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Happy New Year  
**2021**

# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is  
dedicated in  
Memory of**  
-Edward Boyler  
-Darlene Coughlin  
-Capt. Dr. Kelliann Leli  
-Margaret Mayer  
-Kathleen Motylewski  
-Beverly Rappleyea  
-George Wist



**December 19, 2020 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 30 Issue 3**



This beautiful Christmas tree sits in front of the South Amboy Train Station, directly across from City Hall. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## 2020 Safe Holiday Celebration

By Jorge Gonzalez Gomez, MPSTL

From the entire South Amboy Business Community we would like to wish all our patrons and their loved ones a Blessed, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season.

Although this holiday season will feel very different for all of us, health experts recommend celebrating very differently this year as the COVID19 pandemic reaches record levels throughout New Jersey and the world.

It is important to choose precaution over tradition this year. This will keep you and your loved ones safe. Your celebrations will have much meaning if you simply tweak how you celebrate.

Our recommendations are simple when you plan your holiday events:

- Do NOT host or attend a gathering if you have tested positive for COVID 19 and you have not quarantined for 14 days, if you have symptoms of COVID 19, awaiting COVID 19 results, have been exposed to someone with COVID 19 or are at increased risk of severe illness.
- Keep celebrations small and to a maximum of 10.

- If you plan to invite guests from outside your household, try to have guest quarantine 14 days prior to your celebration.
- Wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance. When you remove your mask, wash your hands. Skip hugs, kisses and handshaking.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer if water is not available.
- See your doctor and get your Flu shot if indicated.

With God and each other, we will get through this together!

## Napolitano, Fernandez, Pabon Win In Sayreville

In a battle between 8 candidates for 3 seats on the Sayreville Board of Education, the winners were Alison Napolitano with 9,390 votes, Eloy Fernandez 8,552, and Eileen Pabon 8,049. They were followed by Christopher Callahan 4,694, Jessica J. Esposito 3,991, Danielle N. Pieloch 3,274, Zoe Katsilis 2,672, Syed Muhammed S. Ali 1,828.

## Pearl Harbor Memorial Service



Bob "Zak" Sekerak, Commander of American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62, South Amboy gets ready to toss a memorial wreath into the Raritan Bay in honor of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th. (Photos by Tom Burkard)



Pictured at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service (l-r) Maureen Sekerak-Ladies Auxiliary President of American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62, South Amboy, Bob "Zak" Sekerak-Commander of American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62, South Amboy, and members/veterans Gary Poland, and Tom Noble.

## South Amboy St Patrick's Day Parade Committee Announces 2021 Grand Marshal

(Article submitted)

2021 marks the 45th annual South Amboy St Patrick's Day Parade, set to begin at 2 pm on Sunday, March 21, 2021. South Amboy resident Tom Dempsey will serve as the 2021 Grand Marshal. Mr. Dempsey, or "Demps" to his friends and family, grew up in Jersey City, NJ and is best known for his impressive work history, entrepreneurial spirit, positive, energetic personality and his "gift of the gab." A member of the South Amboy Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 23 years, Mr. Dempsey has served as both Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the

organization He and his wife Phyllis were the proud owners of Phyllis' Sugar Bowl which offered residents homemade chocolates and ice cream for over 28 years at their former location on Broadway in South Amboy. When given the honor of Grand Marshal, Mr. Dempsey explained that "I have been pretty successful in my life, but being named Grand Marshal of the South Amboy Parade is an honor I can't explain. It has left me humble and speechless, and as I look over my 87 years, I can honestly say that this is cherry on the cake.

## Dems Claim 3 Seats In South Amboy

In the only contested race for City Council in South Amboy, Democrat Tom Reilly defeated Republican challenger Robert Mickiewicz in Ward 2, by a margin of 711-447 votes. Brian H. McLaughlin ran unopposed in Ward 1, and racked up 904 votes, while Zusetta Dato, also unopposed, tallied an election high of 1,030 votes, in Ward 3..

## Final Election Results For Sayreville Council

The Sayreville Democrats captured two Borough Council seats, as Mary Novak and Vincent J. Conti topped the voting with 10,874 and 10,261 votes respectively. Republicans Danielle Zaleski tallied 9,515, and Karen Bailey-Bebert 9,085.

**Next Issue January 23rd -- Deadlines January 11th**

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# TIMES

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In 2006, the Mayor's Wellness Challenge (MWC) sprouted and continues to flourish and expand with over 400 municipalities actively participating in New Jersey. A community-based initiative, the MWC is a resource that provides tools for Mayors to help them address obesity and other health concerns in their respective communities. Wellness activities help keep our minds and bodies in good working order. Although exercise is always an important component of a healthy lifestyle, this challenge is even more important as we continue to tackle this pandemic and keep our minds and bodies in shape. Inspired by this, South Amboy Mayor Fred A. Henry sponsored a fitness challenge to help keep South Amboy on the move. With this virtual fitness challenge, enrolled participants chose to walk or run 26.2, 50, or 100 miles in a consecutive four-week period. The winner, Robert Rodriguez, logged an impressive 260.87 miles and 527,597 steps! Our programs are only as good as the community which supports them. We encourage and challenge each and every one of you to participate in one of our upcoming activities. Let's keep South Amboy on the move. Pictured Robert Rodriguez (l) and South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (r). (Photo/Info submitted)

### Library Voted One Of The Best

Sadie Pope Dowdell Library of South Amboy was voted "One Of The Best" Libraries in Middlesex County by Home News Tribune/Courier News! Congratulations are extended to Library Director Elaine Gaber and her entire staff on a job well-done, and a most deserved award!

A PRAYER FOR HEALING  
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -T.B...

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### Precious Gifts

By Al Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate, c.1998

A child holds our hand  
A pick of a perfumed spring flower  
A mountainous view across land  
A taste of honey sweet and pickle sour  
A smile that beams into our heart  
A proud family moment-  
a marriage, a birth  
A confident chin-up with a fresh start  
A backyard garden grown in our earth  
A glow of a home light  
peacefully awaiting  
A comforting hug by family or friends  
Faith with hopes anticipating  
A joy from greeting cards  
that one sends  
A bright yellow sunrise  
and cream pink sunsets  
A touch of something soft,  
something smooth, something warm  
A love unconditional  
we feel from our pets  
A sound of crickets at eve,  
and a whispered good morn  
Not of these can we buy  
with our money!  
In a material age doesn't  
this seem funny?  
Why would these most  
precious gifts be free?  
As a reminder,  
the Giver is always with thee.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING  
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -S.R.

### Pleasant little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- Chief of Sayreville Fire Dept. in 1963?  
a. Jack Yanzek b. Frank Gomolka c. Raymond Honeycutt
- Where is Rita's Ice located in Parlin?  
a. Washington Rd. b. Rt. 9 c. Main St.
- Top vote-getter for Borough of Sayreville Council in 2008?  
a. Lisa Buchanan Eicher b. Kenneth P. Kelly Sr. c. Ron Green
- Who was the South Amboy Fire Chief in '63?  
a. Chester Jankowski b. James Nemeth c. Chester Meinzer
- What section of Sayreville was the Club Bene located?  
a. Melrose b. President Park c. Morgan
- Who was St. Mary's Church Pastor when the new high school was dedicated in Nov. '68?  
a. Fr. William Leonard b. Msgr. Francis Sullivan c. Father James McConnell
- Selected South Amboy Superintendent of Schools in 2005?  
a. Marilyn Rosenbaum b. Jeremiah Robertson c. Robert Sheedy
- Where is Protection Engine Co. No. 1 located in South Amboy?  
a. North Broadway b. North Feltus St. c. Bordentown Ave.
- St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick HS principal in 2012?  
a. Sister M. Pacis b. Dr. Karen Juliano c. Dr. Frank Ianniruberto
- In 2010, who did Police Chief Michael Burns succeed for the top post?  
a. Edward Szkodny b. Douglas Sprague c. Michael Romanoff

Answers  
11b 2a 3b 4a 5c 6b 7c 8b 9b 10a.







The Sayreville Republican Municipal Committee presented the Sayreville Recreation Department a check for \$200 plus toys for the Annual Toy Drive to serve residents of Sayreville. Pictured (l-r) are Councilwoman Donna Roberts, Jeff and Cheryl of the Recreation Department and Sayreville GOP Chair Art Rittenhouse. The Recreation Department collected unwrapped toys until Dec. 4. (Photo/info submitted)

Sayreville Resident Wins DAISY Award

Heather Sootkoos, a lifelong Sayreville resident, recently won the coveted DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System and was created in remembrance of J. Patrick Barnes who passed away from an autoimmune disease. The DAISY Award is given to nurses worldwide who exemplify extraordinary nursing care. Heather works at JFK University Medical Center in Edison

on a COVID floor. She was nominated for the award by a patient who credits Heather for saving his life. Heather says "I learned when people are afraid and unwell, offering kindness and compassion is what can make them whole. Working on a COVID floor has not been easy but it has taught me so much about being human." Congratulations Heather on a job very well done!

Sayreville Air Force Doctor Remembered

By Steve Schmid

The Our Lady of Victories parish in Sayreville is fondly remembering U.S. Air Force Captain Dr. Kelliann Leli who was killed at the age of 30 in a non-combat motor vehicle accident November 27. She was in her first deployment in the United Arab Emirates as a physician at Al Dhafra Air Force base. Her husband, Air Force Captain Jimmy Leli, is a KC-10 extender pilot in the 6th Aerial Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base where they served together. Our Lady of Victories Administrator Father Robert Pinnisi said she will always be a member of the OLV family where she grew up before leaving for Travis Air Force Base in California. He said there is a sense of pride in seeing young people like

Kelliann volunteer and serve their country as a physician. He added that Kelliann is in our thoughts and prayers and will rest forever with the peace and comfort she deserves. Captain Leli's parents, Frank and Patricia Seaman are longtime parishioners at OLV. Frank Seaman is a member of Knights of Columbus Council 2061. Grand Knight Keith Rybak in a letter to members asked them to please pray with him for Kelliann and the Seaman families. Sayreville Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick called Kelliann's death a horrible tragedy. On the borough's Facebook page she said our heart breaks for the family, friends and loved ones of Air Force Captain Dr. Kelliann Leli and the Travis Air Force base community.

Special Charter Buses Used in South Amboy

By Steve Schmid

Right before Thanksgiving you may have noticed the strange sight of New Jersey Transit charter buses waiting by South Amboy City Hall and the train station. A derailed train in Perth Amboy near the Route 440 bridge in the early morning hours of November 24, caused the suspension of NJ Transit's North Jersey Coast Line service from South Amboy and points north. Inbound passengers were shuttled to the Metropark station where they took NJ Transit trains to Newark and New York City. Outbound passengers were transported from Metropark to South Amboy where they continued to Long Branch and Bay

Head. A modified schedule between South Amboy and Bay Head was put in place. The shuttle buses ran from South Amboy, to Perth Amboy, Woodbridge and Avenel. Service was finally restored in time for Thanksgiving on November 26.

A Christmas Wish

If I could have  
Just one Christmas wish  
It would not be for me  
I'd wish the world Just one day  
To live in peace and harmony.

55 Years Ago



1965- Hoffman HS students leaving school for the day, on a snowy afternoon.



1965- Hoffman HS Senior Class Officers (l-r) Peg McCarthy- Treasurer, Ron Poulsen- President, Linda Beshada- Secretary.

