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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is
dedicated to**

*Marianne Woznica Barbieri
*Edwin "Whitey" Dill
*William "Monk" Wozniak
*Gerald "Jerry" Zapotichny



February 24, 2024 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 33 Issue 5

South Amboy To Celebrate its 47th St. Patrick's Day Parade

(Article submitted)

The South Amboy Parade Committee, in conjunction with the City of South Amboy are hard at work completing the final preparations for the Sunday, March 17, 2024, St. Patrick's Day Parade which will begin at 2pm. Mr. Mickey Gross will serve as Grand Marshal and Ms. Yolanda Flores will serve as Deputy Grand Marshal.

In 1976, South Amboy resident Frank Conley coordinated the first South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade consisted of one bagpiper, the South Amboy Police, Fire and First Aid Squads and a small group of marchers representing the Frank Conley Association.

Today, a group of volunteers from South Amboy and neighboring towns work diligently to continue this long-standing tradition. The South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee (a non-profit 501c3) consists of over 20 volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to coordinate this annual event. As a result of their hard work and dedication, The South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade is now one of the biggest family friendly, multicultural events in South Amboy and has become one of the largest parades in the State of NJ featuring more than 20 bands and over 2,000 marchers.

Coordinating an event of this magnitude requires the parade committee to work closely with city administrators, police, fire and EMS personnel to ensure that the residents and visitors are safe before, during and after the parade and that traffic and emergency situations are handled swiftly and securely.

Members of the committee executive board oversee specific tasks related to events held throughout the year. Spearheading efforts are committee co-chairs Mickey Gross and Jay Elliot. Mr. Gross facilitates monthly meetings, works closely with city administrators and heads major fundraising

Continued on page 3

Chief LaVigne Retires



Outgoing South Amboy Police Chief, Darren LaVigne (c) is pictured with some members of his outstanding police force. (Photo submitted)

South Amboy Elks, Citizen Of The Year



David Szatkowski

Please Join the South Amboy Elks in Honoring Mr. David Szatkowski as Our Citizen of The Year 2023/2024. Dave will be honored at a dinner with other honorees at the Woodbridge Elks on Saturday March 2nd. Dave is a lifelong resident of South Amboy and has followed in his father's footsteps as serving with the Volunteer Fire Department in addition to serving as Fire Chief for 2023.

Dave is active in the community, helping with the food bank, and also ran the 9/11 service in 2023. He has won awards in 2012 and 2014 for rescuing people from fires. Dave is a true asset to the community and a hero in our hearts. Thank you for your service.

**Don't Miss The South Amboy
St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**March 17th
2pm**

**Rain Date
March 24th**



Congratulations Mickey!



St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal, Michael "Mickey" Gross (r) holds up one of many proclamations and awards he received the dinner which was held in his honor. "Mickey" is the South Amboy City Council President and has served the city for many years. NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (l) was on hand to present Gross with a proclamation. (Photo submitted)

Pelkey Scores 1,000th Point

By Tom Burkard

South Amboy senior standout Gavin Pelkey joined the school's elite 1,000 points scoring club on Feb. 2nd, when he swished in a beautiful 3-pointer from the top of the key, with only 1.2 seconds remaining in the game, which was won by the Governors 65-57 over Somerset Tech. He finished the contest with 12 points for Coach Matt Wiater's talented South Amboy squad.

Pelkey became the 15th boys basketball player in Hoffman/South Amboy HS history to reach the milestone. He is the first Guv to score 1,000 since Kyle Gasiewski accomplished the feat 5 years ago in 2019.

The All-Time list with points scored follows:

Ed Behnen 1,993; Brian Seres 1,632; Curt Wood 1,630; Peter Smith 1,576; Gary Kuhn 1,543; Kyle Gasiewski 1,382; Frank Kuziowski 1,323; Steve Herdman 1,229; Gary Lange 1,167; Joe Charmello 1,143; Joe Bartlinski 1,135; Bill Clayton 1,118; *Gavin Pelkey 1,054; Bob Clayton 1,011; Joe Fruncillo 1,003.

*Denotes player is still active-stats as of Feb. 12, 2024.

**Pelkey Notes: Gavin is currently averaging 17.4 points per game, 7 rebounds and 3.3 assists. His high-game this season was 31 points in an 84-43 victory over Somerset Tech.



Gavin Pelkey(3rd from left) at the celebration for scoring 1,000 career points with Coach Matt Wiater (2nd from left) and his teammates. (Photo/info submitted)



Next Issue March 30th -- Deadlines March 18th

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Easter

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South Amboy's St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Michael "Mickey" Gross (c) is pictured with Dowdell Library Director Elaine Gaber (l) and Kathy Howard (r) at the Grand Marshal dinner reception on February 2, 2024. (Photo/info submitted)

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Congratulations Michael

Michael Coman of South Amboy was sworn in as a Firefighter for Woodbridge Fire District #1. Congrats and best of luck, Michael!

Locals Named To Dean's Lists

Montclair State University announced the following locals attained the honor of making the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 Semester:

Sayreville-Rushell Anderson, James

Hoffman, Jackie Osei, Destiny Puente, Stephanie Ratica, Chiona Umebuane, Abanob Zaky;

South Amboy-Alyssa Barrett, Jess Kerekes, Joseph Leander, Audrey Louis-jacques, Nick Najarian, Gustavo Paz, Angela Tramontana; Laurence Harbor-Zackary Comar.

Seton Hall University student, Alexa Dittman, also made the Dean's List. Congratulations to all!

**Diocese of Metuchen issues
2024 Lenten Obligations**

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following obligations are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health. Bishop Checchio has approved this year's Lenten Regulations.

2024 Lenten Obligations

The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good

Friday (March 29).

The other Fridays of Lent (Feb. 16 and 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22) are days of abstinence.

Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

Note: This year, be aware that Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 (also Valentine's Day). The obligation to fast does remain in effect, so it is suggested that those who are planning a special dinner make that their one main meal of the day.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

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**Sunday March 17
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**

**Sunday March 24
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The South Amboy/Sayreville Times (SAT) is published monthly and distributed to businesses, schools, banks, restaurants and churches. SAT reserves the right to refuse any advertising, editorial or other information. SAT is not responsible for typos or factual errors in advertising or editorial. Reader letters, articles and artwork are welcomed. SAT © 2016 no matter herein may not be reproduced without the written permission of the publishers. opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers.

Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.Chosen by Pete Kenny Association as Irish Person of the Year for 1999-2000?
a.Mary McCarthy b.Genevive Doran c.Rochell Rahman

2.This MD was located on Ernston Rd. in Parlin back in 1999?
a.Dr. Grover b.Dr. Ambrosio c.Dr. Weber

3.Beauty Parlor located at 106 North Broadway, South Amboy in '99?
a.Broadway Coiffures b.Best of Broadway c.Thelma's Beauty Parlor

4.Borough of Sayreville Council President in 2018?
a.Victoria Kilpatrick b.Mary Novak c.Eleanor Dascenzo

5.South Amboy Superintendent of Schools in 1999?
a.John Olexa b.Robert Dicker c.Robert Bloodgood

6.Sayreville Recycling Coordinator in 2015?
a.Elyse Barone b.Mary White c.John Hinkelbaum

7.Installed as President of Mechanicsville Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary for '94?
a.Millie Giardello b.Ann Marie Fanowitz c.Beverly Kovacs

8.School Superintendent of Sayreville in 2015?
a.James Brown b.Richard Labbe c.Marcus Jones

9.Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2011?
a.Eric O'Brien b.Joe Macilvaine c.Francis Mulvey

10.In 2012, this Sayreville man wrote the book, "A Cultural History of Sayreville"?
a.John Hopkins b.Edward Trautman c.Jason Slesinski

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



John Auto Center

By Steve Schmid



Surjit Singh (r) works on a car at John Auto Center with his new mechanic Vitali Basiuk (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Surjit Singh has established a reputation as a well respected businessman in South Amboy.

