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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is dedicated to
*Mary Coakley Accordino
*Christopher Chodkiewicz
*Richard Kurczeski
*Joseph "Joe" Scanlon
*John Sturgis



April 27, 2024 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 33 Issue 7

South Amboy Mayor: Changes Bring Progress

By Steve Schmid

Mayor Fred Henry began his 2024 State of the City speech by utilizing the words of George Bernard Shaw, "Progress is impossible without change." He was referring to the new police chief, three new patrolmen, a new fire chief, a new business administrator, and a new confidential secretary. He said these changes have resulted in one of the "strongest teams working for South Amboy citizens." Joseph Matarangolo was sworn in on March 20 replacing Darren LaVigne who served the city for 36 years, the last 14 as police chief. Other promotions were Brian McCabe to Captain, Michael Kelly to Lieutenant, and Christopher Norek to Sergeant.

Henry said Robert (Max) Garcia, Kyle Gasiewski, and Marcus Nunez, have been added as patrolmen. He said the city has added more than 30 surveillance cameras around town plus better police scheduling which has made South Amboy "an extremely safe community in which to live." He thanked outgoing Fire Chief John Dragotta for an incredible year and congratulated new Fire Chief Timothy Gay. He announced that Protection Fire Company will be receiving a new \$1 million fire truck and will get \$75,000 for fire fighting equipment from a grant from the state Department of Community Affairs. He said they got \$52,000 for equipment last year. The First Aid Squad will receive a new ambulance later this year. "We also purchased 2 automatic stretchers, which will allow our volunteers to mechanically lift patients into the ambulance. I witnessed a demonstration and was so impressed with how much easier and quicker it was to move patients. This equipment will also save the backs of our volunteers!", the mayor said. Two new garbage trucks and a new dumpster have been ordered to help the Public Works department serve the community, he said.

The mayor said other infrastructure improvements are proceeding which include replacing the Raritan Street pumping station, and repaving North Broadway from Main to Augusta Streets. He said the city is awaiting approval for Phase 2, the repaving of South Broadway from Augusta Street to Bordentown Avenue. He said work has begun on two warehouse projects on lower Main Street. "These businesses will add revenue to the city with very little impact on city services and no impact on city streets," he said. The mayor said good planning allows the city to pay for projects along with salaries and obligations with a proposed property tax increase of \$68.70 a year or \$5.73 a month in the municipal portion of the tax bill for a home assessed at the city average of \$274,000. "This is lower than the inflation rate. With the cost of just about everything rising, this is an accomplishment of which I am very proud," the mayor said. He said the city has bought property at the corner of John and Broadway so they can create 80 parking places by tearing down the building. He is pleased with the resumption of ferry service to lower

South Amboy Police Department Promotions



Pictured (l-r) Police Chief Joseph Matarangolo, Mayor Fred Henry, Captain Brian McCabe, Lieutenant Michael Kelly, Sergeant Christopher Norek and Business Administrator David Kales after McCabe, Kelly and Noek were sworn into their new positions. See more photos on page 18. (Photo/Info by Jamie Norek)



South Amboy Councilman Thomas Reilly (r) presents a resolution to Jamie Norek (l) for his years of dedicated service to the City. Jamie's grandson Jackson is by his side. (Photo by Caitlin Norek)

Manhattan and said work on construction of the permanent ferry terminal is ahead of schedule. Henry said Veterans Memorial Plaza will be improved with the addition of plaques for South Amboy veterans who died in military service. The mayor concluded by quoting President John F. Kennedy who said, "Change is the way of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." He added

"Change is inevitable and under my administration, we have created a future for South Amboy which is incredibly bright!"



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry gave his State of the City address to a large crowd on Saturday April 6, 2024. See more photos on page 17. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Mother's Day Rose Sale

Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1 will be holding a Mother's Day Rose Sale at the Firehouse 127-129 North Broadway, South Amboy on May 11 & 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is: 1 dozen Roses-\$20, and 2 dozen Roses-\$35. Cash only. Come out and support your local firefighters!



South Amboy K of C 125th Anniversary

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 celebrate their 125th anniversary, Sunday May 19 with dinner and live music. Dinner begins at 1 PM at Memorial Hall right after the 12 Noon Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Music for dinner and dancing by Cellar Dwellers & Friends. Cost of \$55 includes choice of Pasta Primavera,

Chicken Francese, and Baked Salmon. For more information, call Jan at 732-553-9060, or Bruce at 732-586-9779.

Congratulations!



The NJ Veterans Memorial Home held their annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon at the Pines Manor in Edison. Our own Brian O'Connor was acknowledged for the many years of musical concerts he and his students have performed at the Veterans Home. Pictured beside Brian are Major General Lisa Hou and Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno. Brian and his All Star Band will be performing their 22nd concert coming up on Saturday May 18th at that facility. brianconnormusic.com (Photo/Info Submitted)



Next Issue May 25th -- Deadlines May 13th

Memorial Day, Graduation, Primary Election, Father's Day

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Newly-appointed South Amboy Detective, Tim Kales (l) is pictured with his father David Kales at Opening Day of the SAYAA. Tim also serves as the D.A.R.E. Officer. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

St. Pat's Parade Was A Major Success!

They're still talking about what a tremendous St. Patrick's Day Parade it was in South Amboy! Again, our hats off and congratulations once again to Grand Marshal "Mickey" Gross, the entire Parade Committee, and everyone who in any way made this parade the BEST of all time!

Suzanne Sang At Yankee Stadium

Congratulations to Suzanne Sieber, who recently sang "The Star Spangled Banner" with the ParkinSings group on the field at Yankee Stadium before a game. Sue, that's quite an honor, and a lifetime memory. Keep up the great singing!

Kales Promoted

South Amboy Police Officer Timothy Kales was recently promoted to Detective. Congratulations and best of luck Tim!

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 for 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. -RS, AS, LP, HS, LS, EP

South Amboy Elementary Academic Achievement For Trimester 2-2023-2024

FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL: Hussain Abbas, Charles DeLeon, Eliza DeSouza, Arien Pierce, Matthew Tapia-Torres, Nazaret Vasquez-Diaz and Saya Yung.

FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL: Samantha Dickert, Avery Dumonseau, Hudson Earl, Levi Eddy, Seraphina Fenton, Liam Green, Brooklyn Holifield, Yostin Juarez-Gil, Nikita Kolbinskie, Haley Lada-Behrens, Raymond LaMot, Jaxon Lawson, Khloe Lopez-Pena, Thanializ Mejia-Batista, Joel Miranda-Ayala, Antonella Mori-Ramirez, Divya Phillips, Sophia Santos, Kira Titla-Hoyos, and Paisley Waitowicz.

FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL: Abigail Camacho, Taran Chinglepet, Hudson Daniell, Thomas Downs, Meraj Mannan, Gianna Martins, Anthony Melia and Jaxson Ortiz.

FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL: Cesar Beltre-Ruiz, Eugene Branigan, Jeila Caraballo, Jormani Cedeno, Alexander David, Glenn Davis, Michael Donnelly, Paige Fehling, Kelin Fernandez, Noah Flores, Oliver Gurdak, Emma Kelly, Eliel Llibre-Mota, Julian Lugo-Pitts, Zoey Mercado, Jadel Miranda, Giovanni Mortensen, Serina Mount, Jaeden Ortiz, Fabian Perez, Emma Portuhondo, Janan Shammaa, Emma Taveras, Kiana Thomas, Iva Trailovic, Kallista Tsoukas, Iliana Villeda-Gonzalez and Xin Yang.

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 -A.S.

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA By Tom Burkard

- South Amboy City Council President in 2013?
 a. Joseph Connors b. Mark Noble c. Michael "Mickey" Gross
- In '97, where was Quick Pix Subs-N-More located in Morgan?
 a. Rt. 35 South b. South Pine Ave. c. Liberty St.
- This ferry service had its Grand Opening on Feb. 23, 2002?
 a. Wayfarer b. SeaStreak c. American
- In '97, this pizza and homemade Italian food business was located on Washington Rd. in Parlin?
 a. Ferrulli's b. Giuseppe's c. Ferrante's
- Chosen South Amboy Business Administrator in 2002?
 a. Camille Tooker b. Natasha Kant c. James Maloney
- In '07, this person was chosen "Outstanding Volunteer" in Sayreville?
 a. Kevin Ott b. Ray Skarzynski c. Stanley Pilch
- This local hero was inducted into the New Jersey Sportswriters Hall of Fame in '02?
 a. Allie Clark b. Eddie "Buddy" Popowski c. Tom Kelly
- Where was Rupp's Ace Hardware store located in Sayreville in 2014?
 a. Main St. b. Bordentown Ave. c. Washington Rd.
- South Amboy Fire Chief in '97?
 a. Phil English b. Larry Martin c. Larry McMahon
- In 2003, where was Covello's Italian Seafood Restaurant located in Sayreville?
 a. Washington Rd. b. Pulaski Rd. c. Route 9 South

Answers
 1a 2b 3b 4a 5b 6c 7c 8c 9a 10a.

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



There are many things we take for granted in these modern times. The internet, modern medicine, and many other innovations have (for the most part) greatly improved our lives. I suspect not too many of us wonder about how and why these things work. We send an email, it gets there; we take medicine, we feel better.

Something similar occurs in our community. We need an ambulance, it arrives; there's an emergency, someone is there to help; our children play sports, someone is there to coach them. We don't often think enough about the glue that holds our community together, and the people who tirelessly and, unfortunately, often thanklessly donate their time to improve our community and to provide needed services to our people.

Our volunteers deserve our recognition and gratitude. At a recent city council meeting I had the pleasure of recognizing four outstanding citizens who have donated countless hours to make our city a better place to live. Allow me to tell you a little bit about them.

Tim Walczak is a member of both our first aid and fire department. In addition to serving as Fire Chief in 2005, Tim was the first aid squad's highest call responder in both 2020 (the height of the pandemic, remember) and 2023, responding to 235 of the squad's 518 total calls.

Amy Dundee currently serves as treasurer and social media manager for the Friends of South Amboy, a local charitable organization helping disadvantaged residents in our community. Amy currently is working through the FEMA course list with the goal of joining the South Amboy Office of Emergency Management.

Phil English served as Fire chief in 1997, and currently is a member of the Office of Emergency Management, Hazmat Division. He also is a former member of Middlesex County Hazmat, where he worked as a hazardous materials

responder and was part of the response team on September 11th, 2001. On that fateful day, he was dispatched to Jersey City to complete decontamination operations for evacuees. Nowadays, he also assists our local food pantry.

