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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES



**This Issue Is Dedicated  
In Memory Of Our Friend**



**George Spiecker**

**December 22, 2018 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 28 Issue 3**

## Melendez Resigns: McGill Selected

By Tom Burkard

Sayreville Democratic Councilman Ricci Melendez announced his resignation immediately from the Borough Council. Melendez, who regained his seat two years ago after losing re-election, submitted a four paragraph letter dated Nov. 18 to the municipal clerk, and officially resigned Nov. 21.

On his councilman Facebook page he thanked "the members of the governing body, Borough employees and our Sayreville residents for allowing me to serve. I leave behind multitudes of projects and policies that I am proud of and will remain part of my legacy."

On Nov. 26, former Sayreville Councilman Dave McGill was selected and sworn in to replace Melendez. The Democratic Party had to nominate three candidates to replace Melendez, and finish his unexpired term. The three chosen were McGill, former Councilman William Henry, and Kenneth Scott. Council President Victoria Kilpatrick said "They were all excellent candidates."

McGill served on the council from 2013-2015 and campaigned with Melendez in 2012 and 2015. His term will expire Jan. 31, 2019, and he will be on the ballot in the November 2019 election for a full 3-year term.



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (l) presents the Mayor's trophy to Chris Mierzwiak (c) and Rob Applegate (r) from Mechanicsville Fire Company who won the city's annual rescue truck decorating contest. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

## Saint Patrick's Day Parade Date Set

Planning for the annual South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade is well underway and this year the parade committee is excited to announce the inclusion of three new bands to its line-up. David Cedeno and his Orchestra will provide a Latin beat with the sounds of Salsa music while the UpTown String and the Avalon String Bands will bring the color, excitement and grandeur of the Philadelphia Mummers to Bordentown Ave. and Broadway at 2 pm on Saturday, March 16th.

The South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Committee is also pleased to announce that Christine Noble, South Amboy Councilwoman at Large, will serve as the 2019 Grand Marshal. Born and raised in South Amboy to Claire (McKeon) and Robert Noble, Ms. Noble is a graduate of H. G. Hoffman High School and has been employed

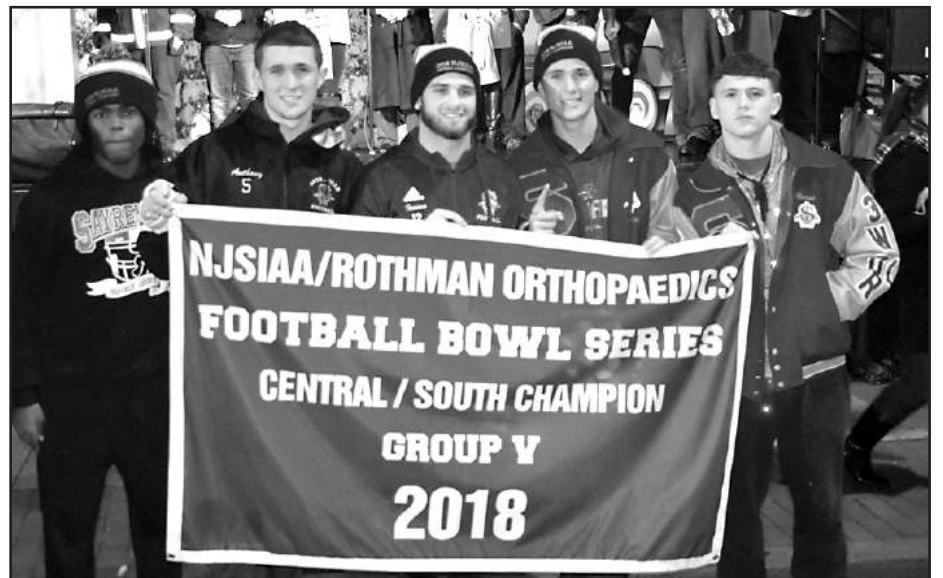
*Continued on page 4*

## New Year's Bingo

St. Stan's New Year's Day Bingo will take place on Jan 1, 2019. Doors open at 12:00 PM, Bingo begins at 1:30 pm The kitchen will be open with specials. Come and join us for fun and winnings. Good luck and St. Stan's Parish would like to say a great big THANK YOU for coming to our bingos and supporting us.

## Sayreville Bombers Win 2 Championships

By Tom Burkard



The banner says it all for the champions! The Sayreville Bombers football champions! What a year! Congratulations Bombers! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

The Sayreville Bombers powerhouse football team marched to two championships recently. They captured a hard-fought contest over North Brunswick, 6-0 to win the Central Jersey (CJ) Group V championship. In a stingy defensive tussel, the Sayreville contingent scored what proved to be all that was needed in the second quarter, on a fourth and goal, with a 1-yard TD run by quarterback Mark Whitford.

The Bombers outstanding defense held the Raiders to 155 yards from scrimmage, and halted their main threat, Myles Bailey keeping him down to 91 yards on 19 carries. Sayreville racked up only 195 total yards, 137 on the ground, as Zuriel Wright led the rushing with 75 yards on 22 carries. Whitford completed 7-of-14 for 65 yards, Jacari Carter hauled in 5 of those passes for 39 yards. The standout defense was led by Connor Holmes with 11 tackles, Conner Anthony-10 tackles, Anthony Griffin 6 tackles, 2 sacks, James Berecsky 6 tackles, and Jorge Leiva 6 tackles.

For the Bombers, it was their fifth sectional crown in 10 years, but they fell last season to North Hunterdon in the semis of North 2 Group IV. North Hunterdon marched on to the title after beating Sayreville.

Sayreville then traveled to Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford for the Group V Central/South Bowl championship against the #7 team in NJ, undefeated Williamstown (12-0). The Blue & Gray, ranked #11 in NJ trailed 7-0 after one quarter, but in the second stanza, Zuriel Wright broke loose for a 57-yard touchdown run, but the extra point attempt failed, and Sayreville was down 7-6 at halftime.

In the final minute of play, Connor Holmes fumble recovery in the end zone was the game-winner for our locals, and they nailed down the first-ever South Group 5 NJSIAA/Rothman Orthopaedic Bowl championship, 14-7. The Bombers offense was paced by Whitford, who completed 11-of-18 passes for 96 yards, Holmes, with 6 receptions for 32 yards, and Wright, who rushed for 66 yards on 7 attempts. Defensive standouts were Jayvis Rayside with 14 tackles, and Savon Kirksey 11 tackles.

The Sayreville Bombers finished the season with a superb (11-1) record, and our congratulations go out to Coach Chris Beagan, his staff, and the players on another outstanding year!



The City of South Amboy recently held a press conference announcing the selection of French, Parrello, Associates as South Amboy's new engineering firm, with expectations that they will help to bring ferry operations back to South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Steve Tardy, Executive Vice-President of French and Parrello, Associates, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## South Amboy Ferry Gets Closer

By Steve Schmid

Commuters who have to travel on New Jersey Transit trains from the South Amboy rail station could see a better alternative to get to New York City. At a recent press conference, South Amboy Fred Henry announced the engineering firm of French and Parello Associates of Wall has been selected to complete the engineering and design work needed to restore South Amboy to New York ferry service. Henry introduced Steve Tardy, Executive Vice President of French and Parrello who talked about the next steps that will be taken to restore service off lower Main Street. Work includes parking area design, docks, bulkhead, and terminal

building. French and Parrello will obtain necessary permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corps of Engineers, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. South Amboy officials noted French and Parrello has completed South Amboy projects like the recently completed Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center. City officials said bidding for construction of the ferry terminal should be in late 2019 and ferry service could begin again sometime in 2020. Once completed, the ferry would reach Wall Street and midtown Manhattan in well under one hour.

**Next Issue January 19th - Deadlines January 7th**

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The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library in South Amboy held its annual Holiday Open House, and everyone had a great time. Pictured (l-r) Councilman Tom Reilly, Library Director Elaine Gaber, Mayor Fred Henry, and Councilman/Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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### Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard  
**Ruszala Retires From Federal Express**

Parlin's John Ruszala has retired after 30 outstanding years of work with Federal Express (Fed Ex). John brightened up many days for locals when delivering packages, with his bright smile, cheery personality, and interesting conversations. Congratulations and best wishes John, for a happy, healthy retirement!

### Douglas To Retire

Pat Douglas, formerly of the Melrose section of Sayreville will retire effective Jan. 1, 2019, after 36 1/2 years of exemplary and dedicated work at Rutgers University. Congratulations Pat, and enjoy your retirement!

### College News

Erin McQuade of Sayreville was accepted into the HTC Honors College and Center for interdisciplinary studies at Coastal Carolina University. She is among the first students to be housed in the new college... Katelynn Lenihan of Sayreville earned an endowed scholarship at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio for the fall semester.

### Take the Plunge!

Ready to take a challenge for a good cause? Come join us at the Polar Plunge for Catholic Schools week 2019. OLV will be participating in the Annual AOH Polar Plunge to support Catholic Education. If you are ready to dive into the ocean, you are more than welcome to meet us at Sea Bright Municipal Beach on Sunday January 27, 2019. Don't want to get into the frigid water? That's ok too, you can donate to have someone else take the plunge, or just come join us on the sideline and cheer us on with your friends!

All proceeds collected go to the school to help assist with Catholic Education expenses, so 100% of your donation will greatly help OLV. If you would like more information contact:

Maria Holovacko 732-307-0002.

Or go to the school website <https://olvnj.com> and Facebook page <https://Facebook.com/ourladyofvictories>

### Kids Free Throw Contest January 12

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 holds its annual children's free throw contest Saturday January 12 for kids between the age of 9 and 14. The contest begins at 9 a.m. Saturday January 12 at Sacred Heart Gym on Walnut St. South Amboy. The best free throw shooters will receive awards and recognition.

For more information call 732-721-2025.

### 50th Reunion Planning

Sayreville War Memorial High School Class of 1969 is planning for their 50th Reunion, targeted for the fall of 2019. They are currently working to convert their paper mail list to email. This will be the way to communicate the reunion information as it develops. You may choose to join or not join the class website ([www.sayrevillewarmemorial1969.com](http://www.sayrevillewarmemorial1969.com)). Please contact Joe Coakley at [joecoak48@aol.com](mailto:joecoak48@aol.com) or Kathy Streck at [swm69ers@gmail.com](mailto:swm69ers@gmail.com).

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# The TIMES

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## Pleasant little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- This business was previously located where Texas Roadhouse now stands?  
a. The Hideout b. Old Country Buffet c. Uncle Lai's
- What year did Talkin' Heads Hair Salon open in South Amboy?  
A. 1995 b. 1998 c. 2001
- St. Stan's Veteran of the Year in '98?  
a. Ed Streck b. Rich Kosmoski c. Henry Wasilewski
- Served as President of South Amboy Memorial Hospital Board of Governors in 1994?  
a. Frank Kurzawa Jr. b. Jonathan Green c. Vernon Tice
- In '94, this lawn and garden center was located at 258 Main St., Sayreville?  
a. Green Grass and More b. Sayreville Lawn & Garden Supplies c. American Landscape
- President of South Amboy Senior Citizens Club in 1989?  
a. Michael Hrabosky b. Mary Cuccinello c. Casper Poetsch
- What section of Sayreville was Archie's Boat Tops located at in '88?  
a. Morgan b. President Park c. Melrose
- In 1988, where was Larry's Service Center located in South Amboy?  
a. North Stevens Ave. b. South Broadway c. Main St.
- Who was Chairman of the South Amboy Fire Department's 100th Anniversary Committee in 1990?  
a. Tom Gorman b. W. Tom Kross c. Jack Mendelsson
- In 2000, this famous actor was in Sayreville filming scenes from the movie "Grownups"?  
a. Bruce Willis b. Vincent Donofrio c. John Stamos

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



**Business Of The Month**  
**Savage Bistro**



Pictured l to r: Savage Bistro owners Stephanie and Chris Bopp. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Savage Bistro is the new traditional American restaurant in South Amboy. They are located at 109 N Broadway (across the street from Daisy's Nails). Open Monday through Saturday 11:30 - 7:30. They feature burgers, cheesesteaks, wings and more.

Owners Chris and Stephanie Bopp are new to the area. Stephanie grew up in Freehold while Chris is from Hillsborough. Chris has spent most of his life in restaurants, his parents were in the the business when he was a child. Chris went out on his own and has worked in many different positions in the restaurant business. He left a job in corporate fine dining to open Savage Bistro with his wife. The two are taking the knowledge they have of fine dining and putting that into the everyday food you love to eat. All of the items on the menu

are made in house. The burgers are pressed by hand and the french fries are cut every morning. They are making all the sauces and sides that come with your food including the ketchup, bbq sauce, salsa and blue cheese ranch. Customers keep raving about the variety of cookies that Stephanie makes.

Savage Bistro provides a warm setting for people to get the comfort food they love, and to try new foods (like the pork belly tacos). If you are looking for generous portions made with fresh ingredients go to Savage Bistro.

Savage Bistro: 732-753-9686 and follow on Facebook to see all the specials they come up with, such as FriesDay, and Instagram @savagebistro for great photos of their dishes.

*May the Peace and Joy of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year!*



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Gregory Scharpf (c), Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, helps Old Bridge Food Bank Manager, Anahita Feltz gather the food collections from the Amboy Bank Administration Building and neighboring branches. Scharpf said, "Community participation is key when it comes to food banks being able to best serve our neighbors in need. Through the generosity of our staff and clients, we were able to help the Old Bridge Food Bank feed the members of our community who need it most. We'd like to thank everyone for making our annual food drive such a success." Amboy Bank's food drive included all 23 offices making donations to their local community food banks. Also pictured (left to right): John Bienias, Park and Recreation; Brittany D'Anton, Volunteer Coordinator; and Sean E. Muirhead, Parks and Recreation. (Photo/Info Submitted)

**Best Of The Best**

Home News Tribune held its Readers Choice Awards 2018 for the Best of the Best businesses in Middlesex County, in which readers voted online for their favorites.

Congratulations to the following local businesses from South Amboy and Sayreville who were chosen:

**Sayreville Best!**

**BBQ**-Big Harlies BBQ; **Pizza**-Nunzio's Kitchen; **Builder**-Robert Downey General Contractor; **Toy Store**-Paul's Toy Room.

**Sayreville One of the Best!**

**BYOB**-Nunzio's Kitchen; **Happy Hour**-Arirang Hibachi Steakhouse; **Italian Food**-Nunzio's Kitchen; **Sub/Hoagie**-Big Wally's Subs; **Place to Listen to Live**

**Music**-Starland Ballroom; **Ambulance Squad**-Morgan First Aid Squad; **Childcare/Preschool**-Garden Friends; **Card & Gift Shop**-Budderstown Gifts; **Pet Store**-Petco Animal Supplies.

**South Amboy Best!**

**Bank**-Amboy Bank-(21 consecutive years!); **Bar/Nightclub**-Lagoda's Saloon; **Antiques**-The Green Elephant Estate Sales.

**South Amboy One of the Best!**

**Funeral Services**-Kurzawa Funeral Home; **Hair Salon**-The Hair Shop 2; **Landscaping**-GKB Landscaping; **Tattoo Parlor**-Broadway Tattoo Lounge; **Liquor Store**-Main Liquors & Wines.

**Holiday Entertainment Trip To Lancaster, PA**

Sacred Heart Seniors are sponsoring a three day two night trip from November 6 - 8, 2019 to beautiful Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a Holiday Entertainment Extravaganza. Cost of \$409 includes tickets for "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre and "Joy To The World" at the American Music Theatre. The trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts,

2 dinners including a family style dinner and a smorgasbord dinner. The trip includes shopping at Tanger Outlets and a visit to the old western Kitchen Kettle Village. You'll also get a souvenir gift. Luggage handling, taxes, gratuities, and motor coach transportation is included. For more information, call Judy at 732-727-0154.