He opened John Auto Center in January 2008 after realizing South Amboy had few auto repair shops. He purchased Harry's Auto Repair on 272 North Stevens Ave, and got involved with the community. Council President Mickey Gross was one of his first customers. He was honored with a resolution in October 2021 at City Hall honoring him for volunteer service and dedication to South Amboy. Surjit strongly supports the police and many city officers including former Police Chief Darren LaVigne, who visit John Auto Center. LaVigne calls him "the friendliest mechanic in South Amboy." By the 1990s, computers controlled vehicle sensors, combustion and electrical systems. Surjit and his mechanics deal with computers that monitor engine emissions. They'll inspect your car and fix problems so you'll pass inspection. Their work is 100 percent guaranteed. They'll fix any vehicle, old and new, foreign or domestic. No job is too big or too small. They'll fix lawn mowers, snow blowers, or if necessary replace an engine. When there's a problem, they will thoroughly check your vehicle and reach a diagnosis. They will

tell you what was found, so you can decide what to do. Surjit enjoys working on cars and getting them back on the road. He's worked on them since junior high school when he changed oil and adjusted brakes for his family and friends. His mechanics also enjoy getting vehicles back on the road. Residents have noticed and posted favorable reviews. Victoria G. said, "I really recommend it! The owner is awesome and really goes out of his way to make sure my car is fixed as quickly as possible! Also I was told by others my car was not fixable, but he fixed it in just a day. Also the pricing is cheap. I have been going to him for years and never plan on switching." Ted C. added, "I just moved to the area and I have to say I will definitely be a repeat customer for all my vehicles. I thought I had issues with my ball joints, but I only needed new tires and alignment. Not your typical auto repair shop that will nickel and dime you and are very HONEST." The motto of John Auto Center is "Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, We can do it all." They'll be glad to give you an oil change if you need it. They are open Monday to Friday 8 AM to 6 PM and Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM. To make an appointment, call 732-727-8500 or stop in and say "Hi" You'll be glad you did.

47th St. Patrick's Day Parade-continued from page 1

efforts. Jay Elliot, has undertaken the time-consuming task of creating the parade line of march and is on hand parade day to oversee the parade line up before and during the parade as well as the registration and coordination of the Fall Irish Festival. Jan Williams serves as the committee transportation coordinator enlisting the classic cars seen throughout the parade. Donna Williams acts as the committee events coordinator, overseeing fundraising events, flyer distribution and incoming donations. Marilyn Grecco-Springer volunteers as the committee treasurer obtaining necessary permits, while completing IRS filings and accounting requirements. Karen Chen continually populating the committee Facebook page populating it with photographs, announcements, and information. Jeremiah O'Grady lends his talents as web master updating and managing the parade committee website www.southamboyparade.com throughout the year highlighting activities, providing parade information, and updating

the community of our events. Barry Rosengarten is the Master of Ceremonies on parade day and lends his insight during event preparation. Yolanda Flores's shares her expertise designing flyers, invitations and other printed materials as well as acting as Mistress of Ceremonies at large events. Judi Gillingham has been tasked with public relations, ad and press release submissions, and serves as the committee secretary.

It would be remiss not to mention and thank the over 14 volunteers from South Amboy and surrounding communities who attend monthly planning meetings throughout the year. Without the assistance of these dedicated individuals the South Amboy Parade Committee would not be able to provide events on such a large scale as the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Fall Festival.

For information on the South Amboy Parade Committee, the March 17th St. Patrick's Day Parade and our upcoming Hoist-A-Pint Fundraiser please visit www.southamboyparade.com.

Corned Beef Dinner March 16

There will be a St. Patrick Day Corned Beef Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main St., Sayreville, NJ on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. \$15.00 Corned Beef Dinner (Boiled Cabbage/Carrots/Potatoes, Roll, Beverage, Dessert); \$12.00 Spaghetti & Meatballs; (Roll, Beverage, Dessert) Takeout is available. For questions or reservations, please contact Winsome (732)432-9072

Wind Creek Trip March 3

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 will run a trip to Wind Creek Casino Bethlehem PA Sunday March 3. Cost of \$35 includes \$25 back in slot play, round trip transportation to the casino, and back, plus refreshments. Motor coach will leave the K of C parking lot at 9 AM.

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Yearbook-South Amboy 1999

By Tom Burkard

Superintendent of Schools was Robert Bloodgood, and William Beattie was principal. . . Some of the fine faculty included K. Gallagher, Mrs. Falco, Mr. Gundrum, Mrs. Grun, Mrs. Ongaro, Mr. Heenan, Mr. Golden, Ms. Fulham, Mr. Schnyderite. . . The yearbook, dedicated to Mrs. Murphy was titled, "Our Time To Shine 1999." Some of the 90 graduates in the Class of '99 included: Kostas Athineos, Allison Babbino, Heather Casanova, Nora Charmello, Katheryn Chojnowski, Crystal Clark, Brian Connors, Vanessa Delgado, Frank DePasquale III, Jacqueline Emm, William Fiorillo, Mark Gorecki, Robert Guerrero, Jennifer Healy, Bryan Ikan, Stephanie Kay, Barbara Moran, Jennifer O'Brien, Kate O'Neill, Joanne Parente, Janeen Ramos, Fabienne Rivello, Jason Stine, Vincent Titone, Matthew Tulowiecki, William Venezia, Christine Weaver, Anthony Weeds. The Class of 1999 enjoyed many extra curricular activities including "Game of Life;" "Tigs" drug prevention outreach to the elementary school; Schools plays "Cinderella," and "Nunsense;" Spirit Week '99; The 8th Formal; The grand opening of The Light house, which was South Amboy High School's own credit union branch; Homecoming 1998, which featured Lyliana Munoz as queen and John Strzykalski as king. . . The Governors/Lady Governors fine senior athletes included Kimberly Batiuk, Kelly Brady, James Dempsey, Kristen English, David Hoehman, Jack Humphrey, John Kelly (Serving in the U.S. Marine Corps), Michael Kelly, Matthew Martins, Michelle Moura, Lyliana Munoz, Timothy Pasquale, Jonathan Peterson, Matthew Raavis, Michael Sekerak, John Strzykalski. . . South Amboy High School's Class of '99 was a truly gifted, fun-loving group of young adults.

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

Food pantries are an essential part of any community. It bridges the gap between limited resources and nutritional needs by providing free food. This allows people with disabilities to access groceries and have the ability to pay for other necessities such as rent and health care. No food pantry can survive without the numerous volunteers and generous donations from the public. South Amboy is fortunate to have both. From August, 2023 to December 31, 2023 over 5,600 households were served food from our pantry. In addition, over 10,000 people were served during this same time frame. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Rocky Kusic (St. Marys') and Mary Porcello (First Presbyterian) for their time and dedication to each food pantry. To the many volunteers, too lengthy to mention, thank you. Your time and commitment is acknowledged. If you find the time to volunteer please visit one of the pantries and help. If you don't have the time please donate. With the numbers South Amboy is experiencing we could use both.

The city has negotiated the purchase of two properties on Broadway. Hopefully this will provide needed relief to the parking issues plaguing Broadway.


Congratulations to our recently retired police chief Darren Lavigne after a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. Thank you for service and dedication to keeping South Amboy safe. Best of luck to our incoming chief Joe Matarangolo and our two new patrolmen, Kyle Gasiewski and Marcus Nunez.

In closing, 'Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh'

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Respectfully

Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy



Valentine's Day Luncheon



Venetian Care & Rehabilitation chefs cooked up a delicious meal for South Amboy seniors. Venetian hosted the Valentine's Day luncheon and bingo. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Trinity United Methodist Spring Bazaar - March 16

Trinity Church located at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy is hosting its annual spring bazaar on Saturday, March 16 from 9 am - 2 pm. We have a number of vendors (Artist, Jewelry, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, Chocolates, Touchstone Jewelry, and many crafts), baked goods, tricky tray, and a breakfast/lunch cafe. The Easter Bunny will be visiting and taking pictures. At 12 pm we will also be having an Easter Egg hunt. Please join us as we celebrate the Spring Season!! If you are interested in being a vendor - call Lori at 732 763 6232.

Sayreville Knights & Columbiette Fish Fry

The OLV Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes continue to host the Lenten Take-Out Fish Fry during Lent. This event is located at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus, 775 Washington Road (across from the Parlin Post Office). The menu includes Fried Flounder Platters (\$15), Fried Shrimp Platters (\$15) and Fried Combo Platters (\$16); all which include Salad, Vegetable, French Fries & Dessert. Also available are Fish Sandwiches (\$11); which include French Fries only. The March dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. The dinner is from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This is a take-out only dinner and we are unable to take phone orders. We hope to see you soon!