Tony Gonsalves taught at South Amboy Middle High School for decades. During his time there, he coached everything from baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, and soccer. He also was instrumental in bringing a number of sports to our high school, including our tennis team. Through his years of service, he coached and mentored hundreds of our local students.

Volunteers like Tim, Amy, Phil, and Tony are representative of a wider group of people in our community who offer their time, service, and expertise to us and ask for little, if anything, in return. We don't think about our volunteers enough, but I assure you that – just like the internet or our cell phones – we would notice if they no longer were there.

So let's take some time in the coming months to recognize and thank our local volunteers. Better yet, I hope some of you will think about volunteering your time to a noble cause. You will be helping our community, and I promise you will help yourself along the way.

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
 2nd Ward Councilman
 City of South Amboy

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Isabella Calinedo enjoys her visit with the Easter Bunny at the OLV Friendship Dinner. Looking on are her mother Tracey Calinedo, and grandmother, Janet Dodge (Photo by Steve Schmid)



The Easter Bunny greets children at the annual Breakfast With The Easter Bunny held at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus (Photo by Steve Schmid)

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Yearbook-Sayreville 1984

By Tom Burkard

Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) Class of 1984 returned for its last school year in September 1983. The #1 hit on the airwaves at the time was "Maniac" by Michael Sembello. Some popular teachers back then were Barbara Albanir, Mary Ann Gordon, Judith Mischne, Barbara Johnson, Robert Szabo, and Michael Piccuiro. Senior Class officers were President Michele Dzergoski, Secretary-Ann Marie Steiner, Treasurer-Joni Mayer. Activities were plentiful at the school and included the Fall Pep Rally, Homecoming '83, in which Elissa Unkel was selected Queen, the Fall '83 Production, "Our Town," the Almost Anything Goes assembly, the Christmas Festival, the Sayreville Chorus performing at the December Concert at Woodbridge Center, the Spring Production, "George M." School Clubs and Presidents: Biology Beth Kwiatkowski; Library Council-Tina Costello; Future Secretaries of America Beth Brady; Reading for Pleasure-Robin Malik; Women's Varsity-Heidi Klein; J. Persons was Editor-In-Chief (EIC) of "Images." Matt

Bauer was (EIC) of the school newspaper, and Susan Miller was (EIC) of the yearbook. Laura Morgan was (EIC) of TAG Tales Newsletter. Some of the '84 grads were; Alan Applegate, Donna Bair, Robert Bottomly, Ralph Chance, Patty Clyde, Stephen Chudkowski, Mark Davidian, Ruth Ann Fleming, Shari Feller, Joanne Gilmour, Lynda Goetz, Joe Hauser, Marleen Hogan, Denise Juliano, Kevin Kopko, Joe Krzyzkowski, Eileen LaFontaine, Ellen Lockwood, Andrew Lytkowski, John Narleski, Suzanne Ogborne, Angela Pistilli, Joann Poll, Dawn Richardson, Ken Ryniec, Deborah Sun, Dawn Weber, Sheryl Wintergrass, Patricia Zakrzewski, Laura Yuhas. Just to name a few of the standout senior athletes—Sean Gallagher, Caryn Lukie, John Mazurkiewicz, and Nelson Santiago. On Graduation Day '84, "Let's Hear It For The Boy" by Denice Williams topped the national radio charts. Matt Bauer was Valedictorian and Jeff Hollender was Salutatorian. Sayreville's Class of 1984 was a highly-diversified group of talented students, shooting to make the world a better place.

Dowdell Library News

If you are looking for a fun activity to do this spring, you MAY want to consider coming to the Dowdell Library!

Don't Forget! Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month this May!

Don't Miss Out! The Dowdell Library is having a fun Planetarium Program on Tuesday, May 7 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Register ahead of time to save yourself a spot! Also, make sure to stop by for the Cinco de Mayo Party on Friday, May 3 at 3:30 pm to eat some chips and salsa. Also, make sure to stop by for a kid's Mother's Day Craft Program on Saturday, May 4 at 1:00 pm.

Parents with toddlers and kids! Join Ms. Maryanne for Reading Rascals and Toddler/Kids Thursday Play Dates on Thursdays in May from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on the first four Wednesdays in May from 3:30 to 4:30 pm including a Pokémon Card Swap on May 8 and a Bean Bag Toss Contest on May 15.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss out on the Kid/Teen Hangout happening on Tuesday, May 14 and Friday, May 17 and 31 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm for Trivia, Create your Own Fantasy World, and more.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for a Teen Pizza Party happening on Friday, May 24 at 1pm for food, games, and more.

Adults and Teens! Grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks! Drop in for the

Crocheting and Knitting Circle on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Adults! Make sure to stop by for the Drop in Puzzle Building happening on Monday, May 13 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, May 20 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjrh.org. Stretching, Flexibility, and Strength – Chair Exercises is on Thursdays in May at 1:00 pm. Also, Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in May at 1:00 pm. Additionally, there is a Coping with Financial Stress program occurring on the 1st Tuesday in May at 1:00 pm.

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

The Dowdell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm. Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12-4 pm. Connect with us on social media. Email us at comments@dowdell.org.

Catholic War Veterans, Sacred Heart Memorial Post 578

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 9:00 A.M., Flags and Veterans Markers replacement, Sacred Heart Cemetery, Johnson Lane, Parlin, NJ.

Monday, May 27th, Memorial Day, 8:00 AM Mass, Church of the Sacred Heart, Washington Avenue, South Amboy, NJ. All

Catholic Veterans are invited to attend.

Monday, May 27th, 9:00 AM, Memorial Day Service, Church of the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Johnson Lane, Parlin. The public is invited to attend.

Elk Sighting



No, not in South Amboy or Sayreville (LOL). This large elk was seen walking around in Colorado recently. Former South Amboy/Parlin resident Bill Farrell took this excellent photo to share with our SA Times readers. Bill was one of the most talented baseball players in St. Mary's HS history, and graduated in the Class of '68. Great shot, Bill! Thank you!



L to R Nancy Pavich, Jodi Masterson, and Theresa Walsh serve at the dessert table for the OLV Friendship Meal (Photo by Steve Schmid)

OLV 17th Friendship Dinner Success

By Steve Schmid

Heavy rains from a nor'easter didn't stop 300 people from Our Lady of Victories' 17th annual Friendship Dinner. The meal was held at Msgr. Dalton Hall. Mary Majewski was chairwoman again and is glad to offer this meal to the community and said, "It's a friendship meal and an outreach to the community. It's a meal for the sick, elderly, and the otherwise homebound." She said 700 meals were cooked including over 250 take-out meals. Some leftover food went to

Elijah's Promise, a New Brunswick non-profit, providing meals, and social services to the area. Other food went to affordable and senior housing units. Generous people and businesses donated the food. OLV Knights of Columbus Council 2061 did the cooking. Others who helped were the Saint Vincent De Paul Society, and the OLV Youth Group led by director Jamie Wojik. The Easter Bunny delighted children with a guest appearance.

25 Years Ago

Sayreville Board of Education Members
1999-The Sayreville Board of Education lineup of members included: Kevin Ciak, Arthur Rittenhouse, Curtis Clark III, Danny DiPoalo, Edward Jaisonowski, Troy Senkowski, Ronald Van Tine.

30 Years Ago

Sayreville Board of Education Members
1994-The Sayreville Board of Education members were: Elaine Kubacz, Barbara Anderson, Joseph Bellan, Harry Pachkowski, Alvah Cox Jr., Joseph DiBella, Danny DiPoalo, Jerry Sacher, Irving Tischler.

We would love to hear from you!



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John DeOcampo is an independent food reviewer who posts his reviews on Social Media. He recently visited Dave's Hot Dogs located in Morgan. John is pictured on the left in the foreground of the photo and that is Alex Panko owner of Dave's in the background.

Dave's Hot Dogs

By John DeOcampo

By special request! I read all of the comments on FaceBook and love every single member of this group! You guys n gals never steer me wrong! Here's the goods! Dave's Hot Dogs in South Amboy! 2 DWD's! Chili n cheese and a chili with slightly caramelized onions on steamed buns and plain fries! I asked Alex if he could cook the onions and then mix them up in the chili! Now that's customer service! Those cooked onions made that meat chili incredible! Not a crazy spicy but WOW! Delicious They'll cook the dogs however you want them, dwd or deep fried or grilled! Now that's variety! Johnny Dammit seal of approval? Absolutely! So when you're driving home from Sandy Hook, instead of taking the GSP stay on 35 north till you come over the Laurence Harbor drawbridge, about a 1/4 mile past the light the right lane will exit! Take it! At the top of the ramp on the right will be Dave's! Stop in for a few and chat it up with the owner Alex! Awesome dude! Most definitely deserves multiple stops! Thanks for the recommendations fam!

of a longer way ! Passing Dave's I had to stop, there's other goodies on their menu that caught my eye besides some really delicious hotdogs! CHEESESTEAK SANDWICHES! OMG! cheesesteak served on pizza bread with a lot of peppers and onions! You know how much a double Italian hotdog weighs with the potatoes and all? This sandwich is LOADED WITH STEAK, and probably weighs the same but without the potatoes! Had a splash of hot sauce in there and I was in heaven! I ripped a lil corner off so you can see the goodness that's packed in there! Soooo juicy and delicious! Had some of their fries ,which is pretty much for 3 people let alone 1! Fries drowning in chili , cheese and nicely caramelized onions! Frigging delish! gotta stop in and live it up a lil! Full? Pffft! You know it! Dave's! 323 south pine in south Amboy, right off hwy 35 north just past the Laurence Harbor Bridge! Definitely worth the stop!

Dave's! Not just hotdogs! Yeeew! On my way home I decided to take the lil bit



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Mets Trip June 29

For all of you baseball fans, the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 will run their annual Citi Field trip Saturday afternoon June 29 when the Mets host the Houston Astros at 4:10 PM. The Mets are led by future Hall of Fame first baseman Pete Alonso while the Astros have their own future Hall of Fame star Jose Altuve. Cost of \$160 includes round trip motor coach transportation, game ticket, \$24 of Mets Money that can be spent anywhere, plus refreshments. Motor coach will leave the K of C parking lot at 2 PM. To reserve your place call Steve at 732-727-1707 or call 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

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 -L.P..

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Easter Blessings



St. Stan's Church Pastor Father Ken Murphy blesses food on Holy Saturday in preparation for Easter. (Photo by Steve Schmid)



St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Pastor Father Guy Selvester, conducts his first Holy Saturday blessing of food for Easter. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Sayreville Library News

Mexican Dishes with Vanessa (Virtual)
Tuesday, May 14 @6PM

Cinco De Mayo can be every day with the right recipes. Join Vanessa, chef and founder of Thirsty Radish, for another fun cooking demonstration and learn how to do it. From fresh herbs to some home made guacamole and more, learn how to make Mexican meals flavorful and fresh.

