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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is dedicated to *Frank Dziekan *Peter Lorentz *Carol Olivieri *Michael Olszak *Vince Siciliano



April 30, 2026

The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 35 Issue 7

Chief Plumacker Completes FBI Program

(Photo/info submitted)

The Sayreville Police Department is proud to announce that Chief Daniel Plumacker has successfully completed the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, graduating as part of the 297th Session on March 18th, 2026. This significant achievement highlights Chief Plumacker's dedication to professional excellence and leadership in law enforcement.

Established in 1935 by the FBI under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI National Academy, held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, is a highly selective, 10-week professional development course designed for law enforcement leaders from across the United States and around the world. The rigorous program focuses on advanced training in areas such as leadership, communication, national security, terrorism and counterterrorism, crisis negotiations, resiliency, and physical fitness, all while building lasting professional partnerships. Two hundred and fifty-three law enforcement professionals demonstrated exceptional commitment to public safety as part of the 297th session of the National Academy, which consisted of men and women from 48 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 24 countries, four military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations.

Chief Plumacker, a 25-year veteran of the Sayreville Police Department, has served in a variety of roles, including within the Operations, Investigative, and Administrative Divisions. He currently serves as the agency's chief law enforcement officer and is also an instructor for the NJSACOP's prestigious Command and Leadership Program, which is modeled after the military's West Point Academy.

Chief Plumacker's graduation from the FBI National Academy underscores his commitment to enhancing the department's ability to serve and protect the Borough of Sayreville community.



Chief Daniel Plumacker

"We are incredibly proud of Chief Plumacker's accomplishment," said Mayor Kennedy O'Brien. "His completion of the FBI National Academy reflects a steadfast commitment to professional growth and exemplary leadership. The knowledge and experience he brings back will continue to strengthen the department's mission of providing exceptional service to our community. As I often say, strong leadership is measured not just by authority, but by the ability to inspire, serve, and elevate those around you."

The Sayreville Police Department congratulates Chief Plumacker on this milestone and looks forward to the continued impact of his leadership.

South Amboy 2026 Budget

(News Release Submitted)

At the April 15th city council meeting the City Council passed a resolution adopting the 2026 municipal budget. Mayor Fred A. Henry stated "I am very pleased tonight to present a budget that, for the second year in a row, allows us to reduce municipal taxes by \$55.24 on a home assessed at \$276,220. This was accomplished without any cuts to any municipal services! My team has worked extremely hard to make this happen. I would especially like to thank my Business Administrator David Kales, CFO Dan Balka, and Management Specialist Kathy Kudelka. Along with input from our City

Council, we were once again able to lessen the municipal tax burden of our city residents and even expand some of our programs. As this is my last budget, I take great pride in this accomplishment along with having a surplus of \$6 million and an improved bond rating. I believe I will be leaving the city in an extremely stable financial situation. And as this is government week, this shows our young students a perfect example of how good government works for the betterment of the residents." A public budget hearing was held but there were no comments or questions from the public.

Sister Mary Gomolka Celebrates 75 Years

By Tom Burkard

Former South Amboy resident, Sister Mary Gomolka, RSM, is now celebrating 75 years of religious service as a Sister of Mercy. She spent many years teaching at different parochial schools, and was principal at St. James School, Woodbridge from 1970-72, and then became the music teacher at Georgian Court College (now University), where she served from 1972-75. Sister

Mary Gomolka's next stop was as the head of the music department at Mount St. Mary Academy, Watchung, from 1975-2011, when she retired. She is currently a member of the ministry of prayer at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Congratulations Sister Mary Gomolka on your hard work and dedication through the years, and God Bless!



Locals Receive Diocesan Awards

By Tom Burkard

Young men and women of local churches were recently honored at the St. Timothy and St. Teresa Awards presentation at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. The award recipients and their churches were Mikaela Pepe and Noah Cruz of St. Mary, Star of the Sea; Paige

Cleary-Sacred Heart; Justin Trivino-Our Lady of Victories. The award winners were nominated by their pastors, school principals, catechetical leaders and youth ministers for their leadership in the parish, school or community. Congratulations to all!

South Amboy Players Cast of Frozen



The South Amboy Players presented "Frozen" last month to rave reviews. Great Job! (Photo by Len Estrada Photography),

Mother's Day

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New Knights Of Columbus



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 welcomed 6 new brother Knights this past month. Pictured (l-r) Ryan Towers, Grand Knight Ed Vassallo and Bill Towers.



Pictured (l-r) Rich Nunes, Grand Knight Ed Vassallo, Pat Caffrey, Mike Corcoran and Jake Piazzolla. Welcome new brothers and congratulations. (Photos/Info Submitted)

Prayer to St. Jude

Most Holy Apostle St. Jude Thaddeus, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered your beloved Master into the hands of the enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases and of things despaired of. Pray for me who is so needy; make use, I implore you of that particular privilege accorded to you to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings and that I may bless God with you and all the elect throughout eternity. I promise you, O blessed St. Jude to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen. Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. J.J.

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. A.J.M..

TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude gave me hope. -P.S., B.S., S.S., M.S., K.S., S.P., N.P.



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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1. She was the first female letter carrier for the USPS in South Amboy back in 1963?
a. Amy O'Halloran b. Eileen Jones c. Kamala Hacque
2. Sayreville War Memorial HS Spring Production in '07?
a. The King & I b. Man of LaMancha c. Romeo & Juliet
3. Current President of the South Amboy First Aid Squad?
a. Jim Ryan b. Betty Leveille c. Rob Sekerak
4. Top vote getter in the 2006 Sayreville election for Council?
a. Ron H. Green b. Kathy Makowski c. Stanley Drwal
5. South Amboy Superintendent of Schools in 1993?
a. Anthony Novembre b. William Beattie c. Eugene Dobrzynski
6. In July '05, this new business opened on Thomas St. in Sayreville?
a. Sy's Shoe Store b. J. O'Neill's Place c. Baken 'N' Cakes
7. South Amboy City Clerk in 1993?
a. Claire Reilly b. Joanne Katko c. Christine Caputo
8. In the '97 Sayreville Board of Education election, this person received the most votes?
a. Kevin Ciak b. Kenneth Kelly c. Stephen Zuczek
9. Elected President of Frog Hollow Swim & Tennis Club for 1993?
a. Tony Gonsalves b. Tom Tighe c. Mary Griffin
10. In '97, where was Uncle Lai's located in Sayreville?
a. Melrose b. Washington Road c. Rt. 35, Morgan

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

**FROM THE DESK OF
TOM REILLY**



One of the government's most important responsibilities is to make thoughtful, responsible decisions on behalf of the people it serves. At the local level, those decisions affect residents every day, from public safety and infrastructure to recreation and economic development. Good government begins with a commitment to serve the community with care and accountability. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not . . . government officials, but the voters of this country."

I know that I speak for our entire South Amboy City Council when I say that we approach our responsibility to our residents as the steward of our city's continued growth with the utmost dedication. A strong city council is the backbone of a thriving community. As the city's legislative body, the council plays a key role in shaping policies that affect all of our residents. Effective councils are built through collaboration, careful planning, and a shared commitment to putting the interests of residents above individual agendas. Council members focus on long-term planning, legislation for the health, safety, and welfare of our residents, and developing the annual budget. More than that, we speak for and to the interests of our residents: we listen to their concerns, answer questions, and encourage public participation in every step of the deliberative process.

Across the country, municipal governments face increasing financial pressure. With waning federal aid and rising fixed costs, city councils must balance maintaining high-quality services with responsible fiscal management. Budgeting therefore requires a series of careful, strategic decisions to provide residents with the services they deserve at reasonable costs. After all, a responsible city budget is more than a financial document -- it is a roadmap that connects people, priorities, and resources to ensure a sustainable future. In the end, the work of local government always comes back to one principle: serving our residents responsibly. Every decision we make, from the budget to

community programs, reflects that duty. By continuing to plan carefully, listen to residents, and act in their best interests, we fulfill the core responsibility of the government -- to serve and strengthen the community we represent.

I am pleased to report that for the second year in a row, our city has adopted a budget that reduces taxes while maintaining the services residents expect. I would like to thank our Business Administrator, Dave Kales, and our Chief Financial Officer, Dan Balka, for their work in preparing a budget that supports city services while strengthening key programs. The city also maintains a healthy surplus, providing long-term financial stability and protecting taxpayers from unexpected challenges.

This year's budget includes increased funding for first responders, new equipment for the Department of Public Works, and expanded community programs such as the summer concert series and summer camp for children. We are also excited to introduce a new basketball camp this summer for students in grades three through eight.

Our community also continues to grow economically. To that point, I would like to welcome two new businesses -- Papa John's and Puravida Balloons -- to our Broadway business community. Please be sure to get out and support them!

Finally, I want to wish the best of luck to all of our local baseball and softball teams this season. Youth sports strengthen our community by bringing families together and teaching important life skills. Here is to a great spring sports season!

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

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**FIFTH GRADE
HIGH HONOR ROLL:**

Josef Alfonso, AnaSophia Bodkin, Abel Diaz, Gianna Pierre, Xavier Santos-Ferreira, Ryder Stratton, Mikaela Sundquist, and Sophia Vargas Hernandez.

FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL:

Jaylaniz Cedeno, Meighcy Cedeno, Maksym Hevko, Jennely Jimenez, Sara Kisiel, John Lawson, Brithany Lobo-Sosa, Jaxson Mercado, Yaseen Mohamed, Allison Oliveira, Emily Paredes, Elias Perez, Julia Philistin, Joseph Rowley, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, and Ryder Sepulveda.