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## The Sweetest Christmas Memories

By Elaine Holton Scott

Whenever I think of Christmases growing up in the '50s and '60s, I remember a much simpler way of celebrating the Christmas season. How nostalgic the old memories have become...going to Perth Amboy via the Marathon Bus to the stores on Smith Street; window shopping while the cold winter air mingled with the sound of the many, usually badly suited, Salvation Army Santas ringing their bells, all vying with each other for donations; hearing Christmas Carols playing on radios from inside the stores; and every once in a while having money to actually buy something before ending our "shopping spree" inside the picture booth in Woolworth's to document our happy day with 4 connecting photos, all for the price of 25 cents. Broke, cold, and always laughing, we'd be on the corner in front of Woolworth's, waiting for the bus to take us home...usually with Red the Bus Driver at the wheel. Ah, but there was something else about Christmas in those long ago years, something which "sweetened" up the Christmas season like nothing else. It was the much awaited aroma coming from what was baking in the oven... the sweetest and best "gifts" of the holiday.

Later, as a young adult, for me baking began in November. The first time I ever made a Fruitcake, a really big one, I was newly turned 22, and listening to the Waltons Thanksgiving Special on television in the other room. It was a night in November of 1972. Not realizing how long it would take from start to finish, I soon found out I should have done it earlier in the day, but staying up late was all worth it. A Fruitcake really does need to be made at least a month before it's eaten, and strangely, the older the cake gets the better it becomes...that is, for those of us who love it. Later, I began baking fruitcake in small foil loaf pans to wrap up in see-through red wrapping paper to give as gifts.

I had loved to bake....still do (just not as much), and no Christmas could have been complete without homemade Kolaczki, Polish filled cookies. With the dough made flaky by using cream cheese instead of butter and with all different kinds of fillings, I don't think any cookie in this world could taste as good. My favorite filling was always orange marmalade. Second choice was a nut pasty filling.

The Christmas season for me was the time to bake as many cookies as possible,

mostly to give to family and friends. I remember baking cookies in the shape of Christmas wreaths and Christmas trees, oatmeal cookies plain and oatmeal cookies with raisins, coconut macaroons, chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cookies, chocolate cookies with nuts, Polish nut horns, crescent cookies, and almond balls. Then came the sugar cookies cut into different shapes and iced in bright red and green icing, and decorated gingerbread "boys and girls." One year, for my son's class, I made the gingerbread cookies into keepsake Christmas tree ornaments by quickly pressing a hole into the top of the cookies as soon as I took them from the oven for a hook to be placed. After cooling the gingerbread on wire racks, then decorating them. I painted all of those "boys and girls" with clear varnish. When you're young, tedious things like that just didn't seem tedious at all. Now, I can get tired just thinking about all the work. In addition to the fruitcake and cookies, I would make a Yule Log cake with a real whipped cream filling, cheesecake bars decorated with red candied cherries, loaves of cranberry sweet bread, and pies...always pumpkin pies made from "scratch" using the squash pumpkins sold at stands in the countryside. Of course, at that time no one ever wondered if all of the sugar filled, calorie packed Christmas desserts were at least a little bit bad for a person's health. Actually, no one really cared.

\*\*\*Peanut Butter Cookies (A recipe I got from my sister, Nancy Holton Berry, about 50 years ago.)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease baking sheets. In a medium-sized bowl, sift together 1 ¼ cups of flour, 1 ½ tsp. baking soda, ½ tsp. each of salt and baking powder. In a large mixing bowl, cream together ½ cup of softened margarine and ½ cup of peanut butter. Add one egg, ½ cup of white sugar and ½ cup of brown sugar. Beat well. Mix in flour, beating until smooth. Roll dough into 1" balls and place on greased sheets. Take a fork dipped into flour and press on each ball to flatten. Bake for about 8 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. I always doubled the recipe. (Never over bake a cookie.)\*\*\*

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE...  
AND HAPPY HANUKKAH TO OUR JEWISH FRIENDS!!

## The SA Times Front Page News At Christmas Time

5 Years Ago...

2015-Hoffman HS girls basketball championship team of 1988-89, was honored by being inducted into the prestigious NJSIAA Bollinger Hall of Fame at the Pines Manor in Edison...Sayreville native Patrick O'Brien, who was diagnosed with (ALS) Lou Gehrig's Disease, won an award at the Tribeca Film Festival for his documentary on ALS.

10 Years Ago...

2010-South Amboy's longest serving mayor, John T. "Jack" O'Leary reflected on his 24 years as mayor in an exclusive interview with The SA Times publisher Tom Burkard... The Sayreville football team captured its first Sectional title in 13 years by blasting Brick, 14-0.

15 Years Ago...

2005-Assemblyman John Wisniewski of Sayreville, was unanimously elected to serve as Grand Marshal of the 67th Annual Pulaski Day Parade in New York City...Princeton University's School of Architecture sent students to study the city of South Amboy... John "Jack" O'Leary, owner of Dooling Electric Inc. of South Amboy since 1972, and John Albert, President/CEO of Progressive Maintenance & Real Estate, Sayreville, were selected 2005 Business Leaders of the Year for their respective towns by the Sayreville/Old Bridge/South Amboy Chamber of Commerce...South Amboy announced that it would have a TV commercial featured on the top 9 Cable TV channels for 3 months in 2006...St. Mary Church celebrated its 150th Anniversary on Dec. 8th...South Amboy Police Officers Sgt. David Kales, Ptl. Mark Lewis, and Ptl. Paul Noble delivered a baby at a home on Washington Ave.

20 Years Ago...

2000-South Amboy native Ernie Read, a History teacher at Perth Amboy Vo-Tech, was an honored guest of Japan in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program.

25 Years Ago...

1995-The 1st Annual South Amboy-Sayreville Times/South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426, Christmas Dinner for the Underprivileged, was a huge success, as 125 adults and children attended...Sayreville native, Commander Bill D'Amico, received his second Meritorious Service Medal while commanding Naval Ordnance Center, Pacific Division, Port Hadlock, WA...South Amboy crossing guard, Martha Holton was honored for her 20 years of service on the corner of Stevens Ave. and Second St.

# Happy Holidays!



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 <b>GREY GOOSE VODKA</b> 1.75L \$39.99 750ML \$24.99	 <b>ABSOLUTE VODKA</b> 1.75L \$29.99 750ML \$19.99	 <b>TITOS VODKA</b> 750ML \$19.99 1.75L \$30.99	 <b>KETELONE VODKA</b> 750ML \$21.99 1.75L \$39.99	 <b>BACARDI LIGHT/GOLD</b> 750ML \$12.99 1.75L \$19.99	 <b>MALIBU COCONUT RUM</b> 1.75L \$25.99
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 <b>19 CRIMES ALL TYPES</b> 750ML \$9.99	 <b>LIBERTY CREEK ALL TYPES</b> 1.5L \$8.99	 <b>SUTTER HOME ALL TYPES</b> 1.5L \$9.99	 <b>CAVIT PINOT GRIGIO</b> 1.5L \$14.99	 <b>ROSCATO ALL TYPES</b> 750ML \$11.99	 <b>ROBERT MONDAVI PRIVATE SELECTION ALL TYPES</b> 1.5 L \$18.99 750ML \$9.99

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YUENGLING PREMIUM/LIGHT 24PK 12oz, CANS.....	\$13.99
BUSCH/LIGHT 30PK 12oz, CANS.....	\$18.99
NATURAL ICE/LIGHT 30PK 12oz, CANS.....	\$18.99
KEYSTONE LIGHT 30PK 12oz, CANS.....	\$18.99
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ROLLING ROCK 30PK 12oz, CANS.....	\$23.99
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## Yearbook-Sayreville 1995

By Tom Burkard

Co-Editor-In-Chiefs of the yearbook were Michelle Romao and Erin Kaplan... Dennis Fyffe was the principal, and some of his outstanding teaching staff included: Cathy McCarthy, Linda Tanchyk, Stewart Cress, Eleanor Schneider, Christine Bill, Gregory Milan, Rosen, Carol Rolewicz. . . The Student Council lined up with president-Christine Scavone; vice-president-Dana Feltz; secretary-Jennifer McTiernan; treasurer-Pat Walsh Jr.; executive member-Erin Walsh. . .The '94 Fall Drama was "Witness For The Prosecution." Marissa Ferraro was Homecoming Queen. . . School groups, organizations and the presidents of each: D.E.C.A.-Elaina Chapman; French Club-Stephanie San Augstin; Math Club-Adrian Murray; Improvisation Troupe-Melissa Skwira and Melinda Kramer; A.S.S.I.S.T.-Vinisha Agnihotri; Film & Video Society-Mike Heidelberg and Damian Bomm. . . Some of the huge graduating class selected randomly include: Susan Batissa, Jessica Brickman, Kelly Buckley, Roderick Chiasson, Anthony Cross, Demetri DeBiase, Rob DeLucia, Jennifer Dusko, Scott Frank, Jill Gawron, Dyana Gorman, Christy Hogan, Daniel Holderman, Robert Hospidor, Sean Jankowski, Soosik Lee, Jessica Leitner, Summer Levine, Danielle Luma, Jamie Lyn Lynch, Brian Maher, Jennifer Malik, Dana Mancini, Kelly Mason, Richard Masterson, Eve Moskowitz, Amy Nita, Brian O'Leary, Erick Pohl, Jennifer Poland, Jason Porcario, Brad Read, David Sas, Richard Sauer, Jill Shackleton, Kristen Sosulski, Tom Suminski, Keith Wasnak. . The number of senior varsity athletes was overwhelming, and the following are some selected randomly: Patrick Walsh Jr., Joseph Wolski, Laura Zemsky, Bilal King, Nicole Head, Kiran Patel, Karl Sadowski, Paul Warden, Jay Roberts, Jessica Roneree, Tom Schaaf, Kurt Schrek, Kristine Schultz, Brett Scully, Mihir Shah, Purvesh Sheth, Maria Suravalas, Steven Tarr, Tracey Thomsen, Paul Thurston, Donald Unkel, Jaime Kelly, Jill Kelly, Deidre Kolarick, John Kubacz, Amy Kukulya, Robert Kupcha, Eric Kwiecinski, Keith Kwiecinski, Damian Marchesani, Robert Markovitch, Adrian Murray, Joseph Nalewajko, Andre Adams, Beth Alwell, Valerie Bello, Tara Bouchard, Teremiah Brown, Michael Cavalieri, Kevin Cebulski, Debbie Colella, Adam Devlin, Jennifer Drozd, Randy Estok, Lori Fallon, Dana Feltz, Adam Grossman, Robert Grover Jr., Daniel Hartman, Larry Hartman, Mary Huguenin, Gary Jaremba... Sayreville War Memorial HS Class of '95 was truly an amazing group!

## Dowdell Library

2020 has undoubtedly left a lasting impression on each of us. It was filled with highs and lows. As the New Year approaches, so does the hope for new opportunities and the promise for a new beginning. The Dowdell Library is ringing in the New Year with programs to help you become the best version of yourself!

Invest more time into yourself this year! The Dowdell Library is excited to offer free virtual classes through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Three courses will be available in January. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will present A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on January 12 & 27. Stretch It, a Stretching and Flexibility Workshop guided by RWJ Outpatient Physical Therapy Specialist John Lancaster, will be available on January 7 & 21. Lastly, RWJ Community Health Organization, in coordination with Alzheimer's New Jersey, presents Meredith Gemeiner, Director of Programs and Services, in a virtual meeting about Understanding Memory Loss. All classes start at 1:00 pm, and you must be pre-registered. For more information or to pre-register, please email [susan.capolongo@rwjbh.org](mailto:susan.capolongo@rwjbh.org) or [kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org](mailto:kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org).

The New Year also starts a whole new tax season. The Library is happy to offer contactless, drop-off tax assistance. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program starting in January. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years, offering free tax help to low- to moderate-income, individuals with disabilities, and non-English speaking taxpayers. Contact the Library for additional information about this valuable service!