This is a virtual session. registration required

to get the Zoom link.
 Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Movie Matinee
Tuesday, May 21 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Fool's Paradise: Starring Charlie Day, Kate Beckinsale, Jason Bateman and many more.

Rated R-1 Hr 38 mins
 Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

THE SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE ROTARY CLUB PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

By Mike Poll

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, the attorney, the real estate agent, the bank manager, the physician, the beauty shop owner, the educator, the store owner, the politician, the financial manager and so many others have all been members of the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club during the past 100 years.

As explained in the previous three articles, these women and men joined the Rotary family to assist, maintain and improve the lives of individuals and groups in their communities. And these communities, local, national and international have directly benefited from the efforts of these Rotarians.

Whether it has been financial assistance to graduating high school seniors, making donations to local First Aid Squads, purchasing shelving for the local food bank, purchasing hearing aids for a needy student, sending books to India, providing backpacks to needy students at the Sayreville Middle School, running a Health Fair at the South Amboy Senior Citizen Center or a hundred other projects, the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club has had a positive impact on our local area. Globally, members of the Club have assisted our brothers and sisters in Ecuador by building housing and community

structures.

For decades Rotary International has led the immunization efforts to protect children world-wide against the childhood disease polio. As of this writing there are only two areas of the world where the disease still exists: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Today one of the continuing efforts of Rotary International is the promotion of world peace. Rotary maintains "Rotary Peace Centers" which provide global peace fellowships to train individuals to carry out projects which will improve the daily lives of people around the globe and thereby promote a peaceful existence. "Peace is a cornerstone of our mission."

On April 26, the Club will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its charter. If you are interested in being our guest at one of our weekly meetings held every Tuesday at 8:30 AM at the South Side 35 Diner, please call Greg at 732-721-0400.

The Club would like to sincerely thank Brian Stratton and Tom Burkhard for printing the four articles about the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club and for all they have done to support our efforts over the years.

Join us. Who knows what good we can do for our communities in the next 100 years?

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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.

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The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS.

EARTHQUAKE! Really, not in New Jersey. As first responders, we must be prepared for every kind of emergency. We normally train on the most common type incidents that may occur in our response area. Each area of the country is vulnerable to specific incidents and as such, responders train more heavily on those scenarios. On the West Coast, first responders' primary response may be to earthquakes, wildfires, and severe rain/flooding events so this is where they concentrate their training. North Central is more susceptible to severe cold temperatures and winter blizzards. The South and Central areas prepare for tornadoes which occur often and could cause massive wide area destruction. In the Northeast, there are many high-rise structures, extreme heat/cold temperatures, and hurricanes. First responders train and perfect their response to the incidents that can be expected to occur in their community. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has online courses available for emergency personnel as well as civilians on different disasters. Each community has an Office of Emergency Management which helps to prepare a community in the event of a disaster, resources required in the response, and steps needed during the recovery phase. Social media is useful in providing information to the community quickly in an emergency situation. There are general non-specific preparedness plans for every community in the event of a disaster which can be quickly modified to suit any situation. Can anyone predict when and where the next earthquake will strike New Jersey? In the earth there are tectonic plates that are constantly shifting as one plate slides under another. This is a worldwide occurrence and damage becomes more severe the closer you are to the epicenter when the big shift occurs. Soil type and compactness also play a part in the severity and travel time of the quake. The earthquake that occurred on April

5, 2024, was reported at 4.9 on the Richter Scale which is in the moderate range for a quake. Damage was not too severe with most people reporting pictures falling off walls, knickknacks falling off shelves, houses shaking, and minor foundation cracks. But do we really know how much hidden damage is yet to be found? Could bridge footings and supports be damaged? Could high-rise structures have structural damage? How about the underground water distribution piping or the natural gas network? When the tectonic plates shift and the earth moves, these underground pipes have little to no give and could develop cracks. On the West Coast, there are standards for buildings when being constructed to withstand an earthquake. On the East Coast there are building standards for the high winds caused by a hurricane. Hurricane straps are installed in a structure that secures it to the foundation/footing. You can see that both these particular standards are for specific areas of the country and for the type of incident likely to occur. What should you do if you are experiencing an earthquake? Most earthquakes are of a short duration, lasting a few seconds, and are over before you may have a chance to react. But if you can, get outside and away from any structures that may collapse. Stay away from the collapse zone which is an area around the building that is at least one-half the building's height. Wooden structures may withstand earthquake forces better than a masonry constructed structure because of the flexibility in the wood. To learn more about how to protect yourself, your family, and your home from the effects of different types of disasters, visit the FEMA website <https://www.fema.gov>, or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management at <https://www.nj.gov/oem>. There is a wealth of information available to you for free.



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Artwork at the South Amboy YMCA



Steven Tarr recently finished the beautiful artwork on this rock in front of the South Amboy YMCA. Steven is the artist who volunteers his time for the YMCA.



Steven Tarr is pictured with a character he is painting for the outside of the South Amboy YMCA.



Pictured (l-r) Luda Gutiy-Hospital Liaison, Chefs James, Wallie, and Wallace, Ashley Graham-Admissions Director, Luda, Ashley and Victoria Flannigan (not pictured), hosted the spring luncheon and bingo held at the Venetian Health Care & Rehabilitation Center. James, Wallie, and Wallace cooked a wonderful chicken marsala meal. (Photo/Info by Steve Schmid)

Earthquake Shakes Area

By Steve Schmid

Sayreville and South Amboy residents were jarred by a rare earthquake April 5. The U.S. Geological Service said the earthquake measured 4.8 on the Richter scale, and was centered just north of Whitehouse Station. Local residents were startled by the earth's movement. Sayreville resident Ed Puchalski was attending a funeral Mass at St. Stan's Church when the earthquake began. "The building shook and everyone was taken by surprise." He said St. Stan's Church Pastor Father Ken Murphy calmly reassured the people by telling them not to panic and

remain in their seats. Puchalski noted Father Ken pointed out an earthquake occurred when Jesus died on the cross Good Friday. South Amboy resident Nadine Aochoa took a pill a few minutes before the earthquake, and thought she might be dreaming from the medicine when floors and pictures started moving. "I was listening to music and I didn't know what was going on. I was scared to death. It was crazy," Aochoa said. This turned out to be a Friday morning we will always remember because the earth shook.

Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I import you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. -M.S., S.P., N.P., S.S.

Vendors Wanted

(Article submitted)

We are looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on September 14, 2024. The time is 8am to 2pm. The rain date is September 21, 2024. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are available for \$20.00 for one space, \$30.00 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$8.00. No food vendors please. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. Say it for 9 days. By the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, St. Jude. P.S., B.S.

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South Amboy Elementary Living Wax Museum

(Photos/Info Submitted)



The fourth grade classes at South Amboy Elementary held its annual living wax museum. Students selected a person from history and then researched and portrayed that person. Great Job by all!



**Jaxon Lawson
Milton Hershey**



**Seraphina Fenton
Dolly Parton**



**Eliza DeSouza
Pele**



**Katherine Hill
Jane Goodall**

The Easter Bunny Visits!



The Gottfried family of Parlin is pictured with the Easter Bunny at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Breakfast With The Easter Bunny event. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

ANNUAL SPRING FISH DINNER

The Camp Dill Foundation and the Old Timers of Troop 91 will be having their annual Spring Fish Dinner on May 7, 2024 in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy. The event will be a totally "drive-by" take-out only dinner. The time of the event will be 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and the cost is \$17.00 per dinner.

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE. For ticket information, call

732-899-6074 or e-mail djsibol@aol.com. Ticket mail orders with payment can be sent to Dan Sibol, 90 Meridian Drive, Brick, NJ 08724.

We thank you for your support as we continue to benefit the youth of the South Amboy / Sayreville area. For more information on the Camp Dill Foundation and its current activities, go to their web-site at <https://www.campdill.org>.

Mother's Day at The South Amboy Elks

The South Amboy Elks will be Hosting a Mother's Day Lunch on Sunday May 12th, from 12 to 3 pm. Lunch will be served Buffet Style Including Action Stations, Hot and cold selections, desserts, soft drinks, coffee & tea included. The price is \$30.00 a person, Children 7yrs. and under \$10.00,

3 and under free. This is by reservation only. Reservations can be made by calling 732-727-7170 and leaving your name, phone number and number of guests or by texting 732-887-0316. The South Amboy Elks is located at 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy, NJ



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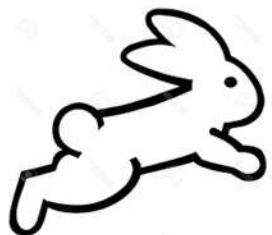
St. Stan's School

(Photos/Info Submitted)

The Second Grade class became closer to Christ as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The students at St. Stan's were "HOPPING" with excitement as they enjoyed a Bunny Breakfast, hosted by the wonderful HSA, to kick off Spring Break!



Things were looking "BRIGHT" as students and faculty members gathered together to experience the Solar Eclipse.



John Singh, owner of John Auto in South Amboy recently went on an airplane flight over New Jersey with former commercial jet pilot Jan Williams. John said he loved his flight, and is now even working on airplanes! (Photo/info by Jan Williams)

* Back by popular demand: I'm Playing For The Yankees

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 1975

I'm posing in my uniform
With number 15 slightly torn
My glove and spikes
both hustled worn
As the fans all beg
me for a picture
Smiling nice, I'm in my glory
Like a dream come true
or fairy tale story
I made it to the Major League
I'm playing for
the Yankees now
As a kid my mom
would always say
Save some baseball
for another day
Come and eat and go to sleep
Pray the Lord your
heroes to keep
I pushed and made i
t to the Major Leagues
I'm playing with
the Yankees now
Then I was drafted
to another game
Their uniforms didn't
look the same
No pinstripes,
but I'm still a Yankee
I made it to the Major League
Paralyzed in my army bed
Can't move my arms or legs
or head It's only in my mind
That I can play baseball
Oh how I used to
run and slide
And throw and catch,
and hit applied
Now it seems that
I just mostly cry
When it comes to thinking
about baseball
I'm posing in my uniform
Smiling nice,
I'm in my glory
I made it to the
Major League
I'm playing for
the Yankees now

Spring Has Sprung

By Robert W. Eginton

Spring has sprung
It's getting warm,
The sun is up
before the dawn
Robins sing,
the grass is green,
It's time to mow the lawn.
When April showers
Bring May flowers
And everything is anew,
The sun shines bright
It fills us with light
And the sky is
A deeper shade of blue.
Yes, Spring
has sprung,
There's a special
magic in the air
It's here, it's there,
It's everywhere
For all of us to share.