South Amboy Elks Lodge # 784 donated \$3,000 to the Inner Heart Ministries International of South Amboy. And a second \$3,000 to The Messiah Lutheran Church of Sayreville. In photo from (l to r) are South Amboy Elks Exalted Ruler John Leo, Inner Hearts Pastors Wally and Pastor Tania Nanez, and from Messiah Lutheran is Kathy Antonitis, and Jimmy Dolan, and Elks National Foundation Lodge Chairman Val Tarr. (Photo/info submitted)

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Yearbook-St. Mary's 1971

By Tom Burkard

When the St. Mary's Class of 1971 began its final school year in September 1970, Edwin Starr's song, "War" topped the pop charts in the U.S., while St. Mary's HS was a happenin' place to be for the Class of '71. Popular teachers were: Sister Mary Innocent, Michael Fabiszewski, Kathryn Fitzmorris, Rosemary Harrigan, Andrew Joyce, Richard O'Brien, Maryann Ropelewski, Jay Ziznewski, Carol Bohinski. John Alvarado and Florena Brown were co-Editors-In-Chief of the yearbook, which was dedicated to Charles Nuziale. Jeanne Kurowsky was Editor-In-Chief of the school newspaper. Andrew Kuziemski was Student Council President, Anthony Mauro-V.P., Marge Kurtz-Recording Secretary, Bridgette Hulihan-Corresponding Secretary. Rick Sciora was Senior Class President. Who could forget the 1st Annual Homecoming game against Hoffman, and the Homecoming Dance on the next day? Patricia Bergold was chosen Homecoming Queen. The 11th Annual Christmas Festival featured the play "The Christmas Star." School Clubs and their presidents were: Science-John Alvarado; Photography-Thomas Madura; Blue Literary Magazine-James Graff. The Christmas Ball was held in December 1970 in the cafeteria, and the theme was "Old Fashioned Christmas." Music was provided by the band Banana Cream. There were many assemblies that year ranging from GM's scientific advances to Ben Johnson's "Volpore." The Halloween Parade was also a blast. The school play was "Mame." Some of the Class of '71 selected randomly were: Daniel Ballance, Susan Birmingham, Francis Regis Bulman, Maureen Carroll, Mary Casey, Al Chodkiewicz, Vincent Coakley, Gary Costanzo, Gerard Crowley, Kathleen Farley, Joyce Henderson, Dennis Henry,

Margaret Higgins, Daniel Jones, Jane & June Fleming, Peter Kenny, James Kilcomons, Camille Kowaleski, Mary Krotosek, Jeanne Kurowsky, Margaret Kusic, Stanley Kusic, Jamie Lang, Vincent Mackiel, Maryanne Madura, Kathleen Maine, Kevin McCormack, Linda Messenger, Jacqueline Miller, Joan Morrison, Thomas Mulvey, Margaret Nash, Patricia O'Brien, Helen O'Neil, Stephen Pavich, Joseph Pasquale, David St. Amour, Francis Sciallo, Denise Sullivan, Richard Sullivan, Kathleen Sumski, Thomas Thomas, Daniel Toye, Robert & William Weissman, John Wilusz, William Hall, Donna Zientek, Joan Kemble, Claire Zebro. On the SM sports scene, Coach Tom Otto's baseball club posted an impressive 15-5 mark. The girls' basketball squad, led by co-captains Terry Gulick and the late Ellen McCarthy compiled a fine 11-5 record. Talented senior athletes included: Doug Batruk, Kevin Bergin, Walt Binkowski, Bob Carroll, Brian Flannery, Jim Graff, Terry Gulick, John Gryl, Bob Hawes, Brian Kelly, George Krzyzanowski, (who became SM's first 1,000 point scorer, and set the single game scoring mark of 50 points that still stands today), and was an All-County, All State selection. Other senior athletes were: John Kugel, Marge Kurtz, Mike Luczkow, Dan MacKay, Bob Miller, Ed Perez, Jim Phillips, Rick Sciora, Bob Short, Charlie Steuber, Bernie Tabasko, Ed Windas, Dave Wisniewski, Bob Zlotnick, Andy Kuziemski, Eileen Crummy, Patricia Foley. On graduation day 1971, the seniors undoubtedly heard the #1 hit in America, "Brown Sugar" by the Rolling Stones, played in their cars on the way to the ceremony. St. Mary's Class of 1971 was truly a spectacular group of young adults, ready to change the world!

Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!

Al Gomolka
As seen on
American Pickers

(Images are for example and not the actual items)

Super collector Al Gomolka in conjunction with The SA Times will offer a new contest in each upcoming issue Gomolka's Collectables Give Away. Al would like to give away "FREE" portions of his collections to his fellow South Amboy/Sayreville readers of The SA Times to enhance their collections or just to make them happy.

All one has to do is to e-mail to: satimes@aol.com for the Gomolka's Collectables Give Away, and a winner will be selected via a random drawing to receive box fulls of Al's collectables for FREE! The winner will be notified via e-mail before the next newspaper comes out.

Get ready for a "CRAZY" Give A Way for May!

Unique Collections! Weird Toys, Post Cards (Many over 100 years old) Old March Books, Stamps (The collection of Kings), T.V. Guides, Old Memorable Magazine Ads, Unique Antique Tools, and Some Things Truly Unbelievable!

Get ready to be amazed! Good Luck!!

Last Month's winner was:
Ed Vassallo

The winner must pick up the winning prize in person at a certain location in South Amboy or Sayreville. *The winner must be available to pick up the prize at a predetermined location and time, or the prize will be forfeited.

***No prizes will be mailed, and must be picked up in person.**

Email your name to:
satimes@aol.com
Put Gomolka's Contest in the subject line
By May 10th
GOOD LUCK!
Must enter each month
Staff of The SA Times and their family members are not eligible to enter. One entry per household. Must be 18 years or older to enter.



Al Gomolka (l) is pictured with Ed Vassallo, the winner of Gomolka's Monthly Giveaway Contest. They are showing just a few of the many monthly prizes they loaded the car with. April 14th was a memorable and very lucky day for Ed, who also celebrated his birthday on the same day! Congratulations and Happy Birthday Ed! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Do You Know?



What year this parade was held, and how many of the marchers can you name? Please e-mail your answers to: satimes@aol.com. Winners will be mentioned in the May 26th issue. (Photo submitted)

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

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

Councilman John's Monthly Minute

The Power of Volunteerism in Sayreville



One of the things that has always made Sayreville special is the number of residents who step forward and volunteer their time to help our community grow. Our borough relies on residents who are willing to serve on boards, committees, and commissions that help shape everything from recreation programs to planning initiatives, cultural events, and community outreach. These volunteers bring new ideas forward, strengthen our civic life, and help ensure that residents always have a voice in the direction of our town.

Sayreville has a wide range of boards and committees that depend on community participation. These include the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Recreation Advisory Board, Environmental Commission, Cultural Arts Committee, and several other advisory groups that help guide programs and initiatives throughout the borough. Each plays an important role in keeping our local government connected to the people it serves.

This month I want to highlight the Sayreville Cultural Arts Committee, which has been doing excellent work behind the scenes this winter. The members spent time reviewing and developing a revised and more formal structure for the committee, thoughtfully working through the writing and approval process together. Their efforts have helped strengthen the organization and position the committee well for the future. They certainly deserve a round of applause for the time and care they put into this work.

With that foundation in place, the committee is looking ahead to an exciting season of events. The Cultural Arts program will feature a diverse and energetic lineup designed to bring residents together and celebrate the arts in a fun and welcoming way. Planned activities include teen nights at Mickey Sedlack that combine music, video games, and food trucks, live music performances at Kennedy Park celebrating iconic artists and genres, outdoor movie nights, family-friendly events, a beach-themed concert, a local band showcase, and a community Italian-themed celebration. These events offer something for every age group and are designed to bring neighbors together while celebrating music, film, culture, and community.

Volunteerism has always held a special place in my life. I was fortunate to grow up in a family where giving back to the community was simply part of who we were. My parents and family members made time to volunteer, and their example left a lasting impression on me. Over the years, I've had the privilege of being involved with many organizations including the Sayreville Board of Education, Sayreville Little League, OLV Athletics, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board, along with several other community efforts. Those experiences gave me a sense of purpose, introduced me to mentors and friends, and created relationships that have lasted a lifetime. For that, I remain deeply grateful.

I also want to extend a sincere thank you to all of the residents who volunteer their time on these committees, boards, and commissions, as well as those who contribute through the many civic, athletic, faith-based, and charitable organizations throughout Sayreville. We know that time and resources are often stretched, yet so many of you continue to step forward and give what you can to support our community.

If you've ever considered getting involved, I encourage you to do so. Applications for our boards and committees are available on the borough's website at www.sayreville.com. Feel free to reach out to me as well if you're interested in serving or would like to learn more about where your talents and interests might be a good fit.

Sayreville is fortunate to have so many people who care enough to give their time, and our borough is stronger because of it.

With gratitude and pride,
John Zebrowski
Sayreville Councilman



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Drawing held 4pm at the picnic. You do not need to be present to win. The winner will receive 50% of ticket sales with the remainder of the proceeds going to the American Legion Building Fund for the construction of the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy to provide housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and new headquarters for American Legion Post #62.
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Sayreville Library News

Things you will regret throwing away when decluttering with Jamie Novak (Virtual) Tuesday, May 5 @6:30PM

There is more to decluttering than just throwing things away. Some things are worth keeping. Join best-selling author Jamie Novak for this interactive seminar and learn about what to keep and what to toss out when tidying up your home. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Patrons must provide a valid email address.

100 years of Marilyn Monroe by Michelle Marzano

Monday, May 11 @6PM
In honor of Marilyn Monroe's 100th birthday, come on out and join Michele Marzano, professional celebrity impersonator, as she performs as Marilyn. There will be music, singing, autographs, and more. Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. *Note* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron is attending this event.

Trivia with Dan

Monday, May 18 @6:30PM
Think you are good at trivia? Want to try and win some prizes? Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game. Play solo or

join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register. *NOTE* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, May 19 @1PM
This month: The Family Stone - Starring Claire Danes, Diane Keaton, Rachel McAdams, and Sarah Jessica Parker. Rated PG-13 1 hr 44 mins. Refreshments provided. Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. *NOTE* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.

Spicy Gatherings with Vanessa (Virtual)

Wednesday, May 27 @3PM
Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish for another fun cooking demonstration. This month: Welcome spring with the season's best ingredients in preparation for everyday meals and festive celebrations including Mother's Day. We will learn to make a lighter carrot cake, vegetable-rich dishes, and more. Along the way pick up tips for making your home and gatherings feel like the joyful new season. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Patrons must provide a valid email address.

We would love to hear from you!



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Catering For All Occasions

Witness to History

This year, Dowdell library will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as well as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America250 initiative is led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to honor our nation's history and diversity. The Library will make history come alive with - not to miss - fun programming throughout the year, presented by various professionals. The upcoming program on Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 pm will be presented by historic interpreter Leslie Bramlett.

Join renowned educator and historic

Medicinal Plants of the Civil War

This year, Dowdell library will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as well as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America250 initiative is led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to honor our nation's history and diversity. The Library will make history come alive with - not to miss - fun programming throughout the year, presented by various professionals. The upcoming program on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm will be presented by noted horticulturist, Lesley Parness, who has also been the Superintendent of horticultural education at New Jersey's Morris County Park Commission.

Ms. Parness will note how medicinal plants were crucial during the Civil War as well as the medicinal qualities of plants during the 19th century. One topic will be the growing of poppy, encouraged by the Confederate Army, which began the country's first opioid epidemic. Could plants have played a role in the outcome of the Civil War? Learn how

interpreter Leslie Bramlett for a presentation of colonial women of color in George Washington's household. Bramlett, in full period dress, offers intimate, researched narratives providing a deeper look into the Black experience during the American Revolution.

Don't miss this special program on Thursday, June 18th at 6:30pm. The Dowdell Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School - off O'Leary Blvd. in South Amboy.