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**Sayreville Police Retirement Ceremony**

Four longtime Sayreville Police Officers retired recently. Pictured (l-r) Detective Sergeant of Narcotics Bureau, Jeff Sprague-40 years; Captain of Administration Bureau, Tom Barbieri-32 years; Police Chief John Zebrowski, who was on hand to congratulate the retirees; Sergeant of Traffic Safety, John Bartlinski-32 years; Lieutenant of Patrolmen, Tom Cassidy-36 years; missing from photo: Lieutenant of Patrolmen, Bob Lasko-37 years. Congratulations and thank you for your fine service and dedication to the Borough of Sayreville! (Photo by Tom Burkard)



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**Yearbook-Hoffman 1993**

When the Hoffman High School Class of 1993 returned for its final year, the top song in the nation was "End of the Road" by Boyz To Men...Hoffman's yearbook was titled "What A Change," and was dedicated to Sheila Inman. Bridget Shannon was the Editor-In-Chief... Kyle Murphy and Cristina Zampella were selected King & Queen of Homecoming '92...

The Student Council consisted of Cristina Zampella- President; Jennifer McQuade-Vice-President; Tiffany Tooker-Secretary; Laura Sing-Treasurer...Hoffman High held its first play since 1969—"Beauty and the Beast"...Tiffany Tooker was President of S.A.D.D...Laura Sing was President of the National Honor Society...

Some of the Class of '93 selected randomly: Michael Cavallo, Christine Colfer, Misty English, Jamie-Lynn Hicks, Christine Hoehman, Stanley Kovacs, Amanda Lawrence, Denise Leff, Christopher Mader, Kimberly Mocarski, Shea Murray,

Robert Olsen, Michael Raemis, Camille Rivello, Stephanie Rodziewicz, Arcelio Serrano, Kenneth Titone, Amy Van Mierlo, Cecelia Villig, Agnes Weinman...

Hoffman had many talented senior athletes in the Class of '93 including: Gordon Arnold, Anthony Barlowski, Russell Boyer, Shawn Brown, William Connors, Michael DeCore, Alonzo Delrymple III, Tracy Doyle, Christopher Dyer, Jennifer McDonnell, Scott McNerny, Jeffrey Moskal, Jennifer McQuade, Kyle Murphy, Danielle Olszewski, Walter Peterson, William Policastro, Shannon Reick, Anthony Santucci, Bridget Shannon, Christine Singura, Michael Tague, Tiffany Tooker, Joseph Woznica, and Cristina Zampella...

At graduation time in June 1993, Janet Jackson's "That's The Way Love Goes" was the #1 song in the U.S.A...Hoffman High's Class of 1993 was a most talented and interesting group of teenagers!

**Saint Patrick's - Continued from page 1**

at the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for the past 25 years.

Ms. Noble is the former coach of South Amboy Recreation's girls basketball and softball, girls 6th, 7th and 8th grade basketball at Sacred Heart School, and girls JV and varsity basketball at Cardinal McCarrick High School. Active in many aspects of the city, Ms. Noble has served as a member of the South Amboy Planning and Zoning Board and as the 2nd Ward Council Women.

The 2019 Honorary Grand Marshal is Mark Rasimowicz, who serves as City Engineer for South Amboy, Perth Amboy and Monroe Township. Mr. Rasimowicz is employed as the Director of Engineering at Center State Engineering, a full-service consulting engineering company, located in Monroe Township.

Serving as Deputy Grand Marshal will be South Amboy Fire Chief, Mike Toth. A graduate of Hoffman High School, Mr. Toth joined Independence Engine & Hose Company in 1984. In addition to volunteering his time with the South Amboy Fire Department, Mr. Toth is a softball, baseball, and basketball coach for the Sayreville Athletic Association.

Special Honored Guests at the parade will be; Yolanda Flores, Vice President and Director of Sales at the Rosengarten Development Corp., Perth Amboy, and Jorge Gonzalez, owner of Mid Jersey Medical Supply, South Amboy. Mr. Gonzalez also serves as President of the South Amboy Business Association at the New Jersey

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**Pasta Fundraiser  
 January 25**

South Amboy Columbiettes will hold their second annual pasta fundraiser Friday January 25 at the K of C Columbian Club at 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. Proceeds benefit food pantries of Saint Mary and Sacred Heart food pantries. The event begins at 6 p.m. before the Open Mic activities. Cost is \$10 for prepaid reservations and \$12 at the door. For more information call 732-721-2025. or 721-727-1707

**Be Bold, Get Cold**

Bishop Ahr High School's 6th Annual Polar Plunge Sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians The more cash, the more teacher's splash! Date: Sunday January 27, 2019 Time: In the Water at 1pm Place: Sea Bright Municipal Beach by Tommy's Tavern, Sea Bright, NJ Visit: bgahs.org/polarplunge to either register to participate or make a donation.



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new year!**








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### White Christmas This Year

*The weatherman says  
Our chances are good  
A white Christmas it may be  
We'll know more tomorrow  
You just have to wait and see  
We're hoping for a white  
Christmas this year  
Something like the past  
It's such a special day  
And it goes by so very fast  
As we look out the window  
On Christmas morn'  
It's snowin'  
And the wind is blowin'  
We got our White Christmas this year.*



### Remembering Pearl Harbor-Dec. 7

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post #62, South Amboy held their annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Service near the boat ramp in South Amboy. New member Bill Gerrish (r) prepares to throw the memorial wreath into the Raritan Bay, as his fellow members look on during a very cold and windy day.



Following a prayer, veteran Bill Gerrish tosses the wreath into the Raritan Bay.





Bishop James Checchio and Michael Corbin, president of the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society join Fr. Dennis, Fr. Stanley, Fr. Marian, along with Deacons Rich O'Brien, Serge Bernatchez, and Stephen and Natalie Laikowski at the Spiritual Directors banquet. (Photo/info Submitted)

### Bishop Checchio Attends South Amboy Dinner

More than 160 people gathered recently at the Holy Name Society Spiritual Director's Banquet. The dinner was held at Sacred Heart Memorial Hall in South Amboy and the featured guest was the Most Reverend Bishop of Metuchen James Checchio. Bishop Checchio took time and went to every table and talked with priests and guests. He was very happy to break bread with the South

Amboy community and wished everyone a happy holiday season. Sacred Heart Church Pastor Father Stanley Gromadzki was the host priest and welcomed the guests. Sacred Heart Holy Name President Mike Corbin was master of ceremonies. Everyone was happy with the great turnout and the opportunity to meet and greet the bishop.

### Dad-Daughter Dance

Dads, Uncles, Grandads, Step Dads... have you spent quality time with your special little lady? Bring that special girl to the South Amboy-Sayreville rotarys 14th annual dad-daughter dance on Friday, February 8, 2019. From 7-10pm It will be held at VFW hall located on Jernee Mill road, Sayreville. \$60 per couple \$25 each additional special girl if payment is received by January 18, 2019. \$10 extra in cash at the door if space permits. For more information contact Greg at 732-721-0400, greg@customfinancial.org.

### February Trip to Sands Casino

The OLV Seniors will sponsor a trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Sunday, February 17, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$35. You will receive a \$25 gaming voucher. The bus will leave the OLV lower parking lot at 1 PM and return approximately at 8 PM. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Carmen at 732-254-9425.



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**Church To Celebrate 50th Anniversary**

By Joyce Semoneit

The congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church (the "Little Church in the woods") is celebrating 50 years at its current location on January 20, 2019.

Historically the congregation had its beginning prior to 1853 as the Methodist Episcopal Society of South Amboy, meeting in the homes of its members. As the membership grew in number, Mrs. Maria Stevens allowed the society to worship in the Stevens Chapel on the corner of Main St. and North Broadway, where meetings were led by Circuit Riders of the Cheesquake area.

In 1854, property was purchased on Broadway that is now occupied by the Shoe Repair Shop and New Life Books & Bible store. Their night services were held in a chapel in Mechanicsville. The Broadway

property was sold in the late 1890's, and they purchased property on John St., where the First Methodist Church of South Amboy was built.

In 1966, the congregation purchased 10 acres from the Parkway Authority off Frank Ave. along the southbound lanes of the Garden State Parkway for a new church. Due to a severe summer storm, the bridge from Frank Ave. collapsed, destroying all access to the property. Although the address has changed to 815 Bordentown Ave., the church remains in the same place. The name of the church has changed also to reflect the merging of three congregations the First Methodist, Calvary Methodist, and the Cliffwood Methodist. There is a lot to celebrate!

**The Smoke Column**

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, MS

As the year comes to an end, so does the terms of office for the fire chiefs in both the South Amboy and Sayreville Fire Departments. When these officers start their year as chief, we always wish them the best of luck. By this we mean that their year will be a safe year without the loss of life or severe injuries to both the residents and the first responders. As of this writing, I am also pleased to report that there were NO major injuries to any of our first responders as they performed their duties admirably throughout the year.

Of course, there were some serious fires that occurred during the year but thanks to the fast response of the firefighters, tragedies were averted, and fire extension was limited.

In a year-end review of our local fire departments, I've had the opportunity to interview both the Sayreville Fire Chief and the South Amboy Fire Chief. Sayreville Chief Steve Kanca wanted to thank all the members of the department for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The SFD was very busy as they responded to approximately 1,000 fire calls in 2018. The many varied types of incident tested the training and resources of the department. There were numerous structure fires in both residential and commercial buildings and unfortunately a death did occur in a residential home. Two well-involved commercial building fires occurred in well known facilities. A late afternoon fire that originated in the kitchen of Santino's Restaurant on Ernston Road, destroyed the interior section of the restaurant. Renovations are underway and plans are in the making for a new reopening. A late-night working fire at Buddies Tavern on Johnsons Lane destroyed a large portion of the building. The owners promise to rebuild

and open sometime in the future. Firefighters fought both these fires without sustaining any injuries and prevented them from spreading to nearby structures.

South Amboy Fire Chief Michael Toth is amazed how fast his year as Chief went by. He reported that between 5 working structure fires, boat rescues, vehicle fire, major storms, and the various calls for mutual aid, the department was very busy. Chief Toth enjoyed leading one of the best fire departments in the state. The members of the SAFD always had his back and for this he is very grateful. He could not ask for anything more from the men and women of this department. Chief Toth credits his wife Laura as being his backbone throughout the year. She knows how much I love the fire department and let me live the dream. I love her very much and thank her every day. I want to thank my children, Megan and Kyle for being there when I needed them. In closing, I want to thank Mayor Henry and the City council, the South Amboy Police Department, and the South Amboy First Aid for their help and support throughout the year. A special thank you to the members of the SAFD on a job well done. May God Bless you all!

I would like to personally congratulate both Chiefs on a memorable year. It was a pleasure working with the both of you and I thank you for the support you have given with some of my "Smoke Column" articles. The knowledge and experience you have gained in your quest in becoming chief is a valuable asset and I hope that you continue your careers in your respective fire departments. Remember that young firefighters will need your guidance as they prepare to reach the pinnacle of success, always be there to help them along as your peers were for you.

**SOUTH AMBOY ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR MP 1- 2018/2019**

**FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL WITH DISTINCTION:** Noah Cruz, Gwenyth Friedman Katarina Roessle and Sebastian Roessle. **HONORROLL:** Meghan Chan, Macy Daniell, Xaxen Echevarria, Avril Flores Mejia, Madden Gulick, Sophia Hernandez, Brian Ilewski, Adrian Koubek, Joel Lombardi, Victoria Mallerman, Kyleigh McGuire, Brady McNeany, Mich Nemeth, Shawn O'Neill, Jaiden Patrizzo, Jodi Rose, Ryan Russo, Macy Schuck and Lucy Tooker. **FIFTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL WITH DISTINCTION:** Ashley Moreira Burgos

and Saahir Vazirani **HONOR ROLL:** Gia Calisi, Lucas Cerria, Jaidyn Chukukere, Jake Cooke, Jaylin Diaz, Joseph Dominguez, Joseph Foreman, Ja'quay Holifield, Dillan Hortillas, Anthony Kucharczyk, Dani Kudelka, Hali McNulty, Joseph Mercado, Darian Munoz, Nadia Nieves, Izabella Pardo, Sophia Pham, Luca Regan Jake Richard-Cavallaro, Xavier Rivera, Caleb Sambucci, Rosalynn Santos, Isaiah Silva, Taylor Sofilkanich, Amanda Torrez, Jayden Velez, Celina Vuocolo and Katelynn Wolff.

**South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee To Host "Tip-A-Pint" Fundraiser**

The Saint Patrick Day Parade Committee of the City of South Amboy invites you to join them for an evening of friends, food and drink at their "Tip-A-Pint" fundraiser; Thursday, January 17th, 2018 at "Murphy's Shamrock Inn, 147 So. Pine Ave., So. Amboy from 7 to 9 pm.

A \$20 p/p entrance fee will be collected at the door. Participants will enjoy unlimited free beer and wine, a hot and cold buffet plus a performance by the D.B.Kelly Drum & Bugle Corp.

Proceeds will support the efforts of the South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

**January Trip to Sands Casino**

The OLV Seniors will sponsor a trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Saturday, January 19, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$35. You will receive a \$25 gaming voucher. The bus will leave OLV lower

parking lot at 1 PM and return approximately at 8 PM. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Carmen at 732-254-9425





## Celebrating the City of South Amboy

In planning for the 2019 South Amboy Arts Gallery exhibitions, the focus is centered around local artists and their importance as it relates to the creativity and inspiration to our town. The first exhibition, "Faces of our City," celebrates the city and those who contribute their character, ambiance and appeal to make South Amboy unique. Many of these individuals have contributed to the city's history and, together with recent residents, are helping create the city's future.

South Amboy Arts mission is to provide arts programming that enhances the quality of life for the community. The arts bring people together and provide individuals and families opportunities to learn, appreciate and share their commonalities through both history and culture.

Faces of our City' opens Sunday, January 15, 2019 at 2 p.m. All South Amboy residents are invited to participate. Whether you are an amateur or professional photographer, submit one 8" x 10" color or black and white photograph. It must be printed on matt finished photography paper and clearly demonstrate the theme 'Faces of our City'.

The photograph, along with your information form (which can be found on the City of South Amboy website) must be submitted by December 26, 2018 to Jacqueline Kelly at the Senior Citizen Building on 106 Stevens Avenue. The hours for the center are from 9 am. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Come join the Celebration of Our City!

## Holiday Donations!



On December 3rd, the Central Jersey Chapter #148 Korean War/Defense Veterans presented a check to Mrs. Christine A. Caratozzlo, Supervisor of Recreation and Assistant CEO Mr. Scott Mueller. The money was collected at the Chapter's Rose of Sharon (poppy) drives. The check will be used for Holiday Gift Bags. Pictured (l-r) Chapter #148 Secretary Lee Kaczmarek, Chapter #148 Commander Robert Bliss, Christine A. Caratozzlo, Scott Muller, Jr. Vice Commander Louis Camilleri and Past NJ State Commander Charlie Koppelman. For more information on joining Central Jersey Chapter #148 of the Korean War/Defense Veterans, contact: Charlie Koppelman 609-655-3111 or e-mail KVVANJ@yahoo.com. (Photo/info submitted)



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## TV Spinoffs

By Debbie Carling

There were many TV spinoffs throughout the years. The following are just a handful of these shows, and the actual spin-off will be the first show mentioned, followed by the original show:

Maude-All In The Family; The Ropers-Three's Company; Mork & Mindy-Happy Days; Frasier-Cheers; Archie Bunker's Place-All In The Family; Joanie Loves Chachi-Happy Days; Still The Beaver-Leave It To Beaver; Laverne & Shirley-Happy

Days; Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C.-The Andy Griffith Show; Young Sheldon-The Big Bang Theory; Mama's Family-Carol Burnett Show; Knots Landing-Dallas; Major Crimes-The Closer; The Facts of Life-Different Strokes; Rhoda-The Mary Tyler Moore Show; Adam 12-Dragnet; Empty Nest-The Golden Girls; Lou Grant-The Mary Tyler Moore Show; The Little Rascals-Our Gang; Green Acres-Petticoat Junction; The Bionic Woman-The Six Million Dollar Man.