Emulate Love

By Al Gomolka Jr.
SA Times Poet Laureate
C.2013

Love the Lord
thy God
Love one another
Love all creatures
Great or small
All you need is love
Love is the
essence of life
Loving is experiencing
the God in you
Love, love,
emulate love!
Everyone born
Has the capacity
to love
From the most
deranged murderers
To angelic saints
of our time
There are no
depths to love
Nor any high higher
The greatest gift one
can give or receive
—Emulate Love!



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JOHNNIE WALKER
Red Label



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BAREFOOT
Wine



1.5L
\$13.17

CAVIT PINOT GRIGIO
Wine



1.75L
\$17.17

MARK WEST
Wine Pinot Noir



750ML
\$11.71

J.LOHR
Cabernet Wine



750ML
\$15.71

SUTTER HOME
Wine All Flavors



1.5L
\$11.17

KIM CRAWFORD
Wine



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*We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not responsible for typographical errors. In the case of an error the lowest price allowed by NJ State law will apply. Products are available while supplies last. Artwork does not necessarily represent items on sale. Prices subject to change.

Former Chief LaVigne Honored

(Photos/Info Submitted)

A robust crowd of family, friends, community leaders, business merchants, and police officers from past to present gathered at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. The large assembly was to honor the career and contributions of former Chief Darren LaVigne who retired after 37 years of service with the South Amboy Police Department. Attendees were treated to various display tables with mementos of Chief LaVigne's career. A 12 minute pictorial slideshow was shown to the crowd, along with a proclamation presented to the chief by Mayor Fred Henry who thanked the Chief for his outstanding services to the citizens of South Amboy. It was the Mayor's first ever two page proclamation.

The Chief's family consisting of his wife Joy, daughter Victoria and son Anthony each spoke glowingly about their loved one's career. Former Chief LaVigne rendered a heartfelt speech where he lamented about being blessed to be surrounded by people of such high integrity. This was followed up with dining and dancing with a good time being had by all.



Former South Amboy Sgt. Ken Szatkowski (c) and Det. Robert McKeon (r) were on hand to celebrate.



Members of the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police came out in force.



Friends since Little League days and respected community members Ed O'Connor (l) and Tim Walczak (r) were on hand.



Former Det. Sgt. William Cheeseman, former public works superintendent Jerry McGee, and Former Chief of Police Steve Pavich attended the gala event.



Sgt. Jacob Murray announces there will be a new sheriff in town with the retirement of Chief LaVigne.



Lt. Dan Holovacko (l) and Chief LaVigne's longtime childhood friend, new Police Chief Joseph Matarangolo, were on hand.



Members of South Amboy's finest came out in force to celebrate with Chief LaVigne.



Chief LaVigne with daughter Victoria and wife Joy on left, and son Anthony on the right.

SAYAA Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Bunny stopped by the egg hunt to take some photos with the egg hunters!



Thousands of eggs were scattered on the T-Ball field.

Eclipse Fever



Viewing the solar eclipse near the Dowdell Library are (l-r) South Amboy Council President Mickey Gross, Mayor Fred Henry, Library Director Elaine Gaber, and Councilwoman Zusette Dato. (Photo/info by Steve Schmid)

Eclipse Viewing At Dowdell Library

By Steve Schmid

Approximately 50 people came to South Amboy's Dowdell Library to witness the recent partial solar eclipse April 8. Library Director Elaine Gaber was happy with people's enthusiasm. "We've been very busy having fun and have been inundated since Saturday (April 6) The phones have been ringing off the hook. We're glad to provide the free service." Gaber said they distributed 2000 dark eclipse glasses so people could safely view the eclipse. She said people came for the glasses from all over the area including Rutgers, Metuchen, North Brunswick, Garfield, Edison, Milltown, Perth and South Amboy. Gaber added they publicized the free distribution on Facebook and the city website. South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry, Council President Mickey Gross, and Councilwoman Zusette Dato came to see the moon cover 90 percent of the sun. The library was closed for 45 minutes during the eclipse peak at 3:25 PM. The clouds came in about that time limiting the view of the sun. The next eclipse in our area will occur in August 2044.





Your Vote is needed
JUNE 4, 2024



BRIAN
McLAUGHLIN
FOR REELECTION

1st WARD COUNCIL
for the City of South Amboy

- Lifelong resident of South Amboy
- Dad to a current South Amboy High School junior and two South Amboy High School graduates.
- Involved in South Amboy Youth Athletic Association
- Life Member of the South Amboy Fire Department
- Former Member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad
- NYC District Council of Carpenters Union Representative for Dockbuilders and Piledrivers Local 1556

What does a City Councilperson do:

South Amboy is comprised of three wards. The 1st ward stretches from Raritan Street to the even side of Second Street, and portions of the upper blocks of George Street to Bordentown Avenue, and new included Bertram and Conlogue Avenues and all streets in between. Each ward is represented on the City Council by a councilperson. Your councilperson has the duty and responsibility to represent, to the City Council, the needs and best interests of the residents in your ward. In addition, your councilperson should be present, available, and aware of what is problematic and what is working well in your area.

MY CONTACT EMAIL IS: mclaughlinforsouthamboycouncil@gmail.com
Email me with any questions – I welcome your thoughts on change in our town

MY RECORD and POSITIONS:

- Voted NO to tax breaks for builders bringing in residential projects;
- Questioned the revenue being brought in by PILOT projects;
- Support and heavily advocate for our volunteer emergency services;
- Questioned the unnecessary created employee positions in City Hall;
- Advocate for residents to be employed on construction projects in town;

I AM NOT A “YES” MAN – I AM HERE FOR THE RESIDENTS!

VOTE
MCLAUGHLIN

#1 Pop Hits-April 27

- 2020-Blinding Lights-The Weekend
- 2014-Happy-Pharrell Williams
- 2006-Bad Day-Daniel Powter
- 1990-Nothing Compares 2 U -Sinead O'Connor
- 1983-Billie Jean-Michael Jackson
- 1977-Southern Nights-Glen Campbell
- 1969-Aquarius-The 5th Dimension

#1 Country Hits April 27

- 2022-Till You Can't-Cody Johnson
- 2013-Cruise-Florida-Georgia Line
- 2007-Anything But Mine-Kenny Chesney
- 1996-No News-Lonestar
- 1984-Right or Wrong-George Strait
- 1972-Chantilly Lace-Jerry Lee Lewis
- 1966-I Want To Go With You-Eddy Arnold

One Hit Wonders

35 Years Ago

- 1989-When I'm With You-Sheriff; What I Am-Edie Brickell & The New Bohemians; I Remember Holding You-The Boys Club; Beg Your Pardon-Kon Kan; Heaven Help Me-Deon Estus with George Michael; Thinking Of You-SA-Fire; Iko Iko-The Belle Stars; Where Are You Now?-Jimmy Harnen with Synch; Cry-Waterfront; Angel Eyes-Jeff Healey Band; Talk It Over-Grayson Hugh; Swing The Mood-Jive Bunny & The Mixmasters; Don't Make Me Over-Sybil; Don't Close Your Eyes-Kix.



The band FogLight" features locals (l-r) Jack Godowski, Midge Painchaud, and Brian Earls.

When the Fog is Thick...Get a FogLight Two Bands in One

(By Clem Skarzynski Info Submitted by Brian Earls)

Formed in 2004 The local Band "Fog" hit the music scene as a 5 piece "classic rock, popular rock" band. With Original members, Midge Painchaud on vocals/ acoustic guitar, Jack Godowski on Keys/Vocals, backed by Joe Timpone on lead guitar and a host of drummers over the years, the group began their start at "open mics," dances, retro nites and various benefit performances. As time went on, like many other bands, the need for a group over 3 members became a thing of the past in local clubs, etc. Crowds thinned, people weren't staying out late, and clubs weren't bringing in enough profits to pay bands. Club goers' music tastes were changing too. A large age group wanted a more "relaxed, easy listening set of music, with some lively music thrown in...along came the idea for more 1 to 3 piece acts, who could cover the entire spectrum of music the new crowds wanted. Less noise, toned down, and yup, cheaper for the club owners bottom line. So, in 2018, Fog decided to go "Light," and "Fog Light" was born! With a vast array of vocals/artists, the band could customize their set lists. With Midge taking over the vast array of vocal work, she had me trying to sing along with her at a recent holiday party, I concede Midge! You rule the Mic, along with a very knowledgeable way around the electric acoustic guitar, with two well versed musicians, Brian on Bass, Jack on the Keys, andwith their vocal abilities the new version of a veteran band found their niche! Just recently, they introduced their "First Hour" Package of music for events needing a "lighter sound"to "break the ice"and get the guests in the mood to dance and party! They've found the right combination. As a musician and band member, I'm impressed with their ability to adjust to the mood of the crowd!

and so much more as a "frontman" trying to "figure out the crowd" on your feet! 61 years and still learning! Congrats guys, you got it going! A quick background on the members, Jack Godowski-Killer Keyboardist, such a vast knowledge of the black and whites, and how to put the song together. His music career began at age 8! 1978 saw Jack in "The Atlantic City Expressway" a 10 piece band led by Sayreville's Jon Bon Jovi, among an endless number of other local bands, like we all did! Bassist Brian Earls began with the group Artemus in 1973. Musical Theater was his thing too! And Brian, I mess with the bass a lot. One thing I just can't get down is to "vocalize while playing." I can do it (or attempt to) with the guitar, not the bass. Ya gotta give me some pointers! Brian's vocals help round out the sound "Fog Light" has gone after! Midge Painchaud grew up singing and managing a superb acoustic guitar backing, performing in town, and throughout Jersey. She has recording studio and session singer experience, with an outstanding alto voice that covers artists like Patsy Cline, Karen Carpenter, and more. Her style cover 40s standards, blues, rock, Motown, you name it, She'll cover it! Her groups include,"Serenade," "Sweet Alyssum," and she's a lead vocalist for Gamma Baby, Remba Music, and Claydirt Music Publishing!

Just sit and give her a listen at the mic, when you can. You'll hear sheer vocal talent, and years of experience at the mic. The original "Fog" 5 piece lineup is still available if and when needed for a show or venue, so they've got it figured out. "When the Fog is Thick, get a "Fog Light!" Contact Info-Jack Godowski 732-841-0632, or their website-www.thefogmusic.com, which has links to their email, Facebook, and You Tube! Give em a listen!

I, the writer have been working with that

At The Hop!

(Photos by Steve Schmid)



Many danced to the oldies music of the spring Sock Hop at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus. Cellar Dwellers & Friends provided the music.



Members of Cellar Dwellers & Friends, pose before playing 50s and 60s hits at the spring Sock Hop at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus.