For more information, contact the Dowdell Library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

important plants were in every aspect of this conflict, on battlefields and home fronts of both the North and the South. Over 30 plants are discussed and their medicinal properties noted. "Receipts," or recipes are included for popular herbal remedies such as horehound lozenges and witch hazel tonic. The history of patent medicines is explored and you will meet one of America's most important poets, the first African American physician and the man who revolutionized medical texts. Audiences are often surprised to see how many "Civil War" plants they are already growing, and the haunting historic images create a compelling tale of interest to history buffs as well as gardeners.

Don't miss this special program on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30pm. The Dowdell Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School - off O'Leary Blvd. in South Amboy.

For more information, contact the Dowdell Library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

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 -G.S..

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
Oholy 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. - A.J.M..

Dowdell Library News

South Amboy Residents! Dowdell Library is pleased to offer free passes to the **Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)** to South Amboy resident cardholders in good standing! Contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org for more information.

To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, look for many library events this year! The next program will take place on Tuesday, May 5 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Don't miss **Medicinal Plants of the Civil War presented by Lesley Parness!**

Enjoy **Patriotic music** by keyboardist Bruce Mauro on Thursday, May 14 at 3 pm.

Coming soon! **Witness to History** on Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Join historic interpreter Leslie Bramlett in full period dress for a presentation of colonial women of color in Washington's household.

"After Lunch" by Seward Johnson - caught sleeping on the job! Drop in to the Dowdell Library to visit this special sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier. In the meantime, he will be catching some ZZZZs.

Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for **Toddler Thursday Play Dates** in May from 12:00 to 2:15 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the **After School Fun Club** on Wednesdays in May from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Make a Mother's Day Craft on May 6 and a Memorial Day Craft on May 20.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss **Drop in Club** this May from 3:15 to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on **Fridays for Video Games**. Ages 11+ !

Join the **Super Smash Bros. Tournament!** on Friday, May 29 at 2:30 pm. Winners will receive a prize! Ages 11+

Tweens and Teens! Participate in **Edward's Founding Fathers Scavenger Hunt** on May 11 and 12 from 3:00 to 4:00

pm and win a prize!

Stop by to register for the **May Test Kitchen** on Monday, May 18 for ages 13+ and Tuesday, May 19 for ages 10 to 12 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks.

Seniors! **Senior Tech Time** will be held on Monday, May 4 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, May 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs**. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on May 12 and 26 at 1:00 pm.

The **Knitting and Crochet Club** meets Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started! Interested in learning how to knit? Drop in for some informal tips.

Check out the library's **Freegal Music+ Service**, which allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels. Or, ask about our new video streaming service, **Kanopy** with a collection of thousands of movies, television series, and documentaries! Both services offer a mobile app and website at no cost to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. These are available for South Amboy cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store.

Dowdell Library's hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12pm-4pm. Connect on social media!



What is Memorial Day

Memorial Day, which was originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance in honor of America's war dead. Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1866 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. It was first observed on May 30, 1868. May 30th was chosen specifically because it was not on the anniversary of a major battle. Federal law recognized the holiday as "Memorial Day" in 1967. In 1971, a law was passed moving the date from May 30 to the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day Services

Sunday May 24th

Meeting at 9 A.M. at Christ Church Cemetery and continuing to local cemeteries and ending at Veterans Plaza on Bordentown Ave. at 12 noon with placing of the Memorial Wreath.



American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post & Unit 62
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 62



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



The Smoke Column

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

In many of our communities there are storage unit facilities that rent out space for those in need of a place to store their extra "stuff." The fire service is aware that these storage facilities may be used for a variety of other issues besides just the storage space for un-needed items. With the increasing homeless populations in our communities, we need to prepare for the fact that people may be using storage facilities for shelter. The tactics we use to deploy at storage The fire service recognizes that these storage facilities might be used for purposes other than simply keeping surplus items. unit fires must include the understanding that a victim may be inside a unit. Most storage unit facilities are typically secured with a large metal or chain-link fence around the facility space. If the site is not under constant supervision, space renters may use a form of keycard to gain access. A serious question to ponder is who monitors what is brought into the site? These storage buildings are usually constructed close to each other so as many as possible can be located on site. This makes it difficult for firefighters and their apparatus to get close to the scene of a working fire inside any of those spaces. In a pre-plan of a storage facility, it would be wise to find the most readily accessible fire hydrants. Most are located outside the facility and if any were on the inside, they may not be accessible during a fire situation. Unfortunately, in pre-planning a storage facility, the fire department does not have access to each individual space. Eventually, this would not be beneficial due to the constant moving-in and moving-out of personal belongings which can change daily. The storage structure contains many individual units which are constructed side-by-side with a possible duplication of units on the backside. A fire in a single storage unit may go undetected for a period of time while spreading to other units alongside before it is reported. Do not expect walls dividing storage units to provide resistance to fire to other units because most are not actual fire walls. Many facilities lack fire detection/suppression equipment so a fire can get well



involved on the interior before it is noticed. When responding to a storage facility fire, assume someone may be sheltering inside a unit. Look at the door lock, is it open or is it secured from the outside? This may be an indication of someone inside. Some units may be small with only a doorway entrance while other larger units may have a garage size door opening. These garage style doors may have locks on both sides, and you may have to saw out a triangle in the metal door to gain entry for a fire. As usual, people try to get the most for their investment so you could expect units to be fully jammed with as much "stuff" that they could jam inside. Hoarders! Most facilities have regulations on what is allowed to be stored inside with restrictions on hazardous and flammable materials. But who is watching every item that goes into storage? Think of these storage spaces as being someone's attic, cellar, or garage containing anything you could think of being stored inside. Now think of a fire occurring in this type of facility from a firefighter's perspective. Not knowing the exact contents of the fire or even its exact location in the structure can be perplexing to the firefighters. If the building is fully involved in fire, it may be impossible to search for anyone who has sought shelter inside. These types of fires would be fought defensively from the exterior to prevent it from spreading further throughout the facility. After the fire is extinguished, the heavy equipment will be brought in and the debris carried away. No burning structure of little value is worth the price of getting a firefighter injured.

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SAYAA Easter Egg Hunt



Hundreds of youngsters enjoying the thrill of an Easter Egg Hunt!



North Jersey Young Marines-Youth Program for ages 8 to 18, helped with the setup of the hunt!! (Photos submitted)



These kids stopped to pose for a photo after collecting eggs in their baskets and bags.

God- Break

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 1995

Time out!
Hold your horses!
Chill out!
Calm down!
Count to 10!
Take a God- Break.
Bills to pay, important dates,
driving every-one everywhere.
Doctors, lawyers,
taxes, crime.
Take a God-Break
Demands, demands.
Work, children, spouse.
Confusion, agitation, disillusion.
Take a God- Break
Headache, worry, turmoil.
Unsafe, uncertain, undone.
Take a God -Break
Soothe, restore, heal.
Close your eyes.
In the light of your mind, whisper:
"Please God!
Thank you, God!"
That's the God-Break.

Number Three

By Robert W. Eginton

*A flight from Heaven
Arrived here today
It had some turbulence
Along the way.
But the angels brought it down
Safe and sound
I am very happy to say
That a beautiful baby girl was
Born today!
So take this life
That you have been given
And be the best that you can be
And I will thank the angels
Each and every day
For bringing you safely
Here to me,
My beautiful granddaughter...
Number three.*

City Of South Amboy Awards Proclamations For Service To The City

(Information submitted)

Mayor Fred Henry (left in the photos) and Councilman Tom Reilly (right in the photos) presented proclamations to residents of the city for their outstanding service.



Mary Szaro (2nd from left) is the President of the Historical Society of South Amboy and past Planning Board President. Joe Szaro (2nd from right) is the current Commander of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post 62, and very active with the Historical Society of South Amboy. (Photo by Ken Kokoszka)



W. Tom Kross (c) in recognition for 56 years of volunteering with the SAFD, as well as being the oldest living department member. (Photo by Ken Kokoszka)



John T. O'Leary (c), former long-time Mayor of the City of South Amboy was responsible for the YMCA, Venetian, Waterfront County Park and many other projects.(Photo by Amy Dundee)

15 Years Ago



Back in 2011 the Peter Pank Diner on Route 9 North in Sayreville was packed for the Dennis & Judi Morning Show, which was broadcast live from the popular dining establishment. Everyone had a great time with the entire New Jersey 101.5 FM radio crew, and their most interesting show. Pictured front (l-r) Judi Franco, Dennis Malloy. Back (l-r) Owners Alex Panko and his sister Patty Panko Colaprico. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

#1 Pop Hits On April 30

- 2022-As It Was-Harry Styles
- 2016-Work-Rihanna ft. Drake
- 2004-Yeah!-Lil' Jon/Ludacris
- 1990-Nothing Compares 2 U -Sinead O'Connor
- 1983-Beat It-Michael Jackson
- 1971-Joy To The World-Three Dog Night
- 1967-Somethin' Stupid -Frank Sinatra/Nancy Sinatra

One Hit Wonders 45 Years Ago

- 1981-Believe It Or Not-Joey Scarbury; 867-5309/Jenny-Tommy Tutone; The Breakup Song-The Greg Kihn Band; Tainted Love-Soft Cell; Just The Two Of Us-Grover Washington Jr./Bill Withers; Precious To Me-Phil Seymour; How 'Bout Us-Champaign; Giving It Up For Your Love-Delbert McClinton; Somebody's Knockin'-Terri Gibbs.

Cinco de Mayo Bingo Fiesta!

St. Stan's HSA presents our Cinco de Mayo Bingo Fiesta!

Join us on Saturday, May 9th. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and calling begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$40 per person and includes 6 games of Bingo (3 boards per game), lively music, colorful décor, and an authentic dinner.

For tickets or more information, please text Shaka at 908-370-1798 or purchase directly from the Parish Office. Don't miss an evening of fun, prizes, and community spirit!

HAPPY DAYS UNDER THE ROCK AND ROLL BOARDWALK

On Tuesday June 23, 2026, the OLV Seniors are sponsoring a trip to the Shore Club in Spring Lake NJ. To the show Happy Days Under the rock and roll Boardwalk. The cost \$150 per person, includes show, meal, bus transportation, snack, and bus driver gratuity/ For information contact Carmen at 732-254-9425.

Vendors Wanted

We are looking for vendors for the 16th Annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on June 6, 2026. The time is 8am to 2pm. The rain date is June 13, 2026. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are available for \$25.00 for one space, \$40.00 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$8.00. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can achieve my goal, you who gave me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life are with me, I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal joy and thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. -A.J.M..

#1 Country Hits On April 30

- 2021-What's Your Country Song -Thomas Rhett
- 2015-Take Your Time-Sam Hunt
- 2007-Wasted-Carrie Underwood
- 1993-The Heart Won't Lie -Reba McEntire/Vince Gill
- 1980-He Stopped Loving Her Today -George Jones
- 1977-Southern Nights-Glen Campbell
- 1964-Understand Your Man-Johnny Cash

Trinity Methodist Church Spring Vendor Sale

Stop by on Saturday, May 2 from 9 am to 2 pm at 815 Bordentown Avenue and shop at the Vendor Sale. We will have tables inside and outside if needed. We will have a tricky tray and small kitchen open.