The St. Bernadette Youth Group and advisors held their 5th annual Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner at McCarthy/Noble towers on Sun. Nov. 18 under the leadership of Mrs. Lorna Francis. The food was prepared by the advisors and served by the youth group, who had time to interact with the seniors. In addition, the youth group members made Christmas snow globes during their monthly meeting, and presented them at the end of dinner. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship we shared with each other. (Photo/story submitted)

### OLV January Meeting

The OLV Senior Group will hold their January Meeting on Friday, January 4, 2019 at 1:00PM in Monsignor Dalton Hall. After our business meeting, cake and coffee will be served. Non-perishable food donations for St. Vincent de Paul will be accepted at all meetings. For further information contact Teri at 732-727-7639.

### Trip to Cape May

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to Cape May on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$145 which includes a narrated cruise, Tea Luncheon at the Emlem Physick Estate, guided tour of Cape May, shopping time bus transportation and bus driver gratuity. To reserve a seat please contact Finita at 732-721-5081.



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



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





# New Name

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SUNDAY 6AM-3PM  
MONDAY CLOSED

### Amboy Bank Draws Sweepstakes Winner



Amboy Bank Sayreville branch manager, Burton Wilkins (r), congratulates Beth Gavin as the grand prize winner of Amboy's month-long grand opening sweepstakes. Gavin won a 50" VIZIO Smart LED television. The sweepstakes celebrated Amboy's branch renovation at 412 Washington Road in Sayreville. The bank is continuing to welcome new clients with special deposit offers. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## The Staff and Management at John Auto Center

272 North Stevens Ave. South Amboy  
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*Wish Everyone A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



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For More Info



*The newly formed Historic Preservation Commission is looking for historically significant properties in South Amboy to document and research.*

*Do you live in or know of an historic property in South Amboy? We would love to hear from you!*

Email us at  
[HPCsouthamboy@gmail.com](mailto:HPCsouthamboy@gmail.com) with:

- Address
- Approximate age
- Significance
- And your contact info (name/ email/ phone)

## Seasons Greetings from the City of South Amboy

<b>FRED A. HENRY</b> Mayor	
<b>MICHAEL "MICKEY" GROSS</b> Council President	<b>CHRISTINE NOBLE</b> Councilwoman-At-Large
<b>ZUSETTE DATO</b> Councilwoman	<b>THOMAS REILLY</b> Councilman
<b>BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN</b> Councilman	
<b>LAURA KEMBLE</b> Acting City Clerk	<b>GLENN SKARZYNSKI</b> Business Administrator
<b>DARREN LAVIGNE</b> Chief of Police	<b>MIKE TOTH</b> Fire Chief
<b>JOANNE KATKO</b> Tax Collector	<b>JOHN R. LANZA</b> Law Director
<b>ELAINE GABER</b> Library Director	<b>LEONARD MOFFA</b> Superintendent of Public Works
<b>ANGEL ALBANESE</b> Chief Financial Officer	



## MUST-KNOW NEW YEAR NEWS FROM THE SADIE POPE DOWDELL LIBRARY!

New Year, New You? Not entirely! The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is putting clichés aside as it announces its plans for the first month of 2019. Join them as they celebrate exciting first-time programs and welcome back old favorites. As we all already know, there's something for everybody at your local library!

Tax season is once again upon us, and the library is happy to offer its services to those who welcome a hand while preparing their returns. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program starting in January. Contact the library for additional information about this valuable service!

Need help troubleshooting or learning to use your computer, phone, tablet, e-reader, or other device? Stop by the library! Our ongoing Digital Café program offers tech assistance three times weekly: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm, and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Parents, grandparents, and caregivers: give yourself the gift of some much-needed R&R by bringing your little ones to the Dowdell's thrice-weekly toddler programs! Every Monday from 1pm to 2pm, join us for Toddler Magnet Fun, where your young ward can build with colorful magnetic shapes while listening to infant-friendly music. Swing by on Wednesdays between 1pm and 2pm for Toddler Stay & Play, where kids participate in a different creative activity every week. Finally, each Friday, join the party at a Move 'N' Groove Toddler Playdate, where neighbors meet, stories are shared, and everybody has a chance to boogie down!

The Dowdell is encouraging young people to make self-care a priority in the new year. Encourage your child or teen to join the make-it-yourself merriment in Sadie's Studio, where they'll have the chance to create lip gloss (January 3), sugar scrubs (January 24), and bath bombs (January 31) from scratch.

All MIY self-care programs will run from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

On January 21 from 2pm to 4pm, the Dowdell will host its first-ever Escape Room Challenge! Participants will put their wits to the ultimate test in groups of up to ten collaborators, working their way through a devilish sequence of clues, riddles, puzzles, and scavenger hunt-style obstacles to find their way out of Sadie's Studio. Registration is preferred but not required; as such, the library encourages you to reserve your spot today. Be sure you don't miss out on this inaugural event!

Are you Fortnite-obsessed? Experience the world's favorite online game in a whole new way at your local library! On January 14 and January 28 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, the Dowdell is hosting a two-part live-action Fortnite experience. Build your character on the 14th, then duke it out with other contenders during the 28th's Battle Royale. Kids of all ages are welcome!

Curious what else is going on at your local library? (We can never fit everything here!) Stop by in-person or visit our website to view adult and children's activity calendars, which are updated on a monthly basis.

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



### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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## WEDNESDAY

### Senior Day (All Day & All Night)

- Side Salad or Soup
- Dinner - Choice of: Baked Ziti, Stuffed Shells, Chicken Parm.

**\$9.99**

Penne Al Vodka  
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Or More**

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OFF  
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& Happy New Year  
To All Our Patrons**

**Our Service Work Includes:**

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## Christmas Mail

By John "Flip" Phillips

In the 40's and 50's Christmas time was always a fun time growing up in "The City." There were parties, school dances and guys and girls were home from college. It got a little crowded for us regulars at Astarita's, but we managed. There was a lot going on in town as people geared up for the holidays. I remember the crowded Marathon buses going back and forth to Perth Amboy, with people eager to shop and see the beautiful lights along Smith Street. And maybe get a hot dog at the Coney Island restaurant while waiting for the bus to go home. We had holiday lights along Broadway too, and the retail stores were busy. However, Perth Amboy was the place to go to ogle the brightly lit store windows all decorated up. I could write a whole story about what we did during the Christmas/New Year's vacation. However, let's talk about mail delivery, especially Christmas mail.

Back then mail was delivered twice a day, and there was so much mail during the holidays that a lot of the college and a few high school guys got part time jobs delivering mail to help the very busy post office. Do you remember when the postman would walk up the steps and put the mail in a mailbox on the front porch? And, sometimes start a conversation about, well, a lot of things: basketball (Hoffman/St Mary's/Knicks) football (Giants), the weather and of course the latest town gossip. Each area had their own mailman, so you got to know them over time. They would start out in the morning with a full bag to deliver and go back to the post office to reload after lunch and do it again. That was a lot of walking! I don't know how they do it in South Amboy today, but where I live, the mailbox is at the curb, and the mail person rides around in a Post Office truck stopping at each mailbox to deliver the mail. And, mail is delivered once a day. It was probably a lot easier to deliver mail back then because there was not the deluge of "junk mail" that we get today and toss in the trash.

A few of the guys that delivered mail, not only on Christmas break from college, but while still in high school, included the McKeon brothers Jack and Bill. Bill said

that after a "hard day" on the streets, the boys would meet at Jack O'Connor's on Stevens Avenue to swap stories and "relax." The routine was for 2 students to share a route with a regular carrier to assure morning and afternoon mail delivery during one of the busiest times of the year. Bill adds that these were good times and that the Postmaster Mr. Thomas Downs and the other carriers treated them well and were very appreciative for the help. A few of the student carriers Bill remembered were: Toby Tabasko, Bill "Shinty" Kennedy, Roy Kilcomins and Bob "Ace" Hennessey. Post Office carriers remembered were: Ray Lucitt, Richie Ryan, Joe Morris, with Charley Brinamen behind the counter. The post office back then was between David and Henry Street on Broadway.

Sending and receiving Christmas cards was a big thing in those days. It was fun pasting the cards around door frames. Some people made decorative displays. Today? Well, most of the cards come via the internet. They are nice with images that entertain, but you wonder how much thought went into picking the card and deciding what you wanted to say. Now you just click and off it goes. Selling Christmas cards was "big business" at St Mary's during the holidays. After Thanksgiving loads of boxes would show up at the school and each kid was given a quota to sell. I think they were a dollar a box. They kept score and prizes were given to the top sellers. I never got a prize because I never sold more than I had to. I know it drove a lot of parents crazy (especially my mom), because in many cases they were the ones doing the selling to friends, relatives and people at work. And just about all the Christmas trees were "REAL"! I remember some of the guys would pool their money, set up a place of "business" and sell trees to make a buck.

And, so it goes...I am sure the young people in the "Pleasant Little City" are in the process now of living through their growing up time and developing memories that will stay with them for life.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The Sayreville Senior Center Tuesday Club held its Christmas luncheon with entertainer Joey Sudyka, December 11. Pictured (l-r): Pat Roble (Tuesday Club president), entertainer Joey Sudyka, member, and volunteer John Lapatriello. Great people, good food, lively entertainment -- a great time was had by all! (Photo/info submitted by Janice O'Brien)



On Dec 6th South Amboy PBA Local 63 held their 2nd annual Line of Duty Memorial Christmas tree lighting commemorating all LEOs (law enforcement officers) and K9s line of duty deaths for 2018. Each ornament is a hand made plastic tile with the LEOs name, photo, agency and EOW date embossed on it. Active and retired PBA members along with family and friends attended. The tree is located at the intersection of Main St. & David St. At the end of the season each ornament will be sent to the families or respective agencies to show that their loved ones were not forgotten. Several local businesses and individuals contributed with time and materials to make this event happen. (Photo Info Submitted)





**Merry Grinchmas!!!**



The Grinch proved to these two children that he did not steal Christmas and he gave them a ride on his three wheeled Harley Davidson. (Photo Submitted)

**Christmas Memories..."In the Misty Waters of My Mind"**

By Elaine Holton Scott

It's easy to know when "the Holiday Season" is around the corner by the same old commercials on TV. Those big-ticketed items like brand new vehicles with red bows on them the size of large umbrellas and the diamonds galore in the jewelry commercials make it seem buying gifts this expensive is proof of true love. In my opinion, the Holiday Season has become a time of year for many to spend like drunken sailors in an attempt to buy happiness... before the credit card bills start arriving anyway. It wasn't a gluttony overload when the Holiday Season was known as the Christmas Season. It really wasn't.

Getting a Christmas Club check had really come in handy. Fifty cents a week turned into \$25 at the end of the year... while \$1.00 a week turned into \$50, but not everyone could afford such a big weekly amount. Larger Christmas Clubs were also available but most people who had them used the money to pay their real estate taxes.

Whatever food had been served on Christmas in those long ago years, it hadn't been served in a restaurant. Instead, the Christmas dinner was cooked for the family and eaten by the family at home. It's really strange the odd things we end up remembering, like how I can recall our old Christmas tablecloth appearing heavily starched and lovingly ironed year after year...the one made of white linen with red poinsettias and green leaves imprinted on it. Time and use had made the red and green colors fade, but it was still an important part of our Christmas.

Whenever I remember the Christmas Season of my youth, I really don't think about presents. Back in the '50s and '60's, just as it was in earlier decades, Christmas was the celebration of the birth of Christ, and He was the "star," not us. Yes, there were always gifts waiting under the tree for small children but for bigger kids, it would be mostly "needed" items like pajamas, socks, handkerchiefs, and gloves, all wrapped in festive wrapping paper to make those ordinary presents seem, well, less ordinary.. If we were lucky, there would also be a special gift...something we had wanted more than anything else in the world, as long as it didn't cost much money. I think it was more the "entire package," everything combined which had made up the Christmas Season in the past: Christmas school vacations, Christmas trees shining with Christmas balls and Christmas tinsel, Christmas Santas in their somewhat worn out Santa suits ringing their bells in Perth Amboy, Christmas cards, Christmas shopping, Christmas songs, Christmas Mass, Christmas lights, Christmas wreaths, Christmas TV specials (like the yearly showing of the 1951 movie, "Scrooge"), Christmas Mangers, Christmas traditions, and if our prayers were answered, even waking up to a Christmas snowfall.

Christmas shopping had always been the domain of the woman of the house... and shopping usually had meant riding the Marathon bus to the stores on Smith Street in Perth Amboy, often with Red the Bus Driver at the wheel. Even in the coldest weather, going Christmas shopping by bus in the dark of night was an exciting part of the Christmas Season. It still is... "in the misty waters of my mind."

**\*\*Merry Christmas & a Happy Hanukkah to all!!!\*\***

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

**The SA Times Front Page Stories In Past Christmas Issues**

**10 Years Ago**

**2008-**The Dieker Farm, the last farm in the Borough of Sayreville was declared a Preserved Farmland...In the Sayreville election in Nov., Republican Ken Kelly Sr. and Democrat Lisa Buchanan Eicher topped the voting for 2 Borough Council seats with 7,684 and 7,532. They were closely followed by Democrat Jorge "George" Gonzalez 7,525 and Republican Ronald Green 7,284... Middlesex County's long-time Freeholder Director David B. Crabiel 78 years old, died on Dec. 1...The Sayreville Leprechauns cheerleaders won the national championship in their division at Florida.

story mentioning his bid for the Democratic nomination for President...Sayreville Superintendent of Water & Sewer Dept. Alvin Jolly retired after 28 years...Author George Francy, formerly of South Amboy, released his new book, "South Amboy," and was interviewed by Tom Burkard...Paul DeSarno was sworn in as a Sayreville councilman to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Joseph DiBella.

**25 Years Ago**

**1993-**South Amboy resident Jim Sarno, a Respiratory Therapist and South Amboy Police Officer David Kales saved the life of a man who was doing a siding job a Henry Street home, and collapsed with an apparent heart attack.

**20 Years Ago**

**1998-**Photos of Bill Bradley's visit to the South Amboy Boat Club in '96 with a

**St. Stan's H.S.A. Christmas Bazaar-Dec. 2**

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



There were many great activities at this year's Christmas Bazaar including children's games, 50/50, raffles for excellent gift baskets such as the ones pictured above.



The cake wheel is usually the most popular wheel of chance, and there were many happy winners!



Santa Claus brought lots of happiness to the Christmas Bazaar.

*Happy Holidays to Everyone from*



**Delio's Pizza**

**120 N Broadway - South Amboy**

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**Come on in and try our delicious..**

- \* Ravioli \* Stuffed Shells \* Manicotti
- \* Baked Ziti \* Sausage Rolls \* Chicken Rolls
- \* Calzones \* Garlic Knots and Much More..

*Open Christmas Eve - 11:00 am - 8:00 pm*

*Open New Year's Eve - 11:00 am - 9:00 pm*





The late Anne Lotkowitz (l) and husband Joe Lotkowitz of South Amboy, proudly showed their favorite antique Christmas ornaments. Joe's father assisted Julius Lobycz in creating the ornaments.



## Christmas Ornaments Made In South Amboy

Photos and Feature By Tom Burkard  
\*Revised From January 17, 2009 Issue

Back in the 1940's South Amboy entrepreneurs were busy around the Christmas holidays. Julius Lobycz, owned a bar on lower Augusta St. below the railroad station, called Lobycz's Bar, which later became VJ's.

In the garage behind the bar, Lobycz produced beautiful hand-blown mercury type Christmas ornaments, and was assisted by Isadore Lotkowitz, father of The SA Times Contributing Photographer Joe Lotkowitz.

My late sister Madeline Burkard Bowerman recalled hearing by "word of mouth" that the ornaments were on sale at lower Augusta St., and "A lot of people were buying box after box, 12 ornaments for \$1, and even though money was tight back then, I bought 5 boxes, and to this day (This story originated in 2009), have one ornament left. They were beautiful, all colors, silver and gold and reasonably priced."

Joe Lotkowitz of South Amboy said he was about 5 years old at the time, but remembered watching his father, Isadore Lotkowitz assisting the owner, Julius Lobycz, who was Joe's godfather, in the actual creation process of the ornaments. He also said he thought that the ornaments were initially made "Prior to the war, but when the war started, they couldn't get materials such as paint." He continued, "I think it was around 1940-41, when they sold the Christmas balls, big silver, grapes, round silver balls, blue balls, red, and others that had Christmas trees and Santa Claus faces on them. I believe he started making them again after the war in the late 1940's, and continued into the early 50's." Joe's late wife Anne Lotkowitz said that every year at Christmas time, Joe would tell her to "Make sure you put the ornaments on the tree. My dad made them." His favorite ornament was the one with the grape design.