60 Years Ago! Were You There?



April 22, 1964

The New York World's Fair opened on April 22, 1964. Were you there? Send us any memories or photos you may have to satimes@aol.com by May 15th.

By Tom Burkard

Eyes

1. Doctor My Eyes
2. Sad Eyes
3. Ebony Eyes
4. Blue Eyes
5. Eye Of The Tiger
6. In Your Eyes
7. Eyes Without A Face
8. These Eyes
9. Spanish Eyes
10. Brown Eyed Girl
11. Hungry Eyes

- a. Survivor
- b. Van Morrison
- c. Jackson Browne
- d. Robert John
- e. Eric Carmen
- f. The Everly Brothers
- g. Billy Idol
- h. Peter Gabriel
- i. Al Martino
- j. Guess Who?
- k. Elton John

Answers
1c 2d 3f 4k 5a 6h 7g 8j 9i 10b 11e.

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 -M.G...

South Amboy State Of The City
(Photos by Brian Stratton)



Joe Szaro, Commander of the Luke A. Lovely American Post #62 of South Amboy leads the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.



St. Mary Church Pastor Father Guy leads with a prayer.



South Amboy Business Administrator David Kales looks on as Janiyah Jimenez (l) and Mia McCall (r) sing The Star Spangled Banner.



Pictured (l-r) BA David Kales, Donna Kales, Linda Henry, Mayor Fred Henry.



The Mayor and Council pictured (l-r) Councilman Tom Reilly, Councilman-At-Large Anthony Conrad, Mayor Fred Henry, Council President Mickey Gross, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Councilman Brian McLaughlin.



Mayor Henry and city officials gathered for a group shot.



Mayor Fred Henry and family following the State of the City Address.

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FOLLOW US ON:

South Amboy Police Department Promotions

(Photos/Info by Jamie Norek)

On April 3rd, South Amboy Mayor and council held a swearing in ceremony prior to their monthly meeting. Captain Brian McCabe, Lieutenant Michael Kelly and Sergeant Christopher Norek were sworn into their respective positions by Mayor Fred Henry while family, friends and fellow officers looked on.



Captain Brian McCabe



Lieutenant Michael Kelly



Sergeant Christopher Norek

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify these two? Looking for their names (both) we can accept their real or character name and also the name of the T.V. show. Need all three. Send your answers to satimes@aol.com by May 13th.

Last month's answers were Suzanne English, Jan Williams, Edna Pilch, Pat Somers (The Blonde Girl), a Ford Thunderbird from the iconic movie American Graffiti. The following got it right: Ken Smetana, Rick Esposito, Thomas Harrigan, Joe Rall, A Quigley, Kathy jo Engelhardt, JoAnn & John French, Ed

English, Jan Williams, Edna Pilch, Pat Scully, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, Nanci Deverin, Christine Piscitelli, Steve Laskiewicz, Walter Starzec Jr., Pete McIntyre, Ed Bender, Mark Moniello, Dermot Scales, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Anthony Carlo.



March Who is it?
Suzanne Somers (The Blonde Girl),
a Ford Thunderbird from American Graffiti.

The South Amboy Parade Committee would like to thank South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and Council, our local businesses, organizations, sponsors and residents of South Amboy

for the success of our 2024 parade.

A Big Thank You to:

The South Amboy Police Department

Chief Joe Matarangolo for coordinating the days event with the South Amboy Police Department and other local police departments.

Mark Hordmen South Amboy OEM Coordinator
South Amboy First First Aid and Fire Departments

D. B. Kelly Pipes and Drums

Thank you to all the parade participants and those who volunteered their time to make our 2024 parade a success.



"South Amboy is the Greatest Little City in America"

Save the Date!

Next Year's Parade is March 16, 2025

Parade Committee Executive Board

- Mickey Gross – Co-Chair
- Jay Elliot – Co-Chair
- Marilyn Grillo-Springer – Treasurer
- Judi Gillingham – Secretary
- Jan Williams – Transportation Coordinator
- Donna Williams – Events Coordinator
- Jeremiah O'Grady - Webmaster

Committee Members and Volunteers

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Karen Bailey Bebert | Joe Britton |
| Karen Chen | Jordan Drevelus |
| Yolanda Flores | Sue Gross |
| Richard Moran | Barry Rosengarten |
| Jay Seyglinski | Mary Szaro |
| Val Tarr | Mary Taylor |

Please visit our website www.southamboyparade.com for 2025 parade information, parade participation registration and volunteer applications. Follow us on Facebook at: South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee



This project is supported in part by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, A partner agency of the national Endowment for the Arts.

Remember When?



1970's-Youngsters lined up on the corner of Bordentown Ave. and South Stevens Ave. in South Amboy for the annual Soap Box Derby. The energetic youngsters, who hoped to win the big race in their handmade soap boxes, proudly posed for a photo prior to the start of the Derby. Does anyone know any of the drivers or people in this photo? Are there any photos out there of a family member who may have participated? Also, does anyone know what year this race took place? Please let us know at: satimes@aol.com.

Flashback!



The original MTV VJ's (l-r) J.J. Jackson (R.I.P.), Nina Blackwood, Mark Goodman, Martha Quinn and Alan Hunter.



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"But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" - **Proverbs 31:30**





Civic Duty Essay Winners

(Photos/Info by Jamie Norek)



Prior to the South Amboy City Council meeting on April 17th the winners of the Civic Duty Essay were presented their awards as well as proclamations from (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, Councilman Tom Reilly and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin with the winners holding their proclamation.



1st place winner Faisal Kuhn



2nd place winner Benjamin Hernandez



3rd place winner Amber Lore



4th place winner Gwen Kalantis



Special Where in NJ?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



On April 20th the Historical Society of South Amboy presented a tribute to the late local artist John Vona. The photo of two of his works below were on display. They are both of the same location, somewhere in NJ do you know where?. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by May 13th.



Pallone Leads Request to Federal Agencies to Protect North Atlantic Right Whale After Baltimore Bridge Collapse

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) sent a letter to the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, and Homeland Security urging them to enforce vessel speed restrictions following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. In the letter, Pallone and 13 other Members of Congress expressed concern that higher volumes of vessel traffic in the Port of New York and New Jersey and the Port of Virginia could pose a grave threat to the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) if vessel speeds are not enforced.

According to a report from Oceana, most boats are traveling at high speeds in slow zones designated to protect the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Since 2017, more than 77 percent of deaths and injuries of the endangered North Atlantic right whale have been caused by vessel strikes and entanglements.

“In your management of the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse emergency and efforts to re-route shipping to other East Coast ports, we write to request that your departments ensure increased maritime traffic is compliant with vessel speed rules during whale migration season. Strict compliance with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) North Atlantic right whale (NARW) vessel speed restriction rule for vessels 65 feet and over will support the Administration’s commitment to the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act as well as mariner safety,” the lawmakers wrote.

“Ports that neighbor Baltimore, including the Port of New York and New Jersey and the Port of Virginia, already rank as some of the busiest in the country and other high-traffic East Coast ports, such as Savannah and Charleston, where breeding occurs, are also likely to experience a rise in traffic due to Baltimore’s closure. Vessel operators that have been re-routed and do not comply with

the speed restriction rule pose a great risk not only to vulnerable sea animals, but also to mariner safety,” the lawmakers continued. “While we are focused on the NARW’s long-term survival as a species, an additional disaster or environmental spill due to a lapse in compliance with existing safeguards would be devastating.”

“Protecting North Atlantic right whales from boat strikes, and allowing their population to rebuild and even thrive, can be a historical success story — one that can lay a blueprint for protecting and restoring all of our ocean wildlife and ecosystems,” said Sam Waterston, actor and Oceana board chair.

“The collapse of the Baltimore Bridge is a tragedy for the community and economy, and we need to ensure it doesn’t end in a wildlife catastrophe. The North Atlantic right whale is already in extinction’s crosshairs and increased vessel traffic only further jeopardizes their survival. Enhanced enforcement of vessel speed is essential to prevent more deaths of this critically endangered species,” said Kathleen Collins, Senior Marine Campaign Manager, International Fund for Animal Welfare.

In January, Pallone sent a letter to NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard demanding the agencies enforce the law to protect marine mammals. Last year, NOAA allocated \$82 million from the Inflation Reduction Act and Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations to support the conservation of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. The funding announcement came after Pallone sent a letter with the Democratic Members of New Jersey’s Congressional Delegation to the Biden Administration requesting more action to protect marine mammals and their habitats.



WWW.?



Does this building look familiar to you? It is a business located in South Amboy or Sayreville, and has thousands of cars driving past it each day on a local road. If you know what it is, send your answer to: satimes@aol.com by May 13th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Last months WWW.? was the Raritan River Railroad Office, William Kurtz Insurance Co, SA Taxi

Winners: Joanne Niestemski, Matthew Wanko, Don Zrebiec, JoAnn & John French, Ed English, Pat Scully, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, Steve Laskiewicz, Pete McIntyre, Lynn Loy, Lisa Grankowski, Dermot Scales, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Barb Bockus.

Incorrect: A few contestants thought the photo was Joe Smoke's Shop on the corner

of John St. & South Broadway in South Amboy. That was actually the business in the front on the South Broadway portion of the building. The photo of the building in last month's contest was taken from the John St. side, which was the site of the Raritan River Railroad office for many years, and also later the William Kurtz Insurance Agency, and finally South Amboy Taxi. Another incorrect answer was Starlight Diner.



March WWW.? Raritan River Railroad Office



A photo of an original oil painting by the late local artist John Vona shows the building that was located on the corner of Broadway and John Street and was home to Joe's Smoke Shop. Directly behind the building you can see a separate building that is still standing. It was home to Raritan River Railroad, William Kurtz Insurance Agency, and finally South Amboy Taxi.

Local Citizens Recognized

(Photos/Info by Jamie Norek)

At the April 17th South Amboy City Council meeting several citizens were recognized for their many years of service and volunteer activities within the city. (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, Councilman Tom Reilly and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin presented the honorees' proclamations and resolutions. They are pictured holding their proclamation.



SAFD Member Phil English



Local Civic Activist and OEM Member Amy Dundee.



Educator/Coach Tony Gonsalves



SAFD/SAFA member Timothy Walczak (2nd from right)

LETTERS

Tom, Brian:

The "Times" has always been a wonderful paper to read. This month's issue is amazing. You have raised the bar again! I started reading the paper late last night, and I could not put it down. You hit this "out of the ballpark." Thank you for the excellent coverage of our parade. Uncle Joe would have been so proud.