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A portrait of Tina James, Esq., a woman with blonde hair, wearing a white blazer and a colorful patterned scarf, smiling.

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Mayor Fred Henry and wife Linda, bring desserts to South Amboy seniors at the Mayor's Valentines Day lunch and bingo. The event was at the South Amboy Senior Center. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Dowdell Library News

Spring is upon us which means more exciting events at the Library. Stop by to see what we are up to!

Sadie Pope Dowdell Library turns 110 this month. Come by and celebrate with us on March 26!

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for **Reading Rascals** on Thursday, March 14 and 21 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the **After School Fun Club** on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm including a **Pokémon Card Swap** on March 13 and Bingo on March 27. Also, make sure to participate in the **Jellybean Contest** happening from Friday, March 1 to Wednesday, March 27. We are having a **Read Across America Raffle** from Friday, March 1 until Saturday, March 30 for kids age 5 to 13. Also, stop by to celebrate **Dr. Seuss' Birthday** on Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 pm.

Kids and Teens! Come to the library to take part in the annual **March Madness Contest** happening from March 1 to the 28. Every participant (ages 4 to 18) gets five shots a day (and ten shots on Saturdays) for a chance to win a NBA basketball. Also, don't miss out on **Kid/Teen Hangout** happening the first four Fridays in March from 3:30 to 4:30 pm for a fun **Trivia Contest**, a **Board Game Frenzy**, and more.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for a **Watercolor Painting Activity** on Tuesday, March 12 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

Adults and Teens! Grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks! Drop in for the **Crocheting and Knitting Circle** on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Adults! **VITA Tax Prep** is now back at the library. Schedule your in person or virtual appointment today. In person appointments for this month are on Tuesday, March 12. Also, solar eclipse glasses will be available at the library starting in March. Pick up yours today to make sure your eyes are protected while viewing the stunning solar eclipse happening on Monday, April 8.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, March 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Snow date is on Wednesday, March 27 at the same time. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital** and **RWJ Barnabas Health**, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing Camilla at Camilla.comercarruthers@rwjbh.org. For a complete list of the classes, please visit dowdell.org.

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

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



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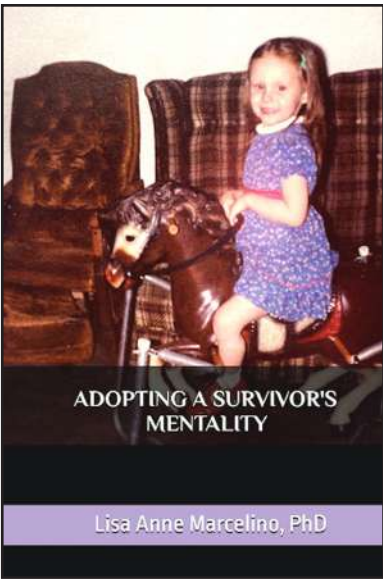
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New Book Release

Adopting A Survivor's Mentality is the autobiography of Dr. Lisa Marcelino, LMFT. It's a story about the challenges and obstacles Lisa faced from a young age through adulthood and how she followed her dreams and became a successful therapist, educator and advocate for others. In Adopting A Survivor's Mentality, Lisa shares with readers some of her most personal experiences of living in poverty, experiencing abuse and bullying, and processing trauma. Throughout the book, Lisa discusses her innermost thoughts and feelings about what was happening to her and how she survived the unthinkable. Lisa hopes that her story will inspire others to never give up on their dreams even when things seem impossible. Adopting A Survivor's Mentality is available for purchase on Amazon.

Dr. Lisa Marcelino is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional licensed in New Jersey and Hawaii. She has dedicated her life to helping others and has over 20 years of experience in the mental health field. She is the owner of Marcelino Therapy Services, LLC, a private practice serving individuals, couples and families. Lisa also works as a director overseeing two state programs serving individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Lisa is heavily involved within the community and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the need for mental health services to be readily accessible to all. Lisa is available for public speaking events and can be reached at DrLisaMarcelino@gmail.com.



Dr. Lisa Marcelino, LMFT

Fish And Chicken Fry

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 5pm-6:30PM. Tickets are \$17.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken is available by advance

order only. We will once again be offering take-out only. Each meal comes with a 6oz. piece of cod or chicken, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, roll and slice of fruit pie. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

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Darren C. LaVigne
Chief of Police

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January 2024,

To the Residents of the City of South Amboy

Dear Resident,

It is with mixed emotions that I will be retiring from police service effective February 1st. As I leave active duty I would be remiss if I left without reflection on what this career has meant to me, and specifically my service and relationship with you, the public. In my 41 years of public service and 37 as a police officer, I have always been cognizant that it is **You** the general public whom I have ultimately worked for. I have always emphasized that we the police only exist because of you, the resident. For you ultimately fund and support the South Amboy Police Department with your hard earned tax dollars. That is an undeniable fact. Salaries, uniforms, badges and equipment and even the funds to turn on the lights at police headquarters are all possible because of you, the taxpayer.

In my tenure, as Police Chief, I have always consistently emphasized this reality to the men and women under my command. During the early days of my 15 year tenure as your police chief, we established a "Mission Statement" to craft a tangible document that would embody our purpose, core values, and goals on how to best serve you. With distinct purpose the phrase "in partnership with our community" is prominently included in that statement. Our mission statement is clearly displayed on the door to police headquarters, every marked police vehicle, and each and every piece of stationary our agency utilizes.

So please realize that I took my responsibilities extremely serious. The safety and protection of you, your families, and your property where of tantamount importance to me always. We tried our very best to keep our community safe, clean and a place that we are all proud to call home.

So as my tenure comes to a close allow me to say a profound **Thank You** to the citizens of South Amboy for the honor and privilege to have served as your police chief.

May God bless each and everyone of you and your families. And May God bless our beautiful city of South Amboy.

Chief Darren LaVigne

Chief Darren LaVigne

"THANK You!"



Session 287

"The South Amboy Police Department is committed to Protect and Serve in partnership with our Community, and Consistently to maintain Honor, Integrity and Professionalism, while striving to Improve the Quality of Life in South Amboy."



Chief Darren LaVigne gives his farewell speech on his last day of work to the crowd near City Hall at his "Walkout" ceremony.



Thank you, and best of luck and happiness always, Chief LaVigne, from The South Amboy-Sayreville Times. God Bless!



Chief Darren LaVigne and his proud wife Joy LaVigne.



Two St. Stan's parishioners pray at the Christmas manger following the Farewell To The Manger service. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

St. Stan's Says Farewell To The Manger

By Steve Schmid

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church parishioners said goodbye to the 2023-24 Christmas season February 4. The Farewell To The Manger service was held inside the church and featured the final singing of English and Polish Christmas carols for the holiday season. The Christmas carols won't be sung until next Advent. Wsrod Nocmej Cisy, a Polish carol began the service, followed by Silent Night, Gdy Sie Chystus Rodzi, Joy To

The World, Przybiczeli Do Betlejem Pasterze, O Come Little Children, Lulajze Jezuniu, Away In A Manger, Pokdzmy Wszyscy Do Stajenki, and the program concluded with O Come All Ye Faithful. Afterwards, St. Stan's parishioners young and old worked to remove the Christmas manger, Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and more. This service was a wonderful way to say goodbye to Christmas until next season.

Breakfast With Easter Bunny March 24

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their annual Breakfast With The Easter Bunny Sunday March 24 from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. Cost is \$12.00.