Stop by and look for your Mother's Day items or just welcome Spring!!!!

Any questions, please call Lori at 732 763 6232.

Free Digital Content Available @ Dowdell!

Access free digital content at Dowdell Library! Enjoy everywhere you have a screen: your phone, computer, TV, or tablet. Stream movies with free access to thousands of films, television series, documentaries, and more! Access unlimited free 24-hour music streaming and check out millions of songs, albums, and playlists. Download current magazines, comics, audiobooks, and eBooks. Content is available for ALL ages! FREE ACCESS with your library card! Log onto dowdell.org to get started!

Country and Rock & Roll Night

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus are hosting a "Country and Rock & Roll" night to dance the night away. "Line dancing" too. Music by The Cellar Dwellers and Friends. Country line dance instructions start at 5:30pm. When: Friday May 15th 6:30-10:00pm, music starts at 7:00 pm.

Where: 308 4th street South Amboy N.J. Cost: Adults \$25.00 Children under 12yrs \$10.00 under 5 free. Ticket includes a Menu of: Hot dogs, chili, pulled pork Mac. & cheese, desserts and tea and coffee/ Cash bar. Reservations required call or text Bruce 732 586-9779. All proceeds benefit local charities.

Sayreville Feeds

ALL ARE WELCOME

WE HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU!

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be hosting our next Sayreville Feeds Dinner on May 30, 2026 at 5:00-7:00pm in our Christian Education Building. Our address is 172 Main Street, Sayreville, directly across from Borough Hall. If you have questions please leave a message at the church at 732-257-6353 or email at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

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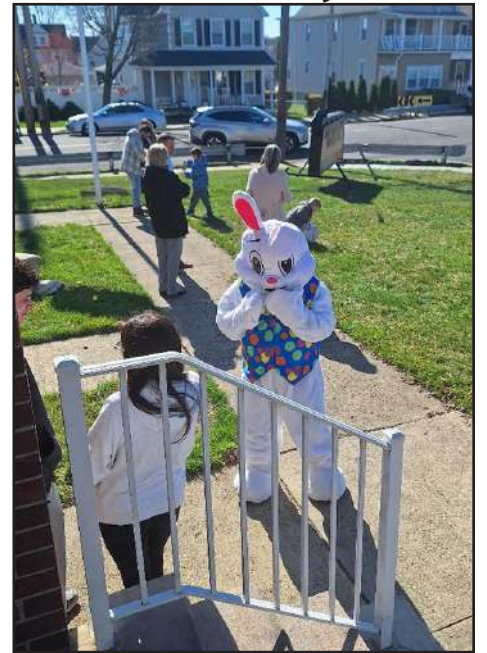
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\$50 OFF Any Carpenter Ant Treatment

Must be Presented at Time of Estimate. One Coupon per Customer. With coupon only. Coupons may not be combined with any other offer. Not valid with any other offer.

FREE Pest Inspection

Breakfast With The Easter Bunny



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 hosted their annual "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" at the Council Hall. A big thank you to Bill Mattsson (Mattsson's Auto Tech), Karen Kline and Paul During (Pictured above left) for setting up a beautiful Easter stage for the Bunny. (Pictured above right K of C member) Jack Mieczkowski (in costume) shown helping children searching at their Easter egg hunt. (Pictured below) Sitting for a photo op with Liam and Alana Hourahan, grandchildren of Grand Knight Ed Vassallo. A splendid time was had by all. (Photos/info submitted by Kathy Vassallo)



MUSIC TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

Hello/Goodbye

1. Hello
2. Kiss Me Goodbye
3. Hello/Goodbye
4. Goodbye Yellow Brick Road
5. Hello Again
6. Never Say Goodbye
7. Hello I Love You
8. Bye Bye Love
9. Goodbye Stranger
10. Say Goodbye To Hollywood
11. Never Can Say Goodbye
12. Goodbye To You
13. Goodbye To Love

Hello

Goodbye

- a. The Beatles
- b. The Doors
- c. The Carpenters
- d. Lionel Richie
- e. Bon Jovi
- f. Neil Diamond
- g. Billy Joel
- h. The Everly Brothers
- i. Supertramp
- j. Scandal
- k. Petula Clark
- l. Elton John
- m. The Jackson 5

Answers

1d 2k 3a 4i 5f 6e 7b 8h 9i 10g 11m 12j 13c.

School Sports

By Tom Burkard

Team Leaders

(As of April 19)

Softball

Sayreville (8-0)

Coach Jordan Vazquez

Batting

Runs-Gianna Falto 10, Myra Infante 9, Josephine Vanore 9; Hits-Riley Arena 13, Falto 12;

RBI-Falto 11, Riley Arena 10, Marissa Shipman 10; Doubles- Falto 6, Arena 6; Triples-Vanore 1; Home Runs-Infante 1; Stolen Bases-Falto 4, Sophie Matula 3; Batting Avg.-Falto .545, Arena .542, Infante .400.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Vanore 47.1; Strikeouts-Vanore 71; ERA-Vanore 1.92; Wins-Vanore (6-0), Arena (2-0).

South Amboy (3-5)

Coach Jake Salvatore

Batting

Runs-Sophie Hernandez 9, Addison Lonardo 9; Hits-Hernandez 9, Lonardo 8; RBI-Hernandez 7, Kayla Kokoszka 6; ; Doubles-Hernandez 3, Kalantsis 2; Triples-Hernandez 2; Home Runs-Kokoszka 1, Kalantsis 1; Batting Avg.-Hernandez .600, Lonardo .571, Kalantsis .500.

Pitching

Innings pitched-Hernandez 28.2; Strikeouts-Hernandez 47; ERA-Hernandez 4.88; Wins-Hernandez (3-5).

Baseball

South Amboy (4-2)

Coach Dan Poulsen

Batting

Runs-Robert Senape 8, Robert Conklin 6; Hits-Robert Senape 8, Ken Kokoszka 6; Doubles-Madden Bizzarro 2; RBI-Senape 6; Stolen Bases-Conklin 6, Senape 5; Batting Avg.-Senape .471, Kokoszka .400, Conklin .335, Foreman .333.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Micah Nemeth 10, Bizzarro 7.2; Strikeouts-Nemeth 23, Bizzarro 10.

Sayreville (4-5)

Coach Timothy Ballard

Batting

Runs-Chase Cannan 6, Trevor Yan 6; Hits-Will Lukie 10, Logan Kaufman 8, Cannan 8; RBI-Kaufman 5; Doubles-Kaufman 2, Robinson Stio 2; Triples-Cannan 1, Lukie 1; Batting Avg.-Lukie .526, Kaufman .308, Canaan .296.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Logan Kaufman 16.1, Jack Martyn 12.2; Strikeouts-Kaufman 14, Justin Maher 9; ERA-Kaufman 3.00, Maher 3.71.

Bombers Win First Game

After dropping a 5-2 season opening game on March 31st, to Kennedy Memorial, Sayreville bounced back two days later to annihilate their same opponents, 18-1 in a mercy-rule contest. Jack Martyn was the winning pitcher, and hurled a 5-inning 3-hitter. Ray Koester was a perfect 2-for-2 including a double and 3 RBI. Will Lukie blasted a 3-run triple, Trevor Yan a single and 3 RBI, Logan Kaufman drilled a single and double to drive in 2 runs, Justin Maher added 2 RBI, and Chase Cannan belted a single and triple. The Bombers victory snapped Kennedy's perfect (3-0) start for '26.

Guv's Top Owls In Opener

Head Coach Dan Poulsen's South Amboy Governors baseball club topped Highland Park 9-6 on Opening Day, April 3rd. Rob Conklin was the winning pitcher, striking out 8 in 4.2 innings, and also drilled 2 singles and stole a base. Robert Senape ripped a single and double to knock in 2 runs, and also swiped 2 bases for the winners.

Bombers Beat Panthers

The Sayreville boys baseball contingent throttled Perth Amboy, 3-0, as Jaden Phillips notched the win. Chase Cannan drilled 2 singles and had an RBI.

Sayreville Girls Beat Woodbridge

The Sayreville girls softball squad opened the season by belting Woodbridge 8-3. Winning pitcher Josephine Vanore struck out 7 and also hit an RBI double. Other Bombers who were offensive standouts were Gianna Falto, who had 3 hits including a double, drove in 2 runs, and stole a base. Mya Infante stroked 3 hits with a double and RBI, and also stole a base. Riley Arena whacked a 2-run double.

South Amboy Wins First Softball Game

The South Amboy Lady Guv's softball team presented rookie Head Coach Jake Salvatore with his first victory, as they downed Somerset Tech, 10-7. Sophie Hernandez was the winning pitcher and struck out 10, while also belting a single and double to drive in a run. Gwen Kalantsis had a single, a long home run and 3 RBI, and Addison Lonardo laced 2 singles.

Sayreville Stops Spotswood

The Bombers came up with a big bottom of the 7th scoring outburst, as they pushed across 5 runs to stop Spotswood, 7-6. Justin Maher relieved Jack Martyn to pick up his first victory of the season.

Kokoszka Leads Lady Guv's

Freshman Kayla Kokoszka blasted a grand slam home run and single to knock in 6 runs, as South Amboy pounded Perth Amboy Magnet, 21-6. Winning pitcher Sophie Hernandez struck out 7, and had a double and 2 RBI. Addison Lonardo chipped in with 2 hits.

Sayreville Girls Blast South Plainfield

Sayreville girls softball team hammered South Plainfield, 10-3. Mya Infante excelled at the plate by blasting a double and homer to drive in 4 runs. Marissa Shipman smashed a 3-run double, Riley Arena ripped a single and double, good for 2 RBI, and Riley Swanton added an RBI double. Winning pitcher Josephine Vanore struck out 13.

Senape Stars For Guv's

Robert Senape had a huge 3-for-3 game with a walk, 2 RBI, 4 runs scored, and 4 stolen bases, as South Amboy's baseball club defeated Perth Amboy Magnet, 12-2 in a 5-inning affair. Kenneth Kokoszka stroked 2 hits and drove in 2 runs, Robert Conklin drilled an RBI double and stole 3 bases, and Micah Nemeth laced 2 hits and an RBI. Winning pitcher Madden Bizzarro tossed the 5-inning 2 hitter and fanned 7.

College Notebook

On the college sports scene this spring, locals have been doing well while playing for different colleges.

Middlesex College Softball (4-20)

Sarah McLaughlin (South Amboy) is having a fine freshman year. She has 14 hits, 15 runs, 10 RBI, 4 stolen bases, and a .255 batting avg. Sarah also has a (3-4) pitching record, winning 3 of the team's 4 games.

Middlesex College Baseball (27-12)

Pitcher Maurice Hedderman (Sayreville) has pitched in 9 games, 21.1 innings, and 25 strikeouts, while going (1-0)...James Kehoe (Sayreville) has appeared in 8 games, going 25.1 innings, with 23 strikeouts and shows a (1-1) mark.

