myself, why do I volunteer? There aren't enough hours in the day as it is, so why do I add one more thing to my plate?

The answer is simple: Life Is Why.

As a board member for the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, I know that I'm supporting something important: healthier lives. And it doesn't just apply to my own life. The American Heart Association strives toward healthier families, healthier friends, healthier communities and a healthier country. From tackling the obesity crisis to funding cardiovascular research to providing education in workplaces and schools to urging our governments to enable accessible, healthy options in our communities, the American Heart Association plays a role in almost every aspect of our lives.

But the American Heart Association can't do it alone. The time and talent of volunteers is why the American Heart Association is able to pursue a healthier world, free of heart disease and stroke – our community's No. 1 and No. 4 leading causes of death. Consider what your time and talents might offer in the fight for living longer, stronger moments.

Why do I volunteer? My father had his first heart attack at the age of 53. He was bent over a dining room chair while telling my mother and me of the severe pressure in his chest. I was only 15 years of age.

My dad surviving his heart attack is why. I ask you, what's your why?

*Carleen Kelly
Chair, Central NJ American Heart Association and
American Stroke Association Board of Directors
Robbinsville*

Vietnam Vet Foundation Educates and Honors

To the Editor:

The people of New Jersey owe a large debt of gratitude to those who served their country during the Vietnam War. To date, 1,562 men and 1 woman are commemorated at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. NJVVMF is dedicated to telling their stories and to memorializing their ultimate sacrifices. At this writing, it is estimated that 151,000 Vietnam veterans are residents of New Jersey. Upon returning from Vietnam and re-enter-

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Letters To The Editor

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ing the workforce, they have contributed to New Jersey's economy, raised families in New Jersey towns and cities and continue to be important threads in the fabric of our diverse state.

The Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center is the only one of its kind in the country! It is a hub of learning for tens of thousands of students and school faculty members from across the tristate area. Students are eager to learn about the Vietnam Era and its impact on New Jersey and the United States, both then and now. Donations help us design and bring vibrant exhibits, engaging presenters and informative programs to the public. NJVVMF programs present diverse views of the events and decisions that took place during the tumultuous Vietnam Era. School faculty members gain professional credits by attending our popular Teachers' Forum. NJVVMF awards two scholarships annually to college-bound high school seniors and proudly hosts seminars and programs that assist veterans in understanding their rights and taking advantage of the many benefits available to them.

We are fully aware that the future of this New Jersey treasure is reliant on support by those who desire to preserve the legacy of all who served in the military during the Vietnam Era and those who served in Vietnam.

We are grateful for your ongoing support of the foundation and for your participation in our programs and offerings.

*Bill Linderman
Executive Director*

Kortney Rose Foundation Raises \$42,000 at Walk

To the Editor:

The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) is happy to announce records for both attendance and funds raised at the 9th annual Kortney's Challenge 2-Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park. Kortney's Challenge drew 540 supporters raising more than \$42,000 to support research for pediatric brain cancer, the No.1 tumor-related cause of death in children, age 19 and under. The funds directly benefit The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) world-class pediatric brain tumor research consortium.

This year's event participation grew by 27 percent and funds raised increased by 24 percent compared to last year.

The KRF presents a check to CHOP annually, with donations-to-date totaling more than \$750,000. This year, the portion of the annual donation raised from Kortney's Challenge will be donated in the name of 15-year-old Oceanport resident, Alex Munoz. Alex has been battling a brain tumor for over a year, and is being treated at CHOP. His participation, along with friends and family who formed "Team Alex," served as additional inspiration to both runners and the organizers.

Additionally there were seven other families participating who have been affected by a brain tumor. Thanks to all who participated and donated.

*Kristin Gillette
President and Founder of The Kortney Rose Foundation
Oceanport*



COURTESY DORN'S CLASSIC IMAGES

Two River Moment

The Bubble Bounce at Palace Amusements was housed in the same building in Asbury Park where the famous grinning "Tilly" was painted on the outside. This photo was taken in 1957.