Bring your camera so you can take pictures of your children with the Easter Bunny. To reserve your place, call 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

Sayreville Library News

Kitchens and Bathrooms with Jamie Novak (Virtual) Tuesday, Feb. 27 @6PM Jamie Novak, best selling author of "Keep This Toss That" is back with another decluttering seminar. This time: Learn how to tackle the kitchen and bathroom. Find some new ways to keep two of the busiest rooms in the house, clean and free of clutter. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Seafood Suppers with Vanessa (Virtual) Wednesday, Feb 28 @6PM Come join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish for another fun cooking demonstration. This time: Learn how to cook up some quick and tasty seafood dishes. From shrimp to salmon and more, these recipes will be a great addition to your meals. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Resumes and Cover Letters with Sunny (Virtual) Thursday, Feb 29 & Thursday March 14 @6PM Learn how to create eye-catching resumes and cover letters in this interactive seminar. Learn how to use the right words and language to really catch the eye of potential employers. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Trivia with Dan Monday, March 18 @6:30PM Think you are good at trivia? Want

to try and win some prizes? Dan Vetrano, Sayreville's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game. Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112 No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.

Movie Matinee Tuesday, March 19 @1PM This month: Armageddon Time, a family drama set in 1980's Queens. Starring Anne Hathaway, Jeremy Strong and Anthony Hopkins. Rated R-1 hr 55 mins Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Palm Cross Sale

St. Stanislaus Kostka Rosary Altar Society is presently selling Palm Crosses. They are filling orders at this time. Orders may be picked up during the following dates: March 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, and the final date is on March 23, 2024. Pickup will be at the Church lobby before and after all Masses.

Cost of Palm Crosses is \$8.50. Please make checks payable to: St. Stan's Rosary Altar Society. Address is: St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 225 MacArthur Ave., Sayreville, NJ 08872. For more information call Pat at: 732-257-3963 or Bernadine at: 732-257-3077.

The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, B.A., M.S.

Within the last ten years, firefighter recruits have been taught to fight structural fires by using a “transitional” attack. Though this technique of attacking the fire may seem new to the recruits, it was a successful technique used years ago when fire hoses were smaller, fires grew slower, and the Heat Release Rate (HRR) from the burning material was much lower. The type of building material used in the construction of homes during the early and mid-nineteenth century came from dimensional lumber which we know as the 2X4’s, 2X6’s or larger and thicker pieces of lumber. This was known as “legacy” construction. Today, most newer homes, condominiums, and townhomes, are constructed using lightweight trusses and pre-engineered wood materials. This allows for the buildings to have larger open living areas but creates hidden voids throughout. Unfortunately, this type of building construction leads to a faster and hotter burning fire. What this means is that when firefighters arrive at the scene of a house fire, the structure may be well on its way to being fully involved. Using the transitional attack method, where water is applied into a window of a burning room from the outside of the building, may be enough to save the building. In this type of fire attack, water is applied in a straight-stream pattern, through the open window and directed at the ceiling or window lintel. That water is then deflected off the ceiling or backwall, out and down in many directions. This pattern will be two-fold as it will direct water throughout the room’s contents to suppress the fire and cool the heated gases that accumulate across the ceiling. The bigger and hotter the fire, the more heat and pressurized gases given off. The gases will tend to rise to ceiling height throughout the structure. When firefighters arrive at the front door to gain entry, they remain low, as the hot gases at the ceiling level struggle to exit the open doorway and get to a cooler atmosphere. Heat and pressurized fire gases will always travel toward a cooler

area. As these firefighters enter through the doorway, they will be greeted by the heat from the fire. If the fire has been attacked from the outside before entry is made, it will make the inside temperatures more tenable for the firefighters to enter. When the firefighters open the front entry door, they not only allow the heat and gases to escape but allows for a supply of cool fresh oxygen in through the bottom portion of the doorway. This area where the hot gases escape from the top and the cool air enters the bottom is called the “neutral plane.” In coordination with this type of attack may be venting the roof, where a hole is cut in the roof allowing for the escape of the heat and gases. This will have a cooling effect on the interior for the attacking firefighters as the heat escapes through the vent hole. Older buildings with legacy construction may take up to thirty minutes for the fire room to flashover, where everything in the room is so hot that it all ignites. Laboratory tests involving today’s modern lightweight construction with plastic-based furnishings will flashover in about five minutes. This is just about the time when firefighters arrive on the scene. If the proper techniques are conducted in a systematic fashion, flashover may be prevented. Firefighters NEVER want to be caught in a flashover room because the results can be disastrous. Survivability time is about ten seconds. To have a successful outcome at these types of fires, or any fire, there must be a knowledgeable Incident Commander (IC), the person in charge. Timely decisions and coordination of equipment and personnel is utmost in these situations. Remember that everyone goes home after every incident.

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

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Where Have You Gone, Tony Gonsalves?

By Tom Burkard

Tony Gonsalves moved to South Amboy with his family in 1965, and the young teenager played one year of soccer, and helped to start the tennis team at Hoffman HS. No one ever realized at that time what a positive influence he would have on the “Pleasant Little City” community. A 1970 graduate of Hoffman HS, he went on to college at Newark State, which changed its name to Kean College, and is currently Kean University. Tony played varsity tennis at the school for 4 years and was team captain as a junior and senior.

Tony, who taught for 39 years, has been retired for 11 years now, and “Enjoying retirement, even though there’s not a lot to do. I have become an avid reader, and I miss the class of students who were interested in studying what the history topic was.” “Mr. G” as he is affectionately known by his players and former students still keeps very active as Head Coach of the boys soccer team, and is now in his 48th season at the helm. He has to be the longest running boys soccer coach in the state of New Jersey, and he said that his career record is approximately (658-677). Wow, that’s a lot of games, and also plenty of victories, probably the most for any soccer coach in our state. In addition, Gonsalves coached boys tennis for 25 years, and also boys and girls bowling for 12 years. When asked who his greatest soccer players were, he said he didn’t want to offend anyone, because he had so many outstanding players and didn’t want to leave anyone out. He did however mention that the school’s record for goals in one season was held by Pablo Penagos, who scored 38. Tony also said that the 1979 and 1985 teams were two of the best that he has ever coached in 48 years. His Hoffman Governors soccer teams captured the Gold Division championship “3 or 4 times.”

Coach Gonsalves has been a huge soccer fan his entire life, and even got to meet, and personally know his all-time favorite, Pele. “Tony recalled, “I met Pele for the first time in ‘76, and also three or four times at Pele’s Soccer Camp, when I took our ‘79 Hoffman HS team down to Trenton College where the camp was held. I also had the opportunity to work for Pele’s Soccer Camp around 1980, and took kids down there. Pele was very friendly, warm, and made you feel like you knew him for years.” Gonsalves personally chauffeured Pele to Newark Airport from Pele’s Soccer Camp, which 20 of Mr. G’s players attended. Besides Pele, he said his all-time favorite athletes were tennis players Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors.

Gonsalves began his teaching career in 1975, as a substitute History teacher, ironically for his own high school History teacher Mr. John Moran. “I taught two 8th grade classes and three 9th. It was always a challenge, but it was good.” He began full-time teaching duties in September 1976.

Also, in 1980, the late Charlie Walters asked Gonsalves to run with him on the Republican ticket for Councilman-At-Large, along with Stanley Jankowski who ran for Mayor. Tony said that “I enjoyed going door to door and introducing myself to people, and encouraging them to vote. All three Republicans lost to the Dems, but Gonsalves and Walters made strong showings, falling short by approximately 30 and 60 votes respectively.

1980 was a busy year for Tony, and he was a contestant on the TV show 50,000 Pyramid, on two occasions in late 1980 and early ‘81. He shared the television screen with celebrities Lavar Burton, Fred Gandy, Joanne Worley and Adrienne Bourbeau.

Tony said, “Bourbeau was a great player and the most fun.” Gonsalves did very well, winning \$800 in cash, 2 trips to Europe, and \$2,000 in prizes.

He has always loved music, and when asked if he still was a Frank Sinatra fan he quickly responded “Big Time!” He also told us that he is a big fan of the band Chicago, and also enjoys James Taylor music.

Outside of sports and a little taste of politics, Tony G. was always active in many different things. He had a Dee Jay business called the DJG’s, and was one of the area’s top DJ’s for 28 years, playing at all kinds of events and parties. His fondest memory of this venture was “Being at a party that was rockin’, and everybody around you was dancing.”

In 1989, along with Reggie Carney, invented The Game of South Amboy, New Jersey as a fundraiser for the athletic teams at Hoffman High School. Mr. G. said, “The game was terrific! It highlighted not only the businesses in town, but everybody who bought it had their name on the game board, and it showed a business and personal aspect.”