At the time of this interview in 2009, Joe and Anne still had 9 beautiful ornaments left from Julius' creation, including a silver, a gold with gold roses, grape design, Santa Claus in what else, red and white. Joe said that there were about 7-10 varieties, that came in 2 1/2," 3," 4," and "huge, plain, round 8" ones. Joe added that, "We're glad we still have 9 of these beautiful, hand-blown ornaments."

Former South Amboy resident, Walter Przygocki sold the ornaments in the 1950's with his family at the Woodbridge Auction and door-to-door around South Amboy and Sayreville. His father Walter "Mickey" Przygocki was a friend of Julius Lobycz, and that's how he began selling Christmas

## City of S.A. Roster

25 Years Ago-1993

Mayor-John T. O'Leary; Council President-James C. Reick; Council Members-At-Large-Fred A. Henry, Claire S. Reilly; Council Members-Russell Stillwagon, Donald Thomas; City Clerk-Christine Caputo; City Engineer-James E. Cleary; Chief of Police-Leo McCabe; Fire Chief-Gary Colfer; Tax Collector-Joanne Brennan; Law Director-John R. Lanza; Finance Director-Ronald E. Burgess; Municipal Judge-Joseph C. Hoffman; Fire Official-Edward Szatkowski; Fire Marshal-Chester Meinzer; City Business Administrator-John F. Mason; Asst. Supt. of Public Works-Gerald Garnett; Supt. of Recreation-Mary Lou DeBlis.

ornaments.

Walter said, "At the auction, we would call out 'Christmas ornaments \$1.25 a dozen.' Friday and Saturday were the days we hit the streets and called on individual houses. We were trying to take advantage of payday money that would lead to a purchase. Of course, in the 1950's, there was no fear of walking the streets and calling on houses to sell ornaments. Everyone was friendly and glad to see us. Mr. Lobycz was a wonderful man and an exceptional craftsman. The price was \$1.25 for a dozen, and our commission was the 25 cents of the total price. We spent many a night selling these beautiful ornaments during the weeks leading up to Christmas. I still have several and handle them with great care and fond memories of a festive time growing up in South Amboy. Thanks for bringing back so many great memories of a time when we lived a "Wonderful Life" in "The Pleasant Little City."

Walter's mother, Rose Przygocki of South Amboy recalled her husband loading up the family car around 1955-56 with her and their 3 children Walter, Vicky and Karen, and going around South Amboy and Sayreville and selling them door-to-door. She also remembered selling them at the Woodbridge Auction. Her husband, Walter "Mickey" Przygocki was a friend of Julius Lobycz, and that's how he began selling Christmas ornaments. Rose, like everyone else who ever owned these beautiful Christmas ornaments loved them, and said, "They were the only ones we had on our tree. Years ago, I gave them to my three children." Jerry and Ann Marie Connors, formerly of South Amboy still have about a dozen left, and Ann Marie said, "They're different colors and shapes, and we have one in the shape of a heart." It's really amazing that a local man, Julius Lobycz had a talent and a dream, to create and market Christmas ornaments, and did so with much success." Over 70 years have passed since he produced his first ornament, and one has to wonder how many are still out there, admired by families each year at Christmas, as they decorate their trees.

## Spreading Spirit!



City of South Amboy workers are pictured stringing the lights up on a beautiful Christmas tree in front of City Hall. Great job, guys! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

# Sayreville Holiday Parade-Dec. 2nd

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (2nd from right) and other dignitaries lead the parade down Main Street.



Young softball players having lots of fun while riding on a float.



This beautiful pet was the best dressed dog in the parade.



Dignitaries on the reviewing stand applaud the Sayreville Bombers football team who proudly display their championship banner.



Santa Claus is the star of the show as he arrives by firetruck.



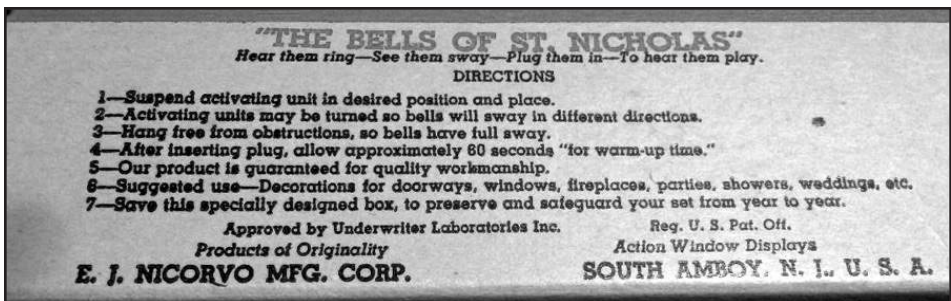
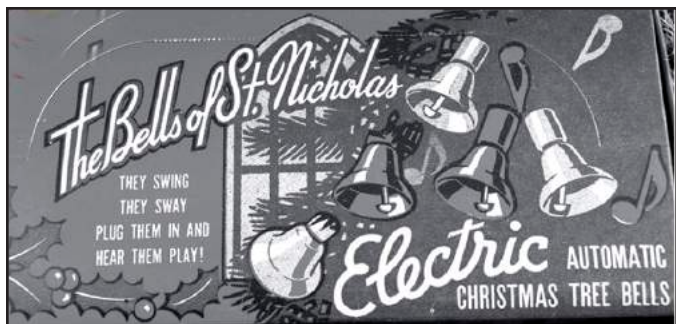
Sayreville's own phenomenal singer, Patsy Palma has everyone singing along with his great rendition of "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year."



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the huge crowd in front of Borough Hall.







This rare and unique 1948 invention, "The Bells of St. Nicholas," was investigated, researched, and found, back in 2008, amazingly 60 years after being manufactured, thanks to help from The SA Times faithful readers. "The Bells of St. Nicholas" is the brilliant creation of late South Amboy resident, Edwin J. Nicorvo, who manufactured the product in South Amboy. (Photos by Tom Burkard)

## South Amboy's Famous Christmas Bells

By Tom Burkard

\*Revised From December 20, 2008 Issue

Back in the late 1940's, South Amboy resident Edwin J. Nicorvo came up with a brilliant invention, "The Bells of St. Nicholas," which was advertised on the box cover as "Electric Automatic Christmas Tree Bells. They swing, they sway, plug them in and hear them play." The box was red and green with white lettering, and the attractive artwork featured bells on a Christmas tree, with musical notes near the bells, plus a church window and holly. The bottom panel of the box read "They Swing, They Ring," and also had the name The Bells of St. Nicholas, and under that, E.J. Nicorvo Mfg. Corp. South Amboy, N.J., U.S.A. On one side panel of the box, the words "For Doorway," and "For Fireplace" were written along with bells and a bow artwork. On the opposite side panel, there was a wreath with a bell artwork, and the words "For Wreaths," and "For Windows." The back panel of the box had the directions, and a slogan, "Hear them ring- See them sway-Plug them in-to hear them play." Directions were found on the back panel, and said, "Suggested use was for decorations for doorways, windows, fireplaces, parties, showers, weddings, etc." "The Bells of St. Nicholas" was approved by Underwriter Laboratories Inc., and had a Registration with the U.S. Patent Office for Action Window Displays, and also had a Canadian Patent. Nicorvo marketed his item, doing the manufacturing at his own factory, E. J. Nicorvo Mfg. Corp., which was located on North Broadway in the vicinity where Krauszer's store is now located. He hired mostly locals to work at the factory and assemble the bells.

table, and we all sat in tall chairs. Several of my co-workers were Edna Cottrell, Betty Hansell, Sis Lounsbury, Vivian Ervin, Phyllis Buckalew, and Eva Schmidt. His nephew Joe Corvino was the box boy and brought in boxes for us." She said they were paid about 75 cents an hour, and worked a 40-hour week. Four young women did soldering, and Madeline's job was to solder a tiny piece of the main wire or metal as a connector from the bell to the electrical unit. The work was tedious, and she said that while soldering, she often burned her thumbs. Madeline also stated that "The summer of '48 was a very hot one, and there was no air conditioning or fans. It was an old-fashioned factory, and was huge." She proudly mentioned that "The Bells of St. Nicholas" were sent overseas, as well as being marketed in the United States. Madeline said that she loved the bells with their chime sound, but never owned a set. Times were tough in '48 for many people. I borrowed a set of the bells to show her, and she was the happiest person in the world when she saw them for the first time in 60 years. "I can't believe it! I'm shocked! It's the exact box and bells we used to make. They're 60 years old, and they're beautiful, like new! 60 Years is a long time, and they lasted." I couldn't help but detect a bit of pride in her happiness, for "The Bells of St. Nicholas" which she helped to make. The bells were marketed for homes in sets of three, with colors of red, silver, and green, and store counter display sets featured four bells, red, blue, green, and gold.

In December 2010, when this story was initially written, Florence Cooney of Parlin, told me that her late husband John, purchased several individual boxes of the bells at the Englishtown Market over 25 years ago. She gave a set to each of her five children, and kept two sets. Florence never used them to decorate at Christmas, and said that they "Seemed to be more for display." She added that, "My daughter Debbie Marion plugged them in once to see if they worked, and they did, but moved very slowly."

Phil Kurtz of South Amboy helped solve the mystery of who was selling the bells at Englishtown, when he asked me, "How many sets of those bells do you want?" He went on to tell me about how he came across the bells...His good friend, Jack Morrison's mother, Elizabeth Morrison, who taught at St. Mary's for many years, was a friend of Nicorvo's wife, Louise. About 30 years ago, the Nicorvos were moving to Asbury Park, and Mrs. Morrison got Jack and Phil the job of cleaning out the inventor's basement, where they had cases of "The Bells of St. Nicholas," and took them to the Englishtown Market, along with other items to sell. Phil recalled that "There were about 20-30 boxes with about a dozen sets per box. People weren't aware what they had in front of them. This was a good find, a gem." Even though the men were selling them for about \$2 each, the bells were a hard sell. Kurtz said "We went down to sell them a couple of times, and sold about 75% of all the bells, and some of our fortunate friends inherited some of the extras. One of those friends recently sold a set on e-bay for \$25." Phil's wife Jane has used the bells for decorating the house through the years. Mrs. Morrison said that "Ed Corvino was unique. He was an All State insurance salesman, and had different inventions. He also wrote a book about the presidents."

Former Hoffman High School teacher George Virgilio, who taught at Hoffman from 1966-1988, owned a near-mint condition set, and took it out of the box to show me. He said he bought his at Englishtown about 30 years ago, and paid \$1-\$2 for them. Amazingly, the 60-year old bells, after being plugged in and warming up for a minute, played. They didn't play any Christmas songs, just dinged and moved, as if someone was ringing them by hand. George said that, "I bought it as a token. It's a cool thing to find something that was manufactured in South Amboy. I've only taken it out once or twice to see how it worked."

By today's standards, "The Bells of St. Nicholas" would not be earth-shattering, with its very simple concept of being plugged into an electrical outlet, heating up, and each bell slowly "dinging," and slightly moving. Kurtz said that, "For its time in the 1940's, what an eye-opener! Everything today is so far advanced that they'd never appreciate the bells." "The Bells of St. Nicholas" was a challenging and fun project for me to research. It was quite rewarding to actually find that people still had these 60-year old artifacts, and amazingly, the fact that they still worked! \*A special thank you to all who came forth and contributed any information on "The Bells That Made South Amboy Famous."

This was truly a unique creation by Nicorvo back in the '40's, and I would bet that it was an extremely popular item for shoppers at Christmas time. The Bells of St. Nicholas probably sold all over the U.S. and possibly in other countries as well. his sets. He thinks he may have paid \$1-\$2 for them.

My late sister Madeline Burkard Bowerman, worked at E.J. Nicorvo's for about 6 months in '48. She said, "Eddie Nicorvo had just started the new company. He was only about 28-30 years old at the time. I started to fill out an application and he asked me where I had gone to school, and I said St. Mary's, and was hired on the spot. He said he had attended St. Mary's. Eddie was a very nice and sweet employer. He had 10-12 women doing the assembly, at a long

## South Amboy's Annual Tree Lighting November 30th

Photos By Brian Stratton



Santa arrives in style!



Avery and Santa.



Making ornaments at the Arts District gallery.



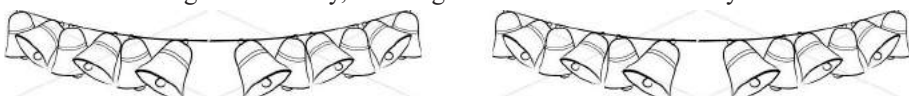
These young ladies served cookies to the huge crowd!



There was plenty of hot chocolate served by these young ladies that helped to keep the crowd warm!



The South Amboy Middle/High School Drum Line!!





## Old Fashion Christmas Celebration Dec. 8th At The South Amboy Gazebo

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Members of the Historical Society of South Amboy, who in conjunction with the City of South Amboy, sponsored the event, are pictured prior to the celebration, in their Victorian Era clothing, along with the "Spiced Punch Group" who turned in an excellent musical presentation.



The "Spiced Punch Group" is pictured live in action at the Gazebo on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy. They provided excellent songs from the Victorian Era, and sing-alongs, to get everyone in the spirit for the Christmas season. Despite the very cold weather, all in attendance had a wonderful time!



The late Anna Friberg of South Amboy designed this beautiful Christmas tree display, made of costume jewelry. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

### A Christmas Work Of Art

Photo and Story By Tom Burkard

\*Revised From December 20, 2008 Issue

The late Anna Friberg of South Amboy was a very creative lady, who had a unique idea to make a Christmas wall display out of costume jewelry, such as earrings, pins, beads, and even a bracelet. Anna said that "The jewelry was extra pieces or things I bought at flea markets." She first purchased a peg board, and then decided on a Christmas tree design, which she measured out and drew the shape with a ruler. Next, Friberg had to take the backs off the jewelry, arrange, and then glue it on to the board. "It takes time to get the jewelry," she said. In addition, Anna inserted tiny Christmas tree lights through the back of the board, and connected an extension cord allowing the tree to actually light up and enhance its beauty. The unique creation also featured a white dove flying over top, a star on the tree top, and the tree trunk which is made from a bracelet. The Christmas tree was encased in a beautiful, antique gold leaf frame which she refinished. Anna Friberg was a truly talented lady, and designed many of these wall displays, all

with different decorations, and some even personalized with family photos. Anna gave them out as gifts to members of her family, and special friends, who loved her work, and they displayed them throughout the Christmas season, and some hung them on the wall throughout the year. This was an excellent idea which Anna worked tediously on, and was so happy to see the appreciative faces of the people she gave them to.

### Custom Tour Of Ireland Trip

The Knights of Columbus/AOH with Joe Campbell are presenting a Custom Tour of Ireland A Magical Journey Home from Oct. 10, 2019-Oct. 21, 2019. Cost is \$2,349, Land Portion: Air \$550 plus est. taxes of \$90. For the full itinerary and complete information, contact Joe Campbell at 646-483-2883 or Ellie at Main Street Travel 732-828-8800.



## Our Readers Favorite Christmas Memories



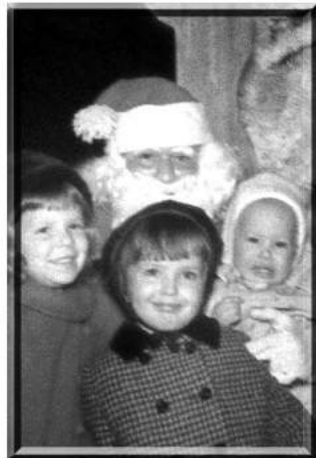
1953 or 1954-Little Ken Kopystecky, 3 or 4 years old, is pictured at Christmas time. (Photo submitted by Jim Kopystecky)



1973-Michael Fulham, Barbara Fulham and Matthew Fulham are shown in a great picture with Santa Claus, which was taken at Putney, Vermont. (Photo submitted by the children's mother, Joan Fulham of Sayreville)



1978-"Our Vizsla Tara is looking for presents under the tree. She's no longer with us," said Dee Kilpatrick of South Amboy, who submitted this photo, and added that is one of her favorites.



