



The Causeway Gazette

www.CausewayGazette.com

Proudly serving Manahawkin, Barnegat, and surrounding communities

February 2026 • Number 141

More Than a Grocery Store: ShopRite's Ongoing Commitment to Fulfill

The grand opening of the new ShopRite in Manahawkin marks more than just the arrival of a state of the art grocery store for our community. It represents the continuation of a decades long commitment to fighting hunger and supporting local families in need.

For years, ShopRite, through both Saker ShopRites and Wakefern Food Corporation, has been a dedicated partner of Fulfill, the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Fulfill works tirelessly to alleviate hunger and build food security by supplying more than 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters, while also connecting families to essential resources that promote long term stability.

Saker ShopRites have supported Fulfill since 2010, contributing more than \$425,000 in lifetime giving. Their generosity has helped fund major initiatives, including the establishment of Fulfill's BEAT Center and the current Path to Plenty Warehouse Expansion. These projects were designed to increase capacity and better serve neighbors facing food insecurity. In 2011, Richard and Laura Saker were honored with Fulfill's annual Humanitarian Award in recognition of their leadership and dedication.

Beyond individual store contributions, Wakefern Food Corporation, the cooperative of which all Saker ShopRite stores are members, has provided more than \$6.7 million in charitable support to Fulfill since 1999. Much of this support comes through Wakefern's Partners in Caring program, the annual Check Out Hunger campaign that engages customers at the register, and direct grants that help sustain Fulfill's critical programming.

The opening of the Manahawkin ShopRite reinforces this powerful partnership between business and



Richard Saker and members of the Saker Family of ShopRites presenting a gift of \$10,000 to Fulfill President and CEO Triada Stampas, Vice Chair of Board of Trustees Joseph Stroffolino and members of the Fulfill team.

community. As Fulfill continues its mission to end hunger in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, strong corporate partners like ShopRite and Wakefern remain essential to expanding impact and reaching more families in need.

At The Causeway Family of Dealerships, supporting local nonprofits is at the heart of what we do. With Marketing Director Joe Stroffolino proudly serving as the Vice-Chair of Fulfill's Board of Trustees, this partnership is especially meaningful to

our organization. Seeing community focused businesses like ShopRite invest in hunger relief aligns perfectly with our mission to give back and strengthen the communities we serve.

The new ShopRite in Manahawkin is not just a place to shop. It is part of a larger network of generosity, collaboration, and shared responsibility. Together, through partnerships like these, we are building a stronger and more food secure future for our neighbors.

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Ways to Help



Contact Fulfill
Phone: 732-918-2600
Fax: 732-918-2660
Email: main@fulfillnj.org

Donate Funds

Fulfill is a Charity Navigator 4-star charity, with 96¢ of every dollar donated going directly to our neighbors in need in the form of food and other programs that strengthen our communities forever.

Donate by Check Money Order
Mail to:
Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean
3300 Route 66
Neptune, NJ 07753

Donate Food

Fulfill runs as a well-oiled machine so food donations are sorted and distributed quickly. They accept non-perishable food donations at two locations:

The B.E.A.T. Center
(Ocean County)
1769 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753
732-731-1400
Hours: Monday through
Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm

Neptune Facility
(Monmouth County)
3300 Route 66
Neptune, NJ 07753
732-918-2600
Hours: Monday through
Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Donate Time

There's nothing more fulfilling than personally seeing the results of your life-changing work. That's what happens when you volunteer and work with Fulfill as a team to make sure hunger won't win here in our communities. Help sort food or suggest a role that puts your skills to best use to help our neighbors. They can even tailor your volunteer tasks to your skills.

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To learn more about Causeway CAREs, please visit CausewayCAREs.com or email Joe.Stroffolino@CausewayCars.com.



The Wintrode Family Foundation



Causeway CAREs' mission is to make a direct and profound impact in and around Ocean County in the areas of education, food security and quality of life. Founded in 2004 and funded by The Wintrode Family Foundation, Inc., Causeway CAREs strives to make the community a better place to live grow and thrive. To learn more, visit CausewayCAREs.com.

Driving change in our community.

CausewayCAREs.com

The Causeway Gazette

Editor: Joe Stroffolino
 Assistant Editor: Kaitlyn Strohmeier
 Publisher: Jayme Hill-Gardner
 Creative/Comp: Theresa Maye
 Marketing: Brianna Kennedy

For information or to advertise in The Causeway Gazette please call 609.713.6706 or visit www.CausewayGazette.com email: CausewayGazette@gmail.com

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CONTACT Celebrates 50 Years of Compassionate Service

TOMS RIVER, NJ – CONTACT of Ocean & Monmouth Counties (CONTACT) is proud to celebrate 50 years of providing hope, connection, and critical support to individuals and families across the region. Since answering its very first call on December 1, 1975, the New Jersey-based nonprofit has remained a trusted lifeline, offering confidential crisis intervention, suicide prevention, emotional support, and information and referral services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This milestone anniversary honors five decades of volunteer-driven service and the countless lives touched by a simple, powerful mission: to ensure no one has to face life’s hardest moments alone.

The concept behind CONTACT began in 1963 in Sydney, Australia, when Reverend Dr. Alan Walker created Life Line after losing a young man who could not reach him during a moment of crisis. The model quickly expanded, reaching the United States in 1965 and opening its first center in Dallas, Texas—where the name CONTACT was adopted. By 1971, a national organization was formed to support the growing network of helplines, laying the foundation for what would eventually become the International Council for Helplines.

The need for a local crisis helpline in Ocean County was clear, and after nine months of intensive volunteer training, CONTACT of Ocean County answered its first call on December 1, 1975. The organization was officially incorporated on February 10, 1976, and within its first year, volunteers responded to more than 8,000 callers seeking emotional support or urgent help.

Over the years, CONTACT has steadily expanded its role as a vital community resource. Following full accreditation in 1976, the organization grew its services through United Way support, ongoing Community Development Block Grant funding, and its designation in 1990 as Ocean County’s official Information and Referral Center.

CONTACT later became one of the nation’s largest crisis call centers, launched 2-1-1 in partnership with United Way, formally expanded into Monmouth County, supported emergency response efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently introduced CONTACT Cares, a reassurance program for seniors.

CONTACT’s mission has remained steadfast: to provide trained, empathetic telephone listeners who respond to human needs around the clock. Volunteers report that the most common reasons for calls include depression, anxiety, loneliness, financial hardship, job loss, homelessness, and overwhelming stress.

The strength of CONTACT lies in its volunteers, more than 70 individuals ranging in age from 18 to 85, many of whom have dedicated over 25 years to the hotline. “Over the years there were many volunteers who became close and dear friends,” said longtime volunteer and previous Director Carol Weshnak, who recently celebrated 40 years with CONTACT. “All the volunteers are there for a reason— to make a difference.” CONTACT’s next volunteer training session begins in March 2026.

“As we celebrate 50 years of service, we reflect on the countless moments when a phone call truly made all the difference,” said Kim Santora, Executive Director of CONTACT of Ocean & Monmouth Counties. “Our volunteers have been the heart of this organization from the very beginning. Their compassion, dedication, and willingness to simply listen have brought comfort and hope to generations of callers. We are honored to continue this work and remain deeply committed to supporting our community for the next fifty years and beyond.”

Over the last 50 years, CONTACT of Ocean & Monmouth Counties has grown from a small group of committed volunteers to an essential



community resource, answering tens of thousands of calls annually and adapting to meet evolving community needs.

In celebration of the 50-year milestone, CONTACT will host an Anniversary Gala on March 28 at Avenue in Long Branch. Proceeds will support the organization’s mission, ensuring CONTACT’s services continue for years to come. Tickets are now available for purchase. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information and to support this event and CONTACT, visit: <https://contactoceanmonmouth.org/event/contacts-50th-anniversary-gala-celebration/> or scan the QR code.

Community members can help CONTACT in their mission by becoming a volunteer, making a donation or attending a fundraising event. For more information, visit contactoceanmonmouth.org or call the main office at 732-240-6104.

If you need to talk, CONTACT is always here to listen. Call an empathetic, trained volunteer at 732-240-6100.



Design 446 Leads with Heart in Global Changemaker Book *LIVE IT!*

MANASQUAN, NJ – At Design 446, creativity has always been about more than design, it’s about purpose. That philosophy is brought to life through the release of *Today is the Day. LIVE IT!*, a new book featuring reflections from 31 changemakers around the world, including Ann Marie Baker, Vice President of Design 446.