Tony was awarded the Flanzbaum Scholarship from Brookdale in 1994, which allowed him to go to Yad Vashem (the world’s preeminent university for Holocaust studies) in Israel for 3 ½ weeks for an intense study. It was one of the most rewarding experiences in his career. He immensely enjoyed his time in Israel, and said, “I was baptized in the Jordan River, and was also on a boat on the Sea of Galilee.” He has been a lecturer at St. Mary Church for 25 years.

He is also known for running many trips to different countries all over the world. “I’ve made 25 trips to Europe, and been to every country in Western Europe, with hundreds of students and adults through the years. My favorite cities are Florence, Italy, and Paris, France. He was intrigued with Florence because “Michaelangelo and DaVinci had a contest there.” Tony also said that he had

the opportunity to take his daughter to Paris with him.

He is an active member of the American Outlaws National Supporters Club of U.S. Men and Women National teams. “The Club’s home is at Hailey’s in Metuchen, and the place is decorated with World Cup memorabilia. We have 90 members and are growing.”

What are your plans for the future, Tony? “My immediate plan is to have thousands of dollars to spend on World Cup tickets for games

at MetLife. (Tony has been a soccer fanatic his entire life and went to 4 World Cups)

Tony Gonsalves is the proud father of three adult children who live locally, and six grandchildren.

How should Tony Gonsalves be remembered? “I loved my job football, and I tried to share my love of history and of the beautiful game. (Pele)

*A special thank you to Tony Gonsalves for all you have done for the local communities, and especially for being such a positive influence on the thousands of students you have motivated and inspired during your long and highly-successful run as a teacher and coach.

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

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Sayreville Historical Society celebrated their 50th Anniversary on January 25, 2024 at their museum for a members only celebration. In the photo (l-r) Frank Terzino Sr., president of the SHS cuts the cake with past presidents Al Baumann and John McCormack.

During the event a proclamation from Sayreville’s Mayor and Council to honor the society’s longevity and success was presented and read by Councilman Dan Balka. A plaque commemorating the historic event was unveiled and will be mounted on the society’s building that is located at 425 Main Street in the next few days. Terzino made a champagne toast (alcohol free) commending all the hard work and dedication from past and present members and volunteers. Photo albums were strewn about the museum showcasing the membership’s activities while enjoying refreshments and sharing stories. Baumann and McCormack gave accounts of their experiences and told of the struggles it took from the beginning in 1974 to house exhibits at private residences until 1984 when the society finally got a place to call home. The museum is open on the first and third Sundays from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.



Sayreville Historical Society

The Sayreville Historical Society was recently nominated for the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Trustees Emeritus Award for Historic Preservation, Society President Frank Terzino, Sr. announced.

The Society was nominated for its work in preserving the photographs of World War II servicemen and women displayed in Attorney Joseph Karcher’s office window on Main Street in Sayreville during the war. The photographs and the story of the display were the subject of a recent book by Chris Nieratko, “Give ‘Em Hell: Sayreville Goes to War”.

“The Society is honored by the nomination,” said Terzino. “So many Society members volunteer their time to preserve the borough’s history. This award nomination is

a result of their time and dedication.”

The winner of the award will be announced in June.

The Sayreville Historical Society was founded in 1974 with the mission of preserving, researching, and making accessible to the public the history of Sayreville and the surrounding region. For more information, please visit www.sayrevillehistory.com.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately funded, nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that works in the field of historic preservation in the United States.

For more information contact jane@sayrevillehistory.com or 732-754-4069

ORIGINS OF THE SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE ROTARY CLUB

By Mike Poll

The members of the future South Amboy Rotary Club applied to Rotary International for a Charter on February 14, 1924. There were twenty-two Charter Members each representing a different occupation (classification). The application listed President Elmer H. Eulner, V.P. George R. Delaney, Secretary Harold G. Hoffman and Treasurer Charles Safran. The Club was to meet every Tuesday at 12:15 PM at the “Bide A Wee Inn”.

The application also named as Directors: John A. Coan, John A. Johnson, Rev. Ed Griffin, Michael F. Nagel, James L. Housel, Robert P. Mason, Elmer H. Eulner, and George R. Delaney. The general membership was listed as: Dr. Fountain Burlew, George Gundrum Sr., George Gundrum Jr., James A. Newmeyer, Walter Peterson, Donald W. Reed, Robert A. Straub, Philip J. Sullivan, Ferdinand C. Shussler, Oliver W. Welsh, Wm. Ernest Zinkham and George W. Crane.

While such lists may seem boring, there may be many citizens of South Amboy and its neighboring municipalities who are directly related to these businessmen. For example: Harold G. Hoffman became a governor of the State of New Jersey; Walter Peterson was the owner of Peterson’s Pharmacy. Robert Straub was owner of Straub Motors and the Gundrums were owners of the funeral home on Bordentown Avenue.

Are you a descendant of any of the founders? Each of these men was a community-builder. Would you also be interested in being a community builder?

The application was made in the middle of the decade, eventually described as the “Roaring Twenties.” However, these men had more than just roaring on their minds. The good and benefit of the local, national and international communities were the goals of the Club from the beginning.

It has been ten decades since the South Amboy Rotary Club was chartered and hundreds of local citizens have benefited from the activities of the Club over the years. There have been thousands of dollars in scholarship money given to graduates of the high schools in the two municipalities.

Financial support has been given to the First Aid Squads.

The Club has survived two World Wars and numerous financial crises including the Great Depression, political ups and downs, and the many changes that occur in every-day life.

Membership was opened to women in the late 1990’s. Mrs. Lois Morriss, Bank Manager, was the first female member of the Club.

The Club has met at different venues over the years. It met at Peter Pank Diner for a period of time. Claire and Coby’s Restaurant was used as well as Sciortino’s. The current location is the South Side Diner on Route 35 South at 8:30 AM on Tuesdays.

For more information and to learn how you can become a member of the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club please visit rotary.org online.

Trip To Ireland

Joe Campbell’s Tour of Ireland will be from Oct. 26 thru Nov. 3. For a complete itinerary, contact Marie Esposito at 732-727-2896 or Joe Campbell at 646-483-2883.

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Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



This month is a three parter! 1. Name the person driving the car, his real name, 2, What type of car is he driving? 3. What T.V. Show is this photo from? You need all three to get credit. Good luck. Send your answers to satimes@aol.com by March 15th.

Last month's mystery person was famed drummer Hal Blaine, a member of the group of studio musicians known back in the day as the "Clique" and later called "The Wrecking Crew" there is now doubt that have heard him keeping the backbeat on many hit songs. The following got it rights: Ed English, Jim Szatkowski, Mark Moniello, Pat Scully, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, Laurie & Gary Loftus.



Hal Blaine

Trinity United Methodist Roast Pork Dinner - April 20

Trinity Church located at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy is hosting a Roast Pork Dinner - Sit down, take out, or delivery. The dinner will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.. The dinner will include Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, and homemade desserts. The dinner will cost \$16.00. Please call Lori at 732 763 6232 if you want delivery or take out.

Corned Beef And Cabbage March 17

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their annual Corned Beef And Cabbage dinner Sunday March 17 following the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day parade. Cost is \$20.00. For more information, call 732-721-2025.