If the last year has taught us anything, it is to make the most of the time we have with our loved ones. The Dowdell Library is working hard to add new virtual programs to our YouTube channel that the whole family can enjoy! Please tune in this month to hear South Amboy Councilwoman Christine Noble read a holiday story about a snowman who keeps melting! Stick around and learn how to cook a new recipe during Test Kitchen, or learn a new hobby during our Virtual Exhibit! New content is added each

## Did You Know?

Several St. Mary's High School graduates entered the priesthood through the years including: Rev. Daniel Sullivan (Class of 1926); Rev. John Grimes (1929); Rev. Robert Bulman (1931); Rev. George Everitt (1936); Rev. William Fitzgerald (1943); Rev. Francis Sergel (1946); Rev. Michael Vona (1951); Rev. Thomas Quinlan (1955); Rev. John Alvarado (1971); Rev. Michael Crummy (1975).

month. Is there a new trend or technology you would like to learn about? Let us know at [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org).

New Year, fun new Teen Social Media challenges! For the winter months of January and February, choose from one of five categories, including a South Amboy category, and participate in our social media challenge! Look for the challenges on our website soon! Those who complete the SA category will be given credit for community service! Please take a picture and send your finished objective to [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org) with your name and which category you chose. The Library will share your accomplishment on our Social Media pages! Each month will have a different set of objectives, and each teen will be able to choose more than one category to complete.

You still have time left to enter the Teen 3D Printer Contest. Tinkercad is a free, online 3D modeling program where you can create objects that can be 3D printed at the Dowdell Library. Watch and learn while Ms. Laura explains how to use Tinkercad and print her creation in the latest installment of Sadie's Studio on our YouTube Channel. Then, use all your new knowledge and create your very own 3D model using Tinkercad at home or on one of the library's computers. Please submit your name and a picture of your 3D item to [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org) to enter our drawing! The deadline to enter is December 31st!

The Dowdell Library is still operating on a modified schedule, as well as providing staff-assisted services for faxing, notary service, photocopying, as well as assistance choosing books and media. These changes have helped us ensure the safety of our patrons and staff. Walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5 pm and Thursday 12-5 pm and 6-8 pm. We offer a Grab-and-Go Curbside service Monday morning from 9:30 to-10:30 am

Want to be "in the know?" Sign up for the monthly newsletter at [dowdell.org](http://dowdell.org)

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org). The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted to you. Thank you.



## The Vintage Car Contest

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Santa really knew how to travel in style... does this car look familiar to you? If so let us know the make, model and year. Send your answers to [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com) by January 11th.

The November Vintage vehicle was a 1970 Dodge Sweptline Pickup with the optional "Dude" package.

The "Dude" package was offered in 1970 and 1971 and approximately 1500 to 2000 were produced. Checkout the ad for the trucks- that is Don Knotts in the ad! Those that correctly identified the truck were: Marie English and Ed English, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss, Dane Colburn.



November Vintage Car  
1970 Dodge Sweptline Pickup "Dude" package.

## South Amboy City Officials -75 Years Ago

1945-Mayor Joseph McKeon; Councilman At Large-William Kurtz; 1st Ward Councilman-Anton Walczak; 2nd Ward Councilman-Charles Hess; 3rd Ward Councilman-John D. Leonard; 4th Ward Councilman-Ernest R. Read; Street Commissioner-Michael Nagle; City

Collector-Mary Wenzel; Overseer of the Poor-Kathryn Everitt; City Electrician-John Dooling; Police Justice-John E. Mullane; Chief of Police-David Quinlan; City Treasurer-George A. Kress; City Clerk-G. Frank Disbrow; City Solicitor-John McGuire.

## Sacred Heart Church Commences Regular Spanish Masses - South Amboy

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church at 531 Washington Street South Amboy is happy to announce regularly Scheduled Masses in Spanish at 2:00 PM. Bishop Checchio saw the need to meet the diverse needs of the Spanish speaking religious community in the surrounding communities and this Mass will address those needs.

In compliance with the Governors Executive orders, all masses offer a socially distant environment, hand sanitizers and masks must be worn at all times by all, except when receiving communion after completion of the mass.

For more information, please visit [sacredheartsa.org](http://sacredheartsa.org).



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## The Year of 2020 - Photo Contest" OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

This contest is open to residents of Sayreville, who hold a valid Sayreville Library Card and is sponsored by the Friends of the Sayreville Public Library . Anyone above the age of 12 is eligible to submit their photographs. • We will accept up to 5 submissions per person. • Photographs must be relevant to the theme: The year of 2020 in Sayreville or the state of NJ. It can be pandemic related or capture Sayreville’s and/ or NJ’s, landscape, people, food, nature or wildlife. As the photo will be displayed in our public meeting room, obscene, provocative, or otherwise questionable content will not be considered. • All submissions must be printed in black and white, but may be any size. Digitally altered pictures will not be considered. The photo can be framed or mounted on mat, foam or gator board, for display and judging only – the frame will be returned to you after the contest. • Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Submission of the photo and entry form is a testament to usage rights. If the photo includes people, the photographer is responsible for obtaining releases from those pictured. • By submitting an entry, you are allowing the Sayreville Public Library to publicly display your work, with attribution, in the meeting

room for an unlimited amount of time. HOW TO ENTER Submissions may be dropped off at the Sayreville Public Library (1050 Washington Rd, Parlin.) Each photo must be accompanied by a completed entry form (available at the SPL Circulation Desk) or online at the Sayreville Public Library site. Entries must be received by February 28, 2021 to be eligible. JUDGING Photos will be on display beginning March 1st 2021. Along with 3 anonymous judges, the public will be allowed to vote on the submissions until March 30th, 2020. Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, quality and effectiveness in conveying the subject. All contest decisions are final. Entries that fail to comply with the above rules will be disqualified and the submission will be returned. WINNERS Judges will select a first, second, and third place photo, as well as at least one honorable mention. The first place winner will receive a \$100 gift card, the second place winner will receive a \$50 gift card, and the third place winner will receive a \$25 gift card. Honorable mention winners will receive a certificate of appreciation. Winners will be contacted by April 1, 2021. The winning submissions will remain on display in the Sayreville Public Library.

Former South Amboy Fire Dept. Protection Engine 6 was recently placed out of service, and bought by a collector and shipped to Gulfport Mississippi. The old Engine 6 served the City of South Amboy from 1974 until 2001, when it was sold to the Strong Fire Co. in Mt. Caramel, PA, where the engine served first line apparatus Engine 25 until 2018, when it became a reserve engine. Although much loved and appreciated by Strong Fire Co., the company had to sell it to raise funds for a new fire engine. (Photo/info by Tom McGlone)



# Seasons Greetings from the City of South Amboy



**FRED A. HENRY**  
Mayor

**MICHAEL GROSS**  
Council President

**CHRISTINE NOBLE**  
Councilwoman-At-Large

**ZUSETTE DATO**  
Councilwoman

**THOMAS REILLY**  
Councilman

**BRIAN McLAUGHLIN**  
Councilman

**DEBORAH BROOKS**  
City Clerk

**GLENN SKARZYNSKI**  
Business Administrator

**DANIEL BALK**  
Finance Director

**DARREN LaVIGNE**  
Chief of Police

**FRANCIS M. WOMACK**  
Law Director

**SHERYL MASSARO**  
Municipal Court Administrator

**ROBERT O'CONNOR**  
Fire Chief

**LEONARD MOFFA**  
Public Works Superintendent

**JOANNE KATKO**  
Tax Collector

**ELAINE GABER**  
Library Director





Gregory Scharpf, Amboy Bank President and CEO, and Anthony DeToro, Vice President and Branch Administration Deposit Officer, help Anahita Feltz, Old Bridge Food Bank Manager, and Matthew Mercurio, Director of Parks & Recreation and Social Services, gather the food collections from the Amboy Bank Administration Building and neighboring branches. Scharpf said, "Through the generosity of our staff and clients, we were able to help the Old Bridge Food Bank feed the members of our community who need it most. We'd like to thank everyone for making our annual food drive such a success." Amboy Bank's food drive included all 23 offices making donations to their local community food banks. (Photo/story submitted)

### Does Anyone Remember The Rodeo?

One of our loyal readers recalled a Rodeo being held in back of the building where the Ikon Club is currently located on Rt. 35 South in the Morgan, but could not pinpoint the year the Rodeo was held, or the name of the club back then. Actually, the building has had several different names/ownerships through the years. Does anyone recall the Rodeo or any of the previous names this business went by? Please let us know.



### Movement and Restoration Yoga Practice

**Virtual Mondays, Dec. 21 & 28 from 6-7pm**  
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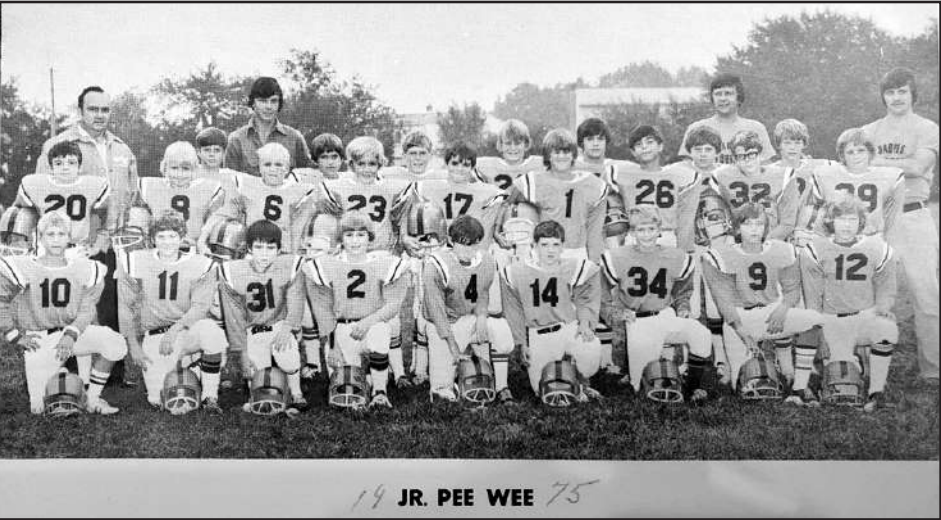
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would like to thank everyone that  
has and continues to support us.  
We are grateful and appreciative  
for all the continued support.  
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still going to continue to serve  
and care for our community.

Thank You To All  
Merry Christmas  
And a  
Happy New Year

Sincerely.  
Angelo's Pizza & Restaurant Staff



Name The Sabres Contest



1975- This South Amboy Sabres Pop Warner football team photo was taken 45 years ago. If you know any of the coaches, submit their names, and players with their names and uniform numbers. Send answers to: satimes@aol.com. One point for each player/coach correctly identified. The winner will be announced in the January 2021 issue.

BE KIND, THANKFUL, GRATEFUL, HOPEFUL  
AND BLESSED

(Article submitted)

This the season to be merry and bright and SHARING AND CARING is such an important piece to our own happiness. I am sure you have experienced a thoughtful smile or kind word from a stranger or perhaps someone you know. It puts a smile on your face, doesn't it!

Our FACES OF OUR CITY Exhibition may just do that when you see some of those smiles. This exhibition's idea began two years ago for the reopening of the SA Gallery. But when life doesn't go as we plan, which we have been experiencing these past months; we have reinvented the exhibition to showcase our city's residents who volunteered to participate. Each were intrigued with the idea and were happy to be a part of showcasing our city, by those who lived here and created our city's image and ambiance.

The South Amboy Arts Alliance invite you to our Window Exhibition  
FACES OF THE CITY  
141 North Broadway

The Alliance has been striving to build our community through the arts and we invite anyone wishing to volunteer or to become a member to contact us at SouthAmboyArtsAlliance@gmail.com.