Your loyal fan,

Jan (Janman)

Dear SA Times,

The WWW.? picture in your 30 Mar 2024 edition is of the building near the corner of Broadway and John Street in South Amboy, right next to the train tracks. It once housed the offices of the Raritan River Railroad. On pages 66 & 67 from Fred Deibert's book "Rails Up The Raritan".

Don Zrebiec

We would love to hear from you!





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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water
Bay fishing for Striped Bass in Raritan Bay picked up somewhat. I checked Cliffwood a few times. Lots of people but few fish. I saw one about 29 inches there and another one about 30 inches at Lawrence Harbor. Striped Bass fishing is no bonanza but everything will pick up and get better. To the south at Island Beach and LBI there were a few Stripers caught in the surf but most are still in the back bay areas. Party boat fishing is mostly for Blackfish and Ling. It's nothing great but maybe worth a try. White Perch are still around in the Toms River area. Shark River remains the best bet for Flounder as of now. The Barnegat Light jetties are producing some nice Blackfish off the rocks. The Game Wardens are there too. The first Sea Bass have been caught from boats.

Fresh Water
Trout season opened April 6th. I missed it as I was out of state. I understand that recent heavy rain and high water slowed things up. It seems more rain is on the way and threatening to be a problem. Plenty of fish remain. Spring Lake was stocked for the Kids Derby and there are uncaught trout there too. The lower Delaware River is now seeing the first Shad moving in. A few Walleye are also showing. Bass, Pickerel, Panfish and Catfish are being caught in lakes and ponds.

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Smalltown, U.S.A.

By Robert W. Eginton

I was born in Smalltown, U.S.A. It's where I love, It's where I play, It's where I'm happy, It's where I'll stay

It's childhood memories That will never pass Having so much fun, Growing up so fast. It's my future, it's my present It's my past. Big city living just isn't for me Smalltown, U.S.A. Is where I want to be It's where I live, It's where I'll die It's where I'd like To spend eternity. In a place that means So much to me Smalltown, U.S.A. From sea to shining sea!

School Sports

(As of April 16) - By Tom Burkard

High School Baseball '24 Opening Day

The South Amboy Governors under Coach Dan Poulsen topped Carteret, 6-3 behind the hitting and pitching of Benjamin Smith, who belted a single and double to drive in 3 runs, while picking up the victory on the hill.

First year varsity Coach Timothy Ballard received a great welcoming present from his Sayreville Bombers, as they nipped Middlesex, 4-3. Jake Romanello ripped a single and triple, and Michael Robinon lined a 2-run single. Logan Kaufman was the winning pitcher, and struck out 4.

Baseball

South Amboy (4-0) Coach Dan Poulsen
Batting Leaders
At-bats-Benjamin Smith 11, Micah Nemeth 10; Runs-Benjamin Hernandez 7, Diego Colon 6, Smith 6; Hits-Smith 6, Hernandez 4; Doubles-Smith 2, Jeremy Vasquez 2; Home Runs-Smith 1; Stolen Bases-Colon 5, Nemeth 5, Hernandez 4; Batting Avg.-Nigel Johnson .600, Smith .545, Hernandez .444, Weslyn Morel-Sanchez .429, Colon .375.

Pitching Leaders
Innings Pitched-Nemeth 6; Strikeouts-Isaiah Mercado 7; ERA-Giro Castaldo 1.40.

Sayreville (4-4) Coach Tim Ballard
Batting Leaders
At-bats-Jake Romanello 29, Jaydon Stio 27; Runs-Romanello 8; Hits-Romanello 11, Thomas Schlaline 9; RBI-Stio 7, Michael Robinson 6; Home Runs-Stio 1; Batting Avg.-Schlaline .391, Romanello .379.

Pitching Leaders
Innings Pitched-James Kehoe 14.2, Logan Kaufman 13.1; Strikeouts-Kehoe 14, Kaufman 13; ERA-Kehoe 2.39, Schlaline 3.50.

Guv's Sweep Carteret

South Amboy belted Carteret, once again, 6-3 in baseball action. Winning pitcher Micah Nemeth had 4 K's, and Nigel Johnson drilled a 2-run double.

Vanore Leads Bombers

Sayreville's ace pitcher, Josephine Vanore fired a 6-inning 1-hit shutout, and struck out 11, to lead the Bombers to a 15-0 romp over North Plainfield. She also had a hit and stole a base. Caydence Barton was the big offensive provider, going 3-for-3 including a double and triple, while driving in 2 runs, stealing 2 bases, and scoring 4 runs. Rose Joseph added a double and 3 RBI, and Hailey Fitzpatrick laced a 2-run single.

Sayreville Trounces Perth Amboy

The Bombers hammered Perth Amboy, 14-4 on the baseball diamond. Logan Kaufman struck out 6 and was the winning pitcher. Justin Maher had a perfect 3-for-3 game including a double and 2 RBI. Jake Romanello and Jaydon Stio each had a single, double and 2 RBI.

High School Softball Opening Day '24

Sayreville, under Coach Amanda Moken was victorious over Spotswood, 2-0, as Josephine Vanore fired a fine 4-hit shutout and struck out 11. Mya Infante stroked 2 hits for the Bombers.

Highland Park downed South Amboy, 8-3. The Lady Governors, under Coach Lindsay Durant, were paced by Mia Pena with 2 hits and an RBI, and Sarah McLaughlin who drilled an RBI single.

Softball

Sayreville (4-2) Coach Amanda Moken
Batting Leaders
At-bats-Caydence Barton 19, Jillian Bourbeau 18; Runs-Barton 7; Hits-Barton 10; Doubles-Rose Joseph 3; Triples-Barton 1; Home Runs-Barton 2; Stolen Bases-Barton 2, Josephine Vanore 2; Batting Avg.-Barton .526, Hailey Kilpatrick .312.

Pitching Leaders
Innings Pitched-Vanore 33; Strikeouts-Vanore 31; ERA-Vanore 1.06.

South Amboy (1-3) Coach Lindsay Durant
Batting Leaders

At-bats-Sophie Hernandez 14; Runs-Sarah McLaughlin 8, Emma Kalantis 8, Mia Pina 8; Hits-Pina 8, Hernandez 8, Gwen Kalantis 7, E. Kalantis 6; Triples-E. Kalantis 2; Batting Avg.-Pina .727, E. Kalantis .500, G. Kalantis .385.

Pitching Leaders
Innings Pitched-Hernandez 17; Strikeouts-Hernandez 13; ERA-McLaughlin 3.50.

Sayreville Girls Club Colonia

Sayreville girls softball squad ripped Colonia, 10-1, behind pitcher Josephine Vanore, who blasted a home run, and single, good for 5 RBI. Caydence Barton orbited 2 homers, a single and double for 2 RBI. Rose Joseph hit a single, and double to knock in 2 runs. Hailey Kirkpatrick laced 2 hits.

Lady Guv's Rip Perth Amboy Magnet

South Amboy girls softball contingent piled up 22 runs, as they routed Perth Amboy Magnet, 22-4. Winning pitcher Sarah McLaughlin struck out 5 in the 4-inning contest, and also drilled 2 hits and had 3 RBI. Gwen Kalantis had 2 singles, a triple and 3 RBI, while her sister Emma Kalantis hit a single and double to drive in 3 runs. Sophie Hernandez added a single and triple to light up the scoreboard for 4 more runs for the Purple & Gold.

College Notebook

Sayreville War Memorial HS graduates have been busy playing baseball and softball on the collegiate level. Mike Novak of New Jersey City University (9-16), has only been to the plate 7 times and has 3 hits including a home run. He also has 4 RBI...While at Kean University (18-11), Michael Colonnello has appeared briefly in 9 games and has 1 hit with 3 RBI...Catcher Hunter Almeida has played in 27 games for Middlesex College (19-13) and scored 12 runs, has 15 hits, 2 doubles, 10 RBI and is batting .208...On the softball diamond, first baseman Middlesex College (11-3) standout, Madison Szatkowski has scored 21 runs, ripped 28 hits, including 7 doubles, 2 triples and 1 homer to drive in 23, while batting a scorching .667.



South Amboy Blasts New Brunswick

The South Amboy Guv's baseball club plastered New Brunswick, 19-7. Benjamin Smith unloaded a homer, and doubled to knock in 3 runs. Jeremy Vasquez ripped a 3-run double and stole 2 bases. Diego Colon swiped 3 bases, and Joseph Foreman hit a single and had 3 RBI. Robert Conklin was the winning pitcher.

SAYAA Opening Day

(Photos by Brian Stratton)



The teams march down Bordentown Ave.



South Amboy Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62.



Sophie Hernandez (l) did an excellent job singing The Star Spangled Banner!



Detective Tim Kales (l) threw out the first baseball pitch. He is pictured with South Amboy High school Varsity Boys Baseball Coach Dan Poulsen.



Emma Bielak (l) threw out the first Softball pitch to Emma Kalantis.



The Evanski family were honored for the countless hours they have dedicated to the SAYAA.



(L-R) Councilman Brian McLaughlin, Council President Mickey Gross, BA David Kales, Mayor Fred Henry and Councilwoman Zusette Dato.



The PBA T-Ball Team!