1967-The Morris children were happy to meet Santa Claus at the Menlo Park Shopping Center. Pictured (l-r) Joanne Morris-5 years old, Susan Morris-3 years old & Michael Morris-1 year old. (Photo submitted by the children's mother, Mary Agnes Morris of South Amboy)



1978-Jim Kopystecky and JoAnn Yeager celebrated New Year's Eve in 1978 at the Ramada Inn on Rt. 18 in East Brunswick. (Photo/info submitted by Jim Kopystecky)



1964 - Times Associate Publisher Brian Stratton's younger sister Lyn Stratton-Fryer with Santa.



1954-2-year old Jim Kopystecky plays with a new toy truck Santa Claus left for him. (Photo submitted by Jim Kopystecky)





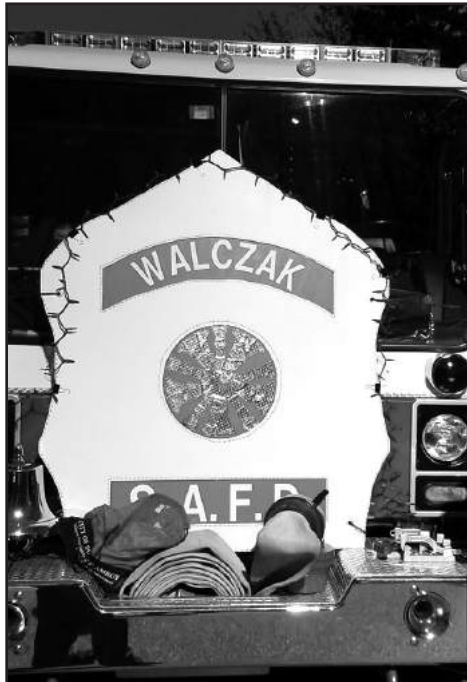


**Remembering Ken Walczak**

On Saturday Nov 24 members of South Amboy FD Protection Engine Co. #6 along with Sayreville FD Melrose Eng. #3 and Morgan Truck #2 traveled to our sister company Wallington, NJ for the 17th annual Fire Dept. Christmas parade. This parade has over 200 fire and EMS vehicles along with community organizations all lit up with Christmas decorations and lights.

This year Wallington Fire Dept. honored South Amboy Ex-Chief Ken "Whooper" Walczak who passed away this past September, by placing the companies he was a member of in the memorial section of the parade. This section honors firefighters that have passed away during the year. Wallington provided Engine #6 with a large replica of Whoppers helmet shield, and signs for the sides that were lit up with blue Christmas lights.

Protection Engine #6 and Wallington Engine #202 have been friends for many years, and Whooper has driven the engine in almost all of Wallington's past parades.



(Photos/story submitted)

**Open Mic January 25**

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 resume their Open Mic series Friday January 25 around 8 p.m. following the pasta fundraiser at the K of C Hall at 308

Fourth St. South Amboy. Anyone who plays a musical instrument or is part of a group is invited. Refreshments will be available. For more information call 732-721-2025.



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<p><b>PATHMARK LIQUOR</b> <b>10:15AM</b> NEW BRUNSWICK AVE HOPELAWN, NJ 08861 (WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP) 732-826-1444</p>	<p><b>10:40AM</b> 960 RT 9 SAYREVILLE, NJ 08859 732-721-8800</p>

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Left: AJP THE MC, w/drummer, Ryan Voss in background. (Photo credit Hanna Ahlert) Middle: Korey Costa on keyboards. Right: Vinny P.(Photo credit Matt Carroll)



## Local MC Bringing "Hip-Hop" to New Heights

By Clem Skarzynski

South Amboy's, AJP The MC, aka, Adam Poland, began his music career on Oct. 15th, 2008, at age 12, with his YouTube debut, "So Fresh". Adam began writing and composing his own songs for friends who were also getting into the "Hip-Hop" genre of music. Sometimes, hard to distinguish the difference between "Hip-Hop" and "Rap" music, Adam was always trying different applications of lyrics and music to "stand out" as a unique example of what he was trying to convey to his "audience." As all young musicians and songwriters of his age and time, the computer was and still is today the main go to instrument for creating all the musical backing needed for Hip-Hop and Rap, using FL Studio, a music production program, to produce and create music. I've had the experience of working with Adam on quite a few of his songs in

my studio, but was amazed at what can be done to create a full complete song with all instruments needed, with just a "computer!" The day of the "recording studio" is almost a thing of the past because of what's available on these programs! But more on that later.

There are many different subgenres of Hip-Hop, some being Trap, LoFi Hip-Hop, Boom Bap, and even Country Rap! Most all of modern Hip-Hop is produced electronically on a computer using programs similar to FL Studio. A common trend in Hip-Hop nowadays is to incorporate a live aspect to an artists performance. Chance The Rapper, Spose, and J. Cole are all examples of Hip-Hop artists who add a drummer or sometimes even a full band to their performance to give their shows more for the audience to enjoy, rather than just one person one stage rapping

the lyrics. This has created a new wave of Hip-Hop artists who are essentially full bands instead of being solo acts.

We can all remember when Run DMC did their act with Aerosmith behind them. Using live music lessens the "bad rap" that Hip-Hop music gets, by making the act more audience friendly, it also makes it easier to find "venues" to do their shows.

On Friday Nov. 23rd, I had the pleasure of listening and watching 3 great Hip-Hop acts at a show AJP The MC produced at All Star Music Empire in Flemington, NJ... Opening for Adam was Vinny P from Long Valley NJ, and Korey Costa from Budd Lake, NJ. Each with their own "style" and audience, they kept the crowd into what they were doing "word for word"...I must admit, it's quite unique to write the lyrics, and then sing at the pace of "Hip

Hop"...and when live drums and keyboards were added to their individual sets, each one took on its own groove.. I'm still trying to figure out how each artist can remember the words at such a "pace" but that's the idea.. words are "Hip Hop," the music just moves it along to the beat, with meaning..and the audience just picks up on it! The show was a live taping for AJP's new EP, "Nothing's Perfect and That's OK", which will be available on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, and all other digital platforms by the end of December. These guys played shows together since 2015, and are so devoted to their craft, and have such passion for the audiences, it's awesome to watch them perform! They'll be touring through 2019, so to AJP The MC, Vinny P, and Korey Costa..enjoy the road.. and AJP, follow your dream.



20 Years Ago-Fran Fee (l) and Clem Skarzynski, who organized the Rock and Roll Reunion in 1998 are pictured performing with the mega group, The Sayreville-South Amboy All-Stars at the highly-successful fundraiser for the Morgan First Aid Squad. Right Photo: The late and great guitarist Roy Elyea, is pictured performing at the Rock and Roll Reunion of 1998. Clem Skarzynski said that "I'm dedicating this 20th Anniversary Rock and Roll Reunion column in memory of Roy Elyea, for being such an inspiration to me as a guitar player." (Photos courtesy of Clem Skarzynski)

## The Rock and Roll Reunion of 1998

By Clem Skarzynski

Wow, it's been 20 years since we had a "rockin good time" at the Rock and Roll Reunion/Benefit for the Morgan First Aid Squad Building Fund, which took place on Sunday September 13, 1998, at The Music Box, on Rt.35, South Amboy..An event that took close to 3 years to put together, consisted of a total of 27 local bands, which after 3 years of getting in touch with musicians and friends you haven't seen in almost 30 years, was a daunting task! Consider, at that time computers weren't used exclusively for contacting one another, Facebook?? HA! It was all U.S.Mail, and the telephone, the kind that were on a wall or desk, not a cell phone. These were all local bands that were at one time working the "Rt.35 Strip" during the 50's, thru the 80's, none of which were still together, so, it was, "hey, lets get on the phones and start getting in touch with these musicians, and get them to "get the band back together" for a long overdue Reunion.. But, before this all began, The S.A. TIMES Publisher, Tom Burkard approached me and asked me to consider writing an article on all the local bands and their members from our area, from as far back as I could go! Well, the "article" turned into a 6- Part Series, from the March '97 Issue to the

August '97 Issue, entitled, "History of Local Bands." That started the wheels turning as I went back to 1958, with 2 of our area's first ever Garage Bands, "Roger Johnson and the Hubcaps," and Tommy Lucas and the Hounddogs." From there it was "Megaton".. those 3 groups led the way for the beginning of the "Music Explosion" that began when the Beatles arrived here in the U.S..That's when this area produced an outstanding number of musicians, and bands, as I found out while writing the series..I was astonished to discover that every neighborhood in our area had so many bands and musicians. From 1963 to 1969, there were over 300 plus bands from our 2 towns of So. Amboy/Sayreville alone! So, getting 27 Bands back together for the Reunion wasn't as hard to do once the word got out. In fact, I could've had more bands at the Reunion, but just didn't have enough time and space, although countless musicians from our crowd were there to reunite with all their fellow musicians..It was quite an undertaking, countless hours, phone calls, mail, etc., but during those 3 years, it was amazing to realize that this was supposed to happen, and it all started to gel together. Yes, there were stumbling blocks and whatever could go wrong, did go wrong, but it was beyond

my wildest dreams to ever accomplish! To see friends and fellow musicians get together to play some rock and roll together and for a great cause too...Priceless!! And to today, there is a bunch of us "rockers" who are still out there doing our thing we do best-play rock and roll!! WOW, 20 years ago, we all got together, and still doing it today! It was something I always wanted to do, but if it wasn't for The S.A. Times Tom Burkard, it would've never come to life!! With his Idea to do the series, brought about the driving force to get a Reunion together too..And as with anything in life, ya gotta have friends to help ya realize a dream, and they were there. Tommy B., Billy Lotkowitz, Tommy Smith, Jerry Smith, Richie Standowski, L.B. Walker, Joe Bartlinski and Kindred, Paul Dehnz Band, I could fill this paper with all the names of my dear friends who helped with the project, and all the musicians I had the chance to "jam with" again!! That was an experience all of us who were there will never forget! The Music Box was packed with bands, musicians, and the fans and followers of those bands were even there to once again dance and listen to their favorite songs from years ago. 20 years gone by already! People are still to this day remembering the

event and how it brought so many fellow musicians, club owners, and friends together. Following the event, I knew of bands that reformed to continue the journey..Local Sax Man Jerry Mocar, reformed "Collage", Phil Musso got The Cascades back and re-named the Band "Sunset Boulevard," The South Amboy/Sayreville AllStars became "The Rockdaddys," and resumed our weekends at yup, you guessed it, Connies Lounge where Nick DeBiase, kept us all working ..and so many others branched off to other bands, either local or throughout Jersey. But, the best outcome of the reunion was to get all this outstanding local musical talent back out there doing what they enjoyed..playing Rock and Roll and having fun! So, to all who helped make the Reunion a success, and so much fun 20 years ago, my many many thanks. And, Tommy B.your idea just for an "article" turned into probably the biggest musical event in our area in more ways than one. I thank you especially for that. And to all the local business' that donated food, etc.it was awesome! Keep track to my Monthly column "Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion" for news on the bands and musicians still out there playing music.. till next time.. be well kiddies!

## CHRISTMAS CALLING AGAIN

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



**O'Connor Christmas Rock Show**



The Brian O'Connor School of Music of South Amboy once again performed an outstanding Christmas Rock Show for the Veterans Hospital in Menlo Park on December 8th. Brian and his All Star Band have been performing a Spring and Christmas Rock concert at the hospital for the past 12 years. The band consists of many talented guitar, drums, bass and saxophone players and a number of fine singers. All of which are students of Mr. O'Connor and sound as professional as they come! The performers in the photo are as follows. From left to right (back row) - Anuraag Godavari, Nick Zonak, Abhiram Godavari, Lance Kennedy, Kyle O'Connell (middle row) Aaryan Parikh, Aaryan Mehta, Brian O'Connor, George Giovenco and Brian McCarthy (front row) Mickey Masterson, Vismitha Prashanth, Aayush Mehta, Gabriel Werts, Nick Lesniak and Michael Ramirez. (Photo/Info Submitted)

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**MUSIC TRIVIA!** By Tom Burkard

**Christmas Hits**

1. __ Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree	a. Elvis Presley
2. __ All I Want For Christmas Is You	b. Dean Martin
3. __ The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas To You)	c. Brenda Lee
4. __ Jingle Bell Rock	d. Burl Ives
5. __ Feliz Navidad	e. Wham!
6. __ Have A Holly Jolly Christmas	f. Bobby Helms
7. __ It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year	g. Nat King Cole
8. __ Last Christmas	h. Mariah Carey
9. __ Blue Christmas	i. Andy Williams
10. __ Baby It's Cold Outside	j. Jose Feliciano

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



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Professional baseball player, Brandon Bielak of Sayreville (r) was spotted at the St. Stan's H.S.A. Christmas Bazaar with his brother, Chris Bielak, and their mother, Charlene Bielak (c). Brandon, an outstanding pitcher, had another great season with the Houston Astros organization, and is on the rise in his quest to become a major leaguer. Best of luck Brandon! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

### School Sports

By Tom Burkard

#### 2018 Sayreville Bombers Football Team Leaders

The Sayreville Bombers (11-1) championship football team leaders for the year:

**Passing**-Mark Whitford 122 of 203, 1,429 yds., 14 touchdown passes, 5 interceptions.

**Points**-Connor Holmes 48 Zuriel Wright 42 Jacari Carter 38 Savon Kirksey 36.

**Pass Receptions**-Holmes 34 Carter 26.

**Receiving Yards**-Holmes 372 Carter 321 Antwon Golson 128.

**TD Receptions**-Carter 6 Holmes 4.

**Rushing Yards**-Wright 772 Kirksey 413 Holmes 176 Carter 126.

**TD Rushing**-Wright 7 Kirksey 6.

**Total Touchdowns**-Holmes 7 Wright 7 Kirksey 6 Carter 6.

**Field Goals**-Nick Milewski 2-for-2.

**Extra Points**-Milewski 8-for-9.

### Holmes Selected To All-New Jersey Team

Sayreville standout Connor Holmes has been selected to the USA TODAY NETWORK All-New Jersey football defensive team as a defensive back. Holmes led the Bombers with 108 tackles, and recovered a fumble in the end zone with 0:32 left for the game-winning TD, as Sayreville beat Williamstown, 14-7 in the Central/South Bowl game.

### South Amboy Girls Soccer Recap

The South Amboy Lady Guvs had a tough season this year, finishing (2-14). The team leaders were: goals-Jessica Henry 6, Nadia Bercheski 3, Alexis Moakler 2; Assists-Henry 3, Barcheski 2, Alexis Calisti 2; Saves-Sarah Knapik 252.



### Fulham Honored By NY Jets

Matt Fulham, formerly of Sayreville and now a longtime special education math teacher at Edison HS is currently in his 14th year as head coach of the school's football team, and was recently selected as the New York Jets Tri-State Coach of the Week. He received the award in October for his team's standout play on the field as well as its involvement for a charity event.

For receiving the Coach of the Week honor, the Edison football program will receive a \$2,000 grant, which is presented by Gatorade in partnership with the NY Jets. His team will also get an automatic bid to compete in the 2019 New York Jets 7-on-7 Tournament. Coach Fulham also received an official invitation to watch the Jets play the Green Bay Packers on Dec. 23 from a luxury suite at Met-Life Stadium, where he will receive a certificate and a commemorative football. Gatorade will give Edison HS a kit containing a cooler, fuel bars, Gatorade powder mix, squeeze bottles and more.

Matt and his wife Maria, who teaches English as a Second Language at the high

school inspired their players and students to join the Marisa Tufaro Foundation's team of walkers and racers for the 5th Annual Race to Outrun Hunger, which raised more than \$12,000 for the Edison-based Hands of Hope Food Pantry.

Coach Fulham wanted to teach the value of community service to his athletes, and canceled the regularly scheduled Saturday practice, to free the team to partake in the important charity event. The students/athletes all participated in the 5K event while collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the food pantry.