We can provide local-area artists space where they can exhibit their work, teach classes or conduct workshops. Due to our present health crisis the Alliance expectations of hosting workshops, lectures, and other educational opportunities for all ages throughout 2020 had to be canceled. Presently we are now creating virtual programming to reach out and plan our 2021 year. So, we are actively seeking local artists since we want to add to the color and artistic vitality to South Amboy's downtown. We will be posting a 'Call for Artists' in January, please check our Facebook Page and the City's Website. Our website is being developed for future use of communication.

Preserving Our History ~ Historical  
Designation of Independence Firehouse

By Mary Szaro

Downtown is thought of by many as the heart of a city, and Broadway is no exception. As one of the oldest sections of the town, this main thoroughfare of South Amboy sees residents and visitors alike taking strolls, catching trains, and supporting local businesses countless times a day, every day. The welcoming look and feel of Broadway are enhanced by the few remaining historic buildings that reflect the essence and spirit of a small town deeply rooted in history and stories told about "the good old days."

The Independence Firehouse, perhaps one of the oldest standing continuous use structures in town, is a local landmark that exemplifies South Amboy's hometown feel. This firehouse has a unique history as the home of our first two fire companies, Independence and Enterprise. Both companies, organized in 1890 following a devastating fire in February of that year that destroyed the entire block of Broadway near David Street, shared the same building for almost one hundred years.

The original firehouse, a frame building, can be found on Broadway on the Sanborn map of 1901. In June of 1924, with the original building showing significant signs of age and decline, was demolished with the new firehouse completed in August on the original expanded lot. An emblem on the front façade captures the completion date of 1924.

Perhaps one of the most well-known historical members of the Independence Firehouse was Governor Harold G. Hoffman. Born in South Amboy in 1896, Hoffman served as Mayor of South Amboy in 1925 and 1926 and as Governor of New Jersey from 1935 to 1938. Following his death in 1954, his local obituary tells of his service as a volunteer fireman with the Independence Engine and Hose Company, with members of his firehouse marching in the funeral procession.

The Historical Society of South Amboy has submitted a formal proposal to the South Amboy Historic Preservation Commission for

local historic designation of the Independence Firehouse. The process will move forward in early 2021, including public hearings and an optimistically anticipated approval following a satisfactory demonstration of all elements of the required criteria.

An application was also submitted to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office to include the firehouse in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, a state-level

designation distinct from the local process. Currently, the only structure on the state register in South Amboy is the Great Beds Light Station, designated in 2008. The state register lists the Camden and Amboy Railroad Main Line Historic District in South Amboy (2016) and the Camden and Amboy Railroad/ Pennsylvania Railroad South Amboy Terminal archaeological site, recently listed in July of 2019


following the dig at the proposed ferry site.

With a historic 2020 in the rear-view mirror, we look ahead to 2021 and better times. The Historical Society of South Amboy will celebrate a milestone tenth anniversary in 2021 with a renewed focus on identifying, preserving, and protecting the city's remaining historic buildings. Historic preservation is more important than ever with the few historic structures we have left in our town. Next time you visit Broadway, tip your hat to our history and look for the landmark emblems on the Independence Firehouse, the Madura Building, and the Gundrum name carved on the storefront to the right of the Blue Moon.

We're hoping to find new ways of safely reconnecting with the community, including opening the History Gallery on Broadway to small groups or individuals for private visits within current safety restrictions. Please like us on Facebook and send a message if you'd like to schedule a private tour of the History Gallery. We'd also love to hear from you about other historic buildings, structures, or houses you know of, such as a Sears home. Perhaps together, we can even identify the most historic building in South Amboy.




WWW.?  
By Tom Burkard



Does this place look familiar to you? If you think you know what it is, send your answer in to: satimes@aol.com. Winners will be announced in the Jan., 2021 issue. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? November Winners

The answer for November is Mara's Restaurant in South Amboy. It was previously known as La Biga. The winners who correctly identified either location were: Chuck Pickard, Betty Leveille, Dennis Quinlan, Leon Credico, Judy Guilfoyle, Andy Jaramillo, Marie English and Ed English, Adele O'Hara, Don Zrebic, Lisa Grankowski, Mary Anne Matarangolo, Eleanore Westerholm, Pat & Bill Scully, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss, Stephen Laskiewicz, Joan Fulham, Joan Gorczyca, Dane Colburn, Gary Feret, Lynn Loy, Mary Agnes Morris, Karen Kieselowsky, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Laurie & Gary Loftus..



November WWW?  
Mara's Restaurant  
Rt. 35 North, South  
Amboy

\*We missed an Oct. winner-Betty Leveille, who correctly named Hercules Movers.



# WHAT IS IT?????

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton  
December What is it?



Does this little guy look familiar? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 11th.

November's What Is It was geared toward musicians. The object was a guitar capo. Taking its name from the Italian word for "head," a capo is a small device that clamps onto the neck of a guitar and shortens the length of the strings, raising their pitch. A capo is usually fastened across all the strings of a guitar or other fretted stringed instrument, although less often they are used on

only some strings rather than all of them. The main advantage of using a capo is that it lets a guitarist play a song in different keys while still using first-position open-string chord forms, which have a more droning and fully resonant tone than, for example, many bar chords

Those who correctly identified the capo were: Sandor Schneck (great player), Clem Skarzysk (great player and guitar technician), Marie English and Ed English, Bruce Grankowski, Eleanore Westerholm, Judy Guilfoyle, Leo Kirchner, Rob Bogdanowicz, Dane Colburn, Arthur Powis, Chelle Martin, Laurie & Gary Loftus. Would also have to assume all that answered are also guitar players.



November What is it? Guitar Capo



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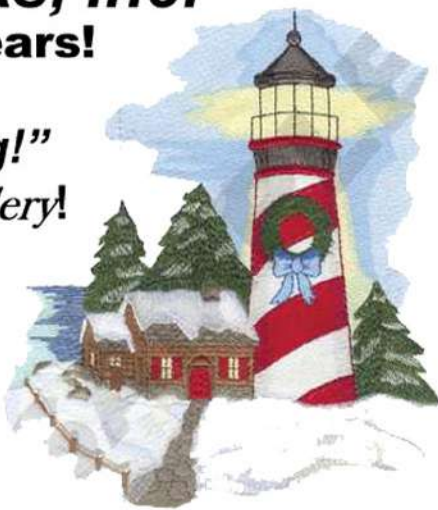
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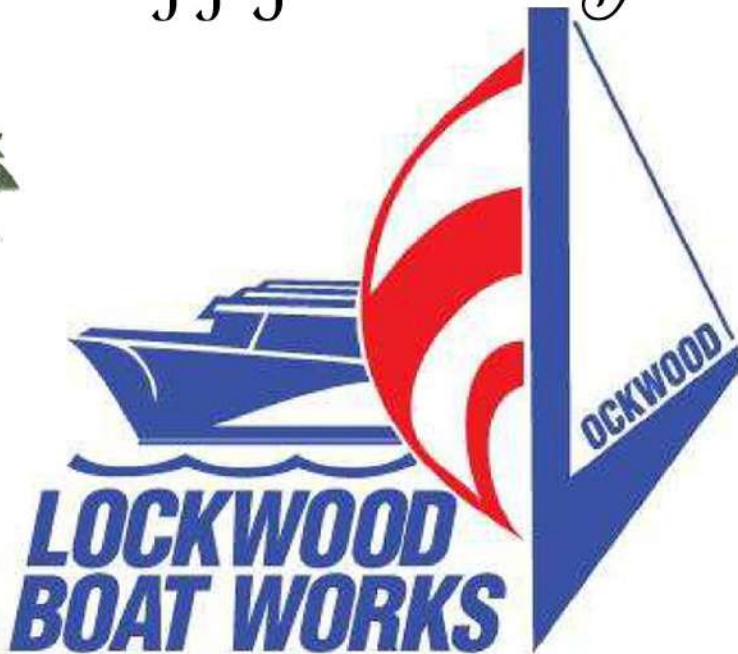
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LETTERS  
LETTERS  
LETTERS

The November contest surprisingly had no winners. The photo was taken at the 1995 St. Mary's High School Christmas Ball. The group photo was of the Junior Senate and their Moderator Mrs. Burns. The Senate members pictured: Courtney Kierst, Alleya Bess, Mike Gall, Laurie Florek, Erin Gardner, and two other students who were not identified.



(Dates are tentative due to inclement weather)

New Years Day	Friday	January 1st will be picked up Saturday January 2nd
Martin Luther King Day	Monday	January 18th will be picked up Wednesday January 20th
Lincolns Birthday	Friday	February 12th will be picked up that day
Presidents Day	Monday	February 15th will be picked up Wednesday February 17th
Good Friday	Friday	April 2nd will be picked up that day
Memorial Day	Monday	May 31st will be picked up Wednesday June 2nd
Independence Day	Monday	July 5th will be picked up that day
Labor Day	Monday	September 6th will be picked up Wednesday September 8th
Columbus Day	Monday	October 11th will be picked up October 13th
Election Day	Tuesday	November 2nd will be picked up that day
Veterans Day	Thursday	November 11th will be picked up that day
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 25th will be picked up Saturday November 27th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	November 26th will be picked up that day
Christmas Eve	Friday	December 24th will be picked up that day



# Upcoming Rotary Events

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on Monday, January 11th between 1-6pm at the South Amboy Senior Center located at 108 S. Stevens Avenue. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and search by zip code for all available appointments.

The South Amboy High School InterAct Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club, will be collecting personal care products during the blood drive to benefit local pantries at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and First Presbyterian Church in South Amboy. Community members are encouraged to donate items to fulfill the requests of the community members using the local food pantries as the need continues to rise during this critical time. The most requested items include: hair care and dental cleaning products, laundry detergent, liquid and bar soaps, baby wipes, female sanitary care items, toilet paper, deodorant, and adult and baby diapers. Those in need of any support should contact the South Amboy Office of Emergency Management at [saoem@southamboynj.gov](mailto:saoem@southamboynj.gov) or 732.588.5830 for assistance."

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club has historically hosted several social events each year. Due to recent social distancing guidelines, the 16th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance typically held around Valentine's Day, is being planned for the Spring. The same considerations are being discussed for the upcoming Annual Polka Dance. The Rotary Club is dedicated to bringing these popular events back as soon as possible to continue providing enjoyable social experiences for families. Community members can follow the club's Facebook page, Rotary Club of SASY, to stay informed of event details as they are finalized.

Rocco Cuoco, Rotary Club President stated, "Our community should be proud of our high school students' engagement in the Interact Club sponsored by the SASY

Rotary Club and celebrate their involvement in service to their community. Rotary is all about service to others."

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club sponsors several social events and outreach programs including a high school student member Interact Club, Dictionary Project for all third-graders in both school districts, and scholarships for South Amboy and Sayreville college-bound students with a focus on community service. Sponsors are needed for these programs as fundraisers have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Please contact Rocco Cuoco, Club President at [SASYRotary@gmail.com](mailto:SASYRotary@gmail.com) with any sponsorship or club membership inquiries.

## About the Rotary

Rotary is an international organization of over 1.2 million members in over 165 countries with local chapters where together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. Membership in any Rotary Club is by invitation to business, professional and institutional leaders in the community. Rotary Club meetings are open to interested individuals and they are invited to attend meetings to find out more about Rotary. The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club supports its communities through service to youth, civic activities, scholarship programs, support for local initiatives to promote goodwill and understanding. Information about Rotary can be found at [www.NJRotary.org](http://www.NJRotary.org) or by contacting [SASYRotary@gmail.com](mailto:SASYRotary@gmail.com).