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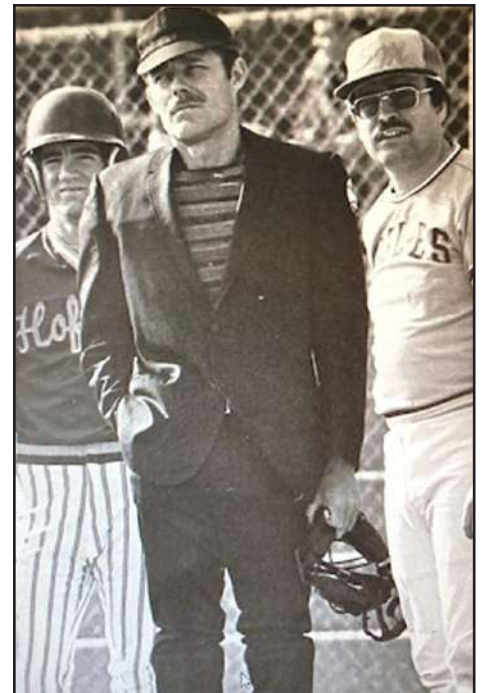
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1980-South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (r), who coached St. Mary's varsity baseball team for many years, is pictured at a City Series game with one of Hoffman's greatest players, Tom Mulligan (l) and an unidentified umpire (Possibly Tom Wisniewski) as they survey some action going on at Veterans Field.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1963 Sport-Baseball
Teams-Sayreville (8-4) vs. St. Mary's (8-5)
Recap-Joe Pohl fired a masterful 4-hitter shutout as the Eagles topped the Bombers 9-0, giving the Eagles their first win over Sayreville in 11 years. Pohl also had a fantastic game at the plate by going 3-for-3 with 3 RBI. Jack Kreiger blasted a 3-run homer to right center, Tom Vona added a 3-run triple, and George Stramback 2 hits for the Saints.
Player-of-the Game-Joe Pohl, St. Mary's

Patriots Buffet & Fireworks June 22

You're invited for a night of baseball, food, and fireworks. The South Amboy Knights of Columbus host an outing Saturday June 22 when the Somerset Patriots play the Erie Tigers at 7 PM. Cost of \$60 includes Party Deck admission for a good view of the field, all you can eat 90 minute buffet starting 30 minutes before the game, lasting 60 minutes after first pitch. Grilled Bourbon Chicken, Sausage & Peppers, Penne Vodka, Rice and Vegetable Medley are entrees. Dessert includes Brownies, Cookies, Coffee and Tea. Unlimited fountain soda is available through the 7th Inning. Cash bar is also there. After the last out, fireworks light up the night sky. To reserve your place, call Steve at 732-727-1707 or call 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

Sayreville Athletics Hall of Fame Qualifications
(Information submitted)

- *The candidate must be of good character and a positive representative of SWMHS Athletics.
 - *Student athletes and teams may be nominated at any time following five years of graduation.
 - *Coaches, athletic directors and trainers are eligible for nomination following five years from conclusion of duties.
 - *There will be a maximum of five inductees each year (Inaugural class will include 10-15 inductees)
 - *The candidate must have earned a varsity letter in an NJSIAA sanctioned sport.
- For more information contact SAYREVILLEATHLETICSHOF@GMAIL.COM

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 heave 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. PS & B.S..



The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1999- GOLD DIVISION SOFTBALL CHAMPS - SOUTH AMBOY LADY GUVS: Top (L-R) Asst. Coach Maryanne Lewis, Lily Munoz, Gina Miller, Elena Bajkowski, Kim Peterson, Stacy Connors, Coach Tom Krill. Bottom (L-R) Kristen Woods, Melissa Rainone, Regan Rone, Kristen English, Nicole Magnifico, Karen Felice, Melissa Poulsen. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Glory Days In Local Sports

1963-The Bombers snapped a 12-game winning streak of South River by downing the Rams, 6-3. Winning pitcher Denny Dzergoski drilled a 2-run single, while Gary Bodak had an RBI single, and John Karlowitz a three-base hit...**1979-**Hoffman mauled Montgomery, 9-4. Mark Wahler had a huge game, going 4-for-5 with 5 RBI. His 2-run single in the 8th inning drove in what proved to be the winning run...**1985-**Sayreville girls softball team topped J.P. Stevens, 2-0 in the CJ Group 4 state tourney. Winning pitcher Shelly Mayernick hurled the shutout, and also executed a beautiful squeeze bung to drive in a run. Jane Homnick ripped an RBI single, and Terry Lockwood blasted a long double...

1998-St. Mary's superstar soph tennis star, Matt Sabo breezed to the GMCT

singles championship over Jason Pope of Spotswood, 6-3 and 6-2...**2009-**Cardinal McCarrick trounced Piscataway Tech, 15-0 in baseball, as winning pitcher Ben Mendoza combined with Joe Lunger and Joe D'Archi for a 5-inning no-hitter. Ryan Smith belted 2 hits including a grand slam homer to knock in 6 runs. Francisco Cedeno had 2 doubles and 2 RBI...**2015-**Perth Amboy defeated South Amboy girls softball squad 5-3 in the play-in round of the GMCT. Ashley Mandela stroked 2 hits and drove in 2 runs...**2022-**Sayreville girls softball team hammered North Brunswick, 21-1 in a 4-inning mercy rule contest. Jessica Wasko had a perfect 5-for-5 game including a home run and 6 RBI. Winning pitcher Caydence Barton struck out 7.

Diamond Dust

1982 South Amboy Little Fellas League PBA 10 Daylight Bakery 1-Winning pitcher Tom Holovacko laced 2 hits.

Protection 6 Lions 4-Mike McCarthy blasted a homer for the winners.

Modern Trans 5 PBA 4-Mike Grover was the winning pitcher.

Enterprise 16 Progressive 13-Vinny Spitaletto drilled 3 hits.

1969 South Amboy Little Fellas League First Aid 3 Weiss Clothing 2-Winning pitcher Tom Diem struck out 10 and also blasted 2 doubles to pave the way.

Jo-Toms 8 Daylight Bakery 3-Joe "Moose"

McCarthy unloaded a long 2-run homer, and Kevin Ostrander was the winning pitcher.

Protection 15 English Chevron 5-Winning pitcher Ray Akerman had a huge game striking out 10, and also got 4 hits and had 4 RBI.

1969 South Amboy Babe Ruth League Komar's 3 South Amboy Trust Co. 1 -Charlie Steuber notched the win.

South Amboy Trust Co.3 Sacred Heart 0-Bill D'Amico was the winning pitcher and struck out 9.

Independence 6 Mechanicsville 4-Jeff St. Amour was victorious on the mound.

90 Years Ago

Opening Day

1934-South Amboy belted Freehold, 6-2. "Toots" Prasnal was the winning pitcher and smashed a triple. Pete Pavich ripped a single and double to drive in 3 runs. Primpka added an RBI single, and Jensen an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

85 Years Ago

1939-St. Mary's nipped Tottenville, 6-5 in baseball action. Joe Conroy paved the way by blasting a 3-run homer and 2-run single for a total of 5 RBI to support winning pitcher Joe Shafnacker, who struck out 3. Allie Clark drilled an RBI single, and Walt "Kelly" Grembowicz ripped a single and double for the Eagles.

50 Years Ago

1974-Sayreville Bombers legendary pitcher, Steve Makwinski fired 2 no-hitters during the season. He topped Edison 8-0, and JFK 4-0 in the county tournament. The masterpieces were his second and third during his stellar schoolboy career.

45 Years Ago

1979-Hoffman nipped Keyport in Group 1 action, 1-0 in 8 innings, behind Marty Veilleux, who fired a brilliant no-hitter and struck out 5. Randy Neumann singled in the only run with 2 outs in the 8th inning.

40 Years Ago

1984-Sayreville boys baseball team clubbed Cedar Ridge, 5-1 to capture the MCAC title. Chuck Frobosilo was the winning pitcher, and struck out 6. Brian Bielak provided the offensive pop by hammering a 2-run single and double for the Bombers.

Big League Baseball Report

Brandon Bielak, a product of Sayreville, has been pitching once again for the Houston Astros MLB club. In 6 games, he has worked 10.1 innings, struck out 6 and walked 3, and has an ERA of 6.10. Opposing batters are hitting at a .311 clip against Bielak. He has no pitching decisions as of yet.

Sayreville Opening Day

(Photos/Info Submitted)



Opening Day Parade down Washington Road.



Our National Anthem is played prior to the first pitch.



Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien speaks to crowd with Sayreville Board of Education President Lucy Bloom.



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Robert J. Letts, Jr.

Robert J. Letts, Jr., 62, of South Amboy died on Saturday March 2, 2024 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. Born in Perth Amboy he was previously employed by Tile Setters Local 7, New York. He was a longtime member of the Bayview Rod & Gun Club, Morgan. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and hanging out with his many friends at the gun club.

Son of the late Robert Letts, Sr. and Mary Quinlan Letts-Mullaly he is also predeceased by his wife Debra C. Downing Letts in 2013 and his brother Jay Letts. He is survived by his daughter Mallorie Letts and her husband Douglas Ciraulo; his son Derek Letts; his nephews Patrick and Ryan Letts and many cousins.

Funeral services were held on Thursday March 7, 2024 at 5:30pm at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to WFMU public radio station, as Bob was an avid listener and donor.

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. -M.M.

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 -B.S..



Richard R. Kurczeski

Richard R. Kurczeski, Sr. age 87 of Sayreville, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Jersey City, raised in Old Bridge and resided in Sayreville as a lifelong borough resident. Before his retirement, Rich worked as a Sergeant for the Sayreville Police Department for 25 years. He was a member of the Sayreville PBA 98 where he was a delegate for 22 years. Nicknamed Sarge, Juice and Prune by those who knew him well.

He was a second generation owner of RK Electric, Inc., serving the neighborhood proudly. He was strong, kind, caring and generous, always willing to help others.

Rich was a three sport varsity athlete at Sayreville War Memorial High School where he excelled at baseball, football and basketball. During his senior year in 1954, he was named best athlete. He went on to Indiana University on an athletic scholarship.

Rich married his high school sweetheart, Patricia Reed. Together they made a beautiful life. They went on to raise four children in a home they created filled with love, laughter and happiness. He adored and spoiled his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

He was most happy surrounded by family and friends in his beloved Chincoteague, VA. He loved being on the water in his boat fishing, crabbing, and clamming. He enjoyed playing horseshoes and watching the nightly majestic sunsets over the Chincoteague Bay.

Richard was born in 1937 and was one of 14 brothers and sisters. He was number 5 in the sibling lineup. Richard was always there for his siblings and he brought joy to his family with his infectious smile and piercing blue eyes.

He loved country music and enjoyed belting out one of his favorite songs, Shanty Town at every family wedding he attended. Rich loved a good party. He was an excellent dancer and lived life to the fullest.

Richard is predeceased by his parents Peggy and Walter Kurczeski. His daughter in law Cheri Kurczeski. His siblings Irene Mytnick, Walter Kurczeski, Estelle Williscroft Kurczeski, Charlie Kurczeski and Jimmy Kurczeski.

Richard is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 65 years, Patricia. He will be dearly missed by his four children, Richard Kurczeski, Jr., Karen Fallon and her husband Greg, Kim Feingold and her husband Mitch, and Ken Kurczeski. He is also survived by his adoring grandchildren Ryan (Eileen) Fallon, Chelsea (Cesar) Avila, Shannon Fallon, Tyler Feingold, Alyssa Feingold & Ricky Kurczeski, and precious great grandchildren Owen, Liam & Isabella.

Surviving are his siblings Eleanor Wenzel, Joan DeBoer, Robert (Joy) Kurczeski, Theresa Schneider, Dorothy (Frank) Sheehan, Edward Kurczeski, John (Valerie) Kurczeski, Thomas Kurczeski. He is also survived by sister-in-laws Sharon Kurczeski & Joan Wentzel, 37 beloved nieces and nephews and many wonderful lifelong friends.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Richard's wonderful caregiver, Angia. The family is eternally grateful for her compassion and love.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be Wednesday, April 24 from 4pm until 8pm at the Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home, 15 Cherry Lane, Parlin, NJ 08859

Funeral services will take place at 9:30 am on Thursday, April 25 at Saint Bernadette Church located on Villanova and Princeton Roads, Parlin, NJ.