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St. Patrick's Day Trivia Quiz

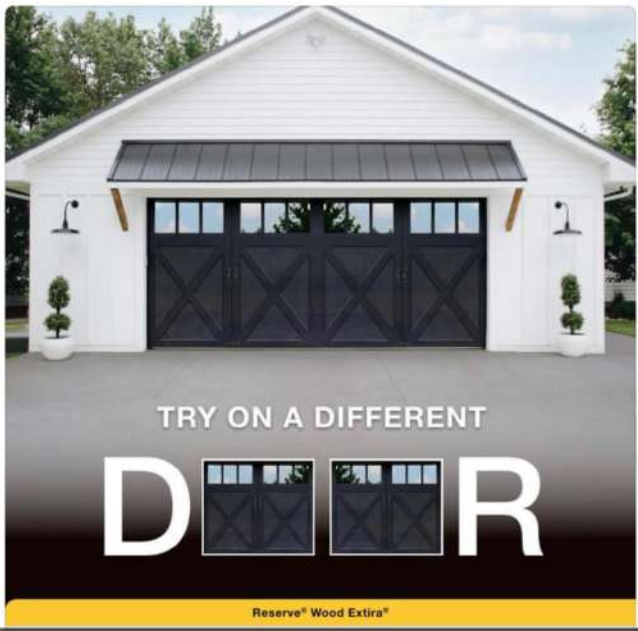
By Tom Burkard

1. Where was St. Patrick born?
a. Ireland b. Great Britain c. Germany
2. What was St. Patrick's real name?
a. Patrick O'Callahan b. Jozef Buzhardt c. Maewyn Succrat
3. What does Erin go bragh mean?
a. Ireland Forever b. Praise God c. Peace Always
4. What U.S. river is dyed in green on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate the holiday?
a. Tennessee River b. Mississippi River c. Chicago River
5. What do the 3 leaves on a shamrock represent?
a. The Holy Trinity b. Love, peace and prayer c. A united country
6. The first U.S. President to attend a St. Patrick's Day parade?
a. John F. Kennedy b. John Q. Adams c. Harry Truman
7. How many U.S. presidents claim Irish heritage?
a. 5 b. 14 c. 19
8. Traditional food served on St. Patrick's Day?
a. Shepard's Pie b. Kielbasa c. Corned Beef & Cabbage
9. According to legend, what did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland?
a. Satan b. Black Bears c. Snakes
10. What was the original color associated with St. Patrick's Day?
a. green b. blue c. purple



Answers

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



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WWW.?



Does this local business look familiar to you? It is located in either South Amboy or Sayreville. If you know what it is, send your answer to: satimes@aol.com by March 15th.. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Last month’s photo was of the legendary Peter Pank Diner which was on Route 9 North in Sayreville. Winners who correctly identified it were: Jay Seyglinski, Joanne Niestemski, Lynn Loy, Ed English, Frances Kosanovich, Don Zrebiec, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Amy White, Mark Moniello,

Pat Scully, Thomas Harrigan, Barb Bockus, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Gary Feret, Pete McIntyre, Lisa Grankowski, Betty Leveille, Mary Agnes Morris, Edna Pilch, John & JoAnn French, Stephen Laskiewicz, Walter Starzec Jr.



January WWW.? Peter Pank Diner

St. Stan’s School
(Photos/Info Submitted)



The 8th Grade students are showing off their STEM skills in style by designing their own sneakers! Congrats to Madelyn McGrane and Penelope Abouata on being voted the winners!

LETTERS

Hi Everyone
Welcome to the New Year!
The picture is the inside of the great Peter Pank Diner. The best place for anything you wanted to eat when you wanted it. Everyone was sad to see it close. Stay warm Spring will be here soon.

Lynn Loy, Morgan

Hi Tom and Brian,
Great job on a fantastic newspaper!
Bruce Grankowski

Tom and Brian,
My guess for January's WWW? is the Raritan Diner in South Amboy. I don't remember much about the inside, other than sitting at the counter with my Dad having breakfast on a Saturday morning before going to the grocery store and butcher shop. Even if I am wrong, thanks for bringing back memories of a little girl hanging out with her Dad enjoying Pork Roll and eggs. lol
Lee Szatkowski
Goldsboro, NC

Tom and Brian,
Thank you for a great edition of the SA Times. You are off to a great start with this publication in 2024. I really enjoyed Jasko's article and It also brought back many fond memories.
Happy New Year to all,
Bill Farrell

My parents did have a copy of the South Amboy monopoly game, which they passed down to me. We never used the game, but one of my children made it into a tray (Which is pictured)
Helen Petriello



Local Wildlife
(Photo by Steve Schmid)



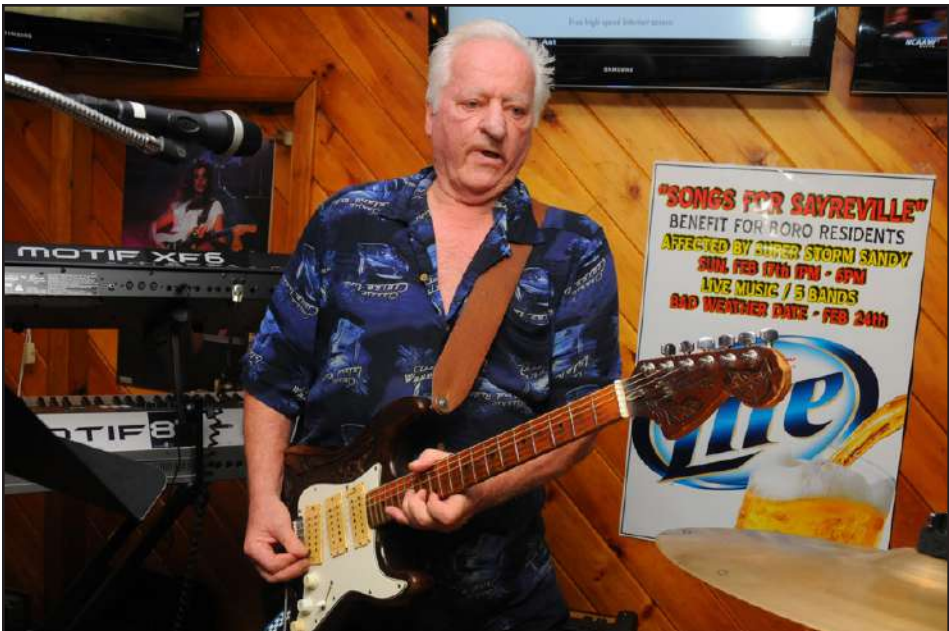
Several hundred Canadian geese enjoy February sunshine at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park.



St. Stan's hosted the cutest dalmatian puppies and several "Seniors" on Thursday, February 2nd as the Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade classes enjoyed celebrating the 100th Day of School!



A special "Thank You" to Terri Abbateillo, author of the book Kody's Capers, for coming to speak and read to our lower school students!



Guitar/Musical legend, Ed “Whitey” Dill of South Amboy died Feb. 9. He is pictured playing “Johnny B. Goode” at the Songs for Sayreville fundraiser in 2013. Clem Skarzynski will pay tribute to Ed with a feature story in our March 30th issue. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

#1 Pop Hits
February 24

- 2021-Drivers License-Olivia Rodrigo
- 2018-God’s Plan-Drake
- 2007-Say It Right-Nelly Furtado
- 1993-I Will Always Love You
-Whitney Houston
- 1985-Careless Whisper
-Wham! Feat. George Michael
- 1971-One Bad Apple-The Osmonds
- 1966-Lightnin’ Strikes-Lou Christie

Local Author
(Photo/story submitted)

Lifelong South Amboy resident Terri Abbatiello happily finds herself in a position she never imagined. Loving horses all her life, she would trail ride as a girl and now volunteers at Helping Hearts Equine Rescue in Monmouth County. While volunteering she fell in love with a miniature horse with one blue eye, that arrived with three other minis five years ago. They were a part of a hoarding case, where over 200 animals were seized in eastern Pennsylvania. Not long after he arrived she adopted him, named him Takoda (Kody), and their journey began!

Throughout the last five years their bond has grown and they’ve learned several things together. They have even visited nursing homes and attended other functions. As time went on Terri realized just how special Kody is and wanted to share his story with others.

She wrote a children’s book that has received all positive reviews. In the book you’ll see that Kody has worked through several challenges and changes in his life. He faces them with an open heart and builds a new found confidence. Kody gains the courage to make friends and even helps others make friends. His perseverance to overcome challenges is something we can all relate to. The book also teaches hope, belonging and giving of ourselves to benefit others. Children love the adorable illustrations!

Kody’s Capers Finding Joy is available



Terri Abbatiello and Kody

right here in town at Poochie Doo at 149 N Broadway in South Amboy and on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com

Amazon link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CL3QGZBK>

Barnes and Noble link: Kody's Capers Finding Joy by Terri Abbatiello

You can follow Kody at Facebook.com Kody’s Capers “Takoda” and on Instagram @KodysCapers

The Cellar Dwellers and Friends



The Cellar Dwellers and Friends perform at the South Amboy Columbiettes Taste Of Italy dinner held at the South Amboy Knights Of Columbus Council Home (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Acoustic Friday March 15

By Jerry Smith

The South Amboy Arts Alliance presents an Acoustic Friday showcase featuring John Siehl and local musician Dan Toye on March 15, 2024. Both performers are veterans of the popular monthly music event. The talented Diane Doolittle will provide accompaniment on saxophone and flute for both performers.