Kean University Baseball (25-9-1)

Outfielder Mike Colonnello has played in 27 games, scored 13 runs, has 18 hits including 1 double, 11 RBI, 8 stolen bases, and sports a .254 avg. ...Jeremy Vasquez has seen limited action in only 7 games, and is 2-for 6 with a .333 batting avg.

Kean University Softball (21-13)

Hailey Kilpatrick has seen action in 12 games this season, and has 5 hits, including a double, 4 runs scored, 3 RBI, and a .167 batting avg.

*If anyone is aware of any other local athletes playing college sports, please let us know at: satimes@aol.com so they can be included in the next issue.



Sayreville boys basketball Coach John Wojcik (l) and Steve Makwinski (r) congratulate Sam Jones (c) on becoming the Bombers All-Time leading scorer for boys basketball. Jones broke the record which was held by Makwinski for 51 years. Jones also went on to break the All-Time scoring mark for boys or girls, which was held for almost 50 years by Rhonda Rompola. He is now the Bombers All-Time scoring King. Coach Wojcik also had a noteworthy season, as he notched his 200th career victory, believed to be the most in history for a Sayreville boys basketball coach. A huge congratulations from The SA Times on your outstanding accomplishments!

Record Breakers

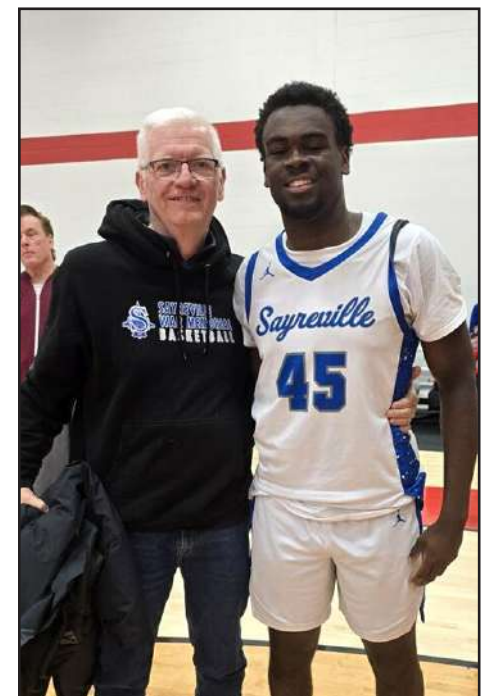
(Photos/info submitted)



Record breaker Sam Jones is congratulated by Steve Makwinski, who held the boys scoring mark for 51 years.



Steve Makwinski (2nd from left) was on hand to congratulate Bombers standout Chidi Chukwurah (2nd from right) who topped Steve's scoring record. Also pictured for the happy occasion are Chukwurah's family members.



Chidi Chukwurah (r) also surpassed Steve Makwinski's (l) career scoring record, and is currently #2 on the Sayreville Bombers boys All-Time scoring list.

Congratulations!

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

(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. -K.H..

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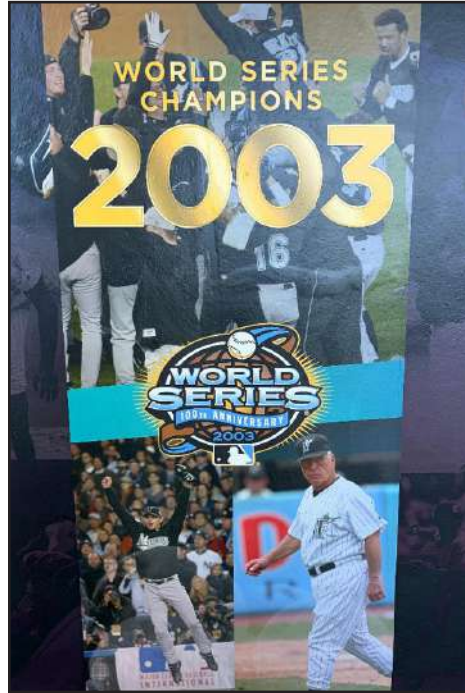
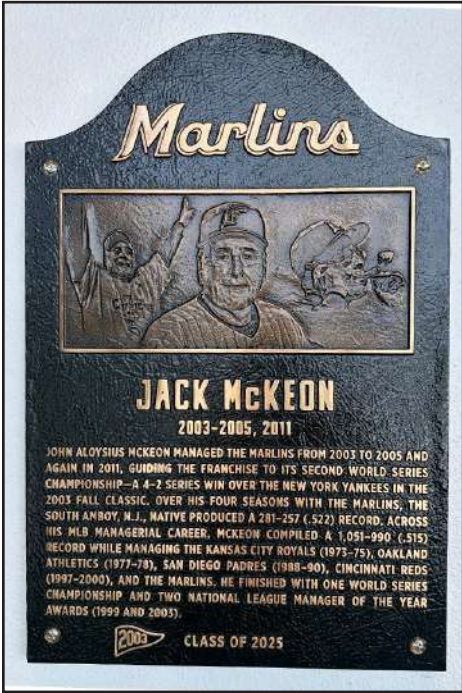
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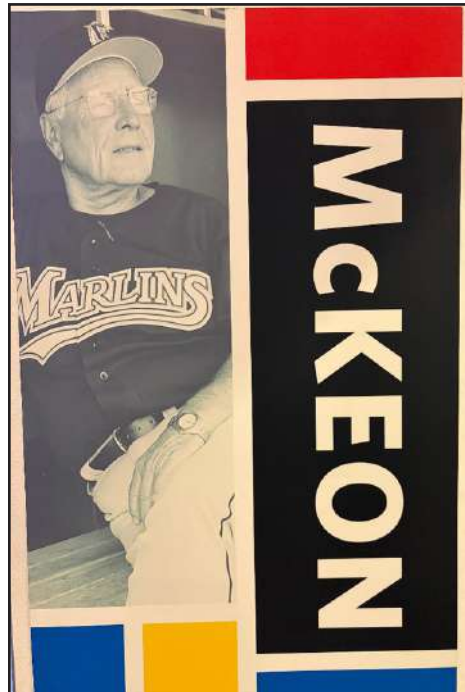
10th Stadium Tour

(Photos/info submitted)



South Amboy residents Dziadzia (Polish for grandpa) Joe Szaro (l), son Kenny Kokoszaka (r), and grandson Kenny Kokoszka (2nd from right) are pictured with the Marlins mascot at LoanDepot Park, home of the Major League Baseball team, the Miami Marlins in Florida. The trio started a stadium tour tradition a few years ago, and this was their 10th stadium!

The pictures (left) are from the Legends Hallway of the stadium, honoring South Amboy native, and former legendary manager of the Marlins, Jack McKeon, who will never be forgotten for leading the 2003 Marlins to the World Series Championship over the New York Yankees.



Bus Trip to City Field

The Knights of Columbus Council 426 are once again hosting their annual "Bus Trip to City Field" to see the NY Mets vs Miami Marlins. Date: Saturday August 1st 2026. The game starts at 4:10pm. (Bus leaves K C parking lot @12:30pm. Cost: \$160.00pp (\$24 back in Mets Cash) Non refundable.

There are snacks for the ride included. Call Ray @ 732 721-2025.



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 -A.J.M..

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South Amboy Elementary School Living Wax Museum 2026

(Photos by Brian Stratton)



The 4th grade students filled the gym with Historical figures and brought them all to life as students, parents and family members toured the museum. Great job and thanks to the teachers sitting in the top row!!!



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School Sports

-continued from page 10

Locals Honored

Recipients of the 2026 NJSIAA Outstanding Female High School Athletes of the Year Award were Karina Cardoso of Sayreville, who played soccer, basketball and lacrosse, and Ashley Moreira-Burgos, who played basketball and soccer. Congratulations Karina and Ashley!

Guvs Gain 10 Team/ Individual Awards

The South Amboy Governors boys basketball team under the brilliant guidance of Coach Matt Wiater captured 10 team and individual awards for the 2025-26 season in the GMC Hoops All Blue American Division Team. Congratulations to the following on an outstanding season:

Coach of the Year:

Matt Wiater – South Amboy

Sophomore of the Year:

Darion Joubert – South Amboy

Most Improved Team: South Amboy

Most Improved Player:

Darion Joubert – South Amboy

Surprise Team: South Amboy

Comeback Player:

Jaydius Jimenez – South Amboy

Good Hands:

Wesley Lowe – South Amboy

GMC Hoops All Blue American Division Team

Darion Joubert – South Amboy

Jaydius Jimenez – South Amboy

Jaidel Vasquez – South Amboy

The Only Rule Is Love

By Philip

Jesus, Lord of every feeling
 Faith and hope
 and charity
 My mind and body
 need your healing
 Take my heart
 and set it free.
 Let me love
 my every neighbor
 Be they white
 or black or red
 Help me be
 a little braver
 When I try to
 speak your word.
 Help me deal
 with worldly living
 Keep me safe
 from Satan's harm
 Teach me how
 to keep on giving
 When it seems
 my giving's gone.
 Let me show your
 love to others
 In your quiet gentle way
 With the compassion
 of the Father
 For the prodigal
 who went astray.
 Take me by my hand
 and lead me
 To my heavenly
 home above
 Where no hatred
 can besiege me
 And the only rule is love.

LaVigne Continues To Add To Acting Resume!



Anthony LaVigne in a scene from NCIS.

Former South Amboy resident Anthony LaVigne continues to add to his acting resume by securing co-starring roles on popular television shows. He recently made an appearance on the highly acclaimed show PARADISE airing on HULU. He also just had an appearance on the popular hit NCIS airing on CBS. Millions of viewers tuned into to watch these highly successful shows and had an opportunity to watch a former young man from our community shine.

Anthony has also appeared on the following shows: Kate's Story, All American, No Air for Angels, 9-1-1, A Grunt's Life, WWE Evil as Young Hulk Hogan. Anthony is the son of former South Amboy Police Chief Darren LaVigne and his wife Joy. (Photos Submitted)



Backstage on the set of NCIS (l-r) Wilmer Valderrama, Anthony LaVigne and Katrina Law.




Anthony LaVigne on PARADISE.

Easter Blessings



The Easter Bunny made his annual visit to this family once again. (Photo submitted)



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Moira Spezzi

15 Years Ago Local Schools Spring Performances



In 2011 Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary High School's spring musical was "Back To The 80's"; the show transported the audience back in time to when Rubik's Cubes, Teenage Mutant Turtle's, Pac Man and The A Team ruled. Popular hit songs from that time had the audiences tapping their feet and singing along. The cast and crew did a great job! (Photo by Brian Stratton)



In 2011 The South Amboy High School Players presented "Thoroughly Modern Millie" to rave reviews. The cast and crew did a great job with this intricate and exciting musical. Great job to all... (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Opening Day 2011

Photos by Tom Burkard



Cardinal McCarrick Coach Frank Notaro (c) stands with co-captains Kevin Savoia (l) and Ryan Smith (r) prior to the Eagles Opening Day game. Savoia and Smith were Preseason All-Area Gold Division selections in Home News Tribune. Both players had an exceptional game, as Smith fired a no-hitter, and Savoia drilled 3 hits.