The proud, and modest coach said "It's a special honor, but it's really not anything individual. It's an honor for our whole program and our community. It took my wife and the ESL students, the players on my team, their parents, and obviously the coaches and teachers got involved. It's not something I did by myself. It was a total group effort. Winning and losing aside, we want to provide a great experience for our kids. Performing community service is a great gift our kids can give and is a life lesson they can carry with them as they become adults."

Matt grew up in Sayreville, and graduated from Sayreville War Memorial HS in 1988, where he played football and basketball, and at graduation received an MVP award.

Congratulations Matt on your outstanding work and fine example for the youth of today!

**The Pete Kenny Association**  
**Congratulates**  
**The Sayreville**  
**Football Bombers,**  
**Coaches, and Fans**  
**on winning the State**  
**Championship.**

**Good job!**

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## Remembering George Spiecker

Bill "Biff" McKeon

"One of the finest gentlemen/athletes/ husband/father/friend, George Spiecker, was called into Our Lord's Heavens Sports League on Nov. 25. George Spiecker was one of the best/finest athletes to wear the St. Mary's High School, Blue/Gold uniform starring in both basketball and baseball, and the Columbus Day football game. George's talent wasn't restricted to these sports whereas he also was a Golden Glove Boxer, and championship Pop Warner football coach, who coached my oldest son Michael. He also coached St. Mary's Grammar School basketball team, and in 1951 was selected on the New Jersey All State Baseball Team. He played baseball for the legendary South Amboy All Stars, a standout on the U.S. Army, Fort Dix baseball team, and softball pitcher for the South Amboy city champs Protection Fire Co. George was also a talented writer having 3 books published.

George Spiecker was also the project person who designed/supervised the entire electrical system for the Meadowlands New Jersey Sports Giants Stadium. George Spiecker, I proudly acknowledge was one of my best friends, as we shared many good stories of our past athletic careers, especially when George was forced into being the Eagles catcher (double header against St. Peter's HS), which was his first experience behind the plate. Another great memory was when the SMHS Eagles beat Sayreville's basketball team to end their 18 game winning streak, when I fired the ball across court to George, with seconds on the clock, and he made a beautiful two hand set shot that won the game. George and his beautiful wife Dorothy "Dixie," my wife Betty and I also shared many exciting times together watching our daughters/sons play sports down at the Morgan AA Sports Complex, traveling to New York City to watch Broadway Shows/ Paper Mill Playhouse Theater, watching Major League Baseball games in Boston/ Chicago/ Cincinnati/New York, and football games at Notre Dame/Boston College as well as enjoying many steak/lobsters dinners with friends Mary/John Kenny; Flo/ Bill Lyons; Edie/ Ron Oldenburg.

George Spiecker was an honest/truthful/ self-made man who educated himself (Night School Rutgers Univ.), became an electrician, and worked his way up to become of President of Beach Electric Co., in East Orange, one of the nation's leading electrical companies. He also learned to fly and obtained his private pilot's license, which was another outstanding accomplishment.

Sayreville/South Amboy, New Jersey may have lost a good dear friend, the GOOD LORD got a TERRIFIC/OUTSTANDING ATHLETE/EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD PERSON."

## Remembering 3 Hoffman Governors

Three former athletes from Hoffman HS, all who played in different eras, have passed away since November. Bobby Martin 76, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 7. He was a prolific scorer in basketball, and in 1958 was leading the Shore Conference in scoring with a 24-point avg. for 14 games, but was unable to finish the season. In the season-opening 75-73 victory over Rutgers Prep, he poured in 30 points. He also held down the third base position on the baseball team. Bob also starred in the South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball League, and scored lots of points when he played. Tom "Skeets" Skarzynski, 51, of Sayreville, and formerly of South Amboy, died on Nov. 30. He pitched for the Guvs in 1985, turning in a (2-0) record, with a big victory over South River, 6-4. Tom also played varsity basketball for Hoffman. Joe "Buddy" Krygier, 84, of South Amboy died on Dec. 6. Joe was a fine baseball player, and was the leadoff batter/left fielder for the Governors 1950 team. Bobby, Tom and Joe were all great guys, and will always be remembered.



Jerry Connors said "George was my brother-in-law and also my closest friend."

Tom Burkard recalled "My first memory of George was when I was about 5 years old and he lived across the street from me in the Mechanicsville section of South Amboy. When he would come home from playing a baseball game for the Fort Dix team, where he was stationed in the U.S. Army, I would always greet him, and ask about the game. I guess he sensed how much I liked to hear about baseball, and gave me my first baseball hat, a black one with the white letters 'Dix,' which I treasured! A couple of years ago, there was one photo of me back in 1956 wearing the Dix hat, so I had one printed and gave it to George, and thanked him for it and for helping to inspire my love for baseball. In the '50's he moved away, and I never saw him again for many years, as he raised a wonderful family, and built a highly-successful career, in which he became President of a major electric company. Along the way, he was an outstanding coach in Pop Warner League football, and did so much more!

Through my newspaper, The SA Times, I became reacquainted with George again, and did a lot of research on his sports background. I found out that he was a very talented athlete at St. Mary's HS, and was selected as an All-State outfielder in 1951, while also excelling at basketball. In addition, during his high school days, he also boxed in the Golden Gloves and did very well, probably the only one from South Amboy to box in this prestigious boxing event.

After retiring, he wrote and published 3 books, "Jill," "The Wayward Wind," and "When We Meet Again."

It will be a very happy time, when we all get together and 'meet again' with George and other loved ones someday. He was one of the truly great guys, who was always there to help if you were in need, and will never be forgotten. God Bless George Spiecker!"



1956-Little 5-year old Tommy Burkard proudly wears his first baseball hat, which was given to him by his neighbor George Spiecker, who at the time was in the U.S. Army and played for the Fort Dix baseball team. George's act of kindness to the youngster encouraged and inspired him to a lifetime love of the game of baseball/softball.





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### Brunch With Santa At South Amboy Knights of Columbus - Dec. 16th



Santa and children attending the Knights of Columbus Brunch with Santa held at the Colombian Club Hall. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

**\*\*A Special Thank you to Karen Kline and Bill Mattsson of Mattsson's Auto Tech who provided the beautiful living room staging area for Santa's visit during the Knight's Brunch with Santa**




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**TOM EHRLICH Esq.**

**Attorney At Law**

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## The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

### From The Sports Archives



**1962 CHAMPIONS** - St. Mary's High School CYO Amboy Area Basketball playoff champions included: Bottom (L-R) George Keenan, Co-Capt. Tom Ryan, Co-Capt. Bob Monaghan, George Stramback, Gerry O'Connor. Top (L-R) Bill Henry, John Norek, Father Brembos (athletic moderator), John Dennen, Pete Waters. Missing from photo: Coach Jim O'Connell, Dennis Harkins, John Starzynski, Rick Ferguson, George Keenan,

### Glory Days In Local Sports

**1959**-St. Mary's stopped South River, 63-50 in boys hoops. Tom Leonard tossed in 21 points, Joe Phillips 13, Pat Mullane 12, and Dan Bailey 10. **1967**-Hoffman boys basketball team crushed Croydon Hall, 80-66. Curt Wood pumped in 21 points, Greg Havlusch 18, Bob Keegan 18, and Billy Clayton 17. **1972**-St. Mary's boys tennis team nipped Perth Amboy St. Mary's, 3-2. John Wortley and Bruce Malinowski both won in singles, and the doubles team of Mike Heil and Mike DeFeo also was victorious. **1984**-Hoffman jolted JFK, 67-59, as Pete Smith poured in 28 points and ripped 11 rebounds. Joe Lewis fired in 24 points, and Mike Toth burned the nets for 11 points. **1994**-Sayreville blasted North Brunswick, 35-0 in football action. Jason O'Neill notched 2 touchdowns on runs of 18 and 22 yards. Pat Walsh scored on a 2-yard run, and freshman Omar Joseph raced 60-yards on a punt return for a score. **2002**-Sayreville girls trounced Mother Seton 58-45. Sarah Dovidauskas led the way with 21 points followed by Liz Brugnoli with 16.

### T.H.E. Game

Sport-Basketball

Year-1968

**Teams**-St. Mary's (6-3) vs. Hoffman (9-4)  
**Game #2 of the City Series.**

**Recap**-Hoffman jumped out to a 20-8 lead after the first quarter, but the Eagles battled back and after the third stanza, led 55-47. In the fourth quarter, Guvs' Center Greg Havlusch tied the game 61-61, and with 1:36 left, he drove for another layup, giving the John Streeters a 63-61 lead. St. Mary's center Rick Ragula scored underneath to tie it at 63-63. Jimmy Lyons jump shot with 0:51 remaining in the game put Hoffman up 65-63. Tom Kelly came through in the clutch by hitting 2 beautiful jumpers, including the game winner from the corner with 0:09 left on the clock, as the Saints triumphed, 67-65. St. Mary's was led by Ragula and Mark Bratus with 17 points apiece, Jim McCloud 13, Kelly 10, Ted Krzyzanowski 9. Tom Mackay and Bob Howarth also saw action. Hoffman played without their 2 leading scorers Curt Wood and Bob Keegan, who sat out with the flu. Greg Havlusch topped the Purple & Gold with 21 points, followed by Larry Kurzawa 17, Lyons 12, Frank Chonsky 9, Tom Lange 6. Danny Paone also saw action.

**Players-of-the-Game**-Tom Kelly, Rick Ragula, Mark Bratus..

### Pro Quarterbacks 40 Or Older

The following pro quarterbacks played when they were 40 years old or older: George Blanda 48 Steve DeBerg 44 Warren Moon 44 Vinny Testaverde 44 Doug Flutie 43 Earl Morrall 42 Brett Favre 41 Mark Brunell 41 \*Tom Brady 41 Charlie Conerly 40 Len Dawson 40 Jim Hart 40 Joe Ferguson 40 Vince Evans 40 Matt Hasselbeck 40.

\*Denotes still active.

### 70 Years Ago

**St. Mary's Won Basketball Title**

**1948**-St. Mary's captured the 1948 Catholic Schools A.A. Tournament Class B championship by nipping Immaculate of Montclair, 47-46 in a real thriller. The Eagles outscored Immaculate, 12-6 in the final quarter, and with 5 minutes left in the game, and Eagles trailed by a 43-39 score, but managed to rally back and take the title. John O'Brien, who captured game scoring laurels with 17 points, hit the game-winning free throw with 0:30 left. Other St. Mary's scoring went as follows: Ray Stockton 10, Ed O'Brien 9, Jerry Connors 7, Jerry Hoban 4. Jack McKeon also played a fine defensive game for the champions.

### 20 Years Ago

**Popowski Wins 100th Game**

**1998**-Sayreville Field Hockey Coach Sherry Popowski won her 100th game, as the Bombers beat Monroe 2-1. She was previously the girls basketball coach for many years and notched 114 victories. It's very likely that Popowski became the only varsity coach in Sayreville history to rack up 100 wins in two different sports.

### 15 Years Ago

**Symer Wins County Scoring Title**

**2003**-Conrad Symer, Cardinal McCarrick standout soccer star captured the Middlesex County soccer scoring title with 76 points, and also was #1 in goals with 34 for the Eagles, who finished (10-7).

### 10 Years Ago

**Shamborovsky #1 In Middlesex County**

**2008**-South Amboy's soccer sensation Rusty Shamborovsky was crowned the Middlesex County soccer scoring champion with 81 points, and notched the most goals-32, and was #2 in assists with 17, trailing teammate Dave Tucka, who was #1 in the county with 21 assists.

### C.Y.O. Classic

**1984**-St. Mary's Grammar School girls won the OLV Tournament, defeating the tourney host. 48-39. MVP Lisa Smith fired in 17 points and had 10 steals, as the Saints ran their record to a perfect 11-0.

### 1978 Local High School Basketball Scoring Leaders

Points-Bob Clayton, Hoffman 368; Kevin Zakrzewski (SA resident), Perth Amboy Tech 334; Ralph Novak, Sayreville 288; Jeff Kabat, Sayreville 283; Frank Kuziemski, Hoffman 278; Jim Bright, Hoffman 220. Scoring Average-Zakrzewski 22.2 (3rd in county); Clayton 18.4 (10th in county); Kuziemski 14.6; Novak 13.0; Kabat 12.3; Bright 11.5.

### Back In Those College Days

Matt Fulham (Sayreville) attended Juanita College (PA), where he was the starting end for 3 years on the football team.

### Back In Those College Days

Flashback-15 Years Ago

**2003**-Sayreville's Tami Coyle turned in an outstanding season for the Rider University soccer team. Coyle, a junior, topped the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in scoring with 39 points, and also goals scored 17. For her stellar efforts, she captured the MAAC Offensive Player of the Year Award, and was a MAAC All-Star First Team selection. Tami, who starred for St. John Vianney High School will also be a team leader on the Rider Broncs basketball squad... Sayreville's Leah Craig also excelled for the Rider soccer squad, and was an MAAC All-Star Second Team choice. She is also a junior...Former South Amboy High all-around superstar, Kim Peterson, finished out an outstanding soccer career at Georgian Court College by being chosen to the Central

Athletic Collegiate Conference All-Star Second Team. She also played basketball as a freshman and sophomore...Ramapo College had a four talented locals on its hoops roster: John Wojcik and Steve Gitlin former stars for Sayreville, Nick Shaw-South Amboy, and Kevin Burns-Cardinal McCarrick... Former South Amboy High superstar, Kiersten McCarthy, who excelled on offense while with the Lady Guvs, is now stars on defense for Felician College. McCarthy still managed to get 2 assists and 1 goal this season. Kiersten had the opportunity to play against her former teammate, Kim Peterson of Georgian Court College. They ended up guarding each other during the game, which was won by Felician College, 1-0. Kiersten will also be playing basketball.

### 40 Years Ago

**February 18, 1978**-Hoffman High's star athlete Bob Clayton joined the exclusive 1,000 point club by reaching the plateau in a 70-59 victory over East Brunswick Tech. Clayton was the top scorer in the contest with 16 points.

### 50 Years Ago

**1968-Local High School Basketball Scoring Leaders**

Points-Bob Zukowski, Sayreville 556; Curt Wood, Hoffman 473; Bob Keegan Hoffman 368; Rick Ragula, St. Mary's 343; Greg Havlusch, Hoffman 328; Reggie Carney, Sayreville 317; Mark Bratus, St. Mary's 306; Tom "Red" Kelly, St. Mary's 303; Jim McCloud, St. Mary's 238. Scoring Average-Zukowski 27.8; Wood 22.5; Keegan 18.4; Ragula 17.2; Carney 15.8; Bratus 15.3; Kelly 15.1; Havlusch 14.9; McCloud 14.0.

### AN EVENING WITH SEAMUS KENNEDY

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 7 PM

The South Amboy Parade Committee and the South Amboy Arts Society invite you to attend a St. Patrick's Day celebration with Seamus Kennedy. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Seamus Kennedy has been entertaining audiences across the United States for almost four decades through music and humor. Kennedy's huge repertoire includes traditional Irish music, classic Country & Western, American standards and Scottish ballads. This will be an evening of Celtic entertainment at its best! In his interactive performance, Kennedy invites audiences to sing along to silly lyrics and to jump up and dance to the music of his guitar or bodhrán as he plays a lively Irish jig or reel. His clear baritone voice delivers on cherished Irish ballads like "Danny Boy". The performance will take place at the Community Theatre of South Amboy, located within the South Amboy Middle High School complex at 200 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

To reserve your free ticket visit [www.southamboyarts.org](http://www.southamboyarts.org)



Ryan O'Leary

### College Notebook

Jehyve Floyd (Sayreville) leads Holy Cross University (4-2) basketball team in blocked shots-19 and assists-26, while averaging 7.5 ppg., and 5 rpg...Marques Townes (St. Joe's/Cardinal McCarrick) averages 13.2 ppg., 4.8 rpg., and 1.8 assists for Loyola Chicago (4-3)...Corey Taite (Sayreville) tops Goldey-Beacom College (DE) (1-4) in scoring with a 19.8 avg., and 5.2 assists. He also hauls in 4.6 rebounds per game...Sean Rappleyea (St. Joseph's) who resides in Sayreville, has seen limited action with the University of Alabama Huntsville (1-11) ice hockey squad...Ryan O'Leary (Sayreville) has seen limited action with the Rider University (2-1) basketball team...Joe Duffy (JFK) who lives in South Amboy is a member of the FDU-Florham basketball team...