South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary Club  
[sasyrotary@gmail.com](mailto:sasyrotary@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 3001  
South Amboy, NJ 08879  
[NJRotary.org](http://NJRotary.org)



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Dennis Kuhn, Holly Smith, Laura Golia, Nancy Charmello, Elaine Gaber (Director), Maryanne Candelora, & Melissa Mulcahy (not pictured Barbara Bringman & Michael Elson)


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Down Memory lane



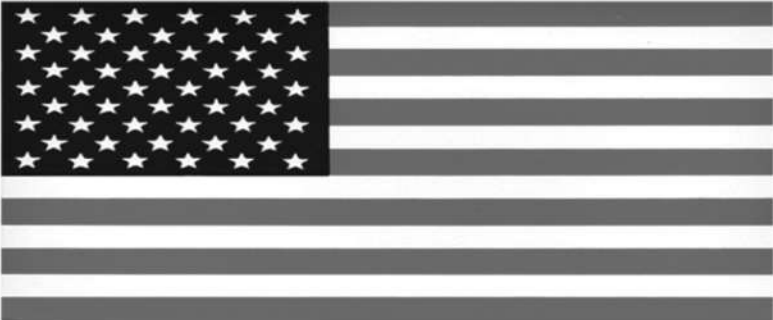
Raritan Diner in South Amboy.




Hunka Bunka in Sayreville




The Victory Bridge that connected Sayreville to Perth Amboy.




Merry Christmas from  
South Amboy American Legion  
Luke A. Lovely Post #62







At this time of the year when we are safely at home spending time with our families let us remember those who do not have that luxury since they are away fighting to keep America safe. Even with the letters, care packages and the occasional phone call that our men and women in the Armed Forces receive they will be especially lonely and will miss their families more now than at any other time of the year. Please keep them and their families in your hearts and prayers during this holiday season! If you know of a family that will be celebrating without a loved one please reach out to them to see if there is anything that you can do to help make their Christmas brighter. In order to show your appreciation to the Veterans at home shake their hand and thank them for serving this great Country that we live in when you see them on the street or while out shopping.











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a Happy New Year



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We would like to thank all of you who  
have visited the hall in the last year.  
We hope to see you again next year  
and also want to wish you, your family,  
first responders and essential workers  
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy  
Healthy and Safe New Year.

South Amboy Arts Alliance

(Article Submitted)

The South Amboy Arts Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to strengthening the community by providing distinct cultural and artistic offerings that support artists, engages residents, and creates a generation of new alliances. The Alliance strives to build a community of local-area artists and provide space where they can exhibit their work, run workshops, and add to the color and vitality of South Amboy's downtown. Since its inception in June 2019, the Alliance hosted three exhibits in its North Broadway Gallery and two cultural events last fall: ArtsFest 2019, a celebration of local art, crafts and music, and Voices from the Holocaust, a remembrance project of Theresienstadt ghetto and concentration camp. The Alliance is actively seeking local-area artists and volunteers. In this time of the covid pandemic we are going virtual and are looking for artists to participate in this endeavor. Please submit photos of the art work you wish to exhibit with a brief interpretation of your work and an autobiography of you as the artist. This is the perfect setting to have your art viewed by many in the comfort of their own home. The Alliance is expanding its gallery space this winter and expects to host virtual workshops, lectures, and other educational opportunities for all ages throughout 2021. More information is available at (732) 754-7913 or arts@southamboynj.gov. You can follow the Alliance on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/soamboyarts> or Twitter @soamboyarts. Email SouthAmboyArtsAlliance@gmail.com for membership details, artist submissions and benefits. The Arts Alliance maintains a gallery at 141 North Broadway, South Amboy, NJ.

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY 90<sup>TH</sup>




Jack McKeon  
November 23rd

John O'Brien  
December 11th

Can anyone help?

Well this was a tough one and we had one reader send in an answer, Was he correct, you be the judge. Scott Applegate thinks it is a gas pedal.





A Gift Card For Christmas

By Tom Burkard,  
c. 2010

If you're  
Christmas shopping  
And don't know what to get  
Give a gift card  
It's the easiest thing yet  
Christmas shopping  
is not so hard  
When you buy friends  
and loved ones  
The perfect gift card  
It saves lots of  
time and stress  
If you're not sure  
what to get  
And on Christmas Day  
Your loved ones will confess  
The gift card is their best gift yet



Barbara Brower, 93, formerly of South Amboy, catches up on her old hometown by reading The SA Times outside her new home at Roosevelt Care Center in Old Bridge. (Photo by Tom Burkard)





Standout keyboardist, John Hawken (l) is pictured in a publicity photo with the Nashville Teens rock 'n' roll band, who had a huge worldwide hit in 1964 with their song "Tobacco Road."

Did You Ever Hear Of The Nashville Teens?

By Tom Burkard

The Nashville Teens were a talented rock 'n' roll band from would you believe, England, and came over during the "British Invasion" in '64, when an influx of amazing bands arrived in the U.S. from Europe, and changed our music forever. The Teens released an excellent song with a powerful rock beat titled, "Tobacco Road," which was written by John Loudermilk. On November 7, 1964, a few weeks before Thanksgiving, the song peaked at #14 in the United States on the Billboard "The Hot 100" chart, and went on to hit the #1 slot in some European countries.

Fast forward to the present or pre-Co-Vid 19, and if you happened to stop in the Blue Moon on Broadway in South Amboy, on one of their entertainment nights, you probably would have noticed a tall man doing an outstanding job on the keyboards during the show. Well, the man's name is John Hawken, one of the most renowned keyboard players in the world, who happens to enjoy jamming at the South Amboy pub, which he did quite often. Most patrons probably did not realize that John was the keyboard player for The Nashville Teens, and has had quite an amazing run during his fabulous career, including winning two Gold Records. I was honored to interview this talented entertainer at the home of his good friends, fellow rocker Sandor Schneck and Gwen Feuerstein in South Amboy.

John Hawken took music lessons from ages 5-16 in England. He said that prior to hitting the big time with The Nashville Teens, his favorite rockers were Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Fats Domino, and Chuck Berry. When asked about how a British band chose the name Nashville Teens, he said that "Someone in England knew about Nashville's reputation for being a great music town." The band stayed together with a few changes in their members from 1963-68, and "Tobacco Road" rose on the English charts to "number 3 or 4, and did well throughout Europe," according to Hawken.

He recalled his most memorable concert being in Budapest, Hungary "Behind the Iron Curtain, we headlined, and played twice in one day in front of 30,000 people, which was one of the largest crowds we played in front of at the time."

The Nashville Teens in John Hawken's words "Played 360 gigs in their first year, and didn't have a follow-up hit to "Tobacco Road," because our writers were lazy and should have written new stuff."

John played piano for rock legend Chuck Berry on his first trip to England, and also Carl Perkins on his first tour over there. "They were two of the nicest guys you could meet. I played Chess with Berry on the tour bus, and also got to hang out a bit with Jimi Hendrix in England." Hawken also had fond memories of having a very exciting, nerve-wracking ride, in a brand new Rolls Royce with Keith Moon and Harry Nilsson. In addition, he appeared in a movie titled "That'll Be The Day," where he played keyboards.

During Christmas time 1964, The

Nashville Teens played live shows for 4 weeks on the Murray The K. Christmas Show in New York City. "We did 6 shows a day, and played 3 songs at each show. Also performing was Dionne Warwick, LaBelle, The Shangri-Las, The Zombies, and The Hullabaloo." The group was at the height of its popularity around this time, and appeared on U.S. TV shows including "Shindig," and "Hullabaloo."

John Hawken was a highly-regarded musician, and was once recruited by two of the most famous musicians in the world, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, who brought him into the Apple Records basement recording studio, to add some keys to a song they were working on for Cilla Black. "It was a very hot day, and the air conditioner was down, so it wouldn't affect the sound of the recording. George had Ringo change his drumming style three times, and Ringo did it exactly as he was told." Hawken spoke highly of both, saying Harrison "was the nicest guy," and Starr "was a good, regular guy."

In addition to playing with The Nashville Teens, he went on to other popular bands including Spooky Tooth (from Sept.-Dec. 1971), Renaissance, Third World War, Vinegar Joe, The Strawbs, and Illusion (which was Renaissance with the name changed). He had amazing experiences, touring all over the world including Europe, Canada, behind the Iron Curtain, and of course the U.S.A.

In 1973 or '74, he played "With the Strawbs out West, along with The Beach Boys at a Bill Graham Show, where 110,000 people came out for the concert. I also had the chance to play twice at the Royal Albert Hall in England with The Nashville Teens, and also Renaissance."

When asked what it was like to see himself performing with The Nashville Teens on youtube.com, he said, "It reminds me of a carefree time. The first time, there is no replacement. It holds a special place in my heart."

Note: A very special thank you to the great John Hawken for sharing so many wonderful memories of his truly amazing career in music.





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#1 Country Hits-  
December 19

- 2003-I Love This Bar-Toby Keith  
1994-Pickup Man-Joe Diffie  
1989-Two Dozen Roses-Shenandoah  
1971-Kiss An Angel Good Morning-Charley Pride  
1968-Born To Be With You-Sonny James  
1959-The Same Old Me-Ray Price

Top 10 Hits  
60 Years Ago

- 1960-The Top 10 Hits for the year selected by Billboard Magazine were: 1.Theme From A Summer Place-Percy Faith And His Orchestra; 2.He'll Have To Go-Jlm Reeves; 3.Cathy's Clown-The Everly Brothers; 4.Running Bear-Johnny Preston; 5.Teen Angel-Mark Dinning; 6.I'm Sorry-Brenda Lee; 7.It's Now Or Never-Elvis Presley; 8.Handy Man-Jimmy Jones; 9.Stuck On You-Elvis Presley; 10.The Twist-Chubby Checker.

#1 Pop Hits-  
December 19

- 2008-Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)-Beyonce  
1992-I Will Always Love You-Whitney Houston  
1985-Broken Wings-Mr. Mister  
1970-The Tears Of A Clown-Smokey Robinson/Miracles  
1966-Good Vibrations-The Beach Boys  
1958-To Know Him Is To Love Him-The Teddy Bears

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O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times" Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign, if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, tv, picture or receive roses. Must promise publication. M.L..



John Hawken, the phenomenal keyboard player from the 1960's world-renowned rock band, The Nashville Teens, visited good friends Gwen Feuerstein and Sandor Schneck of South Amboy recently. (Photos by Tom Burkard)



### Mr./Mrs./Miss

By Tom Burkard



1.Mrs. Robinson  
2.Mr. Roboto  
3.Good Golly Miss Molly  
4.Mr. Lonely  
5.Me and Mrs. Jones  
6.Mr. Moonlight  
7.Mrs. Brown You've Got A Lovely Daughter  
8.Mr. Big Stuff  
9.Mrs. Rita  
10.Mr. Tambourine Man

a.The Gin Blossoms  
b.Styx  
c.Simon & Garfunkel  
d.Herman's Hermits  
e.Jean King  
f.The Byrds  
g.Little Richard  
h.Bobby Vinton  
i.Billy Paul  
j.The Beatles

Answers  
1c 2b 3g 4h 5i 6j 7d 8e 9a 10f.



## Bozzella Misses Seton’s Opener

Seton Hall University (SHU) women’s basketball head coach Tony Bozzella missed the Pirates first game of the season due to his hospitalization for COVID-19. Coach Bozzella, has had a highly-successful run at SHU since taking over in 2013, as his teams have compiled a fine (133-92) record, and made it to the NCAA Tournament in 2015 and 2016, the first time in 20-years. Bozzella began his coaching career at St. Mary’s HS, and has had an outstanding overall coaching career on the collegiate level. Our prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Tony, a terrific guy!

