



The regularly scheduled April 2025 public meeting will be held on **Monday, April 7, 2025** starting at **7:30 PM**. Point Pleasant resident and Environmental Commission Chairman, Ed Blazek, also the Director of the InfoAge Space Exploration Center, will present a program about Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Station, Camp Evans top secret radar work in WW2, and the Army's postwar "Project Diana" which bounced the first radar signal off the moon. **Meeting location:** Point Pleasant Borough Municipal Building, 2233 Bridge Ave., Point Pleasant Borough. The meeting is free and open to the public and you need not be a member to attend.

The Great "Ash Wednesday" Storm of 1962



"When we hear "hurricane," most people rush to prepare, yet nor'easters often don't spark the same urgency."

People along the Jersey Shore are no strangers to powerful storms, having experienced both hurricanes and nor'easters. When we hear "hurricane," most people rush to prepare, yet nor'easters often don't spark the same urgency. However, history has shown that these late-winter storms can be just as devastating. This article will delve into the 1962 Ash Wednesday nor'easter.

Superstorm Sandy in October 2012 was a harsh reminder of how quickly a storm can upend lives, leaving destruction in its wake. Today, advanced forecasting gives us real-time updates and warnings up to 10 days in advance, yet some still underestimate the power of these storms, choosing to ride them out instead of preparing for the worst. And sometimes, a storm comes with little to no warning, catching communities off guard and changing lives in an instant.

Asbury Park Press, March 5, 1962, Local Weather Forecast - Today, Tonight and tomorrow, cloudy, chance of snow developing, possibly mixed with rain. Highest temperature today and tomorrow in the 30s, lows tonight about 30 degrees. 10 to 15 mile an hour northeast winds tomorrow. Wednesday partly cloudy, not much change in temperature.

The weather on Tuesday, March 6th, and the next few days took an unexpected turn from the forecast. A powerful late-winter storm swept in, bringing fierce winds gusting up to 70 mph, along with a mix of rain and snow. To make matters worse, a perigee moon—when the moon is closest to Earth—aligned with the sun and Earth, triggering exceptionally high tides that intensified the storm's impact along the coast.

The Lovelandtown Bridge Collapse: A Storm That Changed Point Pleasant

As the powerful nor'easter slammed into Point Pleasant, fierce winds, high tides, and relentless currents battered the coastline. The nearly 36-year-old Lovelandtown Bridge could not withstand the storm's fury, and its western abutment gave way, causing the bridge to collapse under the immense pressure.

As early as 1960, locals began raising concerns about the Lovelandtown Bridge's safety. Point Pleasant officials had warned state engineers that the bridge was unsafe, but their concerns were ignored. The storm proved their fears were justified, leaving the community stunned and the canal closed by the Coast Guard.

In Point Pleasant Beach, floodwaters swallowed streets that had never seen water before, damaging homes, businesses, and local landmarks. The storm's relentless surge flooded neighborhoods across town, with Lovelandtown hit especially hard. Rising waters isolated the community, turning roads into rivers and leaving residents stranded. The boardwalk at Bay Head was missing! Out at sea, the storm's fury proved even more devastating—15 fishermen from Point Pleasant were lost when their trawlers were overtaken by the raging waters.

A storm so deadly and severe, yet completely unpredicted! (written by David Caputo)



Point Pleasant Historical Society
Phone: (732) 892-3091
Email: ppbhistoricalociety@gmail.com
Website: pphism.org

Point Pleasant Historical Society
PO Box 1273
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Point Pleasant Historical Society *Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach*

REMEMBERING TOMAINO'S SHOE STORE

By, Samuel J. Tomaino

The story of Tomaino's, one of the oldest shoe stores in the area, is the saga of a man who came from Italy in 1913, worked hard, dealt honestly with his customers and rose to a point of eminence in the community.

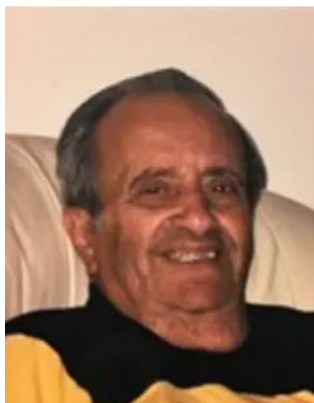
It is the story of Samuel Tomaino, who came to America to visit someone who was living in Point Pleasant. He liked what he saw here so much that he decided to remain and went to work as a laborer on the railroad. Two years later, he opened a small shoe repair shop in Point Pleasant Beach, next to the southeast corner of Arnold and Bay Avenues.

Through hard work and a thorough knowledge of the shoe repair business gained in his native Italy, he prospered. In 1923 he married Nicoletta (Nicki) Mancuso of Long Branch. They had two children, Francis in 1924 and Joyce in 1932. In 1925, Samuel and Nikki opened a shoe store and repair shop converting a house with a front lawn into a storefront and upstairs apartment.

In 1949, upon graduation from Rider College, Francis Tomaino assumed operation of the shoe store. In 1951, he married Ann DeSimone of Point Pleasant. They had three children, Samuel in 1952, Michael in 1955 and Barbara in 1959.

Samuel Tomaino retired in 1961 and passed away in 1969. Nicki passed away at the age of 98 in 2003. She was active in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Senior Citizens (Chapter 1) and the Glorious Years.

Francis retired in 1986 and closed the doors of Tomaino's Shoe Store after 60 years of operation. He left with much regret. Francis passed away on August 25, 2017. What a memorable family!
(Written by Samuel J. Tomaino)



Top right, Tomaino's Shoe and Repair Store at 527 Bay Ave. Middle right the inside shoe repair shop counter. Bottom Left Francis J. (Frank) Tomaino, and bottom right, Francis (Frank) Tomaino in the 1928 Baby Parade!