Baker’s contribution is a personal reflection rooted in a lifelong creative journey, one that began with a paintbrush in childhood and evolved into a 40-year career at an award-winning advertising and marketing agency. Her story explores how creative talent, when paired with service, can become a powerful force for meaningful change.

“For me, creativity has always been a way to connect,” said Baker. “But it wasn’t until I began working alongside nonprofit organizations that I truly understood the impact design can have when it’s used in service of others.”

That belief is a cornerstone of Design 446’s culture. As part of its ongoing commitment to giving back, Design 446 proudly donated its creative expertise to *Today is the Day. LIVE IT!* designing the book’s cover, developing the interior graphics, and supporting all 31 contributing authors throughout the process. The agency’s work ensured that each story was not only told, but elevated through thoughtful, intentional design.

“This project represents the heart of who we are at Design 446,” Allison Brown added, as account manager on this project. “We believe design should do more than look good, it should do good. Supporting this book allowed us to align our talents with a mission that reflects our values as a team.”

Design 446 has a longstanding history of purpose-driven work, currently partnering with more than 25 nonprofit and for-impact organizations to help amplify missions, strengthen visibility, and tell stories that might otherwise go unheard. The agency’s involvement in *Today is the Day. LIVE IT!* reflects its broader commitment to using creativity as a catalyst for community impact.

Authored and compiled by Jodi Hope Grinwald, CPC, ELI-MP, *Today is the Day. LIVE IT!* brings together voices from across industries and continents, offering stories of courage, leadership, and choice. The book serves as both inspiration and invitation, encouraging readers young and old to step forward, even before they feel fully ready.

For Design 446, the project is a proud example of what’s possible when creative teams rally around a shared purpose.

“When passion meets purpose, real impact happens,” said Baker. “This book is proof that creativity, when guided by heart, can change lives.”

Today is the Day. LIVE IT! is now available through major retailers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



A CONVERSATION WITH MARGARET ATWOOD

Margaret Atwood is a celebrated Canadian writer, poet, and literary critic known for her numerous awards and works like *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Her writing frequently explores themes of gender, identity, religion, and environmental issues.

Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00PM



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

Save the Date for our Annual Scholarship Celebration, taking place on the campus of Ocean County College. Honorees and more information coming soon.

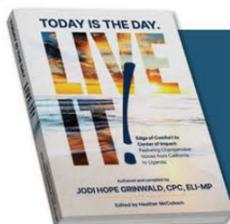
Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 6:00PM



Learn More: OCCFoundation.org



Ocean County College Foundation
College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08754
occfoundation.org | 732.255.0492



Order Your Copy Today!



Family Promise of the Jersey Shore Hosting Designer Bag Bingo in Manahawkin in March

As we trudge toward spring, the arctic weather hasn't slowed us down here at Family Promise of the Jersey Shore.

Thanks to your support, we continue helping our neighbors in need across Ocean County.

The demand for our services can be daunting some days with more and more people in our community facing homelessness as affordability and reasonably-priced housing remain critical issues. Despite these conditions we help people out of homelessness everyday.

Right now families are warm and safe in our emergency shelter program where volunteers from our congregational partners welcome them with dignity while providing them with beds, meals and care during a difficult time.

Everyday our front office staff handles dozens of calls for help as case managers doggedly work to keep many folks in their homes and out of the trauma of homelessness.

We have also been busy with some wonderful events with our community partners. The proceeds from these fundraisers go directly to the services we provide to our neighbors.



Thanks to everyone who helps to make our events so successful. Your help and support are essential to our mission. Special thanks to our community partners who recently hosted some great gatherings. Thanks to The Picklr in Manahawkin for making our Pickleball Social such a fun time. Thanks to Ocean County College for all the items donated at its annual All-Skills Basketball Clinic.

And thank you to Vicki Weiss and all the staff at the Mathis House Victorian Tea Room in Toms River for hosting our Winter Tea Party and donating all the proceeds to Family Promise of the Jersey Shore! Let's keep it going.

Kick off spring by joining us at our Designer Bag Bingo event on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at St. Mary's Parish Hall

in Manahawkin. Tickets are \$40 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. Tickets are available at St. Mary's Parish Office, 747 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, NJ 08005 Monday to Friday from 9 am to 3 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

In addition to bingo, there will be a 50/50 and basket raffles. Tickets for these are separate and will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information or to purchase tickets call 609-994-3317 or email info@familypromisejerseyshore.org.

All proceeds go directly to helping families and individuals facing homelessness here in Ocean County.

Thank you for your support.

Jim Lowney
Public Affairs Manager
Family Promise of the Jersey Shore
jim@familypromisejerseyshore.org




Saturday, March 21, 2026
Doors open at 5 pm -- Bingo begins at 6:30 pm

St. Mary's Parish Center
100 Bishop Lane, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Tickets: \$40 per person presale or \$50 at the door if available
(Cash only at the door)

Ticket includes 12 games with 4 boards each

Tickets are available at St. Mary's Parish Office
747 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, NJ 08005
Monday--Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

For tickets & information call 609-994-3317 (option 4) or email
info@familypromisejerseyshore.org

Gift Auction & 50/50 Raffle

Must be 18 or older to play
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"Serving Seniors and their Caregivers"



Interfaith

Health & Support Services of Southern Ocean County
WWW.INTERFAITHSOC.ORG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help provide friendly support to our Seniors - a few hours per month, your choice of schedule. Our Volunteers are truly "Neighbors helping Neighbors", serving others with love, respect, hope and compassion.

Interfaith Health & Support Services is a non-profit, volunteer based organization partnering with community faith based communities and local businesses to provide free services & support to Seniors living at home independently in Southern Ocean County. Service area includes Forked River south to Tuckerton, and all of LBL.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Grocery shopping or food pantry delivery
- Transportation to Community Programs
- Respite & support for the caregiver of a loved one with Dementia or Alzheimer's
- Friendly visits & Reassuring phone calls

If you are interested in volunteering, or receiving services please contact us at: 609-978-3839



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

CONNECTING PEOPLE • BUILDING COMMUNITIES • TRANSFORMING LIVES
Keep up with Library programs and events at: www.theoceancountylibrary.org/events



HEART HEALTH-THEMED BINGO COMING TO THE LONG BEACH ISLAND LIBRARY

SURF CITY – Join us at the Long Beach Island Branch of the Ocean County Library for “Heart Health Bingo” at 2 p.m. Tuesday February 24.

Play a fun and informative game of bingo and learn about important heart health topics. Attendees will have the chance to win a pulse oximeter, scale, and/or blood pressure machine.

This program is sponsored by the Long Beach Island Health Department.



LONG BEACH ISLAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
“SERVING THE ENTIRE ISLAND”

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/HeartBingoLBI, call 609-494-2480, or visit the branch at 217 South Central Ave, Surf City.

FRIENDS OF THE ISLAND LIBRARY TO HOST TWO-DAY BOOK SALE

SURF CITY – Looking for a great new read on a budget? Then the “Big Book Sale” coming to the Long Beach Island Branch of the Ocean County Library is perfect for you. Stop by the branch between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28 to browse a great selection of books for all ages.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Friends of the Island Library.

For more information, call 609-494-2480 or visit the branch at 217 South Central Ave., Surf City.

The Friends of the Library are a vital community resource that provides local support for Ocean County Library’s branches. Our members advocate within their communities for the library by



attending community and civic events and supporting the public library mission for Freedom to Read and Access to Information.

The Friends of the Island Library fundraise with book sales, programs, outreach and other activities. Funds are used to expand programming at the Long Beach Island Branch and support ongoing projects.

SPEED FRIENDING PROGRAM FOR SENIORS COMING TO THE STAFFORD LIBRARY



Jesse B/peopleimages.com / stock.adobe.com

MANAHAWKIN – Are you a senior looking to expand your social circle? Find potential new friends and acquaintances through speed friending. “Speed Friending for Seniors” will take place at the Stafford Branch of the Ocean County Library at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.

Speed friending is a social activity where participants have short conversations with multiple people in a limited time. It is all about quickly connecting with others through interesting questions and

brief chats. The goal of speed friending is to find potential new friends or acquaintances with shared interests.