Myles Hartsfield (Sayreville) registered 41 tackles, 31 unassisted, and forced a fumble for University of Mississippi (5-7) football squad...Linwood Crump (Sayreville) racked up 10 solo tackles and 2 interceptions for Temple University (8-4)...Quarterback Jayson DeMild (Sayreville) completed 51-of-98 passes, 52% for 3 touchdowns, totaling 636 yards, and also threw 7 interceptions in 5 games for Campbell University (6-5).

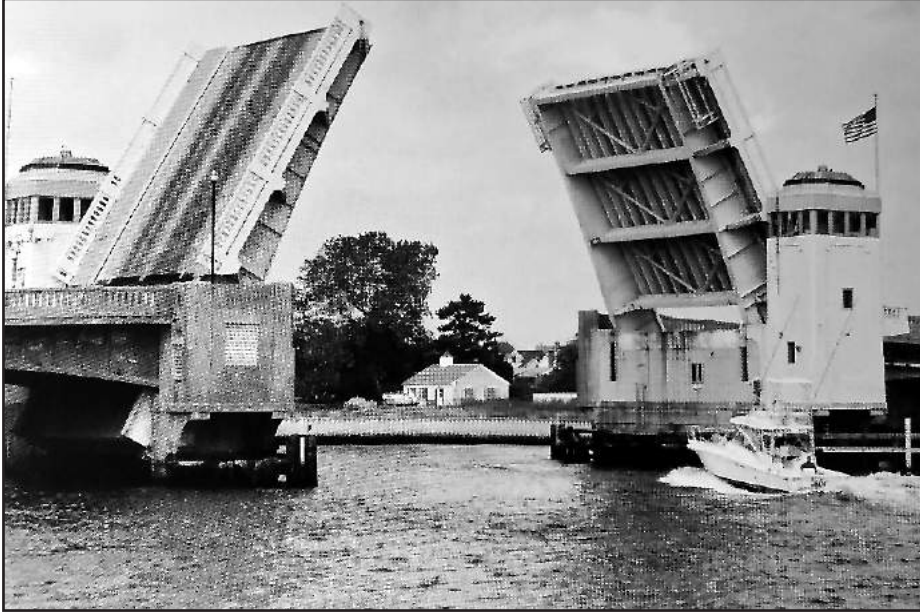
### Congratulations!



James "Jay" Riehl graduated the NY Police Zone 9 Police Academy on Nov. 14, 2018, as a NY Warren County Sheriff's Deputy. He has been employed as a Police Officer in Vermont for 12 years, and now embarks on a new career in New York. Pictured are Deputy Jay Riehl, his fiancée Jennifer Bardin-Barrett and his father retired East Brunswick Police Officer James Riehl Sr. formerly of South Amboy. (Photo/Info Submitted)



**Where in New Jersey?**



The Where in NJ this month has a tendency to draw a lot of people during the summer months. Send your answers to [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com) by January 7th. Good luck!

**November Information**

**Where in New Jersey?**

By Brian & Phyllis Stratton

The Where in NJ for November were the barracks in Fort Monmouth. Some incorrect guesses were Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and Camp Kilmer.

The winners for November were: Pat & Bill Scully, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss, Elizabeth Leveille, Eleanore Westerholm, Stephen Yuhas, Mary Agnes Morris, Dane Colburn, Leon Credico, Gerry Sherry, Marlene Letwenski.



November - Where in New Jersey?  
Forth Monmouth Barracks



**You Tube In**

**Christmas Clips To Watch**

2018-New Christmas songs/videos that are worth listening/watching: Eric Clapton's 2 new ones, "For Love On Christmas Day," and also "It's Christmas." "You Make It Feel Like Christmas" is a terrific and funny video by Blake Shelton & Gwen Stefani; Christmas Every Day by David Archuleta. "Where Are You Christmas," by Pentatonix is also a good one to check out. "Those Holidays" is an interesting song by a local group called Tangle Town, with lead vocals by former Sayreville resident Bryan Bottomly, who sounds a lot like the legendary Bob Seger. The lyrics to "Those Holidays" are really excellent, as is the music. Great job, Bryan and Tangle Town

**Letters**



I would like to thank my old St. Mary's Grammar School basketball coach (1953/54) Bill McKeon for those kind words he wrote in last month's edition of The SA Times. I remember, as I am sure you do "Biff", those cold Saturday mornings when you took us up to New Brunswick in one of your dad's taxis to play in the Tri-County Catholic Basketball League in that very cold gym. I enjoyed sitting in the warm "crowded" back seat listening to your stories. Hey, us South Amboy hoodlums won it all that year. Didn't we?

John "Flip" Phillips SMHS 1958  
(Formerly of South Amboy)

**WWW.?**



This is our final WWW.? Mystery Photo of 2018. The champions will be announced in the Jan. 2019 issue. Do you know what this structure is? Send your answer in to: [thesatimes@aol.com](mailto:thesatimes@aol.com). Good luck! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

**WWW.? Winners For November**

The answer to the November WWW.? Mystery Photo contest was Frank's Automotive Service, located at 7072 State Highway 35 (Must enter off Oak St.) in the Melrose section of Sayreville.

Paul Bouchard, W. Tom Kross, Dennis Quinlan, Joan Fulham, Pat & Bill Scully, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski, & Lorraine Krauss, Chuck Pickard, Kathie Brown-Godoy, Leon Credico, Gerry Sherry, Joan Gorczyca, George F. Kern III, Elizabeth Leveille, Stephen Yuhas, Dane Colburn, Marie English, Ed English. One incorrect answer was the South Amboy Dept. of Public Works behind the YMCA.



November-WWW.?  
Frank's Automotive Service  
7072 Rt 35, South Amboy

**Our Lady Of Victories School**

**Annual Breakfast With Santa - Dec. 2nd**

(Photos/Info Submitted)



Mario and Donna Fanelli, Ava and Emily Artificio, OLV Moms Kim McKeivitt and Jackie Weist at the toy wheel



Mason, Nathan and CJ Novak with Santa



Sergio and Liam Griatzky at the craft table



5th Grade teacher Shannon Liana with her children Elizabeth, Samuel and Matthew



LeighAnn, Patrick and Sean Russer





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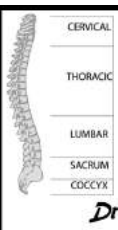
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*The Spinal Column*  
By *Dr. John Misiewicz*

**Does Santa have Back Pain?**

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

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

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


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

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

**Trip to Grounds for Sculpture**

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton New Jersey. The cost of the trip which is \$145 includes a guided tour of the grounds with individual time on your own to enjoy, luncheon at the Rat's Restaurant, bus transportation, bus gratuity, and snacks on the bus. For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Finita at 732-721-5081.

**Old Friends**



1948-49- Joe Lotkowitz (l) and Robert Hess (r) were two neighborhood friends pictured here at 104 Roswell St., South Amboy. "We were two cool youngsters down in the Bowery section of South Amboy. The house is now long gone thanks to Hurricane Sandy," said Robert Hess. (Photo/info submitted by Robert Hess)



## South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee To Honor Grand Marshals

The Saint Patrick's Day Committee welcomes you to join them as they honor this year's Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal's on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 7pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 271 Second Street, South Amboy.

Honorees include: Grand Marshal: Christine Noble, South Amboy Councilwoman at Large; Honorary Grand Marshal: Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer of South Amboy and Perth Amboy; Deputy Grand Marshal: South Amboy Fire Chief Mike Toth; Yolanda Flores, Vice President and Director of Sales

at the Rosengarten Development Corp., Perth Amboy and George Gonzalez, President of the South Amboy Business Association will be recognized as Special Honored Guests.

Tickets for the Grand Marshal's Annual Dinner are \$40 per person (includes dinner, beer, wine and soda) and are available at the door. Tickets must be purchased in advance at any of the following locations:

Main Liquors (533 Main St. So. Amboy, The Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall and the South Amboy YMCA (200 John O'Leary Blvd. So. Amboy).

## YMCA HOLDS JOB FAIRS

The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy will be hosting Job Fairs on January 15th and 16th to fill many different positions available within their branches located in Metuchen, Edison and South Amboy and also at some of the YMCA's Early Learning Centers. Some positions that are available include Welcome Center staff, Assistant Teachers and Counselors, CDL Bus Drivers, Lifeguards, Enrichment Instructors and more. The Metuchen YMCA will be hosting their Job Fair on January 15th from 4pm-7pm at 65 High Street, Metuchen. The Edison YMCA will be hosting their Job Fair

on January 16th from 12pm-3pm at 1775 Oak Tree Road in Edison. The South Amboy YMCA will be hosting their Job Fair on January 15th from 12pm-3pm and 4pm-7pm at 200 John T. O'Leary Boulevard in South Amboy. Interviews will be given on the spot for eligible candidates. Participants should bring copies of their resume for relevant positions.

For questions or if you wish to pre-register, please contact Rosemary Orlandini at 732-516-2081 or emailed at rosemary.orlandini@ymcaofmews.org.



Hudson Heights is a 6-piece powerhouse wedding band fronted by Sayreville's own Danny Gioenco (2nd from left), and Eden, both dynamic singers who also double as emcees, and ensure your big day runs as smooth as possible. For complete information on this highly-talented band, go online to [www.hudsonheightsband.com](http://www.hudsonheightsband.com).

## FIRE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

By Rich Kosmoski, Smoke Column Staff Writer

Everyone looks forward to the holidays, and activities like decorating and entertaining. However, items like trees, lights and fireplaces also create fire hazards. When you learn to identify and fix unsafe conditions in your home, you can make it a safer place for everyone.

### Trees

- When buying a live tree, check for freshness - green needles, trunk sticky with resin, and few lost needles when tapped on the ground.
- Never place a fresh Christmas tree next to a heat source. Heat dries out trees and makes them easier to catch on fire.
- Make sure your tree stand is always filled with water. This will prevent it from drying out.
- When the tree gets dry, get rid of it. You can drop it off at a recycling center near you.
- Never burn a Christmas tree or its branches in a fireplace or wood stove.
- When buying an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant" or "Flame Retardant."

### Lights, candles, and other decorations

- Use only Underwriters Laboratories- or Intertek- (ETL) listed holiday lights.
- Check your lights each year. Replace those with frayed or heavily kinked wires, gaps in insulation or cracked sockets.
- When decorating outside, only use lights labeled for outdoor use.
- Do not link more than three strings of lights.

- Turn off holiday lights when you leave your home or go to bed.
- Use sturdy candle holders and place them where they're unlikely to be knocked over.
- Blow out candles before you leave your home or go to bed.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.

### Holiday Entertaining

- When cooking for guests, stay in the kitchen and keep an eye on the stove.
- If you or your guests smoke, do it outside.
- Provide deep ashtrays for smokers. Before dumping ashes in the trash, soak them in water.
- After a party, check for ashes and butts on the floor and seat cushions where people were smoking.
- Christmas Day is the peak day of the year for home candle fires, so be sure to watch all your candles closely and keep them away from children and pets.

If you have concerns or questions regarding any of these recommendations, please contact your local fire department.



## ST STAN'S SCHOOL

(Photos/Info Submitted)



St. Stan's eighth grade student, Triscia Afihene receives her school ring from Rev. Kenneth Murphy as her classmates look on. The ring is a symbol of their everlasting bond to St. Stan's School and to one another as members of the Class of 2019.



St. Stan's eighth grade students gather around baskets that were donated by each grade containing food items to help families in need on Thanksgiving.



Kindergarten student, Nicolas Salgado learns how to program during Computer Science Education Week at St. Stan's School.



Gracie Rodriguez leads the students at St. Stan's School in their traditional Tree Lighting ceremony.



Pre-kindergarten students, Matthew Ribau and Briella Delgado enjoy a Thanksgiving feast with their classmates at St. Stan's School.





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**Fishing Flashes**

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



**Salt Water**

Striped Bass fishing is still going on but the fish are moving south. Party Boats are still catching them on jigs but it is more shorts and fewer keepers. Bluefish are gone. In the surf, especially at Long Beach and LBI. A good number of shorts and some keepers are being caught on jigs, teasers and plugs and cut bunker. In Raritan Bay there is hardly anything caught from local beaches. The few times that I checked some beach areas no one was fishing at all. Party Boat fishing for Blackfish has picked up. With the bag limit increase to 5 fish per person, some nice ones have been caught. Some Blackfish were weight in at 10 to 14 pounds. Winter Flounder continue to be caught in Shark River, but it's just about over for them now.

**Fresh Water**

Too much heavy rain has been creating high water conditions, but despite the rain, fall Trout fishing is still continuing. I tried the Black River on State Park Road in mid November for a few hours. Regardless of the high water conditions I managed to get one Rainbow about 16 inches. My wife and I returned to the Pequest. Water conditions were well above normal. We tried to fish anyway but to no avail. As you can probably guess we left empty handed. We went from there to Tilcon Lake hoping for a better chance. Even though the water was above its banks we were lucky enough to bring home one Landlocked Salmon



**Bruce To Take It Easy In 2019**

Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band will not be touring in 2019, according to a recently released statement. The note from "The Boss" which was posted on his website and social media pages is as follows:

"Just a note to quell some of the rumors over here on E Street. While we hope to be back with you soon, the E Street Band won't be touring in 2019. Before I go back to my day job, the year will be consumed with a break after our Broadway run and various recording projects I've been working on. We do hope to see you soon, and until then, we have some mighty E Streeters out there regularly performing with their own projects who'd love and deserve your support. All love and Happy Holidays!"

Springsteen finished his one-man Broadway show after 236 sold out performances on Dec. 15.

**#1 Pop Hits- December 22**

- 2000-Independent Women-Destiny's Child
- 1994-Here Comes The Hotstepper- Ini Kamoze
- 1980-Lady-Kenny Rogers
- 1975-Fly, Robin Fly-Silver Connection
- 1969-Leaving On A Jet Plane- Peter, Paul & Mary

**#1 Country Hits- December 22**

- 2004-Back When-Tim McGraw
- 1999-He Didn't Have To Be-Brad Paisley
- 1985-The Chair-George Strait
- 1973-If We Make It Through December-Merle Haggard
- 1966-Somebody Like Me-Eddy Arnold

**One Hit Wonders**

45 Years Ago

- 1973-Oh, Babe, What Would You Say-Hurricane Smith; Dancin' In The Moonlight-King Harvest; The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia-Vicki Lawrence; Walk On The Wild Side-Lou Reed; Daisy A Day-Jud Strunk; Wildflower-Skylark; Hocus Pocus-Focus; Playground In My Mind-Clint Holmes; Right Place, Wrong Time-Dr. John; Brother Louie-The Stories; My Maria-B.W. Stevenson; I'm Doin' Fine Now-New York City; Pillow Talk-Sylvia.



## Congratulations!



Spring Lake Mayor Jennifer Naughton (l) recently swore in William Noble, formerly of South Amboy, as their newest patrolman. Bill graduated with a BS degree in Criminal Justice from St. Leo University, and from the Monmouth County Police Academy as a SLEO II. Bill's proud parents and brother look on at the event that was attended by the entire police force, and many family and friends. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## Thomas J Scully: 1863-1921

By Jerry Pizzillo, Historical Society of South Amboy

The City of South Amboy has produced many popular and respected individuals in its existence. These prominent figures constitute some of the fields of military, business, sports, doctors, teachers, lawyers and political figures. One that calls to mind and should be recognized is Thomas J. Scully

Thomas J. Scully was born in then the Borough of South Amboy on September 9, 1868. Mr. Scully lived in the city his entire life. He attended the city schools and upon graduation he attended Seton Hall College for his formal education. After college he went to work for his father, John Scully in the marine transportation business that was owned by his father. At this position he honed his skills in the business field and brought the company to be one of the largest maritime businesses on the east coast. While at this position his friends and colleagues sought his advice and counsel, which he would give freely. His main interest was the welfare and concerns for the residents of the City of South Amboy.