John Siehl is an acoustic guitarist, mandolin player, and vocalist who will be performing his own original songs in addition to covering songs in the folk and Americana tradition. John is a long-time member of the duo known as Sherman and Siehl.

Singer/songwriter Dan Toye offers a wide-ranging repertoire that includes everything from folk and Americana to rock and pop. His CD entitled Goin’

Home includes such songs as “Let’s Ride,” “Mississippi Queen” and the title song, “Goin’ Home.” Dan has also been known to include an Irish song or two in his set.

SA Arts Alliance is located at 141 N. Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is \$5.00 and complementary light refreshments will be offered.

The Alliance seeks interested acoustic-oriented performers of any genre for future performances. For additional information, contact SA Arts at 732-727-4600, extension 5971 or by email at SAarts141@gmail.com. Watch for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.



By Tom Burkard

Know/Knows

- 1.For All We Know
- 2.I Want To Know What Love Is
- 3.Maybe I Know
- 4.Do You Want To Know A Secret
- 5.If You Don't Know Me By Now
- 6.Everybody Knows
- 7.Somebody That I Used To Know
- 8.Like To Get To Know You
- 9.Do You Know The Way To San Jose
- 10.Does Anybody Know What Time It Is
- 11.You Know What I Mean
- 12.I Know What Boys Like
- 13.God Only Knows
- 14.How Will I Know
- 15.Heaven Knows

Answers

- a.The Beach Boys
- b.The Carpenters
- c.The Beatles
- d.Chicago
- e.Dionne Warwick
- f.Lesley Gore
- g.Spanky/Our Gang
- h.The Dave Clark Five
- i.The Turtles
- j.Whitney Houston
- k.Foreigner
- l.The Waitresses
- m.The Grass Roots
- n.Gotye
- o.Harold Melvin/The Blue Notes

1b 2k 3f 4c 5o 6h 7n 8g 9e 10d 11i 12l 13a 14j 15m.



Vitali Basiuk is pictured in front of John Auto Center with his son, Gmyrto, and his wife Oksana. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

John Auto Center Helps Ukrainian Family

By Steve Schmid

Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto Center in South Amboy, is known throughout the community for his charitable deeds. He recently hired Vitali Basiuk, a Ukrainian refugee, as a mechanic for his repair shop. Vitali had to leave Ukraine with his family after Russian missiles destroyed his auto repair shop. He came to the United States

seeking a new start and a better future for his wife, Oksana, and son Gmyrto.

He was looking for an auto repair job since he had work experience in that field. He went to John Auto Repair in a driving rainstorm with Oksana and Gmyrto and was given the chance to work when Surjit hired him as a mechanic for his shop.

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 Teddy's Bar, 379 S. Pine Ave, South Amboy on Thursday, March 7, 2024 from 7 to 9 pm.

A \$20 pp entrance fee will be collected at the door. Participants will enjoy unlimited draft beer and wine, light fare and a performance by the D. B. Kelly Pipes & Drums. Proceeds will support the efforts of the South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

One Hit Wonders
40 Years Ago

1984-The Curly Shuffle-Jump In The Saddle Band; 99 Luftballons-Niena; The Warrior-Scandal Featuring Patty Smyth; Desert Moon-Dennis DeYoung; All I Need-Jack Wagner; Easy Lover-Phillip Bailey with Phil Collins; They Don’t Know-Tracey Ullman; Give It Up-KC; Let The Music Play-Shannon; Major Tom Coming Home-Peter Schilling; Breakin’...There’s No Stopping Us-Ollie & Jerry.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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



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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water
Fishing is all coastal. Rivers and Bays are closed until March 1st for Striped Bass and Winter Flounder. I wouldn't look for any good bites for either species until later on at the end of March. Some Striped Bass were caught in the ocean at Island Beach and LBI before the January storms. There are some Blackfish off Barnegat Inlet jetties. A few big Blackfish plus Ling and a few Cod are what the party boats are catching at this time. White Perch can be caught from the docks that are accessible in Toms River and parts of Barnegat Bay. The new slot law for Striped Bass that was made law this past year is one fish at 28 to 31 inches will stay in effect as the Feds feel too many were caught the last few years. In addition, you must hold onto the racks for any fish that have to be measured so law officials can determine compliance if you filet them. Recent winter storms seem to be making fishing very slow.

Fresh Water
There has been no ice fishing at all at this time. Warm Temperatures are to blame. There is the possibility of catching Walleyes in the Delaware River from Lambertville to the state line up north. There are some trout that have been caught from the shore near the boat ramp at Round Valley Reservoir. When rivers and streams are not too high, holdover trout can be found. I know, because my wife and I tried one of our favorite spots at the lower Pequest. She pulled in a nice 12 inch Rainbow in mid-February but I had no luck.

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Gone Fishin'



Dennis Poulson of South Amboy caught his first fish of 2024, a pickerel, at Kennedy Park in Sayreville on Feb. 10th. (Photo/info submitted)

ST. JUDE
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank You St. Jude. -RS, AS, LP, HS, LS, EP

School Sports
(As of Feb. 12)

By Tom Burkard

Boys Basketball

Sayreville (15-9) Coach John Wojcik
Team Leaders

Points-Sam Jones 384, Chidi Chukwurah 329, Keithan Shuler 255, Jayce Green 220; Rebounds-Shuler 172, Chukwurah 149; Assists-Green 127, S. Jones 57; Blocks-Shuler 14, Chukwurah 9; Steals-Green 24, S. Jones 23.

South Amboy (15-9) Coach Matt Wiater

Points-Gavin Pelkey 417, Jake Eberle 362, John Kelly 278, Jaden Eagan 205; Rebounds-Kelly 195, Eberle 173; Assists-G. Pelkey 80, Eagan 65; Blocks-Eberle 45, Kelly 16; Steals- Pelkey 79, Kelly 37.

Girls Basketball

South Amboy (5-16) Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr.

Points-Emma Kalantis 168, Sarah McLaughlin 115; Rebounds-E. Kalantis 196, Gwen Kalantis 101; Assists-Rivera 51, E. Kalantis 30; Steals-Rivera 54, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 50, E. Kalantis 37; Blocks-Gulick 17, E. Kalantis 11.

Sayreville (1-24) Coach Janet Cook

Points-Angelina Sepulveda 111, Daniella Verlingo 88; Rebounds-Sepulveda 83, Folakemi Akinokun 80; Steals-Sepulveda 17, Dyanna Sharpe 17.

Walsh Wins
GMCT Crown

Sayreville Bombers wrestling standout, Connor Walsh captured the GMCT 285 lb. championship in a thrilling, Sudden Victory over St. Joseph’s Caden Sternliek, 2-1. His teammate Michael Zaunczkowski bowed in the 157 lb. title match to Tyler Whitford of St. Thomas Aquinas, 6-1.



Don Sofilkanich

Sofilkanich Out As
Bombers Coach

Don Sofilkanich, who had a very successful first year as head coach of the Sayreville Bombers football team, will not be back at the helm this year. In his initial season, he guided the club to a fine (8-3) record, and the sectional semifinals, where they dropped a heartbreaking 30-28 battle to Mt. Olive. Sayreville finished 2nd in the National Silver Division, and tied for the 3rd most victories in the Big Central Conference. Don, who started coaching in ‘93, has coached at several New Jersey high schools, and has had some really talented teams along the way. Sofilkanich coached clubs that captured state championships with Dover in ‘96, New Brunswick in ‘03 and ‘06, and also won a CJ Group 1 crown with Asbury Park in ‘07. Don also coached at Roxbury, Bishop Ahr, and Plainfield. Prior to taking over as Head Coach at Sayreville, he was an Assistant Coach under Chris Beagan of the Bombers.