The Library will provide questions for conversation starters. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/StaffordFriending, call 609-597-3381, or stop by the branch at 129 N. Main Street, Manahawkin.

EXPLORE OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY’S DIGITAL SERVICES

TOMS RIVER – Did you know you can use the library without ever leaving your home? The Ocean County Library offers a variety of digital services, available 24/7 with your library card.

Libby offers a vast selection of eBooks, audiobooks, and eMagazines to OCL customers. Users may borrow up to ten items at one time. In 2025, OCL had over 600,000 total checkouts on Libby, a 9.6% increase from 2024.

Hoopla provides customers with a diverse collection of digital materials, including audiobooks, eBooks, movies, television series, comics, and music. Customers may use up to five Instant Borrows from the Hoopla catalog each month as well as up to five Flex Borrows at a time. In 2025, OCL had over 250,000 total checkouts on Hoopla, a 19.7% increase from 2024. There were also over 57,000 Flex Borrows, a 34% increase from 2024.

Kanopy gives customers access to a streaming video library of over 30,000 documentaries and movies. Users are given 18 credits monthly, which they may use to borrow items.



Monkey Business / stock.adobe.com

Freemusic gives customers access to millions of songs to stream ad-free 24/7 as well as playlist creation and three downloads per week.

These digital services are accessible via smartphone, tablet, and computer only to Ocean County residents with an OCL card.

Don’t have your library card yet? Sign up today to take advantage of these free services and many others.

Stop by or call your local OCL branch or visit the Digital Materials page on our website to further explore OCL’s digital services.

2026 PROGRESSIVE 50/50

DRAWING:
AUGUST 1 | 9:30 PM
AT THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA
TICKET PRICE: \$10

AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DESK OR RETURN FORM

This is a 50/50 cash raffle and the winner will receive 50% of the amount received for all tickets purchased. No substitutions of the offered prize. Winner need not be present. All proceeds to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Please make your check payable to St. Francis Parish & Indicate “Progressive 50/50” on the envelope.
2026 Progressive 50/50

Name _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets Requested (\$10 each) _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Winner need not be present. No Substitution of prize or cash in lieu of prize. Proceeds benefit St. Francis of Assisi Parish 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp. 08008 | 609-494-8861 ext. 107 | No Phone Purchase or credit card!

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL SPORTS BEAT



Football
 Congratulations Southern Football Alum - Kutztown University Football player Pat Fulginiti, on being named All PSAC Academic team for the 2025 season.



Field Hockey
 Congratulations Southern Regional alumna, Erika Barbera - who represented the United States of America, (USA Field Hockey) as an official at the 3 Nations Tournament in Dunedin, New Zealand. Photo Credit: @bwmedianz, USA Field Hockey.



Swimming
 Congratulations Southern Boys Swimming team on defeating Toms River South 87-83 on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. With the victory, the Rams clinched the Shore Conference "Blue A" Division for the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations swimmers and coaches.



Swimming
 Congratulations Southern Girls Swimming on defeating TR South on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 by a score of 110-60. With the victory the Rams have clinched the 2025-2026 Shore Conference "Blue A" Division. Congratulations swimmers and coaches.



Wrestling
 Congrats Southern Girls Wrestling on placing 4th at the 2025-2026 Shore Conference Tournament on Monday, January 19, 2026 at Jackson Township High School. Congratulations wrestlers and coaches: Shae Guido -1st, Makayla Vigilante - 2nd, Lindsay McDermott - 2nd, Lilliana Bedle - 3rd, Emily Ramon Aquino - 5th.



Basketball
 Congratulations, Southern Regional Boys Basketball, on defeating Barnegat on Monday, January 12, 2026, by a score of 58-40. In the victory, Noah Perna scored his 1000th career point. Noah is surrounded by his family and Head Coach John Pampalone. Continued Success!



Swimming
 Congratulations, Southern Regional Girls Swimming, on winning the 2025-2026 Ocean County Championship on Sunday, January 11th. Congrats, swimmers and coaches. Continued success this season.



Swimming
 Congratulations, Southern Regional Boys Swimming on winning the 2025-2026 Ocean County Championship on Sunday, January 11th. Congrats, swimmers and coaches. Continued success this season.



Wrestling
 Congratulations, Southern Girls Wrestling placing 3rd overall as a team at the Timber Creek Classic on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Shea Lynn Guido 1st, Lilliana Bedle 2nd, Emily Ramon Aquino 2nd, Makayla Vigilante 3rd, Wonder Senesie 3rd. Congrats Wrestlers & coaches.



Basketball
 Congratulations Southern Boys Basketball, defeating DCHS 63-58 on #SeniorNight, which took place on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Thank you Jake Sliwinski & Reality White for all you have done for Southern. They are pictured with Head Coach John Pampalone. Good win for the Rams!



Bowling
 Great job Southern Bowlers, Jess McGeoch and Abigail Krill at the Shore Conference Tournament Girls Bowling Individual Championships on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.



Wrestling
 Thank you Southern Boys & Girls Wrestling Seniors for all you have done for Southern. On #SeniorNight, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, the Rams wrestled Gloucester City HS. Boys won 58-15. Girls were defeated 28-36. Great night of wrestling at Southern.



Football
 Congratulations Southern Football Brayden Scherlin on his commitment to continue his education and football career at Kutztown University. Brayden is surrounded by his family and the Southern Regional Football coaching staff. Best of luck. Forever A RAM!



SOUTHERN

Multi-sport

Congratulations Multi-Sport Student Athlete, Kai Aceto on being named Southern Regional High School - "Women in Sports" Day representative. Kai will be honored at the Rutgers University Women's Basketball game on Sunday, February 8, 2026. Kai is a member of both the Girls Volleyball and Girls Basketball teams. Thank you for all you have done for Southern.



Swimming

Congratulations Southern Regional Girls Swimming on defeating Kingsway 86-84, on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Rams advance to NJSIAA SJ Public "A" Semifinals.

MEMORIES ARE MADE HERE

SUMMER CAMP 2026

CAMP AMITY ACRES | CAMP SACAJAWEA

JOIN OUR AMAZING TEAM!

There is no job better than working at summer camp! Both Camp Amity Acres and Camp Sacajawea are hiring for positions including, Junior and Unit Counselors, Lifeguards, and Activity Specialists. Positions available for those 16+ and trainings/certifications are included when applicable.

APPLY TODAY!
gsFun.org/campcareers
 Waretown/Barnegat • Farmingdale

A Need We Feed Recognizes Their Restaurant Partners



Each month, A Need We Feed's restaurant partners generously donate a portion of their meals to help ensure the community's Veterans, seniors, families, and individuals experiencing homelessness have a warm, nutritious meal. The organization is deeply grateful for their ongoing support.



Ryan's Catering at Post 129
2025 Church Rd.,
Toms River, NJ
08753



Bubbakoo's Burritos
1311 Route 37,
Toms River, NJ
08755



Jersey Mike's Subs
1 Route 37 West,
Toms River, NJ
08753



Coronato's Kitchen
284 Brick Blvd.,
Brick, NJ
08723



Cookie Lady's Cafe
2501 Route 88,
Point Pleasant, NJ
08742

The generosity of these restaurant partners makes a real difference in the community. Be sure to check them out and enjoy their offerings, supporting these restaurants as they support those in need.



2026 Nissan Armada



2026 Nissan LEAF®

2026 Nissan Armada, Nissan LEAF named Cars.com Best of 2026 Awards winners

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Two Nissan vehicles won their categories in the Cars.com Best of 2026 awards. The 2026 Nissan Armada was named Best SUV of 2026, and the all-new 2026 Nissan LEAF was named Cars.com's Best Car of 2026.

"The all-new Nissan LEAF earned Cars.com's Best Car of 2026 award by redefining affordable EV ownership with strong range, smart technology and exceptional value," said Mike Hanley, Senior Road Test Editor, Cars.com. "At the same time, the Nissan Armada took home Cars.com's Best SUV of 2026 thanks to its rare combination of comfort, safety features, capability and versatility. Winning in two very different segments shows how well Nissan is meeting the needs of today's car shoppers."

Cars.com's Best Car of 2026 awards is selected from a pool of over 40 all-new or redesigned models. When determining the Best Car award winner, Cars.com experts consider three key criteria: quality, innovation and value. The remaining five categories of Cars.com's Best Of awards program are Best Car, Best Pickup Truck, Best Electric Vehicle, Best SUV, Best Luxury Car and Best Family Car. Cars.com's experts consider all model-year 2026 vehicles in a corresponding category for these six awards.