The Pacansky brothers, Kevin (l) and Eric (r) check in with Eagles Coach Frank Notaro (c) before their first game of 2011. Notaro has high hopes for his team this year, and points to the Pacansky brothers as key players for Cardinal McCarrick.

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify these three gentlemen? Send your answers (Need all three) to satimes@aol.com by May 13th.



Last month's mystery trio was (l-r) Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, and Babe Ruth at Shibe Park in Philadelphia, 1930. In 1930 these three combined for 127 HRs and 482 RBI.

The following are baseball fans and got it right: Sonia Iglesias, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, John F. Giaquinto, Helen Petriello, Dennis Quinlan, Len Truchan, Ed Vassallo, Ed English, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Edna Pilch, Joe Hansell, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr., Gary Feret, Dane Colburn.



Lo

WWW.?



Can you identify this business which is located in Sayreville or South Amboy? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by May 11th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? Winners

Last month's WWW.? was the old Carvel Ice Cream store that was located on Rt/9 in Sayreville the spot that is now occupied by Dunkin', remember the good ole days when Wednesday was Sundae!!
Winners: Shirley Schaefer, Sonia Iglesias, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Patti Tengelic, Georgianna McDonald, Dennis Quinlan, Tim Kubinak, JoAnn &

John French, Mary Agnes Morris, Pete McIntyre, Ed English, John Meleski, Reverend Jim K., Jim & Debbie Sissick, Joe Hansell, Steve Laskiewicz, Marybeth Chodkiewicz, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr., Gary Feret, Barbara Bockus, Dane Colburn, Lisa Grankowski, Mark Merriman.



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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

Striped Bass fishing in our local bay remains slow. Cold snow melt off has been no help. Most of the people I talked to did not get any bites, but I did see one nice keeper Bass caught by kayaker at Cliffwood Beach. I checked Keansburg a few times too and it's the same story. There have been some Strippers caught in the ocean at Island Beach and LBI. Upper Barnegat Bay is the best bet now as both keeper and short Bass are hitting blood worms and soft body lures attached to a jig head. Soft plastics are working well right now. White Perch too are being caught. Party boat fishing is a pick on Blackfish and a few Ling. The few Cod that are being caught are shorts under the 24 inch size limit.

Fresh Water

I tried my favorite spots on the Pequest River in early March but didn't do anything. Opening day for the Trout had nice weather. There were lots of people and fish caught. My wife and I went to Spring Lake the next day. Lots of people were fishing and all we did was spend a few hours casting and not much else! We saw only 3 fish had been caught but prior to our arriving. NOTE: Some Brown Trout will be stocked statewide besides the usual Rainbow Trout.

Gone Fishin'



Devyn Pilot is pictured with one of two Largemouth Bass she caught at Bailey's Pond in Sayreville. She also caught a beautiful Rainbow Trout in Spring Lake. (Photo submitted)

LETTERS

Tom and Brian

I just wanted to thank you for publishing the wonderful article on the Stevens family in the 3/28 issue; thanks also to the author Kurt Nelson Kvist.

Being a lifelong resident of South Amboy, I heard snippets of information over the years but I found this article just fascinating. It gave such a comprehensive history of one of our founding families, wonderful.

Thanks again.

Regards,
Lenore Carroll Gill



WWW LETTER

I will never forget the Carvel on Rt 9! As a kid, I lived in Crestview Apartments, next to it. We'd climb under the fence to snag a cone or cup of ice cream.

It was a simpler time...

Love the paper, all the way from Virginia!

Best,
Tim Kubinak
Suffolk, VA



Polish Heritage Dinner

The South Amoy Columbiettes are sponsoring a fundraiser Polish Heritage Dinner on June 5, 2026 at the Knights Of Columbus 308 4th St, South Amboy, NJ. Famous Polish Cuisine Platter and desserts.

Raffles etc. and live music, \$25.00 per person. By reservation only call Vicki 732-598-6910 for Take out avail 5-6 PM, Dinner 6-10 PM.

Prayer to St. Jude
Saint Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of impossible causes, walk through my house and take away my worries and any illnesses. Please watch over and heal my family & friends, in the Name of Jesus. Amen. S.P., M.S., P.S..

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Money

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.1996

Seek not the almighty dollar
It yields almighty woe
To be rich is not what it seems
Live content within your means
Priceless is the gift of health
More than stardom,
more than wealth
Work doing something you like
Raise your kids up right
Give more to others
For selfishness smothers
To have a home and food and
family and friends
Money is worthless,
just a means to an end.

D.A.R.E. Graduation At South Amboy Elementary School

Detective Sgt. Kales proudly held the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony at South Amboy Elementary School. Students were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout the program. Congratulations to all of the graduates—your effort and positive choices set a great example for our community. Keep up the great work!

Also a big congratulations to Detective Sgt. Kales and Detective DeAusen on another successful and productive year of D.A.R.E.



(Photos Submitted)

60 Years Ago: St. Mary's High School Fire May 4, 1966

By Tom Burkard

May 4th marks the 60th anniversary of the old St. Mary's High School fire. One of the largest and most memorable fires in the history of South Amboy, it was discovered on the morning of May 4, 1966, in an old storage closet on the second floor by sophomore proctor Kevin Stover right before the start of classes. He immediately called other proctors Dennis Noel and Mark Sciora for assistance. History teacher Stephen Nestinger aided the boys, as they tried to control the flames, while the fire company was notified. Several students entered the school and salvaged costumes for the school play "The King and I," and also decorations for the Senior Prom. Other conscientious students pitched in and helped clear the school office and library. In days following the fire, the boys from each class helped teachers transfer desks, books and equipment to the grammar school and Guild Hall. Thanks to the quick action of the students, the play went on as scheduled from May 6-8, and was a huge success, as was the Senior Prom, "Roman Holiday." Fire and water damage were very severe throughout the school, mainly in the front hallway and on the second floor. From May 9th to the end of the school year, the high school shared the facilities of the grammar school. Split-sessions were held for the grammar school from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and the high school classes were from 12:15 to 5 p.m. Plans for the new school (current one) on the same location were set. with hopes of having it originally completed by January, 1967. Complications arose, and the school was not ready until September of 1968. The first graduating class from the present-day structure was the Class of '69.

Students Remembered St. Mary's High School Fire Of 1966

The following are memories of the fire by those who attended St. Mary's in 1966:

Mark Sciora, senior (proctor summoned to the second floor after the fire was found by Stover): "I was surprised how fast it spread, and within 30 minutes the roof collapsed. We were lucky that hardly anyone was in the building. We (proctors) ran through the upper floor to see if anyone was in there. We had extinguishers, but didn't get to use them, because the smoke was so thick and we had to get out."

Jim Vail, freshman: "I was standing directly under the wall where the fire started, and somebody yelled, 'The school's on fire!' and I said 'Oh, sure.' Then I looked up and saw the smoke. I also remember people running in and rescuing costumes."

John Kaboski, junior "It was a great day for the young kids, like your wildest dream."

Al Gomolka Jr., freshman "Riding on the bus from Morgan, we saw large black



clouds, and kids were laughing and saying that they hoped the school was on fire. When we pulled up and actually saw that it was on fire, our attitudes changed. We didn't want it to be burning."

Pete McIntyre, freshman "I was on the Morgan bus, and when we got near Marathon, someone yelled, 'The school is on fire!' and I thought 'Good,' and said 'No, it can't be the school! It must be McCarthy's house!' Then we realized it was the school. I was amazed! I also remember wearing an orange shirt to school that day."

Janice Blanchard, senior "My first reaction was to the Prom decorations. We had worked on them the night before, and we wondered if we left something on while we worked, and it may have caused the fire, but we didn't."

Tom "Moose" Ruzala, freshman "I was standing in front of the Rec (pool hall across the street) with Tom Kelly, Mark Bratus, Jim McCloud, and some others, when a nun came running out of the school, as the smoke started pouring out. She yelled out 'We have to save the costumes for the play,' so we ran in and saved the costumes. The play went on."

Bob "Rex" Paulukiewicz, freshman "I was in the Rec when someone yelled the school was on fire. We ran outside to see smoke coming from the roof line. My books were in a bag sitting alongside the school, and when I ran over to get them, a nun told me to stay on the other side of the street. So, we stood outside the Rec and watched the firemen in action. The dream came true."

Bob Toye, sophomore "Going to school in the afternoons (after the fire) meant a "before school" job eventually. A bunch of us worked at the A & P in Parlin. Steve Skarzynski and I drew the lucky straws-produce dept."

Kathleen Windas-Goodwin, grammar school "I was in the sixth grade at St. Mary's, and I remember being in line in the parking lot. Also, we went to split sessions for 2 years."

Rich Kurowsky, grammar school "I was in St. Mary's Grammar School at the time. I remember being lined up in the parking lot. There was a picture of us in the paper. I think it was the Perth Amboy Evening News."

Judy Kurowsky Meinzer, freshman "My memory is one of being a "walker" to school from Mechanicsville, and forever hearing catcalls from the few who owned cars. That day, they screamed at me, 'St. Mary's is on fire! No school.' "Yeah right, I thought. How eye-opening to get there and see it happening."

Kathleen Haag Williams, senior "We were seniors, and as I remember, we were very close to a school play (The King & I), and Bobby Knight and some others went in to rescue the costumes. Fortunately, no one was hurt. It was just before school began."

Jean O'Brien Reynolds, freshman "I remember that day well, I was on the Marathon bus and I could see the smoke. I got off the bus to see all the commotion, and found out the school was burning. People were either standing around looking shocked or crying."

Eileen Loftus George, sophomore "I was walking to school and heard the siren, and started counting the sirens out. I think Joan Laurie was with me. We said kiddingly, 'Maybe St. Mary's High School is on fire. When we got close to the convent, we couldn't believe it! Very sad. The next 2 years at St. Mary's High School was very different going half sessions with the grade school."

Linda Hanko Rosenblad, sophomore "I arrived in South Amboy from South River

to find St. Mary's on fire. I sat across the street on the steps of that hallowed pool hall, usually off limits to the female of the species, and watched the school burn. The following years were quite interesting. The South River group spent mornings at South River High School (in our St. Mary's uniforms, everyone else in miniskirts) taking science/lab courses, then hopping on the NJ Transit bus to South Amboy for afternoon sessions at St. Mary's (held in the grammar school)."

Ralph Scully, sophomore "I can still remember turning the corner at S. Boyes (later Komar factory store, across the street from the Knights of Columbus), and seeing fire trucks! Bob O'Leary, Bob Schein, Luke Sciallo, Don Kugelman and I worked for Mr. Ray Hendricks as janitors, and we got to work cleaning up the mess and moving over to the grammar school. So, we actually got to go in the remains of the high school building to move a lot of equipment over to the grammar school. I also remember the pay: \$1 per hour!"

