

## Drew Pessano PESSANO'S VARIETY STORE

Amanda Strube gets up close and personal with Pessano's leader

**W**hat started as a pharmacy by his grandparents in the '40s has now turned into a well-established variety store. Drew Pessano now owns two very successful variety stores, one in downtown Ocean City and one on the Boardwalk. Selling everything from sticker books to Frisbees, beach chairs and beach toys, Pessano's Variety Store offers anything you can imagine all in one very fun store.

**OCmag:** You just opened a new store, right?

**Drew:** Yes, I have one store on Third Street and our new one is on the Boardwalk.

**OCmag:** How long have you owned the variety store?

**Drew:** I've owned the one on Third Street for 10 years. I opened the one on the Boardwalk on my tenth summer, but it's been in my family for 64 years. My grandpa, who was a pharmacist, started the one on Third Street with my grandma. They actually had a store on the Boardwalk also. In the '60s, my dad took over the one on the Boardwalk and my mom was running the Third Street location. My dad left the Boardwalk shop in '85 and helped my mom run the Third Street one until 2000. By then I graduated college and took over.

**OCmag:** What is the most popular thing you've been selling?

**Drew:** The same thing as everybody else. Silly bands. But also Waboba balls – it's a ball that skips like a rock on water. A lot of Phillies things have been selling also.

**OCmag:** What's your favorite thing in the shop?

**Drew:** I'm big in the beach chair business. I think I have one of the best selections on the island, so I'm kind of into that whole scene. I'm excited about selling the Hex Bug too, which is a little battery-operated bug that scurries around the floor.

**OCmag:** Why do you like working in Ocean City?

**Drew:** I like the whole seasonal thing; work hard for six months then relax for six months. I grew up here so it's cool to

work in the town where I grew up.

**OCmag:** Where did you go to high school?

**Drew:** Holy Spirit.

**OCmag:** What's the most played song on your iPod?

**Drew:** I like a lot of Beatles stuff, so I would have to say anything Beatles.

**OCmag:** What do you like to do when you're not working?

**Drew:** I like to travel, I go to a lot of different shows and also I play a lot of golf.

**OCmag:** What's your favorite place to travel?

**Drew:** I like Mexico – the Riviera Maya especially.

**OCmag:** Where do you like to play golf?

**Drew:** The most favorite course I ever played was called Poipu Bay in Koloa, Hawaii.

**OCmag:** What's the best thing about owning your own business?

**Drew:** I don't have to work for anyone else, you know? It's independence – that's the best part. I really never had to work for anybody.

**OCmag:** What is your favorite holiday?

**Drew:** I'd have to say Labor Day because it's the end of the season.

**OCmag:** Okay, this is a weird question, but if you could be any animal in the world what would you be?

**Drew:** I wasn't expecting these kinds of

questions, but I guess I would be a monkey so I could climb trees.

**OCmag:** If you could go grab a bite right now on the Boards, what would you pick?

**Drew:** It would have to be Johnson's Popcorn.



Drew Pessano is the third generation in his family to helm the Ocean City variety shop  
Photo by Amanda Strube



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