The 2026 Nissan Armada continues to make its mark on the full-size SUV segment with supreme comfort, premium interior features, confident handling, effortless off-road capability and helpful technologies. There is an Armada grade for every adventure, including the rugged PRO-4X, dynamic NISMO and luxurious Platinum Reserve.

Armada's standard twin-turbo V6 is rated for 425 horsepower and 516 lb-ft of torque, enabling

a maximum towing capacity of up to 8,500 pounds. Advanced technologies that help simplify off-roading, commuting and highway driving include available Invisible Hood View, Front Wide View and 3D Intelligent Around View® Monitor camera systems, and available ProPILOT Assist 2.1, enabling hands-off freeway driving for attentive drivers.

Armada PRO-4X excels beyond the pavement with all-terrain tires, an off-road-specific front bumper with an increased approach angle, underbody skid plates, an electronic locking differential and Adaptive Electronic Air Suspension. New for the 2026 model year, the first-ever Armada NISMO has an additional 35 horsepower over other Armada models, for a total of 460 horsepower (when using premium fuel only), plus NISMO-exclusive steering and suspension tuning, NISMO 22-inch forged alloy wheels and aerodynamically enhanced bodywork.

The all-new electric 2026 Nissan LEAF builds on the model's DNA of reliable, affordable and attractive EV ownership, delivering strong value for the mass market. It has an EPA-estimated driving range of up to 303 miles per charge, and a starting Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the S+ grade of \$29,990.

Now in its third generation, LEAF's design has been completely reimagined with clean, dynamic body lines, combining a sleek profile with an SUV-like stance. A built-in NACS port with Plug & Charge functionality provides seamless access to more than 27,500 Tesla Superchargers for convenient public charging, making LEAF ideal for commuting and road trips alike.

usa.nissannews.com



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Seven Night Bermuda Cruise from Cape Liberty on Celebrity Silhouette (May 17-24, 2026)
Start your summer off right; especially if you missed this year's Bermuda group. Enjoy all that Bermuda has to offer; from Crystal Caves to the pink-sand beaches. Relax on your balcony from Cape Liberty passing the Statue of Liberty enroute to three glorious days in sunny Bermuda. Your special group rate includes your balcony accommodations, all current port and government taxes, classic beverage package, meals and Wi-Fi for only \$1,975.00 per person. Local transfers to pier will be provided for a nominal fee. Limited space is available.

Seven Night Alaska Hubbard Glacier Cruise aboard the Celebrity Solstice (July 26 to August 2, 2026)
Fly to Vancouver to begin your Alaska adventure. Visit Icy Straight Point cruise by Hubbard Glacier, go on to visit Juneau and Ketchikan, and cruise the Inside Passage before returning to Vancouver. The special rate of \$2,459.00 per person cruise only, includes balcony stateroom, all meals, classic beverage package and Wi-Fi. Pre and post packages and air are additional.

Iceland Christmas Markets (December 3-7, 2026)
Famed by snow and sometimes crowned by the northern lights, Reykjavik in winter is like something from a dream. This adventure includes nonstop airfare from Newark, four nights at the Fosshotel with room check in upon arrival, breakfast daily, afternoon at the Sky Lagoon with admission, private guided tours of the Christmas Markets in Reykjavik and Hafnarfjörður, private Golden Circle tour with lunch and all transportation. Rate per person is \$1,999.00. Local transfers will be provided for a nominal fee.

"To travel is to live."
– Hans Christian Andersen

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Document shredding program returns: What to know In Barnegat-Manahawkin

By Veronica Flesher, Patch Staff

BARNEGAT-MANAHAWKIN, NJ — March marks the return of Ocean County's popular Document Shredding Program, with several dates planned throughout the spring and fall seasons.

It kicks off in March in Lakewood, then runs through October. In total, 12 collections will be held.

The program will be held in Stafford on May 16 at 379 Haywood Road. In Barnegat, it will be held Oct. 17 at 5 Lippincott Ave.

Ocean County encourages residents to bring those documents that include sensitive information like bank account numbers or social security numbers that should not be tossed out in the trash. There is a limit of 4 boxes or clear bags



Fevziie / stock.adobe.com

totaling no more than 100 pounds of confidential documents per car.

Commercial documents are not accepted nor are newspapers, magazines, books, junk mail, greetings cards, photos, x-rays, CDs or shredded paper. Paper clips and staples do not have to be removed from documents that are shredded. Dates are below.

patch.com

We continue the family tradition of home-made pasta

By Danielle Natale - Causeway Honda Sales Consultant

"Let's make pasta!" I was about my daughter's age when my Nana had me start helping her make pasta and ravioli in the basement kitchen.



Those were some of my most cherished memories growing up and spending time at my grandparents' house. I think it's important to carry on those traditions, which is why I decided to give it a try. I think Nana would still be proud that we are continuing this weekly.

We used high-grade ingredients and Nellie's eggs to make the dough. Overall, it was delicious, and it tasted so much better than buying it already made in a box.



Ocean County

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SCHEDULE

SPRING

Lakewood	Fri. March 27th	1 America Ave.
Berkeley	Sat. April 18th	OC Fairgrounds Rd 530.
Waretown	Sat. May 2nd	117 Wells Mills Rd.
Stafford	Sat. May 16th	379 Haywood Rd.
Jackson	Sat. June 6th	95 West Veterans Hwy.
Pt Pleasant Boro	Sat. June 27th	2300 Panther Path

FALL

Manchester	Sat. Aug. 29th	101 S. Colonial Dr
Lacey	Sat. Sept. 19th	820 Municipal Ln.
Toms River	Fri. Sept. 25th	250 Riverwood Dr.
Brick	Sat. Oct. 3rd	836 Ridge Rd.
Barnegat	Sat. Oct. 17th	5 Lippincott Ave.
Beachwood	Sat. Oct. 24th	1600 Pinewald Rd.

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2026 Hyundai Elantra N

2026 Hyundai Palisade

2026 IONIQ 5 N

2026 IONIQ 9

2026 Santa Fe Hybrid

2026 Santa Cruz

Hyundai Models Impress Car and Driver, Claim Eight 2026 Editors' Choice Awards

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif., Feb. 3, 2026 – Hyundai announced it has earned eight 2026 Editors' Choice Awards from the automotive experts at Car and Driver, reinforcing the brand's reputation for offering one of the most well-rounded and competitive lineups in the industry. The legendary publication's annual Editors' Choice Awards guide consumers

to the market's best vehicles by recognizing models that deliver exceptional performance, value, and real-world usability across dozens of segments. Among this year's highlights, the all-new Hyundai Palisade and Palisade Hybrid both earned Editors' Choice recognition, reaffirming their leadership in the three-row SUV segment. The all-new IONIQ 9 also makes its first appearance on the list, one of three Hyundai EVs to be honored this year. Here is a list of Car and Driver Editor's Choice 2026 Hyundai Award winners:

- Sport Compact Cars:**
Hyundai Elantra N
- Electric Compact SUVs:**
Hyundai IONIQ 5
- Electric Compact SUVs:**
Hyundai IONIQ 5 N
- Electric Mid-Size SUVs:**
Hyundai IONIQ 9
- Mid-Size Three-Row SUVs:**
Hyundai Palisade
- Hybrid Mid-Size SUVs:**
Hyundai Palisade Hybrid
- Compact Pickup Trucks:**
Hyundai Santa Cruz
- Hybrid Mid-Size SUVs:**
Hyundai Santa Fe Hybrid

Vice President, product planning and mobility strategy, Hyundai Motor North America. "From electrified mobility to family SUVs and performance vehicles, our products combine intentional design, advanced technology, and a trust you can feel behind the wheel. We believe that great vehicles aren't just engineered, they are lived in."

"Our Editors' Choice award is reserved for vehicles that achieve a rating of nine out of ten stars in Car and Driver testing—it's the honor roll of the automotive world," said Rich Ceppos, Director, Car and Driver Buyer's Guide. "Hyundai's eight winners span the gamut from hot, enthusiast driver's cars to handsomely outfitted SUVs to a pair of EVs. It's a broad swath of compelling products, ones that shoppers would be smart to consider."