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 -J.B.

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..

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..

Susan A. Spencer Nasto

Susan A. Spencer Nasto, 71, of Milltown died on Tuesday April 16, 2024 at Preferred Care at Old Bridge. Born in South Amboy she was previously employed by Monroe Village. A member of Georges Road Baptist Church she loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Daughter of the late John and Mary Bill Spencer she is also predeceased by her brother Ronald Spencer in 2017. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Jessica and Chris 08902. Caccio; her brother and sister-in-law Daniel

and Grace Spencer; her grandchildren Christopher and Dominic and her aunt Patty Klosek and her husband Babe.

Funeral services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Georges Road Baptist Church, 440 Church Lane, North Brunswick, NJ

Mary E. Accordino

Mary E. Accordino, 65, of South Amboy, passed peacefully on Monday, April 8, 2024, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born to Jim and Gerry Coakley and grew up in South Amboy, where she met and married the love of her life, Russell Accordino. Mary and Russ settled in South Amboy and raised their children Jayson and Vikki there. South Amboy was also the base for their successful business, Metro Ophthalmic.

Mary graduated from St. Mary's High School and Kean College with a BA in Social Work. She was employed at Central Valley School and Amandla Crossing prior to joining Russ at Metro Ophthalmic. Mary loved and cared for her community, volunteering for many years with the Domestic Violence Prevention Team and the Office of Emergency Management. Her generosity of spirit was unparalleled.

What was truly unique about Mary was that in addition to the unstinting love and devotion she extended to family and friends, was the love, care, and help she gave to anyone in need. She was a wonderful mentor to many who struggled and needed a hand—Mary's answer was "yes," before she even knew fully what the request was. Many young adults were blessed by her generosity and the opening of her home to them. Her home was your home if you needed it, her volunteerism and outreach to those in need, and her social life—she made the world a better place. She will be deeply missed by those who were lucky enough to know her, love her, and be loved by her.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, her brothers James (Jabs), Vince, and John, and her beloved four legged family members Rafferty, Ralph, Harley, Joey, and Max.

She is survived by her loving husband Russ, her adoring and dedicated children Jayson (Vanessa) & Vikki, grand dog Jack, her brothers Bob (MaryKay) and Michael (Beth), her sisters-in-law Susan, Gail and Laurette, many aunts/uncles, cousins, nieces/nephews, and her chosen family, the Mulligans of South Amboy, who loved her as one of their own.

Visitation was held on Thursday April 11, 2024, at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private.

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 -C.S.

Obituaries

Accordino, Mary Coakley, 65, of South Amboy died on April 8.
 Chodkiewicz, Christopher, 47, formerly of South Amboy died on April 14.
 Farfel, Clinton (Joby), 71, formerly of Parlin died on April 10.
 Farfel, Ellen L., 93, formerly of Parlin died on March 5.
 Kielbasa, Richard L., 58, of Parlin died March 30.
 Konopka, Raymond E., 91, of Sayreville died on March 29.
 Koval, Claire, 76, formerly of South Amboy died on April 10.
 Kurczeski, Richard R. Sr., 87, of Sayreville died on April 17.
 Lasko, Florence, 85, of Sayreville died on March 5.
 Letts, Robert J. Jr., 62, of South Amboy died on March 2.

Losiewicz, Cecelia "Ceil," 96, formerly of South Amboy died on April 7.
 Mataranglo, Brig. Gen. Francis "Frank" T., 83, formerly of South Amboy died on March 31.
 Nasto, Susan A. Spencer, 71, formerly of South Amboy died on April 16.
 Ricci, Raffaella "Faye," 96, of Sayreville died on April 11.
 Scanlon, Joseph E. "Joe," 90, of Morgan died on April 4.
 Solujich, Judith M. "Judy," 83, of Parlin died on April 12.
 Sturgis, John R., 63, of South Amboy died on April 16.
 Vargas, Genaro, 87, of Parlin died on April 10.
 Waldman, Pauline H., 85, formerly of Sayreville died on March 27.

In Memoriam

Florence Lasko, 85, of Sayreville died on March 5. She was a teacher in the Sayreville Schools system for 38 years. Joseph "Joe" Scanlon, 90, of Morgan died on April 4. He was a Korean War veteran, serving the 82nd Airborne Unit. Joe was a founding member of the Morgan First Aid Squad and dedicated his life to the community for over 53 years. He earned the coveted Silver Shield Lifetime Award from the Sayreville PBA. In addition, he was chosen Citizen of the Year by the K of C Council #2061 in 1981. Scanlon was an assistant basketball coach at Sacred Heart for Danny Lewis, and also coached Morgan AA baseball for 10 years. Before retiring, he worked for over 50 years with

the County of Middlesex as a Supervisor. He also worked with Animal Control for 35 years for the Borough of Sayreville. Mary Coakley Accordino, 65, of South Amboy died on April 8. She and her husband Russell owned and operated Metro Ophthalmic for many years. Mary was a wonderful lady, and with her kindness, helped make the world a better place. Christopher Chodkiewicz, 47, formerly of South Amboy died on April 14. Christopher was a friend to all, and highly-respected by everyone who had known him. John Sturgis, 63, of South Amboy died on April 16. John, who was a really great guy, was an Exempt member, and Ex-Captain of Mechanicsville Hose Co. #10.

Joseph E. Scanlon

Our Community Loses A Gentle Giant
 By Dr. Jorge Gonzalez Gomez

Middlesex County recently lost a gentle giant. Joseph E. Scanlon passed away April 04, 2024, at the age of 90. He served our country during the Korean War and Middlesex County with his involvement in the road department, Sayreville's Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Morgan First Aid Squad.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Joe for over thirty years. As (ACO), Joe would always be around finding lost animals and often uniting animals with families while often bringing laughter to children when Joe walked in with a lost rabbit, cat, or dog. Later in life, our past crossed again when I joined the Morgan First Aid Squad which was Joe's baby. He was always available to serve the squad and has saved countless lives throughout his volunteer career with the squad. You would often see Joe at car accidents rescuing trapped victims and rushing them to the hospital, this was his passion, helping others. I proudly called him a friend. Joe truly embodies what volunteerism truly is.....

Joe was an avid NY Post reader and lottery player. He enjoyed vacationing with



Joseph E. Scanlon

his wife Lorraine. He gave his children Johnny, Kelly (whom I know well) and Michael a great upbringing and I am certain they will pass those values unto the grand and great grandchildren.

Our community has lost a great terrestrial human being and now we are blessed to have him as a celestial guardian to our communities.

Thank you for your friendship and may God continue to bless you and your family!

Memorial Remembered



Over Easter weekend, the community remembered 9-year old Christian Rivera, a student at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, and member of the Sayreville Junior Bombers football team, by visiting his memorial behind Sayreville War Memorial High School. Christian died tragically on March 28. (Photo/story by Steve Schmid)

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 -A.G.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

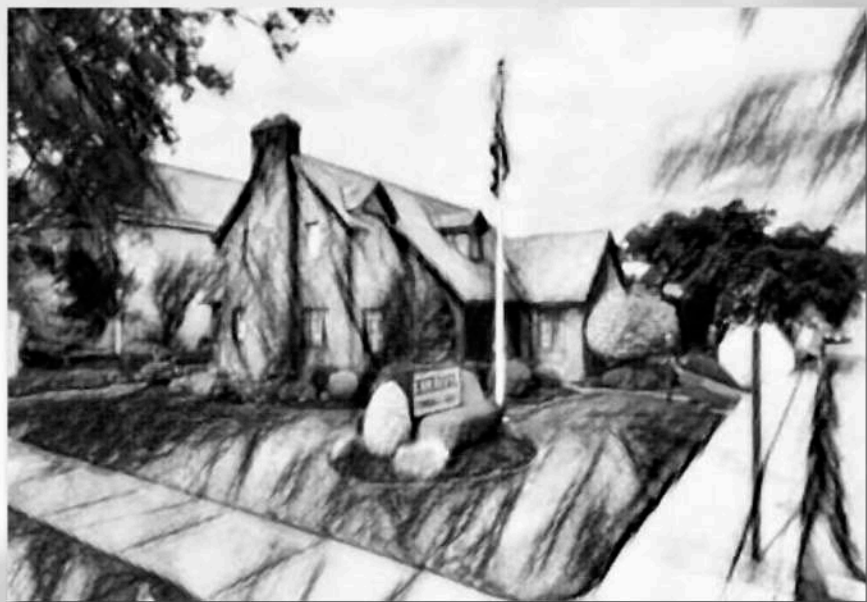
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to 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 -K.S.

There is truly only one thing that can be done once.....your loved one deserves the best!



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We offer a dignified funeral experience to meet every family's needs, while creating a comfortable peaceful environment with ample street parking and handicap accessible barrier free.

Inquire about our affordable guaranteed pre-funding programs, especially for the Community Senior Groups, Veterans, Firemen & Law Enforcement.

These are difficult times, our world has changed and innocent lives have been lost. The world as we know it, will never be the same. The one thing that will never go unchanged is the unending love of our mothers. We must pray that we all get through this. Please cherish those in your life and never forget.



Rocco M. Cuoco, Manager
 N.J. Lic. No. 4605

Vote for the Officially Endorsed Candidates by the **MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION**



WARD 1 CANDIDATE LARRY LENAHAN 5B

A union employee for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority with 32 years of experience, Larry knows how important labor unions are for our local community. Previously a member of the IFTPE, Larry is now a member of AFSCME Local 3914. Larry has kept New Jersey moving for decades, now he's counting on your support for City Council so he can fight for the future of South Amboy families.



WARD 2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS REILLY 6A

Thomas has deep roots in the community having lived in South Amboy for six decades. A priority for Thomas since he was first elected to the council has been the health and well-being of the city and its citizens. This has guided his work on the council and he remains committed to keeping South Amboy a great place to live and a great place to raise a family.



WARD 3 COUNCILWOMAN ZUSETTE DATO 7A

A lifelong public servant, Zusette has been an active member of the South Amboy community having served on numerous local boards since first moving to the city in 2002. She cares deeply about the residents of South Amboy and is focused on serving her community.

There are Three Easy Ways to Vote!



Vote-by-Mail

Mail in ballots will be mailed to registered Democrats beginning April 20th.



Vote Early In Person

Early in-person voting is available from May 29th through June 2nd.



Election Day

Your last chance to vote is on Election Day, June 4th. Polls will be open from 6 am-8 pm.



Have questions about how to vote this year?

(732) 906-3680

www.MiddlesexCountyNJ.gov/vote