## College Notebook

Graduate Linwood Crump of South Amboy, who played high school football at Sayreville is having a fine year at Temple University (1-6). The cornerback has appeared in 5 games, and registered 9 solo tackles and 1 assisted tackle. His teammate, red-shirt soph cornerback Elijah Clark, (Sayreville), has notched 4 solo tackles and pulled off 1 interception...Wide receiver Connor Holmes (Sayreville) did not get to play this season because the Bucknell U. football schedule was cancelled because of CoVid-19. He had a very promising year in 2019 as a freshman, and hopes to return for the 2021 season.

## Lozzi Started At St. Mary’s

One of the greatest girls soccer coaches in New Jersey history, Rob Lozzi recently retired as head coach of the Old Bridge HS team, after serving for 22 years in the post.

Lozzi, who was a 3-sport athlete at St. Mary’s HS, where he graduated in 1988, went on to coach at his alma mater from 1993-98, notching a fine record of (73-31-1), while winning 3 consecutive division titles in his final 3 years at the parochial school. The ‘96 team opened the season with 14 straight victories, the longest winning streak in the school’s history, and also captured its first division title with a (15-2) record.

While at Old Bridge Coach Lozzi continued his outstanding coaching, and turned in an amazing (261-131-27) career mark at the school. Congratulations Rob on a terrific and highly-successful coaching career!

## Sayreville Girls Win, Lose In States

**1st Round**  
Competing in the Central East F state tourney, Sayreville girls soccer club topped New Brunswick, 3-2 in the first round. Adrianna Westcott booted in 2 goals for the Bombers.

**Quarterfinals**  
Sayreville was eliminated by a powerful Fanwood team, 9-0.

## Zebro Leads Bears

On November 15, quarterback Zach Zebro scored the game-winning touchdown for East Brunswick (EB) on a 3-yard keeper with 0:51 left in the game, as the Bears beat New Brunswick, 14-7. Zebro put (EB) on the scoreboard in the 3rd quarter by racing 36 yards for a TD to break a scoreless tie. Zach has strong South Amboy ties, including his parents Kevin Zebro, and Lorraine McNerny Zebro, were both fine athletes while growing up and attending high school in the “Pleasant Little City.” Zach’s grandmother is Lorraine Kennedy, also a lifetime South Amboy resident.

## O’Brien Makes Reds 40-Man Roster

Flame-throwing right-hander Riley O’Brien, will be on the Cincinnati Reds Spring Training roster trying to earn a spot on the big club for 2021. Riley is 6-4 and weighs 175 lbs., and can throw a baseball 98 miles per hour according to his proud grandfather, former South Amboy resident, John O’Brien. The scouts have Riley down as throwing an above average fastball, and slider, and we’re hoping to hear more about him next season.

John said that back when he broke into Major League Baseball with the Pittsburgh Pirates in the early 50’s, “First year players were getting an average salary of \$6,000. Today, if they can make the big team, they average \$570,000.”

## School Sports

By Tom Burkard  
**Sayreville Football Game #8**

Monroe 13 Sayreville 12  
The Bombers now (4-4) saw their 3-game winning streak snapped by a strong Monroe club. Sayreville held a 9-point lead at halftime, but were unable to stop the determined Monroe (5-1) team, and dropped a real-heartbreaker.

Santana Fonseca connected on 2 beautiful field goals, and Javiion Simmon scored on a 1-yard TD run.

**Game #7**  
Sayreville 20 Linden 17 (Overtime)  
Javiion Simmon's 2-yard touchdown run over the right side was the game-winner. Quarterback Michael Colonnello fired 2 touchdown passes of 19 and 24 yards to Tim Mayer.

**Boys Soccer Team Leaders Sayreville (7-5-1)**  
Goals-Matias Rosario 9 Leon Daley 5 Kelvin Appau 4 Osei Boakye 3.  
Assists-Rosario 7 Ziad Elwardany 4 Appau 3 Boakye 1.

Goalie Nick Czajkowski registered 2 shutouts.

**South Amboy (4-4)**  
Goals-Angel Barillas 9 Jake Szatkowski 4 Ryan Skokowski 3.

**Girls Soccer Team Leaders Sayreville (3-11)**  
Goals-Adrianna Westcott 10 Carissa Colfer 3 Abigail Mayer 3 Shiryia Patel 2 Olivia Siverio 2.

**Field Hockey Team Leaders Sayreville (1-9)**  
Goals-Meha Patel 2 Brianna Ziobron, Sophia Abassi, Amoli Patel, all had 1 goal each.  
Assists-Hailey Petras 2.  
Goalie Jada Johnson registered 1 shutout.

## Hartsfield Playing For Panthers

Myles Hartsfield (Sayreville) is playing pro football for the Carolina Panthers (4-8) in the NFL. The defensive back/safety has appeared in all 12 games, and has 2 fumble recoveries, 2 solo tackles, and 2 assisted tackles.

## Floyd, Townes Playing Pro Ball

Jehyve Floyd (Sayreville) is having a good year playing pro basketball in Europe in the Israel-Winner League. He is averaging 10.5 ppg., 9 rebounds, and 1.2 assists per game. Marques Townes (Cardinal McCarrick/St. Joseph’s) is playing for Liga in the ACB in Europe. In 11 games, he has a 1.8 ppg., 0.5 reb., 0.5 assists. Townes' teammate is 35-year old D.J. Strawberry, son of former MLB star Daryl Strawberry. D.J. gets 2.2 ppg., 0.8 rebs, 0.9 assists per game.

## Bomber Boys Bow In Soccer

Sayreville boys soccer squad fell to Union, 2-1 in the first round of Group 4 Middlesex/Union tournament action. Matias Rosario scored the Bombers lone goal, while goalie Nick Czajkowski had 12 saves.

Remember this old ad for a typewriter back in the 1960's?

### City of South Amboy Department of Public Works

## 2021 Bulk Pickup Schedule

Please Note the following changes:  
**No Construction/Hazmat materials or tires.**  
**\*ALL MATTRESSES MUST BE BAGGED OR THEY WILL NOT BE PICKED UP\***  
**NO MORE THAN 10 ITEMS**  
Items must be bundled, bagged or canned

If your trash pick up is <b><u>Monday</u></b> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <b><u>Tuesday</u></b> ( <b><u>*Broadway included</u></b> ) —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <b><u>Thursday</u></b> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <b><u>Friday</u></b> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:
January 6th	January 13th	January 20th	January 27th
February 3rd	February 10th	February 17th	February 24th
March 3rd	March 10th	March 17th	March 24th
April 7th	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
May 5th	May 12th	May 19th	May 26th
June 2nd	June 9th	June 16th	June 23rd
July 7th	July 14th	July 21st	July 28th
August 4th	August 11th	August 18th	August 25th
September 1st	September 8th	September 15th	September 22nd
October 6th	October 13th	October 20th	October 27th
November 3rd	November 10th	November 17th	November 24th
December 1st	December 8th	December 15th	December 22nd

**\*\* ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. \*\***

**Bulk drop off will be scheduled every 3rd Saturday between 7am-11am**





## STORMWATER POLLUTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- You may think littering is no big deal (it is).
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- You may think motor oil and other hazardous materials don't harm the water (they do).

Pollution seeps into the ground and is carried by stormwater (rain and snow) directly to our drinking water, streams, lakes and oceans. Contaminated stormwater is the #1 cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Simple things, like proper clean-up after oneself and careful use of chemicals in the home, office and yard, are helpful ways for businesses and residents to protect the water. South Amboy has ordinances aimed at reducing pollution from litter, fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, animal waste, grass clippings and other debris. For details, see <https://ecode360.com/SO0670/> and Thank you for helping to keep our streams, rivers, and bays protected.



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**Don't feed wildlife**



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**Limit use of fertilizers &  
pesticides**



**Properly handle hazardous  
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New Business



Pictured with family and friends, are former local resident/businessman Matt Gomolka (5th from left), and his wife Tina (4th from left), who recently opened their new business, Pro-Line Kitchens on Water St. in Englishtown. Matt, previously lived in Morgan/Sayreville, was the owner of Gomolka's Auto Body, and is also a graduate of Sacred Heart Grammar School and St. Mary's High School. (Photo/story by Tom Burkard)

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From left, Carole Dortch-Wright, senior team member of the Citizens Campaign; Middlesex County College President Mark McCormick; Cesar Romero, Perth Amboy Trustee; and Harry S. Pozyski, Citizens Campaign Founder and Chairman.

Middlesex County College and The Citizens Campaign Partner to Establish Citizen Leadership Center

The Citizens Campaign and Middlesex County College announced the establishment of a Citizen Leadership Center designed to train students in problem-solving skills of community issues and provide opportunities for them to put their training to use as "citizen leaders" working to better their communities. Citizen Leadership Centers are designed to pave the way for putting the nation's community colleges at the center of a new national public service initiative, generating pragmatic and principled citizen leaders.

The MCC Citizen Leadership Center will have three core components: (1) offering Power Civics© citizen leadership training in one or more undergraduate courses; (2) offering Power Civics citizen leadership training to the broader community via the College's Continuing Education program; and (3) hosting a Civic Trust at the MCC Perth Amboy Center, where those who have

completed the citizen leadership training work together in problem-solving sessions to better their communities by searching for cost-effective, evidence-based solutions.

"The mission of The Citizens Campaign is to educate all Americans to the fullness of their political power as citizens and to introduce them to the shared experience of public service performed by participating in seeking solutions to issues in local communities," said Mark McCormick, president of Middlesex County College. "At MCC, we strive to educate the whole person and to develop our students as engaged citizens so that they are able to exercise their rights and give back to their local communities. The lessons learned from involvement with The Citizens Campaign help us to accomplish that goal."

Harry Pozyski, founder of The Citizens Campaign, agreed.

"President McCormick and the talented professors, administrators and students at the College are ideal partners for this exciting new venture," he said.

For more information about Middlesex County College, visit [middlesexcc.edu](http://middlesexcc.edu).

Christmas Music Trivia Extravaganza

By Tom Burkard

- 1.Christmas Time Is Here

2.Let It Be Christmas

3.Give Love On Christmas Day

4.Please Come Home For Christmas

5.Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

6.Wonderful Christmas Time

7.Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer

8.Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)

9.Mary Did You Know?

10.The Little Drummer Boy

11.Run Rudolph Run

12.Home For The Holidays

13.Happy Holiday

14.Rocking Around The Christmas Tree

15.Little Saint Nick

16.Feliz Navidad

17.Here Comes Santa Claus

18.We Need A Little Christmas

19.Where's The Line To See Jesus

20.Snoopy Versus The Red Baron

21.This Is Christmas
- a.Jose Feliciano

b.Kenny Rogers

c.Elmo & Patsy

d.Bing Crosby & David Bowie

e.Paul McCartney

f.Johnny Mathis

g.Bruce Springsteen/The E-Street Band

h.Brenda Lee

i.Chuck Berry

j.The Jackson 5

k.Vince Guaraldi Trio

l.The Royal Guardsmen

m.Becky Kelley

n.Andy Williams

o.Perry Como

p.Alan Jackson

q.The Eagles

r.Darlene Love

s.Gene Autry

t.The Beach Boys

u.The Goo Goo Dolls



Answers

1k 2p 3j 4q 5g 6e 7c 8r 9b 10d 11i 12o 13n 14h 15t 16a 17s 18f 19m 20i 21u.

"The Phenom"

By Al Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate  
c.1999  
His sensory qualities  
were inhuman.  
A derivative of the  
extraordinary  
Prodigious beyond belief  
A superhuman of  
yesterday and today  
A teacher of teachers  
at just age 12.  
Home-schooled by  
his mom and dad,  
A simple carpenter  
Yet, His initiative essences  
were never seen  
The likes before Him,  
even by  
The greatest known  
prophets,  
healers or geniuses  
Remarkable in appearance  
And awareness in experience  
Mesmerizing in every  
utterance from His lips  
Distinguished by marvels,  
wonders, and miracles  
He began with a staff of 12  
And now heads  
the world's future  
Today if He ran a business  
He'd be richer than Gates  
And more intelligent  
than all computers  
Yet, His occurrence or  
circumstance is divine  
This impressive phenom,  
a legend is my hero  
Born December 25, 0000.