These honors build on a major achievement late last year, when the 2026 Hyundai Palisade Hybrid was named to Car and Driver's prestigious 10Best Trucks and SUVs list, among the publication's highest distinctions. With back-to-back Editors' Choice wins and a 10Best award, the Palisade stands as one of the most consistently lauded vehicles in its segment, highlighting its blend of efficiency, refinement, capability, and premium comfort.

"These awards matter because they reflect how vehicles truly show up in people's lives. At Hyundai, we design for everyday confidence," said Olabisi Boyle, Senior

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SENIOR CORNER

7 Practical Tips for Building (or Rebuilding) Your Emergency Fund

By David Hochman, AARP

You can't predict the next flat tire or plumbing disaster, but you can certainly prepare for it. When that rainy day moment arrives, an emergency fund is the difference between an "uh-oh" and an "I've got this."

Nearly half of Americans don't have enough savings to cover three months of expenses in an emergency, according to the latest National Financial Capability Study by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation, the education arm of a nonprofit oversight body for financial companies.

Food costs, in particular, have squeezed budgets so hard that two-thirds of Americans have been forced to cut back elsewhere to keep up. If you're retired or nearing retirement, your emergency fund is an essential safety net, not a luxury. Yet Gen Xers have median emergency savings of only \$500, a 2025 survey by financial services company Empower found.

"Your emergency fund is less about that broken water heater than about peace of mind," says Marc Russell, a financial coach in Atlanta and founder of BetterWallet, a company that teaches underserved communities how to invest and build wealth. "Having that backup money is increasingly important. The older you get, the more your priorities shift from growth to security."

Many financial planners recommend that working adults save enough to cover at least three to six months of essential living expenses, such as housing, utilities, food and insurance. Retirees may need a larger emergency fund since they don't have a paycheck to fall back on.

To identify your emergency fund goal, start by reviewing your past 12 months of bank and credit card statements to determine how much you're spending on essentials. Add up the costs and divide by 12 to calculate your average monthly living expenses, then multiply that number by three or six. You could also use an emergency fund calculator from financial resources like NerdWallet, the USAA

Educational Foundation or Navy Federal Credit Union.

If your rainy day fund isn't where it needs to be, you can take small steps to steadily build it. Here's what financial advisers recommend.

1. Automate your saving — then personalize it

Consider setting up an automatic transfer from your primary bank account to a designated emergency fund account the day after your paycheck arrives, if you're still working, or after your monthly Social Security benefit hits your bank account, if you're retired. Select a small amount, such as \$20 or \$30. You'll hardly notice the change.

You're less likely to stash money away for emergencies "if you rely on willpower," says Jason Fannon, a senior partner at Cornerstone Financial Services in Southfield, Michigan. "Automation lets the money move before you can talk yourself out of it."

He suggests giving the account a customized name, such as "Pat's Emergency Fund" or "Pat's Rainy Day Reserve." "When you label it that way, it feels real," he says.

2. Move your money where it can grow

A 2025 Bankrate survey found that Americans tend to keep their savings in the same bank account for an average of 17 years, often because of sheer habit. But it takes little effort to move money from a traditional savings account to a high-yield account that significantly increases your interest.

"You want liquidity that's actually earning money," says Emily Guy Birken, a financial coach and author of *The 5 Years Before You Retire*. Some high-yield savings accounts pay as much as 4.2 percent interest, compared with an average of 0.39 percent for traditional savings accounts.

Some brick-and-mortar banks offer competitive high-yield savings accounts, but the best rates often come from online banks, which don't have the overhead costs that physical banks do.

"As long as they're legitimate, FDIC-insured institutions, online banks are just as safe as traditional ones," Birken says.

3. Lower your insurance costs

Nearly half of the homeowners in J.D. Power's 2025 U.S. Home Insurance Study reported premium increases in the past year. Other surveys show older drivers are more likely to face rate hikes than younger drivers because of their perceived risk. "You don't have to just accept those quiet upticks," says Fannon. Shopping around for a new provider can save you hundreds. Car owners who switched insurers in the previous five years saved a median of \$461 in annual costs, a 2024 Consumer Reports survey found.

4. Cut unused subscriptions

You don't have to forgo eating out or giving birthday gifts to grandkids to fill your emergency bucket. Focus on cutting out the unnecessary expenses that are stealthily draining your bank account, such as subscriptions and memberships you're no longer using.

According to a 2025 CNET survey, the average U.S. adult spends almost \$200 a year on unused subscriptions.

Don't make that mistake. Audit your last three months of credit card and bank statements to identify all of your recurring subscriptions, then cancel the streaming services or memberships that aren't worth keeping.

Even \$30 a month recovered from forgotten charges adds up to \$360 a year — enough to cover a small auto or home repair.

5. Plan ahead with 'sinking funds'

By the time you reach your 50s and 60s, you know where emergency funds tend to go: medical expenses, car repairs, fixes around the house, kids in need. "Certain expenses come around like clockwork, so it's nice to be prepared for them specifically," Russell says.



photoniko / stock.adobe.com

That's where "sinking funds" come in. You steadily allocate (or "sink") money into small, dedicated buckets for certain expenses before they arise. Many banks let you do this online, enabling you to contribute \$10 or \$25 a week to individual funds that you've earmarked for home repairs, unforeseen medical expenses and other surprise costs, all under the umbrella of your main emergency fund.

6. Turn clutter into cash

Selling things you don't need or want won't fill every budget gap, but it can give your emergency fund a healthy jump start. "People underestimate how much value is sitting in their garages and attics," says Birken.

Start with the easy stuff — duplicate kitchen gadgets, worn-out tools and clothes you no longer wear. You can post them for sale on local marketplaces like Facebook, OfferUp or Nextdoor, or take them to a consignment shop. If you have a lot of things to unload, an old-fashioned yard sale can help you raise some cash while getting to know your neighbors better.

"Sell before you feel desperate," Birken advises. "When you're

calm, you make better decisions and get better prices." Each sale, no matter how small, is cash you can put into your emergency fund.

7. Redirect 'phantom' expenses

When you finally pay off a mortgage, auto loan or credit card balance, that monthly payment disappears — but many people let the money quietly slip back into everyday spending. It's what Fannon calls "phantom expense creep."

Instead, treat each paid-off debt like a built-in raise that can help you save for a rainy day. Redirecting that \$400 monthly car payment you're no longer making, for example, can help you reach your emergency savings goal.

"The beauty of phantom money is that you've already proven you can live without it," Fannon says. "You're just giving those dollars a new job."

aarp.com

What began as a small vision to help children has grown into a movement

In a world where many children simply need someone to believe in them, Hearts of Mercy does exactly that, while providing a long list of programs and events. Our volunteers, mostly certified teachers, provide one-on-one tutoring which goes beyond the capabilities of the public school systems. We also enjoy having high school honor student volunteers as well as our Rutgers University student collaboratives who show that the next generation is stepping forward to love, serve, and give back. What began as a small vision has grown into a movement, one fueled by volunteers, partners, sponsors, donors, and more.

Our tutoring program helps students gain confidence academically. Our mentoring program pairs youth with caring adults who listen, guide, and inspire. Our thriving art program gives children the freedom to express themselves, and shine creatively.

This year, we will expand our summer camps. Our students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of camps, including STEAM, Music/Dance/ Drama, Art, and Sports Agility. These programs and camps are changing lives, giving children a place to grow, dream, and discover their gifts.

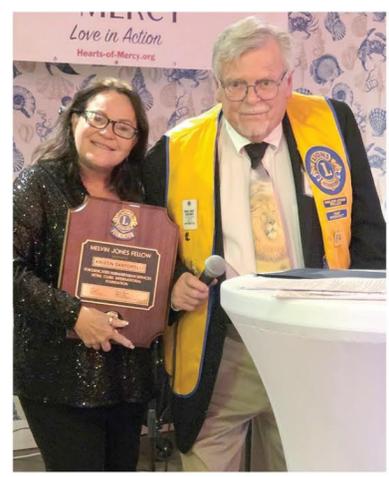
One of our powerful traditions is our annual winter outreach, which was a great success this year. We met at a local park and gave out hot chocolate and donuts to approximately 50 to 70 children as soon as they stepped off the bus. These children were met with smiles, open arms, and the purest form of community love. Thanks to the generosity of the Lions Club, Dunkin' Donuts, and the LBI Kiwanis, every child was welcomed with treats, giveaways, and the knowledge that they matter deeply.