Joe Caracappa, sophomore "Fifty years later, I can still smell the smoke between the pages of my copy of "The King & I" script!"

Norine Croddick Switzer, grammar school "A few of us were in St. Mary's Grammar School and invited to be in the play, "The King & I." On that sad day of the fire, I thought about the costumes too." Charles Hetzel, Perth Amboy St. Mary's "I went to Perth Saints at the time, and the principal told the whole school (about the fire), and led us in some prayers!"

Editor's Note: "As for myself, I was nearing the end of my freshman year, and was walking to school with my friend Gene Cross, when we saw fire engines speeding towards the school. When we were near the light on Main St. & Stevens Ave., someone yelled out of the window of a passing car, 'The school is on fire!' It seemed to be trendy at that time for kids to say, 'I hope the school burns down,' so we thought it was just a joke, until we got there. We were shocked. I can remember everyone standing across the street by the church, and watching it burn." Wednesday, May 4, 1966 was a most memorable day in the lives of hundreds of St. Mary's students, as well as countless others. It altered many lives and normal schedules as well as daily routines, and also brought a major change to many youths who attended the school. The St. Mary's High School Fire of 1966 will never be forgotten!

NOTE: This story has been slightly updated from 2016. Several students who were interviewed many years ago for this feature story have sadly passed away, but will be forever remembered. God Bless them.



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Prayer to St. Jude
Most Holy Apostle St. Jude Thaddeus, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered your beloved Master into the hands of the enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases and of things despaired of. Pray for me who is so needy; make use, I implore you of that particular privilege accorded to you to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings and that I may bless God with you and all the elect throughout eternity. I promise you, O blessed St. Jude to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen. Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. A.J.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 -K.C.

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. C.P.

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..

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. -K.A.

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.

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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
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A PRAYER FOR HEALING
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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.H..

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Obituaries

Bonaguro, Dolores, 72, of Parlin died on April 20.
 Comerford, Kevin, 60, of Parlin died on March 23.
 DeFoe, Joseph T., 87, of Parlin died on April 5.
 Dziekan, Frank R. 92, of South Amboy died on March 21.
 Forero, Cynthia M., 56, of South Amboy died on April 11.
 Giesler, Gerard, 87, of Parlin died on April 9.
 Herdman, Cheryl D., of Parlin died on April 10.
 Homa, Arlene M., 84, of Parlin died on April 4.
 Jourdan, Christian J., 95, of Sayreville died on March 18.
 Kaczmarek, Richard G. "Rich," 85, of Sayreville died on April 6.
 Kielian, Leon, 90, of Sayreville died on April 9.
 Kost, Lorraine A. Gregor, 96, of Sayreville died on April 17.
 Lorentz, Peter G., 73, of Parlin died on April 17.
 Mancini, Michael A., 62, formerly of Morgan died on March 21.
 McGarigle-Riad, Carolyn, 71, of Parlin died on April 1.

Medeiros, Jane M., 90, of South Amboy died on April 12.
 Monnier, August "Augie" Jr., 83, of Parlin died on March 26.
 O'Brien, Patricia, 69, of Parlin died on April 13.
 O'Chat, James "Jimmy," 55, formerly of Sayreville died on March 15.
 O'Connor, Edwin J., 82, of Morgan died on April 8.
 Olivieri, Carol E. Bali, 82, formerly of South Amboy died April 1.
 Olszak, Michael, "Mike," 84, formerly of South Amboy died on April 2.
 Petti, Gennaro J. "Jerry," 94, of Parlin died on April 19.
 Rathbun, Robert M. Jr., 47, formerly of Morgan died on March 16.
 Riad, Carolyn McGarigle, 71, of Parlin died on April 1.
 Schwarick, Patricia "Penny" Borgen, 78, of Jackson Twp., died March 17.
 Serafin, Patricia, 79, of Parlin died on March 30.
 Siciliano, Vincent, 90, formerly of Sayreville died on Feb. 23, 2021.
 Urbanski, Sylvia M. "Marie," 63, of South Amboy died on March 25.
 Wrobel, Denise M., 61, of Parlin died on Feb. 20.

In Memoriam

We just found out after 5 years, that Vincent Siciliano, 90, formerly of Sayreville died on February 23, 2021. "Vince The Barber," as he was known by many patrons, who had their hair cut at his home/shop on Bordentown Ave. in Sayreville, was a terrific

guy, excellent barber, and always had a kind word for everyone, and an interesting story for his customers. Vince also loved to play golf with his good friend Joe "Smitty" Smith of Sayreville, a retired USPS employee, who also died in '21.

Frank R. Dziekan

Frank R. Dziekan, 92, of South Amboy died on Saturday March 21, 2026 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge. Born in South Amboy he lived there his entire life. He served honorably in the Army during the Korean War. He worked as a police officer for the South Amboy Police Department for 30+ years. He was a devout Catholic and a member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, South Amboy. He was an avid bowler and golfer until his later years. He was a lifelong fan of the New York Giants and Rangers and Los Angeles Dodgers. He loved summer vacations in Maine and golf outings in Myrtle Beach with family and friends.



dearest nephew and his wife, Vincent J, Jr. and Patricia Doyle of Howell, their daughters, Jennifer and her husband Joseph Ricevuto and Kristin, and their grandchildren, Alexis and Carlito; nephew and his wife, James P. and Tracy Doyle of Naples, Florida, their daughter Samantha; and niece Mary Ann Doyle of Basking Ridge; along with many cousins, friends, and godchildren.

Visitation was held on Wednesday March 25, 2026 at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Family and friends gathered at 9:15 am on Thursday March 26 at the funeral home which was followed by a 10:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 531 Washington Avenue. Interment was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Parlin. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sacred Heart Church or a charity of your choice.

He was predeceased by his parents Frank and Pauline; his sister Helen P. "Pat" Doyle and her husband Vincent J. Doyle, Sr. and his best friend of many years Ray Durski. Surviving are his beloved cousin and caregiver, Sue Reszkowski of South Amboy;

Jane M. Medeiros

Jane M. Medeiros, age 90, of South Amboy passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, April 12, 2026. Born in South Amboy, she remained a lifelong resident of the community she loved.

In her early years, Jane worked alongside her cousins at Industrial Luncheon. She was a graduate of Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School. She spent many years as a secretary at DuPont in Parlin, before dedicating herself to her family, and raising her daughters. As her children grew, she also enjoyed working part-time in the catering business. Jane was a longtime member of Christ Episcopal Church in South Amboy, where her family has belonged for generations. She also attended Sayrewoods Bible Church, participating in Bible study, and watching church services when she was unable to attend in person. She was also a member of the NJ Order of the Eastern Star, Monmouth Chapter.

Jane loved going to the beach, traveling, and seasonal camping. She enjoyed word searches, working on jigsaw

puzzles on her iPad. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will be cherished by all who knew and loved her.

She is predeceased by her parents, Maurice and Ella McHose; her stepmother, Florence Clark, who entered her life when Jane was 14; her brother, Robert Arthur McHose; her beloved husband Joseph Medeiros; and her cousin Don Main.

Surviving are her loving daughters, Debra Medernach and her husband Leo and Donna Hamill; her cherished grandchildren and their spouses, Jessica and Ed Raith, Ashley Hamill, Noelle and Eddie Kubowski, Ryan and Emily Medernach and Aaron and Courtney Medernach; her adored great grandchildren, Aubriana, Layla, Ella, Violet, Sofia, August and Miles. She is also survived by her goddaughter, Amy Aurilia; her godson Kurt Semoneit; her cousins Robert Main and Victor Main; her brother and sister-in-law Richard and Lynn Medeiros; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were under the direction of Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home, 15 Cherry Lane, Parlin.

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Carol E. Bali Olivieri

Carol E. Bali Olivieri, 82, of Lavallette died on Wednesday April 1, 2026 at Community Medical Center, Toms River. Born in Perth Amboy she previously lived in Parlin. Before retiring she was employed by Two Guys, Woodbridge, E & B Mill Supply, Perth Amboy and Little Peoples Day School, South Amboy where she was lovingly known by many as "Miss Carol". A 1962 graduate of Perth Amboy High School she was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church, South Amboy where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and was involved with Pre-Cana and Marriage Encounter. Carol and Tony were also active with NJ Right to Life.



Anthony J. Olivieri; her daughter and son-in-law Lori Ann and Richard Dobrzynski; her son and daughter-in-law Anthony G. and Stefanie Olivieri and her grandchildren Tyler Olivieri and his girlfriend Molly Frank, Julie Olivieri and her fiancé Christian Anderson, Ethan Dobrzynski and his fiancé Sean O'Connor and Elizabeth Dobrzynski.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 9:45am from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by a 10:30am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Interment was in Our Lady of Hungary Cemetery, Fords. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Susan G. Komen For the Cure.

Patricia "Penny" Borgen Schwarick

Patricia "Penny" Borgen Schwarick, 78, of Jackson Twp., NJ passed away on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2026, at Monmouth Medical Center-Southern Campus, Lakewood Twp., NJ. Pat was born in North Arlington, NJ and resided in South Amboy, NJ and Budd Lake, NJ, prior to settling in Jackson Twp. 20 years ago.

Penny retired from the Morris County College, Randolph, NJ where she walked with faculty and students alike, making a positive impact.

She cherished her family and friends and her laugh would fill a room. She will be missed by all.

Penny was predeceased by her

parents, Paul and Emily Borgen. She is survived by her son, William Schwarick and his wife, Diana of Flanders, NJ; her grandchildren, Willie Schwarick and Sara Schwarick; her brother, Paul Borgen of Jackson Twp.; her niece, Carrie and her husband, Erik; her nephew, Noah and his wife, Laura; and by her great nieces, Alanna, Adeline and Amelia.

Arrangements were private at the convenience of the family and were under the care of the GEORGE S. HASSLER FUNERAL HOME, 980 Bennetts Mills Rd., Jackson, NJ. For further information and to send condolence messages to the family, please visit www.hasslerfuneralhome.com.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives They Were Champions



1982-The St. Mary's Eagles outstanding girls softball team captured the state championship under Coach George Micak. We've only been able to identify 3 or 4 players/coaches. How many can you name? Send your answers in to: satimes@aol.com. Winners will be listed in the May issue.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2023-South Amboy boys baseball team dropped a tough 7-5 game to Perth Amboy in the GMCT Invitational Tournament. Benjamin Smith belted an RBI double... .2015-In GMCT action, Sayreville boys baseball club pounded Dunellen, 18-0. Winning pitcher Connor Johnson unloaded a 3-run homer. Jayson DeMild went a perfect 4-for-4 with 3 RBI, Chris Hauber 3-for-3, 3 RBI, Brett Dzamba 3 hits and 3 RBI... .2004-Ricky McCutcheon won his first varsity game for Cardinal McCarrick with pitching and batting the Eagles to a 14-10 victory over Perth Amboy Tech. He pitched 5 innings, struck out 8, ripped 2 hits and had 2 RBI. Kyle Babulak supported the cause by belting a single and double to drive in 2... .1999-St. Mary's girls softball squad pulled a major upset over powerhouse South Amboy, who sported a (13-0) mark going into the contest.