His first experiences in the political field was when he was elected to the Board of Education, he held this position from 1893 to 1895. While at this position, he held a high regard for the education of the city's children. In 1909, after being voted in, Mayor Dr. Treganowan passed the reigns of mayor on to Thomas J. Scully. While in the office of mayor, Mr. Scully had moved the infant city to a higher standard of modernization. He reorganized the police department, he had the sewer system installed, brought a municipal owned and operated water department, rebuilt the city docks, and increased mail service

utilizing the trolley system. He accomplished so much for the city that after one year in office he was nominated for a congressional seat for the congress. In 1911 he was elected as a Democrat to the 62nd United States Congress and to the next four succeeding Congresses, serving in office from March 4, 1911 to March 4, 1921.

Early in 1919, it was announced that Congressman Scully would run in the next gubernatorial election, but in the summer of 1919, he withdrew his candidacy. With his love of the city he was encouraged to run for a second term as mayor. He was elected in 1921 and remained mayor till his death on December 14, 1921.

On October 4, 1918 the T.A. Gillespie Shell loading Plant exploded causing death and destruction in South Amboy and surrounding communities. During this time Congressman Scully was representing the 3rd Congress District and upon notification of the event he rushed to the city and worked hard to alleviate the pain and suffering the townspeople endured. He introduced a bill to the House of Representatives a resolution calling for an investigation to the cause of the explosion and if the plant is to be reconstructed necessary safeguards to be put in place. Also included in the bill was to reimburse those who suffered property losses.

If not for the dedication of people like Thomas J. Scully this city would not have evolved to what the City of South Amboy is today. Mr. Scully is interred in his family plot located within St Mary's Cemetery.

## VFW Patriotism Essay Winners



Middle School students from Our Lady of Victories School participated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen essay competition that helps foster patriotism among today's youth. The competition is open to all students in grades 6-8 and they are required to write a 300 to 400 word essay examining the statement, "Why I Honor the American Flag". The essays were sent to the Sayreville VFW Post 4699 and its Auxiliary, where seventh grade student Alyssa Rask and eighth grade student Victoria Fletcher were selected as first place winners and received a citation and \$100 monetary award. The girls are pictured above with Mrs. Hockenjos who teaches Science. Both essays were forwarded to District 8 VFW and Auxiliary for judging at the next level. District first place winners are entered in the state competition and state winners receive a trip to Washington, DC and a chance to receive a \$5000 award. Both girls will attend the District award ceremony on January 6th, 2019.(Photo/Info Submitted)

## Dickens Days At Clinton, N.J.

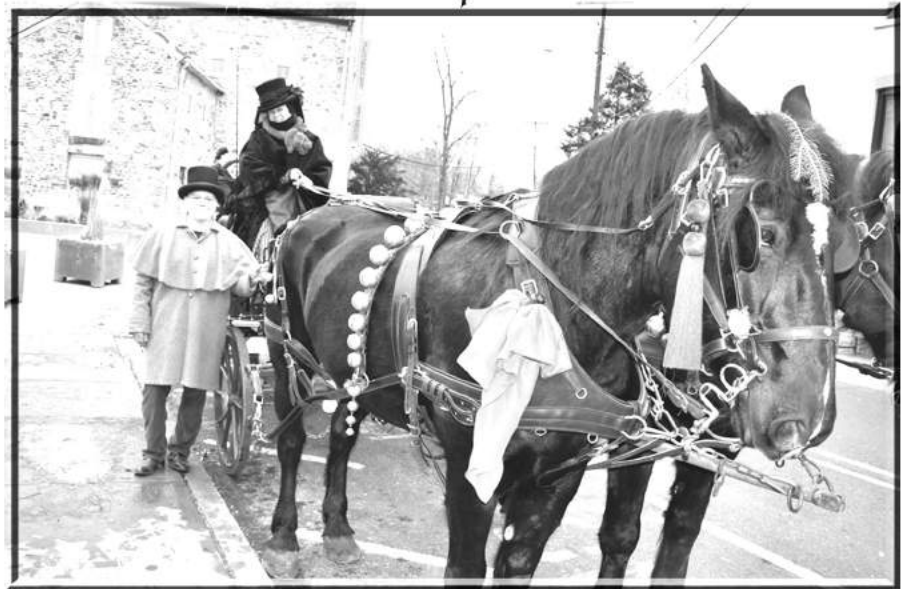
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



A Victorian Era Santa Claus is pictured by the bridge in Clinton.



This Victorian-styled group of carolers walked throughout town singing classic Christmas carols.



Mary Tolmie (r) who drives the horse drawn carriage and husband Charles Napravnik are pictured in their full Victorian costumes. Countless people enjoyed the tour through Clinton. Mary and Charles definitely have one of the most popular activities at this annual event.



Passengers really enjoyed riding down Main St. in the horse drawn carriage.



Even younger people strolled the streets in Victorian Era clothing.



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## Elaine A. (Nemeth) Burkard

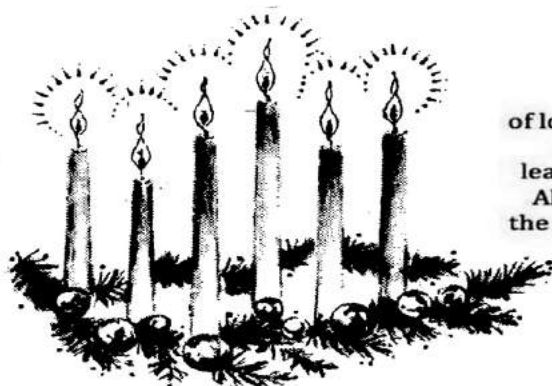
Age 81, Formerly of South Amboy

Elaine A Burkard, 81, died peacefully on Nov. 22 in Port Charlotte, Fl. She was born and raised in South Amboy and lived a happy and full life. She graduated from Hoffman High School. Elaine married Joe Burkard on June 20, 1959 and they continued to live in South Amboy. Their happy marriage produced two wonderful sons, Brian and Craig Burkard who grew up in South Amboy. After Elaine and Joe retired in 1992,



they moved around and also resided in Virginia, Florida, and South Carolina.

They enjoyed traveling, playing tennis and golf. Elaine was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Joseph Burkard, her son Craig Burkard, and also her mother and father, Ann and Anthony (Fritz) Nemeth. Elaine is survived by her son Brian Burkard and his wife Lynn of Rotonda West, Fl; Daughter in law Lisa Killeen and her husband Tom; 5 grandchildren, Megan Silvestri, Brian, Amy, Caitlin, and Paige Burkard, and 2 great grandchildren, Brooke Dillen and Raelynn Burkard.



I think the hardest part of losing someone, isn't having to say goodbye, but rather learning to live without them. Always trying to fill the void, the emptiness that's left inside your heart when they go.

## Obituaries

Beers, Rita, 75, of Sayreville died on Nov. 28.

Borruso, Nicholas "Nick," 88, of Parlin died on Dec. 4.

Burkard, Elaine A. Nemeth, 81, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 22.

Burzynski, Joseph, 88, of Sayreville died on Nov. 22.

Counsman, Anne R., 58, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 2.

Crowley, Joann E., 56, of South Amboy died on Nov. 9.

Dziekanski, Walter, 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 23.

Gallagher, Robert J., 85, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 7.

Hyer, Katherine Deliman, 68, of South Amboy died on Nov. 19.

Knapik, Zbigniew, 73, of South Amboy died on Nov. 8.

Krygier, Joseph P., 84, of South Amboy died on Dec. 6.

Laffey, Vivian E., 93, of Sayreville died on Dec. 7.

LaGuardia, Mario, 73, died on Dec. 5.

Liberty, Magdalene "Lynnie," Nagy, 87 of South Amboy died on Nov. 18.

Ligato, Denise, 58, of Parlin died on Dec. 10.

Martin, Bobby V., 76, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 7.

Meyertons, Karl R., 86, of Sayreville died on Nov. 18.

Mierzwia, Viktoria, 88, of South Amboy died on Dec. 4.

Mroz, Wayne, 71, of South Amboy died on Nov. 5.

Nakielny, Raymond, 72, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8.

Peterson, Richard J., 71, of South Amboy died on Nov. 17.

Poweski, Helen, 82, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 17.

Rockfolski, Rose, 96, of Parlin died on Nov. 27.

Skarzynski, Thomas "Skeets", 51, of Sayreville died on Nov. 30.

Smith, Mary, 86, of Sayreville died on Nov. 5.

Spiecker, George R., 85, of Morgan died on Nov. 25.

Stepien, Slawomir, 59, of Parlin died on Nov. 25.

Suchcicki, Zbigniew, 65, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 4.

Testa, Joseph A. Sr., 88, of Parlin died on Nov. 10.

Van Fossen, Victoria, 90, of Parlin died on Nov. 23.

Wos, Thomas M., 55, of Sayreville died on Dec. 6.

Young, Christine Conover, 73, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 1.

Zaremba, Alexander T. "Sonny," 75, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 9.

## In Memoriam

### Scott M. Koy

December 22nd, 2017

In life we loved you dearly

In death we do the same

We often sit and think of you

And wish you were here again.

We think of you in silence.

No eyes can see us weep,

But many a silent tear we shed,

While others are fast asleep.

Day by day we sadly miss you.

Friends may think the wound is healed.

But they little know the grief

That in our hearts is concealed.

Surrounded by friends

we are lonesome.

In the midst of our pleasures

we are blue.

A smile on our face,

an ache in our hearts

Grieving and longing for you.

Your loving wife, children, & family

## Till We Meet Again

Goodbyes are not forever

Are not the end

It simply means

I'll miss you

Until we meet again.



### In Loving Memory

Missing You At Christmas

There's a little place within my heart  
That is with me every day.  
A place where all my memories  
Are softly tucked away.

It is the perfect place  
In my grief for me to go.  
For words could not explain  
How very much I miss you so.

And now that once again  
Christmastime has  
come around.  
It's where the sweetest memories  
And thoughts of you are found.





**In Memoriam**



Robert Gallagher, 85, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 7. He ran the Gallagher Insurance Agency in Sayreville with his wife, prior to retiring in 1996. Raymond Nakielny, 72, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8. He was at one time a teacher in the Sayreville School System. Karl Meyertons, 86, of Sayreville died on Nov. 9. He was a well-known attorney, who had a practice for over 55 years in South River, and also served as Municipal Court Judge in Milltown for over 40 years. He was also legal counsel for Sayreville American Legion Post 211 for many years. Joseph Testa Sr., 88, of Parlin died on Nov. 10. He was a Chemical Operator at DuPont in Parlin for 25 years. Magdalene "Lynnie" Liberty 87, of South Amboy died on Nov. 18. She was a member of several local senior clubs, and also was a volunteer at St. Mary Food Pantry for over 10 years. Lynnie was known as the "Carrot Cake Lady" at St. Mary Church blood drives. Walter Dziekan, 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 23. He was a former member and Captain of the Sayreville First Aid

Squad. Nick Borruso, 88, of Parlin died on Dec. 4. He was self-employed and owned many businesses in his life until retiring as the owner/operator of 5 Meineke Service Centers including the one on Route 9 South in Sayreville. Viktoria Mierzwiak, 88, of South Amboy died on Dec. 4. Prior to retiring, she worked for the South Amboy Board of Education for 25 years. Mario LaGuardia, 73, died on Dec. 5. He was an usher at Our Lady of Victories Church for many years. Joseph "Buddy" Krygier, 84, of South Amboy died on Dec. 6. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict, and later was an usher at Sacred Heart Church, and an active member of several Sacred Heart organizations. He retired from NJ Turnpike in 1988, and before that, National Lead as an Electrician. Thomas Vos, 55, of Sayreville died on Dec. 6. He was a member of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church Parish Finance Council and volunteer worker at the carnival for many years.

May God rest their souls, and may they always be remembered.

**George R. Spiecker**

Age 85, Morgan

George R. Spiecker, 85, of the Morgan section of Sayreville, passed away Sunday, November 25, 2018 at home surrounded by his family. Born and raised in South Amboy, he resided in Morgan since 1963, but always regarded South Amboy as home.

He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1952. In his youth he played semi-pro baseball, fought in the Golden Gloves, and obtained his private pilot's license. He honorably served in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers from 1954 to 1956. Following his discharge, he married his High School sweetheart Dorothy "Dixie" Connors. In 1957 he joined the I.B.E.W. Local Union 456, and began a five year apprenticeship in the electrical trade. In 1963 he was employed as a Foreman by Beach Electric Co. in East Orange. He remained with and advanced within the company to various positions of responsibility, retiring in 1993 as President.

Travel was George's passion, especially with his best friend and wife, Dixie. Over the years they toured all fifty states, Mexico, and the providences of Canada, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, and as far north as the Yukon. Together they visited twenty countries, mostly in Europe, South and Central America. He claimed to be happiest with the open road in front of him.

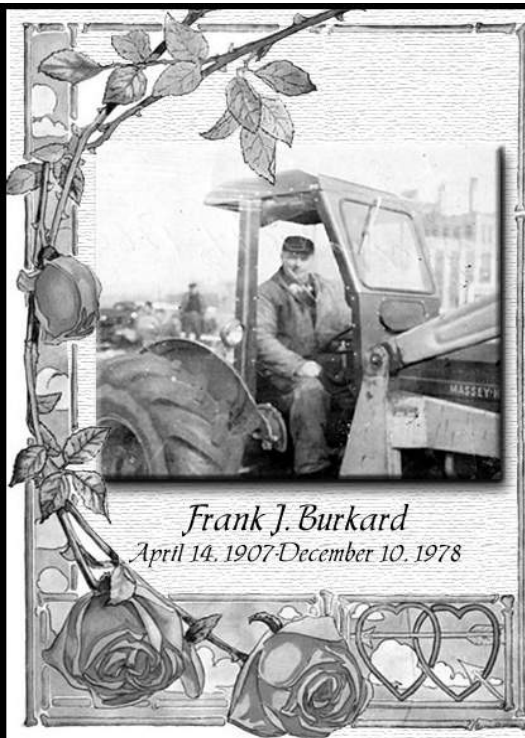
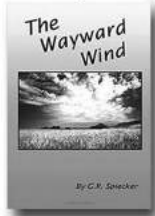
George was an avid follower of Rutgers football and basketball and was a member of the Scarlet R Club. During his retirement he authored three books, *Jill*, *The Wayward Wind*, and *When We Meet Again*, which he

dedicated to his loved ones. Truly the family Patriarch, he was an excellent provider, leader, and "rock" who was always ready to help others. He will be deeply missed by those that knew and loved him.

He was predeceased by his parents Theodore Spiecker and Helen Mearing. Surviving are his beloved wife of 62 years Dorothy Spiecker of Morgan; his children and their spouses: Kevin Spiecker and Linda of Holland, PA, Darryl Spiecker and April of Toms River, Kenneth Spiecker and Susan of Sayreville, Laurie Bebkowicz of Sayreville, Debra Xanthos and Stephen of Manahawkin, and Scott Spiecker of Helmetta; 14 grandchildren and their spouses: Jason (Anna), Daniel, Eric (Victoria), Tara, Christian, Travis, Alyssa, Thomas, and Jessica Spiecker, Allen Lockwood (Kelly), Nicole Mickiewicz, Jeffrey and Christopher Clark and Brittany Bebkowicz; 6 great-grandchildren: Caroline, Josef, Hayden, Milla, Wilder, and Bridger; his brother Larry Mearing and wife Rita and sisters: Karen Sposato, Joyce Webber, and Jean Sleater; as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Funeral services were conducted by The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Interment was held at New Calvary Cemetery, Parlin. Donations may be made to Kindred at Home Hospice, 3350 Riverwood Parkway, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30339.

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Where you will never be alone  
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*May it teach you to make them grow  
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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

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See dealer for full warranty details

\*See dealer for full warranty details

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- Steel chute for added durability



**NEW!**

Model shown 37798



See dealer for full warranty details

\*See dealer for full warranty details

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