Magically, the love keeps pouring in to support our mission. At our annual Volunteer & Sponsor Appreciation Event, Hearts of Mercy received a surprise honor from the Stafford Lions Club, an organization that has supported our mission for over fifteen years. On behalf of Lions Club International, our founder,



Kristin Santorelli, was bestowed the honor of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for making a difference in the world and empowering young people for success. Receiving this award brought deep gratitude, pride and validation to our entire team, but especially to Kristin who nurtured this mission from conception to vitality with long hours of dedication and belief in the possibilities.

Every day, our team witnesses a simple truth: when a child feels loved, everything changes. When a community comes together, a generation transforms. We hope this momentum inspires more businesses, organizations, and churches to join us. There is room for everyone in this



movement of compassion. Together, we can fill our surrounding communities with the kind of love that wraps around a child and stays with them forever. ~It Takes a Village to Raise a Child~ and we've got that amazing village right here in Manahawkin while reaching many youth throughout Southern Ocean County.

With any questions, check out our website www.hearts-of-mercy.org or email us at: info@hearts-of-mercy.org.

CHEESY GROUND BEEF AND POTATOES

This ground beef and potatoes recipe is best described as comfort food. With layers of thinly sliced buttery potatoes and cheesy ground beef, you will keep coming back for more!



allrecipes.com

- Ingredients:**
- Nonstick cooking spray
 - 3 cups thinly sliced, peeled potatoes
 - 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 pound ground beef
 - 1 (10.5-ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
 - 1 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - Salt and ground black pepper to taste

- Directions:**
- Step 1:** Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Spray a 9x13-inch casserole dish with nonstick spray.
 - Step 2:** Place sliced potatoes in a large bowl. Pour melted butter over top and sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of salt; mix until potatoes are thoroughly coated. Arrange potato slices in overlapping slices to cover the bottom and sides of the dish.
 - Step 3:** Bake in the preheated oven until potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork, 20 to 30 minutes.
 - Step 4:** While the potatoes are baking, heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir ground beef in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes. Drain and discard grease.
 - Step 5:** Transfer beef to a large bowl and add condensed soup, 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese, and milk. Season with salt and pepper; mix until well combined.
 - Step 6:** Remove potatoes from the oven. Spread beef mixture on top and return to the oven. Bake until heated through, about 15 minutes. Top with remaining Cheddar and bake until melted, 4 to 5 more minutes.

allrecipes.com

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- Do strength and balance exercises
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Learn more about reducing your risk of falling at www.nia.nih.gov/falls-prevention.

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BARNEGAT SCHOOLS SPORTS BEAT



Bowling

Congratulations to Jamie White, who took 2nd place high game with a 247 and 2nd place high series with a 667 at the Central Jersey Winter classic bowling tournament

Swimming

Congratulations to the Barnegat Girls Swimming Team! Emily DeLeeuw (above, left center) broke her own school record from earlier this year in the 500 freestyle at the Ocean County Championship! The girls finished the day with FOUR school records, four Shores Conference Qualifying Times, and 15 personal bests from 11 swimmers! The girls finished 8th in Ocean County!



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Meals On Wheels hosts Cornhole for a Cause

As we reflect on 2025, Meals on Wheels Ocean County is proud of the impact made right here in our community. This past year, we delivered more than 286,000 meals, served over 2,200 seniors, and provided more than daily nutrition by offering



meaningful community, essential care, and vital connection. Of the seniors we serve, 97 percent report feeling more confident living independently because of our services. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, seniors across Ocean County can remain healthy, safe, and independent in the homes they feel most comfortable in.

Looking ahead to 2026, we invite the community to support our mission of serving More Than Meals to thousands of seniors across Ocean County. While our services are provided regardless of ability to pay, 53 percent of participants cannot afford the voluntary \$3 per-meal donation, creating a shortfall of more than \$400,000. Community support is essential to helping us continue delivering meals, wellness checks, and meaningful connection to those who need us most.

PM. This fun, family-friendly event brings together neighbors, local businesses, and supporters for an evening of friendly competition while directly supporting meals and wellness checks for local seniors. Sponsorships, team registrations, and individual tickets are available, and every dollar raised helps us continue being More Than Meals for seniors in our community. Scan the QR code or visit www.csimow.org.



CORNHOLE
FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH
Family-Friendly Event
FUN BAGS CORNHOLE LOUNGE
452 NJ-37, TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753
FROM 6PM - 8PM

\$40
SINGLE PLAYER

\$80
TEAM ENTRY

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SCAN HERE

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www.csimow.org

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Sponsorships starting at \$250
 Levels: Presenting • Gold • Silver • Bronze • Community

Seven Honda Models Earn 2026 "Editors' Choice" Awards from Car and Driver

The editors at Car and Driver have honored seven Honda models with 2026 "Editors' Choice" awards, recognizing each vehicle as the best in its respective category, and wholeheartedly recommending them to buyers. Honda gas-powered and hybrid-electric models were recognized across a multitude of segments. The following Honda models earned 2026 Car and Driver "Editors' Choice" awards:

Mid-size Family Sedan: 2026 Honda Accord including Accord hybrid

Compact Car: 2026 Honda Civic including Civic hybrid

Sport Compact Car: 2026 Honda Civic Si

Sport Compact Car: 2026 Honda Civic Type R

Compact SUV: 2026 Honda CR-V

Hybrid Compact SUV: 2026 Honda CR-V hybrid

Mid-Size Two-Row SUV: 2026 Honda Passport

This year Honda has also earned four coveted 2026 Car and Driver 10Best awards, more than any other brand for the fourth year in a row – and the most in 10Best award history. The editors of Car and Driver have honored the Honda Civic lineup that includes the Civic Sedan, Hatchback, Si, Type R and Civic hybrid models, and the Accord and Accord hybrid with 10Best Cars awards. The 2026 Honda CR-V and CR-V hybrid as well as the all-new 2026 Passport were also recognized with Car and Driver 10Best SUV awards.

Now with 99 total awards, Honda has won more Car and Driver 10Best trophies than any other brand in the over 40-year history of the award. Honda Accord is the most awarded vehicle in Car and Driver 10Best history by a wide margin. Accord has made the prestigious list an incredible 40 times, including the last 28 years in a row. This is the 12th 10Best award for Civic and the seventh win for CR-V.

hondanews.com

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Causeway Careers
 Your future starts here.

Causeway Family of Dealerships is expanding and we have full time positions available in the following departments:

Ford Tech

Causeway Ford is looking for Ford techs, Ford certification a plus but not mandatory, top dollar paid. Hourly & flat rate pay options are available. Major medical health insurance, paid vacation & sick time. 5 day work week plus overtime is available. Tuition reimbursement available.

Diesel Tech

Causeway Ford is looking for Diesel techs, Ford certification a plus but not mandatory, top dollar paid. Hourly & flat rate pay options are available. Major medical health insurance, paid vacation & sick time. 5 day work week plus overtime is available. Tuition reimbursement available.

Entry Level Express Techs

Entry level express techs needed for our NEW growing Ford express team, experience not necessary, dealership will train the right person, hourly pay, overtime available. Major medical health insurance, paid vacation & sick time. 5 day work week plus overtime is available. Tuition reimbursement available.

To apply to the above: Contact Chris Thorn at (609) 597-8083, EXT:1126 or go to

www.causewayfordmanahawkin.com/careers/

We also have these opportunities:

Marketing Assistant

The Causeway Family of Dealerships in Manahawkin is seeking a Marketing Assistant. This role includes helping with social media, community events, and general marketing projects. Candidates should be comfortable using smartphones for photography and social media content creation.

Part Time Operator - Call Center
 Contact Joe Stroffolino at (609) 713-6706

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 Sun: Closed

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*Not all buyers will qualify. Any pricing is plus tax, tags, doc fees, bank fee. See dealer for complete details on all offers.

Familiar Faces, New Showrooms

At The Causeway Family of Dealerships, growth means opportunity.

We have recently made a few team transitions across our locations, and while you may see some familiar faces in new showrooms, one thing remains the same, their commitment to serving you.

Our sales professionals can assist customers across all Causeway brands, including Ford, Lincoln, Hyundai, Honda, and Nissan.

No matter where they are located, you can count on the same trusted service and expertise!