# From The Times Archives

## Christmas Memories



1960 - Joann Szatkowski English was not a big fan of Santa...



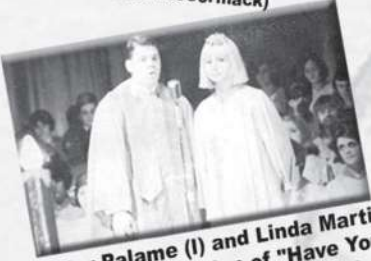
1959 - The Szatkowski brothers enjoying Christmas (l-r) Tommy, Donny, Eddie, Kenny & Johnny.



1947-Pictured with Santa Claus at Bamberger's in Newark, NJ are (l-r) John McCormack (Former Mayor of Sayreville), Mary Lou McCormack, and Michael McCormack. The McCormack Family resided in South Amboy at the time.  
(Photo submitted by Susie Coakley and Michael McCormack)



1956- Times Publisher Tom Burkard with one of his favorite gifts even though it's not a baseball glove or guitar!



1965-Peter Palame (l) and Linda Martin (r) performed a fine rendition of "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" at the Choral Festival at St. Mary's High School.



1960 - Joann Szatkowski English with her favorite doll which is bigger than her!



1966-Turning in an excellent performance at the St. Mary's High School Festival of Carols was (l-r) Noreen Whitson, Kathy Hendricks, Donna Scalamoni & Kathy Bulman.



1978 - 10 month old Jessica English lets Santa know she was a good girl.








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*The*  
**Spinal**  
*Column*

By  
**Dr. John Misiewicz**

**Does Santa have Back Pain?**

Santa Claus may be able to travel around the world in a single night, but when it comes to his health, he's no Superman. That bowl full of jelly, a diet rich in fatty cookies and a lack of regular exercise all put Santa at risk for back pain.

Santa is a perfect candidate for back problems – He's overweight. The same holds true for us mortals. Sometimes the cause of your back problems is not your back, but your front: your "spare tire" may be the cause of your aching back. And the solution to your back problem may not involve a pill or surgery.

Your spine is the central support of your entire skeletal system. It is designed for strength to support your body weight and flexibility to allow movement. When healthy, your spine is S shaped with three natural curves. When these curves are in balance, your body weight is evenly distributed. To maintain this alignment, you need to have strong and flexible muscles in your back, legs and abdomen. The abdominal muscles are especially important in supporting the spine.

A potbelly changes the curvature of the back. The stomach pulls the backbone forward, stressing muscles and ligaments and putting pressure on discs. If you have ten extra pounds on your abdomen, you are putting an additional 100 pound strain on your back. This additional strain occurs because the lower part of your spine is not receiving adequate support from your weakened abdominal muscles. Your back muscles try to maintain the proper spinal balance, but after end up strained or sprained.

Although excess weight does not cause back problems, you can do something about it. Follow a diet and exercise program to maintain a healthy weight and strengthen your muscles. Develop healthy eating habits that work for you. And make exercise, diet and proper spinal hygiene an important part of your day.

**Fishing Flashes**

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



**Salt Water**

Surf fishing in the ocean, especially at Island Beach and LBI, has been productive for Striped Bass with many keepers reported. There were shorts and some big ones over 35 inches up to 45 inches which had to be released. Some Bluefish are around too. A few Red Drum had been reported in these areas also. Party boats that fish for Striped Bass are also doing well. Some trips produced many oversized fish which had to be released. Big Bluefish up to 14 pounds were caught using jigs. Surf fishing in the local bay in are area is just about nonexistent. I checked the beaches at Keansburg and Cliffwood several times. The few people that were fishing reported no bites or fish. The party boats that bottom fish are catching Blackfish weighing in up to 10-12 pounds. Ling, a few Porgies and Sea Bass are mixed in the catch. Unfortunately, Spiny Dogfish have invaded most fishing areas in large numbers. They are even catching them in the surf at night. Winter Flounder are in Shark River.

**Fresh Water**

My wife and I tried fishing at Tilcon Lake for Landlocked Salmon, but the shore space was taken up by a few people fishing with 3 rods and spread out not leaving much area for us to fish. The one spot we were able to get into was just casting and one missed strike for my wife. The other people caught 2 Landlocked Salmon. We tried Spring Lake on Thanksgiving weekend for the winter Trout stocking. I did not get a strike but my wife pulled in a little hand sized White Perch. We did see 2 other people near us catch a few Trout.

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**A Simple Christmas Prayer**

By Al Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate,  
c. 2012

A babe was born  
on Christmas Day  
To save us  
from our sins  
All we have to  
do is believe  
And everybody wins!  
Merry Christmas,  
Christ is with us  
And everybody wins!

TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified,  
loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart  
of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for  
us. St. Jude gave me hope..

**Kindness At Christmas**

Try a random act of kindness  
This Christmas  
A little kindness goes a long way  
It can make someone smile  
Brighten their darkest day  
Kindness at Christmas  
Keep it in mind.  
Show a little love and caring  
Give someone your time.



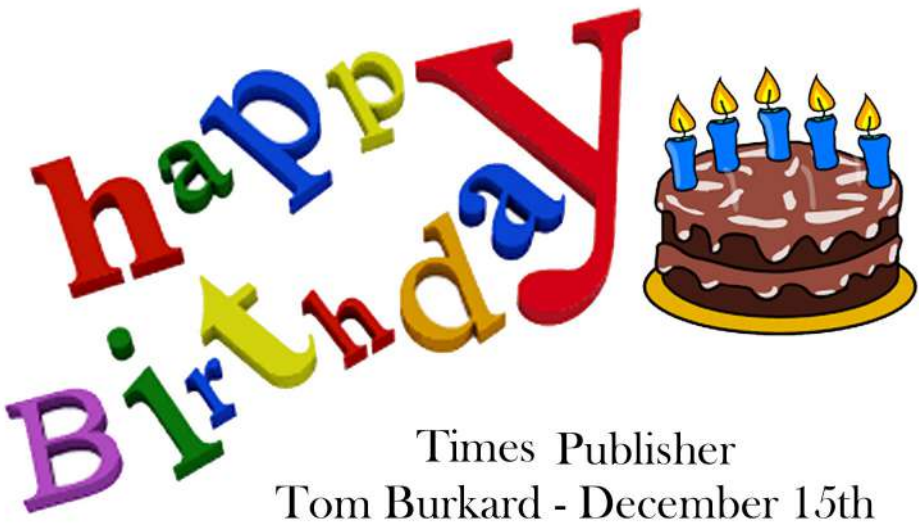
**Christmas long ago**



1970's-Students at South Amboy Elementary School singing at a Christmas play.



1970's-Principal Chester Zamorski (pictured in front of stage) speaks to the audience at the Christmas play. (Photos submitted)



Times Publisher  
Tom Burkard - December 15th

Times Layout Designer  
Phyllis Stratton - December 19th

**The Best Things At Christmas**

The three best things  
At Christmas time  
Are family,  
friends and memories  
They're so important  
And mean the world to me  
Family, Friends  
and memories

**The Christmas Countdown**

By Tom Burkard  
c. 2010

It's the  
Christmas countdown  
As the big day  
draws near  
The Christmas  
countdown  
The happiest time  
of the year  
Shoppers scurry  
all around  
As large snowflakes  
Fall to the ground  
Kids are waiting  
For that special  
sight  
Of the man in red  
With a beard  
snowy white  
Just watching the  
calendar every day  
'Til December 25th  
comes our way  
It's the  
Christmas countdown.



from the staff at the Times

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**Associate Publisher**

Brian Stratton

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Teo Weber  
Clem Skarzynski

Steve Schmid  
John Phillips  
Richard Kosmoski

Dr. John Misiewicz

**Layout Design**

Phyllis Stratton

**Poet Laureate**

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### Pet Corner




While most people are walking their dogs, this area woman takes her prized pet miniature pig for a stroll on a beautiful Fall day. (Photo by Debbie Carling)

### Once A Year

by Tom Burkard C.2019

Christmas comes  
just once a year  
Sparkling lights and  
snowy nights  
As choirs sing  
Silent Night  
And music fills  
the air  
There's a peaceful  
feeling  
This time of year  
Lots of love and  
no fears  
Christmas comes  
Just once a year  
The world is at peace  
And Christmas is here.



### Stuck In The Chimney

By Tom Burkard  
c. 2014

Where's Santa  
He may not show  
He's stuck in  
the chimney  
Guess you didn't know  
He's gotta get out  
Or the kids will pout  
Christmas won't  
be the same without  
It just won't be  
the same this year  
But, hey kids  
have no fear  
The fire truck  
is here  
And if that  
won't work  
They'll get a crane  
Yes, it may seem  
a bit insane  
Santa's stuck  
in the chimney  
Who's gonna bring  
the gifts  
For you and me  
Let's get him out  
Get Santa Claus free.



# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



**1962-63**-This Sacred Heart Grammar School 8th Grade team was a real powerhouse. Pictured after capturing the Amboy Area Grammar School CYO Basketball championship are top row (l-r) Coach Ray “Butch” Tomaszewski, Don Szatkowski, Vince Zebro, Edwin Witkowski, Jack Opiola, Fred Bergold, Father Myron Gayda. Bottom row (l-r) Barry Cassidy, Jack Trenta, John Clark, Artie Birmingham, Joe Castellano, Ken Gigliello, Bob Zukowski, Jim Gordon. Artie Birmingham recalled that “We played in 2 leagues, the New Brunswick League on Saturdays, and the Amboy Area CYO League on Sundays, as well as many tournaments throughout the state. This team was the best that I played for in 3 years, losing only about 3 games out of 45. Coach Tomaszewski was a wonderful player, coach, and teacher.”

## Grammar School Days

35 Years Ago

**1985**-St. Mary’s (SM) girls 8th grade basketball team belted Our Lady of Peace from Fords, 34-17, for their 10th win of the season. Chris Noble, the Eagles co-captain poured in 18 points, ripped 11 rebounds, and blocked 2 shots to lead the way. Kim Harkins pumped in 10 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Jackie King added 8 rebounds, and co-captain Renee Bialoblocki tossed in 6 points.

Others seeing action for the Saints were Ann Zaleski, Joanne Quiroga, Lauren

Durko, Sharon Manion, Amy Rolak, Melanie Straniero.

20 Years Ago...

**2000**-The St. Mary’s 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team under new coaches Jim Cleary and his assistant coach Jim Pavlonnis, had a talented roster consisting of Joe Bartlinski, Bryan Bender, Matt Boehler, Dan DeJoy, Mike Gross, Jeff Lampart, Rich Steele, Frank Farrell, Charles Lenis, Joe Pizzillo, Benny Hernandez, Pat Hackett, and Chris Farese.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

**1962**-St. Mary’s clubbed Carteret, 60-32. Jack Kreiger scored 14 points, Jay Derent 10 and Tom Farrell 9...**1973**-St. Mary’s downed St. Pius 59-51 in boys hoops action. Austin O’Malley topped the scoring with 20 points, and was followed by Joe Kolakowski 13 points, 12 rebounds, Mark Clark 12 points, and Rich Krzyzanowski 12 tallies...**1981**-Hoffman shutout New Brunswick Tech, 7-0 in boys soccer play. Walt Therkelsen paved the way with 3 goals, Frank Wahler 2 goals, Mark Herdman and Randy Stratton, scored one

goal apiece...**1993**-Bloomfield Tech ripped Hoffman boys basketball team, 75-50. The Guvs got 11 points apiece from Gary Colfer, Scott McNerny, and Mike DeCore...**2007**-The Sayreville football team edged Woodbridge, 12-7 on 2 touchdown runs of 2 and 3 yards by Reinaldo Rodriguez...**2015**-The Bombers upset Piscataway, the area’s #1 rated team, 23-21 on a 20-yard field goal by Brandon Cenci with 0:08 left in the game. Quarterback Jayson DeMild scored on 2 touchdown runs of 1 and 2 yards.

