



Our April 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, April 11, 2022** starting at **7:30 PM**. The April meeting will feature the film *DRIFT*, a documentary by the organization Save Barnegat Bay, which includes a history of Barnegat Bay's past, present, and future through interviews with scientists, environmental leaders, and local voices. Meeting location: Woman's Club of Point Pleasant Building, 513 St. Louis Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. Face coverings are optional and your decision to mask or not mask will be respected by all.

## 100 Years Ago: Canal Work Nears Completion

The following is reproduced exactly as published in the March 28, 1922 Asbury Park Evening Press about the Point Pleasant Canal.

### BARNEGAT CANAL WORK BEING SPEEDED

**Inland Waterway Expected to Be Completed Within Year – Only About Quarter Mile Yet to Dig. Steam Shovel At Work, Dredge Coming.**

POINT PLEASANT, March 28 – An inland water way between Manasquan river and Barnegat bay is expected to be a reality during the year if the progress of the past month in cutting the canal between those two points is maintained. After laboring spasmodically for about five years on the project, a new lease of life was taken on the work about a month ago and the canal has been opened to within a little over a quarter-mile from Manasquan river.

In its earlier stages the canal progressed rapidly but after a couple of years or more work began to slow down and last fall an appropriation was made by the state navigation board of \$5,000 for the work which had been under way for 37 cents a yard. L. J. Harrison of Paterson submitted a bid agreeing to finish the work for 24 cents and the contract was awarded to him. All thru the winter the work had been progressing slowly, but about a month ago a force of new trucks were put on the job and with a steam shovel at work excavating, the ditch was brought as far north as Lakewood road, which is about 1,600 feet from the Manasquan river. The point on the river where the canal will end is just above the Pine Bluff Inn. The state has secured a right of way for a width 200 feet the entire length of the canal and the opening when complete will be 150 feet wide.

After the present contractor began the contract for opening the canal under the supervision of the navigation board, the state highway department completed plans for constructing a new bridge over Manasquan river alongside the present wooden structure. The new bridge is to be of dirt with a steel span over the center which will contain a draw. Contractor Harrison contracted to carry the dirt excavated from the canal to the bridge and since starting has completed half of the filling in. A new sucker dredge has been ordered and upon its arrival it is expected the work will progress at a more rapid rate.

The completion of the Manasquan-Barnegat canal will mean an inland water route between these two points over which ships of considerable size may carry on commercial activities. And to add to the commercial value of the canal, the work of completing a jetty on the south side of the Manasquan river is under way after many drawbacks on the part of residents on the northern side of the river.

Originally it was the plan of the state to construct a jetty on the southern side of the inlet to keep the opening into the ocean at a certain point. A jetty was constructed on the Manasquan side and for the past four or five years the inlet has shifted over a space of 500 to 1,000 feet, it is reported. Several attempts of Point Pleasant officials and residents on the Manasquan side. At last, however, it is announced the work is advancing without interruption under the supervision of Contractor O. J. Melea of Long Branch at a cost of about \$50,000.

The new jetty will be of a hook type designed by Engineer Louis E. Haupt of this place and Cynwyd, PA., and is expected to be completed by the time the canal is finished. Officials of this boro appear unanimous in the opinion that the jetty will be one of the greatest improvements ever made in Point Pleasant and, coupled with the inland water way, will greatly increase the commercial activities in this vicinity.

Source: "March 28, 1922 (Page 1 of 16)." Asbury Park Evening Press (1905-1974), Mar 28, 1922, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/march-28-1922-page-1-16/docview/2002085624/se-2?accountid=345>.



## Point Pleasant Borough's 17<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 23, the Point Pleasant Borough Environmental Commission's celebration brings the community together at Riverfront Park from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM to inspire an understanding and appreciation for the environment. The theme for this year's celebration is "Trees Make Point Pleasant," focusing on the importance of trees in the local environment. There will be green educational displays and products, music, food, and activities for children, including rides and a petting zoo. Admission is free. The Bennett Cabin will be open and manned by members of the Point Pleasant Historical Society with a small yard-sale planned as well. Rain date: 4-24-22. Riverfront Park is located at River and Maxson Avenues in Point Pleasant. For more information, email [ECommission@ptboro.com](mailto:ECommission@ptboro.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/PointPleasantBoroughEnvironmentalCommission](http://www.facebook.com/PointPleasantBoroughEnvironmentalCommission).

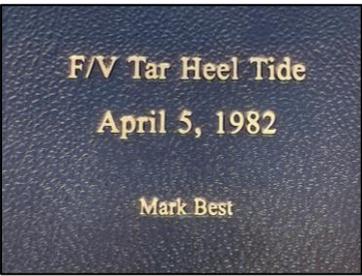




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**Point Pleasant Historical Society**  
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***Fisherman’s Memorial: Remembering Mark Best***

*From The Museum Archives:* The *Tar Heel Tide*, an 80-foot fishing trawler out of North Carolina, had been docking and unloading its catch at Garden State Seafood in Point Pleasant Beach beginning in January 1982 and was expected to stay until June 1982. Mark Best, a 25-year-old crewman and the lone occupant of the boat at the time, was killed on April 5, 1982, when fire broke out and completely gutted the boat while moored at Garden State Seafood. The rest of the crew had returned to North Carolina for a visit. To the left is a picture of the plaque at the Fisherman’s Memorial in Mark Best’s name.

***Hello to the “Hello Girls!”***

March meeting attendees enjoyed a wonderfully interesting presentation by Melissa Ziobro, Monmouth University Specialist Professor of Public History and former US Army Fort Monmouth Command Historian, about the “Hello Girls,” which were the women employed as telephone switchboard operators with the US Army Signal Corps during World War I. Over 100 years later, Congress is currently considering awarding them with a Congressional Gold Medal, but the legislation has been repeatedly stalled in committee. The work of the “Hello Girls” is still being discovered and appreciated due to teachers like Ziobro.

***Point Pleasant Home Featured in NJ Monthly Magazine***

The March 2022 *New Jersey Monthly* magazine issue features a article about a very unique home right here in 08742: The Trolley House. Built around a decommissioned century-old trolley which once ran between Elizabeth and New Brunswick, the home is one of the most unique dwellings in and around our area. Pick up the issue or search “trolley point pleasant” at njmonthly.com to read the article.

***Local “Memories” Groups on Facebook Give Life to the Past in the Present***

Members who are on Facebook might find the following groups to be of interest.



One is “Point Pleasant Beach Memories Group,” created in 2020 by Sandy Newstedt. Users post a treasure trove of memories and nostalgia.



The second is “Ocean County Memories Established 1850!” The group was started in 2017, and administrators Patrick Asay and Andrew Anderson were awarded the 2021 Special Award of Merit by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission for their work through the group to preserve the history of Ocean County. Many posts in the group document events, places, and people from Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach.

From old advertisements and rare post cards to newspaper clippings and memories, both groups serve to keep the history of our area alive in digital form. You can find both by searching their titles as listed above using the search bar on Facebook.

**Check out our website at pphsm.org!**