The Lady Eagles (5-11), nipped the Lady Guvs, 7-6, when Courtney Kowal scored the game-winner on a wild pitch in the bottom of the 7th. Diane Unger blasted a 3-bagger, and Jody Sprague a 2-base hit for the winners. Regan Rone and Kim Peterson hit doubles for the Purple & Gold... .1982-Hoffman destroyed Dunellen, 9-1, behind the great pitching of John "Skeets" Skarzynski, who tossed a 2-hitter and fanned 9. Frank Wahler excelled at the plate by going a perfect 3-for-3 including a 3-run triple... .1970-Fireballing lefty, Greg Lyon fired a brilliant no-hitter to lead Sayreville to a 4-0 victory over Perth Amboy St. Mary's... .1961-St. Mary's stopped St. Rose of Belmar, 4-1, behind Walt Lange's superb 1-hit, 11 strikeouts performance. His no-hitter was broken up with an infield single in the 7th inning. Jack Seaman hammered 2 doubles for the Saints.

15 Years Ago

2011-Sayreville boys baseball team trounced JP Stevens, 11-1. Dan Seaman unloaded a long grand slam homer and single to drive in 6, Blake Cuomo belted a homer and double, as Scott Griffin notched the victory.

20 Years Ago

2006-The Sayreville girls softball squad annihilated Perth Amboy, 19-3 on Opening Day. Amanda Olender went a perfect 5-for-5 and drove in an unbelievable 8 runs, possibly a school single game record, to lead the Bombers. Stephanie Zrebiec ripped 3 hits and had 3 RBI, Jessica Nicola a triple, Michelle Makowski a two-bagger, as Megan Mazur was the winning pitcher.

50 Years Ago

1976-The first South Amboy Women's Slow Pitch Softball League began play.

55 Years Ago

1971-St. Mary's top pitcher, Jeff St. Amour was selected Soph of the Year in the Spokesman newspaper.

80 Years Ago

1946-St. Mary's standout second baseman, Jack Massing was selected 1st Team All-County. Eagles ace sophomore pitcher Ray Stockton was 2nd Team, and Hoffman star athlete, Jim Croddick was 3rd team.

90 Years Ago

1936-John Zdanewicz began his legendary coaching career at St. Mary's, where he would coach basketball until '42 when he entered the military during World War II.

Flashback 1970 South Amboy Babe Ruth League Champions

Raritan River Railroad, under the managerial genius of Ray Stockton, along with his fine coaches Jack Hulsart and Jim Campion, captured the playoff championship. The roster of standout baseball teenagers included Steve Makwinski, Scott Douglas, Wayne Kreiger, Steve Boychuk, Joe Conroy, Shaun Switzer, Stanley Kowaleski, Frank Norek, Al Cox, Jim Ziola, Dennis Poulson, Jim Mulligan, Bob Fell.

T.H.E. Game Year-2011

**Sport-Baseball
Teams-Cardinal McCarrick vs.
Piscataway Tech (Opening Day)**

Recap-Eagles pitcher Ryan Smith was outstanding, as he fired a 5-inning, 13-strikeout no-hitter to lead the Blue & Gold to a 13-0 romp over Tech. Smith also blasted a 2-run triple, while Kevin Savoia and John Marietta drilled 3 hits apiece.

Player-of-the-Game-Ryan Smith.

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). Dear St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. - B.S., P.S., S.S., M.S., S.P., N.P.

Back In Those College Days

Tom Gulick (St. Mary's) played varsity softball for Biscayne University in Florida back in the 1970's... In '91, the following were varsity players: Kim Schoemer (Sayreville) softball at Montclair State... Rich Gluchowski (Sayreville) star catcher for Monmouth College baseball team... Corey LaVigne (Hoffman) baseball at Kean College... Matt Leahy (St. Mary's) catcher on Middlesex County College (MCC) baseball team... Mark Noble (St. Mary's) golfer at Rider College... Jeff Sztatkowski (Sayreville) ace pitcher for (MCC), who won his 12th career game to break the school's record... In 2001, Billy Shaver (Sayreville) was the star centerfielder for the Rutgers-Newark baseball team... During the 2003-04 basketball season, Ramapo College of New Jersey captured the ECAC Metro championship. The following locals were big contributors for the champs: John Wojcik (Sayreville), Nick Shaw (South Amboy), Steve Gitlin (Sayreville), Kevin Burns (Cardinal McCarrick).

Pro Baseball Report

Riley O'Brien is off to an outstanding start this season with the St. Louis Cardinals. The talented closer has put up some amazing stats so far: Games-10, Innings Pitched-10.1, Strikeouts-11, Earned Runs-0, Hits-4, Bases on Balls-0, Saves-5, Won-2, Lost-0, ERA 0.00. Wow! Riley is the grandson of the late and beloved MLB player Johnny O'Brien, who along with his twin brother Eddie (another MLB player), helped put Seattle University on the map, with their record-breaking performances in baseball and basketball back in the early 1950's.



Riley O'Brien

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 wisdom 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.

15 Years Ago Eagles Win at Staten Island Yankee Field

(Article/ Submitted)

On Tuesday, May 10th the 2011 Cardinal McCarrick baseball team had a once in a lifetime opportunity to play on a professional minor league field at the Richmond Bank Ball Park home of the Staten Island Yankees. Upon arrival the team entered through the same player's entrance as current New York Yankee stars Robinson Cano, Derek Jeter, and Brett Gardner to name a few. With individual lockers complete with official nameplates the boys took the field and did not disappoint the crowd as they prevailed 10-1 over MSIT out of the PSAL-NYC league in a "wood bat" only game. Offensive highlights included senior Ryan Smith with a double and triple. Junior Kevin Pacansky drilled 2 hits and had 2 RBI, and the "hit of the night" was by

sophomore Eric Pacansky, who was using a wood bat, and drove the first pitch he saw to deep left field hitting the warning track at the 322 ft mark, and bouncing over the wall for a ground rule double. Sophomores Juan Napoles and Jason Williams also provided key hits in the Eagle attack.

Defensively, Ryan Smith's diving catch in center field was ESPN "Play of the Week" worthy. Solid pitching was led by Kevin Pacansky with 2, "1-2-3" innings including 3 strikeouts, along with sophomore Chris Mierzwiak pitching a scoreless inning in relief. Senior Joe "Wild Thing" Benedetto closed the game on a cool May night in Staten Island.

Diamond Dust 1969

South Amboy Little Fellas League
First Aid 12 Rotary 0-Winning pitcher Mike Grimley fired a 1-hitter. Mike Downs blasted a home run.

Weiss 14 Modern Transportation 0-Kevin Homan hurled the victory, and George Bongiorno ripped 2 doubles.

South Amboy Babe Ruth League
Komars 5 Mechanicsville 0-Bill Kurpiecki struck out 9 and notched the win. Sacred Heart 5 Mechanicsville 1-Winning pitcher George Olszewski fanned 11, while Tom Sztatowski belted 2 singles and double.

South Amboy Men's Senior Slow Pitch League
Enterprise 12 Roddy's Tavern 11-Charlie Conroy was the winning pitcher, and Joe Matarangolo smashed 3 doubles. Amboy Madison Bank 11 Enterprise 7-Curt Wilczewski was the victorious pitcher, and Joe Matarangolo blasted a homer. Roddy's 9 Wonder Bar 5-Al Ust and Pat Mullane drilled 3 hits apiece in support of winning pitcher Frank Kennedy.

Somerset Patriots Game

Come honor PGK Steve Schmid at the Somerset Patriots ball game on Sunday May 17th 2026

The South Amboy Knights Council #426 is sponsoring an outing in honor of PGK Steve Schmid. Game time is 1:05pm. Cost: \$65.00 pp and includes a 90 minute upscale buffet including Grilled Bourbon Chicken, Sausage and Peppers, penne vodka, baby backer potatoes, garden salad and self serve fountain drinks. Seating is at the upstairs covered canopy SK Club. For tickets Call Gary M. 732 742-7919. Proceeds benefit local charities. Tickets are non refundable.

Just A Little Boy

(Author unknown)

He stands at the plate
With his heart pounding fast,
The bases are loaded
The die has been cast
Mom and dad
cannot help him
He stands all alone
A hit at this moment
Would send his team home;
The ball nears the plate
He swings and misses-
There's a groan
from the crowd
With some boos and
some hisses;
A thoughtless voice cries;
"Strike out the bum."
Tears fill his eyes
The game's no longer fun.
Remember,
he's just a Little Boy
Who stands all alone;
So open your heart
And give him a break;
For its moments like this
A man you could make;
Keep this in mind
When you hear
someone forget,
He's just a Little Boy
And not a man yet.



South Amboy

(Photos Submitted)



(l-r) Councilman-At-Large Anthony Conrad, Tommy Bikowski, Patrick Bielak, Councilman Larry Lenahan, Mayor Fred Henry, Councilman-At-Large Mickey Gross.



Opening Day 2026



Sayreville

(Photo by Dan McDonald - Mac Productions
Herbie YAN Photography)



Vote for the Team Working for the FUTURE OF SOUTH AMBOY



ELECT

ANTHONY CONRAD
for Mayor of South Amboy

Anthony Conrad is the proven leader that we can trust. Committed to stable taxes, strengthening our community and building a brighter future for South Amboy families.



RE-ELECT

MICHAEL "MICKEY" GROSS
for Council at-Large

Mickey Gross has devoted his career to public service and strengthening our community. With 16 years of experience serving the people of South Amboy, Mickey Gross will continue as a trusted voice on the Council.



ELECT

JUDITH RASKOSHIN
for Council at-Large

Judith Raskoshin brings a new, fresh perspective and a strong commitment to South Amboy families. Currently serving as President of the Board of Education, she combines professional expertise in special education with a deep personal investment in our community's future.

Vote for the Team Endorsed by the MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION



VOTE BY MAIL

Ballots will be mailed on April 18th
YOUR NEAREST DROPBOX
South Amboy Train Station
137 North Broadway



Scan the QR code to register to vote by mail



VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

May 26th – May 31st
YOUR NEAREST EARLY VOTING LOCATION
Sayreville Senior Center
423 Main Street



Scan the QR code for a list of other early voting locations and times



VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, June 2nd
Polls will be open
6 a.m. – 8 p.m



By June 2nd, Vote Anthony Conrad for South Amboy Mayor & Michael "Mickey" Gross and Judith Raskoshin for Council at-Large

(732) 906-3680 | /SouthAmboyDems | @SouthAmboyDems

Paid for by SA Mayor & Council 2026
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