## Looking Back At...

1971-72-South Amboy Men’s Senior Basketball League

All City 1st Team; MVP; Rookie-of-the-Year All City selections (Chosen by coaches, and referees) 1st Team-Co-Coaches-Henry “Henny” Conroy-Hot Dog City; Rick Ferguson, English Chevron.

## T.H.E. Game Year-1985

### Sport-GirlsBasketball

**Teams**-Sayreville (17-6) vs. Hoffman (21-2) **Recap**-The Lady Guvs led 20-13 after one quarter, as soph Lynn Ust fired in 12 points. Hoffman held a 29-23 lead at halftime, and 47-36 after three stanzas, as the Reggie Carney coached powerhouse captured a 67-49 victory over the Bombers. Sayreville’s Terry Lockwood took game scoring laurels by pouring in 25 points, while Patti Cumber pumped in 16. Lynn Ust topped Hoffman with 21 points, while Tricia Popowski hit for 14, and Mary Anne Lewis 10.

## 25 Years Ago

Porcaro #1 in County

**1995**-Sayreville’s ace wrestler. Jason Porcaro courageously battled back from recent surgery, to capture the 153-pound GMC Tournament Championship. In the title match, he decisioned Metuchen’s Quoc Hoang, 11-4. The Blue & Gray finished in 5th place as a team.

# The Local Sports Memory Machine

## 55 Years Ago...

Osowski Shatters County Record

**1965**-Sayreville standout basketball star Jeff Osowski, broke the Middlesex County record for points scored in a season, as the Bombers stopped Perth Amboy St. Mary’s, 73-63. Osowski topped the mark with 7:22 left in the second quarter, by hitting 2 free throws. The game was stopped, and Jeff was presented the game ball by Joe Servon of South River, who held the mark of 598 points for 14 years. At the time, Servon was the South River basketball coach. Sayreville Mayor Ed Fielek also presented Osowski with a certificate of achievement from the Borough of Sayreville. Osowski captured scoring laurels in the victory over the Lions by netting 28 points. Bob Nita added 15, and Rich Marcus 12.

## 50 Years Ago...

South Amboy Splits With Morgan

In Pop Warner football action, nearby rivals, the South Amboy (SA) Sabres and Morgan (M) Panthers split two games.

**Pee Wees-South Amboy 19 Morgan 0**

In the first quarter, Ron Stillwagon broke loose for a 30-yard touchdown run. Stillwagon raced for another TD, this time from 72 yards. George Bongiorno went up the middle for a 2-yard touchdown in the third quarter to give SA an easy victory over the Morganites.

**Midgets-Morgan 2 South Amboy 0**-In a scoreless defensive struggle, Morgan’s Tony Brodniak crashed through the left side and tackled a Sabre back in the end zone for the game-winning safety.



## St. Stan’s School

(Photos/Info Submitted)



**Eighth grade students after receiving their school rings on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Also in the picture (center) are Mrs. Foret, teacher, Rev. Kenneth Murphy, pastor, and Mrs. Hodder, principal. Missing from the picture: Elizabeth Bera and Jan Bednarz.**



**Eighth grade student, Elizabeth Bera, receives her school ring from Rev. Kenneth Murphy as her teacher Mrs. Irene Foret looks on.**



**Eighth grade students partake in their annual School Clean-up. (Photo by Danielle Zygmund)**



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**Christmas Calling Again**

By Tom Burkard c. 2016

It's Christmas calling again  
For a world full of peace  
Where everyone can be friends  
It's Christmas calling again  
When families can come together  
And make their lives So much better  
It's Christmas calling again  
When the old can feel young again  
Holiday songs on the radio  
Pretty decorations  
Wherever you go  
It's Christmas calling again  
Telephone calls and Christmas cards  
From far away  
Seem to pour in each and every day  
Christmas calling again  
It's a White Christmas treat  
As snow falls to the ground  
Everyone's so happy  
Love is all around  
It's Christmas calling again.



**Middlesex County College Pantry  
Now Has Frozen Food**

The Middlesex County College Food Pantry is now offering frozen meals for students in need. The meals are prepared by Professor Andrew Rubin's culinary students and are kept in a freezer at the food pantry. "This has been a great success, not only

in actually nourishing our students and their families but also in building and nourishing our community," said Amanda Lyons, basic needs coordinator at MCC. "This project is a beautiful collaboration with the Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Dietetics Department and a great example of service-learning."

This semester, Professor Rubin's students are also providing meals to the Ozanam Family Shelter and Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen as part of the service-learning component of the course.

"Just wanted to say thank you to you Amanda, and other staff at the MCC Food Pantry," one student said. "I am grateful that it exists and is available to me especially at this time in my life (Corona time) until I can get back on my feet again. I am truly, truly grateful."

Another recipient said: "Having ready-made meals helps in my home. My kids and I thank you. You should feel proud and blessed to be helping those that are less fortunate than yourselves."



The Miraculous Prayer  
Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this my special one (mention favor). Take it, Dear Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. (Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail.) -M.S..

**Fun Time With Santa!**



Santa Claus and his helpers are pictured during a visit to South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 for a "Fun Time With Santa" event on Dec. 13th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)





In Memoriam

Margaret Mayer, 78, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 13. She worked at Sayreville Bar as part of the family owned business, and was a founder of Sayreville Women’s Softball League with the Sayreville Sabers. Beverly Rappleyea, 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 15. Prior to retiring, she was a secretary with attorney John J. Vail for over 15 years. She served the Borough of Sayreville as a member of the Board of Health, Sayreville Recycling Board, and also the Cable Advisory Board. Edward Boyler, 92, of Sayreville died on Nov. 16. He served on the Sayreville Police force for over 32 years in the Juvenile and Detective Bureaus, and retired as a Lieutenant. Ed was a past president of Sayreville PBA Local 98; past commander Sayreville VFW Post 4699; two-time president of Sayreville Lions Club. In addition, he received numerous honors and was a member of many other organizations. Carol Ambrosio, 77, of Sayreville died on Nov. 24. She was a secretary with the Sayreville Board of Education for over 25 years. Maryjane Falk Woodard, 61, of Parlin died on Nov. 25. She was a cashier at Shop Rite of Parlin for the last 1 ½ years. George Wist, 100, of Morgan died on Nov. 28. He was an original charter member of the South Amboy Lions Club and transferred to the Morgan Lions Club, serving as a dedicated member for over 73 years. He also belonged to the Sayreville American Legion, Sayreville VFW, and Tamarack Men’s Golf League. Darlene Coughlin, 54, of Sayreville died on Dec. 3. She proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during Desert Storm. Martha Gerula, 87, of Morgan died on Dec. 6. She was a teacher’s aide at Jesse Selover School in Morgan, and also at St. Mary’s Nursery School in South Amboy. Martha was very active in many local organizations.

Prayer to St. Therese

St. Therese, the little Flower, please pick me a rose from the Heavenly Garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore and tell him I will love him each day more and more. -L.F.

Prayer to St. Gerard

O good St Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder worker of our day, confidently I call upon you and seek your aid. On Earth you always fulfilled God's designs, help me now to do the holy will of God. Implore the Master of Life, from whom all paternity proceeds, to render me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in this life, and in the world to come, heirs to the Kingdom of His Glory. Amen.. S.P. & M.W.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this my special one (mention favor). Take it, Dear Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. (Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail.) -L.P.

ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank You St. Jude. -R.S., A.S., H.S., L.S., L.P.

Prayer to St. Therese

St. Therese, the little Flower, please pick me a rose from the Heavenly Garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore and tell him I will love him each day more and more. -M.S..

Obituaries

Ambrosio, Carol S., 77, of Sayreville died on Nov. 24.  
Bailey, Florence “Ruth,” 91, of Sayreville died on Dec. 3.  
Biancamano, Elvira “Vera,” 97, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 25.  
Boyler, Edward J., 92, of Sayreville died on Nov. 16.  
Brown, Michael, 66, of South Amboy died on Nov. 9.  
Cannon, Gloria J., 78, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 18.  
Chacon, Luis H., 65, of Melrose died on Nov. 16.  
Coughlin, Darlene A., 54, of Sayreville died on Dec. 3.  
Freer, Donald B., 46, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 25.  
Henry, Debra L., 66, of Morgan died on Nov. 29.  
Gaspar, Audrey, 76, of Sayreville died on Nov. 18.  
Gerula, Martha J., 87, of Morgan died on Dec. 6.  
Graham, Joan Picklo, 62, of South Amboy died on Nov. 22.  
Hilger, Ralph, 92, of Sayreville died on Nov. 4.  
Kenderish, Marion, 66, of South Amboy died on Nov. 20.  
Kieseling, Harry, 91, of Parlin died on Nov. 14.  
Leli, Capt. Dr. Kelliann Seaman, 30, of Sayreville died on Nov. 27.  
Liposky, Isabelle “Liz,” 77, of South Amboy died on Nov. 20.  
Magyarits, Dorothy, 82, of Parlin died on Dec. 8.  
Mayer, Margaret E., 78, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 13.  
Mazurowski, Mark, 60, of Sayreville died on Nov. 18.  
Modzelewski, Chester S., 93, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 30.  
Motylewski, Kathleen Rainone, 71, of South Amboy died on Nov. 25.  
Pedersen, Herbert O., 94, of Sayreville died on Nov. 6.  
Pesta, Dennis, 70, of South Amboy died on Nov. 23.  
Price, Stephanie H., 85, of Parlin died on Nov. 20.  
Rappleyea, Beverly, 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 15.  
Schweikert, Jessica, 27, of South Amboy died on Nov. 23.  
Spina, Lillian M., 92, of Sayreville died on Dec. 9.  
Wist, George R., 100, of Morgan died on Nov. 28.  
Woodard, Maryjane Falk, 61, of Parlin died on Nov.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. – P.S.


George R. Wist, Sr.

George R. Wist, Sr., age 100, of South Amboy, peacefully passed away on November 28, 2020. Born in South Amboy and was a lifelong resident of South Amboy and Morgan. After graduating from South River High School in 1938, Mr. Wist enlisted in the US Navy where he proudly served our country during World War II. George retired from JCP&L in 1982 after a long career as Superintendent of Mobile Maintenance. He was an original charter member of the South Amboy Lions Club and transferred to Morgan Lions Club. He was a dedicated member for over 73 years. He was also a member of the Sayreville VFW and American Legion and a member of the Tamarack Men's Golf league. He truly loved spending time with family and friends, traveling, woodworking and



playing golf. He was known as an amazing man and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.  
George is predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years, Theresa (Tres) Whitehead and his son George R. Jr. (Skip). He is survived by his loving children Karen Lee Hopper and Kimberly Ann Matthews and her husband, Ron Matthews; his dear grandchildren David Hopper and wife Laura, Mark Hopper, Aislyn Wist Boran and her husband Keith, Stephanie Wist, and Delaney and Cailyn Matthews; and his wonderful great-grandchildren Andrew and Maddie Hopper, Rowan Hopper, Breagha, Brinley, and Braxton Boran.  
Funeral arrangements were handled by Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home in Parlin.

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