Kethan Yee

We are excited to share that Kethan Yee is now at Causeway Honda. Formerly at our Hyundai showroom, Kethan is ready to help customers across all Causeway brands.



Dyllan Sloan

After 11 years at Causeway Honda, Dyllan Sloan was ready for a new chapter. He is now at Causeway Hyundai and excited to continue helping customers with the same experience and dedication.



Adrian Garcia

Adrian Garcia has made the move from Causeway Nissan to Causeway Hyundai. Fluent in Spanish, Adrian is proud to serve our diverse community with the same dedication and expertise.



Kelly Banff

After spending time at Causeway Ford, Kelly Banff has made his way back to Causeway Nissan. He is happy to return and continue serving our customers.



Joey Delcid-Chavarria

After serving customers at Causeway Hyundai, Joey Delcid-Chavarria has made the move to Causeway Nissan. Fluent in Spanish, Joey is proud to support our diverse community while delivering the same dedicated service.

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BENEFITTING OCEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

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March 1st
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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Operation Homeplate of Ocean County

2026 Edition

Our **mission** is to assist you with determining eligibility for supplemental nutrition benefits.

Our **goal** is to ensure you have the funds to purchase healthy food for you and your family to enjoy. While \$95, the minimum benefit, may seem small, this extra money can be used to purchase essential food items and lighten any financial stress on your household. You may qualify for **NJSNAP** benefits depending on your gross monthly income as well as other deductions, such as out-of-pocket medical expenses.

An example of family size and income:

Household Size	Maximum Allowable Income*
1	\$2,413
2	\$3,261
3	\$4,109
4	\$4,957
Each Additional	+ \$848

*Figures valid October 2025 - September 2026
 Our trained community service aides are here to assist you. Therefore, please ask any questions and take a few minutes to view and fill out a benefits application. We may also be reached at:

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
 1005 Hooper Avenue
 Toms River, NJ 08754
 #732-929-2091
www.mynjhelps.gov

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 2014 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk FEW163290 \$11,985*	 2015 Audi A6 3.0T Premium Plus quattro FFN019530 \$12,475*	 2017 Buick Encore Essence YHB035312 \$12,677*	 2015 Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 4MATIC® YFJ091122 \$12,750*	 2018 Jeep Cherokee Limited FJD564419 \$12,911*	 2018 Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC® YJV092140 \$13,182*	 2020 Hyundai Tucson Value NLU142432 \$13,424*
 2017 Hyundai Tucson SE FHU487023 \$13,623*	 2020 Kia Sportage LX FL7804535 \$13,986*	 2020 Hyundai Tucson SE YLU087795 \$14,227*		 2018 Chevrolet Malibu LT FJF116761 \$14,585*	 2018 Mazda CX-5 Touring YJ0457947 \$15,146*	 2021 Mazda CX-5 Touring HM0321924 \$15,353*
 2019 Honda CR-V LX HKH210792 \$15,533*	 2020 Jeep Compass Latitude NLT168833 \$15,589*	 2019 GMC Terrain SLT HKL326626 \$15,989*	 2018 Honda CR-V EX-L HJE71228 \$16,165*	 2019 Chevrolet Malibu LT FKF117181 \$16,318*	 2019 Dodge Durango SXT Plus YKC848575 \$16,694*	 2022 Hyundai Kona N Line YNU903122 \$16,985*

*Pricing is plus tax, tags, doc fees, bank fee. Stock images are for illustration only. See dealer for complete details.

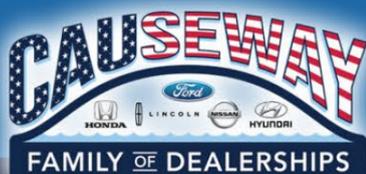
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Kevin Williams

Spent 40+ years as a morning fixture on 92.7 WOBN (Ocean County) talking sports and more. His daily feature, "The Hometown View" won several awards and still airs weekly. He was also the Director of the Shore Sports Network which was an online site that covered high school sports. He recently stepped down after 40 years as the founder and director of the WOBN Christmas Classic, one of the largest high school basketball tournaments in NJ. Kevin is a member of several Hall of Fames including the prestigious New Jersey Broadcasters Association. In semi-retirement Kevin spends as much time as possible on the beach and being frustrated by the teams he roots for.

Alex Williams

Is a graduate of Penn State University and currently a Vice President at M Booth an award-winning digital PR and creative communications agency in New York City. She lives in Battery Park, and her interests include working out, listening to Taylor Swift, trying new restaurants, and trying to get her father to leave her alone with questions about his computer, phone and more.



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L-PACK



\$89,248

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12' LANDSCAPE



\$81,309

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\$75,595

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8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F41109

TRANSIT 350



\$52,159

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6-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40856

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\$99,999

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8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40018

12' BOX



\$53,999

2024 FORD E-350 DRY FREIGHT

8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40009

DUMPING UTILITY



\$75,331

2024 FORD F-450 REG. CAB 4X4 DRW

8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F41133

PLOW TRUCK



\$84,965

2024 FORD F-450 REG. CAB 4X4

Diesel, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40162

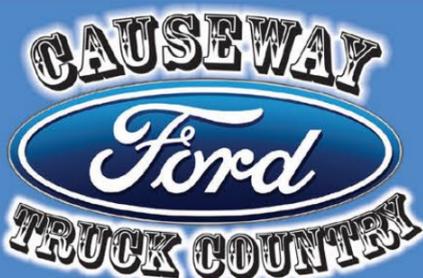
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DURAMAG SERVICE

\$77,124

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MASON DUMP

\$72,906

2024 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, DRW, Stk. No. F40702

MASON DUMP

\$72,060

2024 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB 4X4 DRW
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40700

9' MASON DUMP

\$78,134

2024 FORD F-550 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40651

DUMP FLOW

\$79,792

2024 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40707

I-PK DUMP

\$83,140

2025 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, DRW, landscape, Stk. No. F50397

BOOM TRUCK

\$199,999

2024 FORD F-750 MECHANIC SERVICE
Diesel, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F40161

DUMPING STAKEBODY

\$82,747

2025 FORD F-450 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, DRW, Stk. No. F50418

READING UTILITY

\$69,412

2025 FORD TRANSIT 350
6-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50549

9' KNAPHEIDE UTILITY

\$76,853

2026 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F60006

9' DURAMAG UTILITY

\$74,455

2025 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50574

I-PACK

\$70,766

2024 FORD F-350 MASON DUMP
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, 4x4, Reg. Cab, DRW, Stk. No. F40676

DURAMAG ALUM.

\$72,846

2025 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, 4x4, Stk. No. F50129

LOW ENCLOSED

\$70,864

2025 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50261

GM FLATBED

\$70,744

2025 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB DRW
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, 4x4, Stk. No. F50656

OPEN UTILITY

\$66,654

2025 FORD F-350 REG. CAB 4X4
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50582

READING BODY

\$67,663

2025 FORD TRANSIT 350 HI ROOF
6-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, w/ladder racks, Stk. No. F50549

SERVICE BODY

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2025 FORD E-350 KUV
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50022

12' BOX

\$70,340

2026 FORD F-350 REG. CAB
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F60062

RUGBY DUMP

\$78,134

2024 FORD F-550 SUPERCAB DRW
8-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, 4x4, Stk. No. F40651

ENCLOSED UTILITY

\$66,567

2025 FORD TRANSIT 350 LOW ROOF
6-cyl, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50548

OPEN UTILITY

\$89,944

2025 FORD F-450 CREW CAB 4X4 DRW
Diesel, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50608

ENCLOSED UTILITY

\$101,173

2025 FORD F-550 SUPERCAB 4X4
Diesel, auto, ps, pb, air, cruise, tilt, p-win, p-lcks, Stk. No. F50663

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Furry Friends

Who Need Fur-Ever Homes!

Meet Poe, a lover, not a fighter!

A volunteer and shelter staff favorite. Beautiful Poe has spent far too long in the shelter waiting for a loving home of his own, making him the longest-resident at the shelter.



Poe is still a young boy of five, sweet, gentle and easy to handle. He gets along with all the other felines in the cat room, including the pesky kittens. If another cat tries to annoy Poe, he lets it slide by, turning his head or walking away. Poe enjoys being around people and having his soft fur stroked. He makes the most of every sunbeam and relishes three meals a day, especially lunch!

Why, you might ask, hasn't darling Poe been adopted yet if he's such a wonderful boy? When Poe arrived at the shelter, staff discovered he had a thyroid condition that requires daily medication in the form of a pill that he readily takes in a pill "pocket." While many visitors are drawn to our boy Poe, they don't want the obligation of medicating him, even though he makes it very easy.

If you're looking for a fabulous feline, please stop by the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter, 360 Haywood Rd., Manahawkin and ask for Poe. Their hours are 1 to 4 daily. Poe is up-to-date on all his vaccines and ready to meet his special person.

Meet Maikoh!

This handsome guy is a fun, energetic dog who warms up quickly to new people—especially if they're ready to give him some well-deserved pats. Maikoh would thrive in an active household because he loves to play and stay busy.



He has lived with other dogs and is dog-friendly. When meeting cats, he was a little shy but showed no concerning behaviors. Maikoh already knows sit, down, and shake, but like many young pups, he'll benefit from continued training to help him master the rest of his basic skills.

Maikoh is a big fan of toys! The only rule? No soft toys—he destroys them in record time. But give him durable toys and he's a very happy boy.

Maikoh is a great dog with tons of potential, and he's ready for a family who can keep up with his playful spirit and help him shine. Come meet him at the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter located at 360 Haywood Rd., Manahawkin, NJ. The Shelter is open daily from 1 PM to 4 PM.

If you are looking to adopt, have questions or want to volunteer please call:

609-978-0127

or go to

www.fosocas.org

* Please call the Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter to make an appointment! open daily 1:00pm - 4:00pm and until 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

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 HXPE583823
\$17,187*



2019 Subaru Legacy 2.5i
 YK3030471
\$17,204*



2019 Honda Civic EX
 HKU418576
\$17,356*



2020 Subaru Outback Limited
 FL3152437
\$17,523*



2022 Hyundai Tucson SEL
 YNH088192
\$17,927*



2019 Lincoln MKC Reserve
 F-P88277
\$17,941*



2019 Nissan Altima 2.5 SV
 NKC103311
\$17,989*



2023 Kia Forte GT-Line
 YPE627184
\$18,298*



2016 Mazda Miata Sport
 Y-P88270
\$18,305*



2020 Jeep Renegade Latitude
 YLPL46842
\$18,345*



2023 Hyundai Tucson SE
 YPH243496
\$18,793*



2019 Lincoln MKC Reserve
 NKUL16025
\$19,193*



2023 Hyundai Kona SEL
 NPU977631
\$19,404*



2023 Hyundai Elantra SEL
 YPU443520
\$19,589*



2020 Lincoln Corsair Standard
 FLUL22051
\$19,640*



2023 Hyundai Kona SEL
 FPU013011
\$19,679*



2017 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport
 FHL662567
\$19,829*



2024 Hyundai Elantra SEL
 Y-P88288
\$19,986*



2023 Honda Civic EX-L
 HPE013019
\$20,465*



2022 Nissan Rogue SV
 NNC679789
\$20,889*



2018 INFINITI Q70L 3.7X
 FJM370536
\$21,324*



2021 Nissan Murano Platinum
 NMC138935
\$21,500*



2024 Subaru Legacy Premium
 NR3006732
\$22,038*



2022 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk
 YND533538
\$22,090*



2024 Hyundai Kona SEL
 YRU087089
\$22,146*



2022 Ford Escape SEL
 FNUB67706
\$22,416*



2019 Lexus NX
 YK2202500
\$22,909*



2024 Honda Civic Sport
 HRE012914
\$23,126*



2020 Honda CR-V EX-L
 HLH637278
\$23,324*



2020 Nissan Frontier SV
 NLN708651
\$23,515*



Scan For Preowned



2022 Ford Escape Titanium
 FNUA79739
\$23,657*



2024 Honda Accord EX
 HRA032243
\$24,051*



2024 Honda Accord EX
 HRA029267
\$24,193*



2023 Subaru Outback Premium
 NP3158030
\$24,303*



2023 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend
 FPRD66617
\$24,563*



2019 Ford F-150 XLT
 FKKF20865
\$24,577*



2023 Honda Civic Sport Touring
 HPE013175
\$24,952*



2022 Hyundai Palisade SEL
 YNU350450
\$24,987*



2021 Honda CR-V Touring
 HMM614863
\$25,035*



2018 Toyota Tacoma SR5 V6
 FJM165500
\$25,631*



2024 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend
 NRRE50556
\$25,769*



2023 Honda HR-V Sport
 HPM728349
\$25,887*



2023 Honda Accord Hybrid Sport
 HPA029722
\$25,985*



2023 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend
 HPRE36792
\$26,162*



2022 Lincoln Corsair Standard
 FNUL30741
\$26,777*



2023 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend
 FPRD72441
\$26,872*



2022 Lincoln Corsair Standard
 F-P88297
\$26,984*



2024 Honda HR-V Sport
 HRM773822
\$26,987*



2022 Toyota Corolla Cross XLE
 NNV026707
\$27,025*



2023 Hyundai Tucson Hybrid Limited
 FPU094289
\$27,456*



2025 Honda Accord Hybrid Sport
 HSA021574
\$27,683*



2022 Honda Pilot EX-L
 NNB083893
\$27,753*



2021 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport S
 HMM531393
\$28,054*



2022 Ford Explorer Timberline
 HNGC37566
\$28,710*



2022 Ford Explorer XLT
 FNGC33673
\$28,924*



2024 Honda CR-V EX
 HRH409058
\$29,013*



2023 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport
 FPE028264
\$29,425*



2020 Dodge Durango R/T
 FLC131749
\$29,639*



2023 Honda Passport EX-L
 NPB021375
\$29,788*



2023 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport
 HPE029836
\$29,834*



2022 Lincoln Nautilus Standard
 FNBL22595
\$29,985*



2023 Honda CR-V EX-L
 FPH432129
\$30,426*



2016 Ford Mustang GT Premium
 FG5335294
\$30,658*



2022 Honda Passport TrailSport
 HNB012173
\$30,715*



2023 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport
 HPH816113
\$30,874*



2023 Honda Passport EX-L
 YPB016927
\$31,598*



2022 Honda Pilot Special Edition
 HNB103639
\$31,957*



2024 Ford Mustang EcoBoost Premium
 FR5105375
\$33,989*

*Pricing is plus tax, tags, doc fees, bank fee. Stock images are for illustration only. See dealer for complete details.

KIDS COLORING CONTEST!



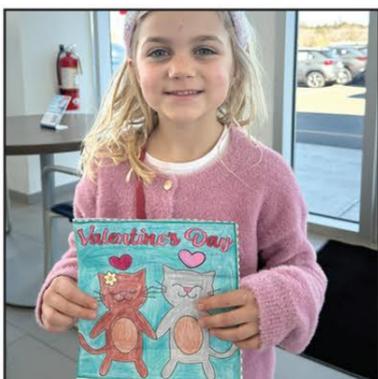
You Could Win a \$50 Target® Gift Card!

Simply have your child color the page, fill out the form, and either stop in to any Causeway location to drop off or mail to the address below.

Entry Deadline: March 7th



to Last Month's **Kid Winner!**



Isla



Mail to: Causeway Coloring Contest • PO Box 547, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Child's First Name _____
 Age _____
 School _____
 Parent's Name and Phone _____



ADULT COLORING CONTEST!



You Could Win a \$50 Dollar Gift Certificate to Sweet Jenny's in Barnegat!



to Last Month's **Adult Winner!**



Mary Lou

Must be 18 years or older. Simply color the above picture, fill out the form, and either stop in to any Causeway location to drop off or mail to the address below.

Entry Deadline: March 7th

You could win a \$50 Gift certificate to Sweet Jenny's!

Mail to: Causeway Coloring Contest
 PO Box 547, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

First Name _____
 Last Name _____
 Phone number _____
 Residence _____



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 COMFORT EATS & ICE CREAM

OPEN 6 DAYS
 A WEEK
 CLOSED MONDAYS

SERVING A NEWLY EXPANDED LIMITED BREAKFAST MENU TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 11AM TO 2PM

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EARLY DINING SPECIAL
\$15.99 ALL INCLUSIVE MEAL
 INCLUDES SOUP OR SALAD, ENTREE & DESSERT
 CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
 AVAILABLE DAILY 2 PM TO 5 PM

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 Excludes holidays. With coupon only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Valid through 3/31/2026 only.