National Signing Day

The following Sayreville athletes signed with colleges they plan to attend in the fall; Jillian Bourbeau-field hockey, Kean University; Gianna Gittlitz-lacrosse, FDU-



Vera Bacsoka (l) and coach Georgann Tice following the GMC swimming championships.



Chris Rodriguez (l) and Eryk Gurdak are pictured at the GMC swimming championships. (Photos submitted)

South Amboy
Wins Medals At
GMC Swimming
Championships
(Story submitted)

On the first weekend in February, three South Amboy athletes competed at the Greater Middlesex County Swimming Championships at the Perth Amboy YMCA.

In a field of over 65 competitors, Junior Eryk Gurdak took home silver medals in the 50 (22.12) and 100 yard freestyle. Eryk had a personal best in the 100 with a 48.36 and achieved his second qualifying time for the NJ Meet of Champions (MOC) next month in Gloucester.

Out of 50 swimmers from across the county, Freshman Chris Rodriguez secured a 7th place finish in the 50 yard freestyle.

Chris had to swim his best time of 23.59 to capture the medal. He also swam the 100 yard fly in 58.71, improving his seed by over 1.25 and placing 12th.

On Saturday, Senior Vera Bacsoka competed in the 200 yard Individual Medley (50 yards of each stroke) and got 7th place out of 40 athletes.

She also secured a fifth in the 100 back with a time of 1:05.85, medaling in both events.

This is Vera’s highest place finish in the four years she has represented South Amboy.

Retired South Amboy Elementary Art teacher Georgann Tice was the Coach on Deck for the meet.



South Amboy Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs goes over a play during a time out (Photo Submitted)

Bright Future Ahead

By Caitlin Norek

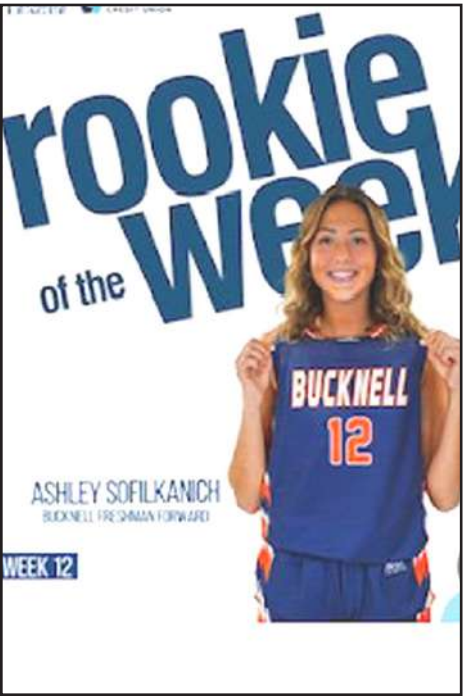
The 2023-2024 season for the Lady Guvs has not been anything less than exciting. The girls on this team have continuously shown improvement, commitment, hard work, and unmatched sportsmanship. Although the girls could be credited themselves with this, another person that should be thanked for these results is Head Coach, Jeff Gumbs. Coach Gumbs has been both a player and a coach in the basketball world before he made his way over to SAMHS. He brought his expertise and passion for the game with him. This is evident every time you step into a gym where Coach Gumbs is with his girls. Junior Captain Emma Kalantis says, “He does everything for our team that he can and we appreciate him very much.” Assistant Coach, Caitlin Norek, mentions, “Coach Gumbs had brought this team alive. Whenever I am watching him coach, I see how much the girls look up to him and want to learn from him. He has made me a better coach.” After various losing seasons, the Lady Guvs were at a loss. The girls had drive, they had passion, but the wins weren’t coming. When Coach Gumbs entered the chat, this changed. Kalantis

says, “he’s really improved the mentality of the players from previous years and has made us become better basketball players.” Senior Oliva Guilick adds, “He’s improved my mindset towards basketball and has made me more open to trying things I wouldn’t have in the past. He makes me feel more confident about playing.” This season the Lady Guvs have won 5 games, and have also been through some tough nail-biting losses. If you were lucky enough to watch one of these games you will see the passion and energy Gumbs brings to the team and instills in his players. Gulick also mentioned, “Coach Gumbs is always mindful of our team’s limits and knows when to challenge us further. I couldn’t have asked for a better coach in my final year of playing basketball.” Some high points of the season include winning the 2023-2024 Sportsmanship Award, Emma Kalantis being named player of the week in December, Emma Kalantis being named to the Gold Division All-Division Team, making states, and overall being a competitive and confident team.

Irish For a Day

By Kathleen Schnell

Another year, let’s go, let’s go,
it’s time to match in green
We’re Irish for day, we can’t be late,
Saint Patrick is out on the street
He’s calling your name,
he wants us together,
he’s right there near the church
Bring out your family,
your community is here,
the shamrock spoke it first
Three leaves in one,
the message is clear,
you are the missing piece
Bagpipes are buzzing,
children cheering,
together we’re all complete
There’s more to tell,
so enjoy the parade,
come back and have corned beef
Maybe some cabbage?
I prefer soda bread,
don’t worry we have a feast.
Here’s my secret, but be discreet;
it’s the key of all keys
Hold it near your heart and keep it
there, or else it’ll fall down deep
And deep in your pocket,
it’s no good there,
it’ll surely wither and weep
But know I trust you,
so here it is, our humanity:
Tomorrow is just the same,
we live under the same sun,
fall asleep to the kisses
from the moon,
share the freshness of our air
and guess what, yes it’s true,
we’re all just humans too.
Next year, we’re Irish again,
the tradition continues,
but for now let’s live and be true
Put on our best green,
share our stories,
and from me, a kiss to you.



Bucknell University freshman Ashley Sofilkanich, a forward from South Amboy, and a graduate of St. John Vianney was once again selected Women’s Basketball Rookie of the Week by PenFed Credit Union. The talented player averaged 20.5 points, and 6.5 rebounds in 2 games last week against Army and also Navy. In the Army contest, she poured in 20 points, ripped 7 rebounds, and had a career high of 8 blocked shots, which is the most for a Bucknell player since Sune Swart in 2017. She is #2 in the league for blocked shots.

Mets Trip

For all of you baseball fans, the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are running their annual trip to Citi Field Saturday afternoon June 29. The Mets will host the Houston Astros in a 4:10 PM game. Cost of \$160 includes game ticket, \$24 in Mets Money that can be spent anywhere in the ballpark, and round trip transportation to the stadium. Motor coach will leave the K of C parking lot at 2 PM. To reserve your seat, call Steve at 732-727-1707 or 732-721-2025 and leave a message.



The SA Times offers complete obituaries (with or without a photo), of your loved ones provided by you or the funeral parlor to The SA Times.

Prices vary depending on the size required. A one-line listing of any local, recently deceased is offered FREE of charge.

E-mail your requests to: sasayrtimes@gmail.com or call: 732-360-8773.

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For pricing contact the above e-mail or phone.

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1963-Tom Fitzmorris of St. Mary's hauls in another rebound, as Eagles Hall-of-Famer Jay Derent backs him up.

30 Years Ago-1994 Eagles Top Governors

1994-St. Mary's boys basketball squad topped Hoffman, 69-57, behind Ross Hull, who pumped in 22 points, John Kugel 14, and Ben Zmigrodski 12. The Purple & Gold attack was led by Mike Russo with 21 tallies, and Rob Thomas 14.

Back In Those College Days

Former Sayreville basketball great Marcin Ziobron starred for the Felician University basketball team in 2001-02, and 2002-03.

Patriots Dinner Outing June 22

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are offering dinner and fireworks Saturday June 22, when the Somerset Patriots host the Erie Tigers in a 7 PM game. \$60 cost includes Party Deck admission for a good view of the field and an all you can buffet for 90 minutes. Food is served one half hour before scheduled game time and ends one hour after the scheduled start. All you can eat menu includes: Sausage & Peppers, Grilled Bourbon Chicken, Penne Vodka, Rice and Vegetable Medley, and Garden Salad. Cookies and brownies with coffee and tea for dessert are included. Unlimited fountain soda is available through the 7th inning. A full bar is also available. The evening concludes with an exciting fireworks display after the last out. To reserve your seat, call Steve at 732-727-1707 or 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

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

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

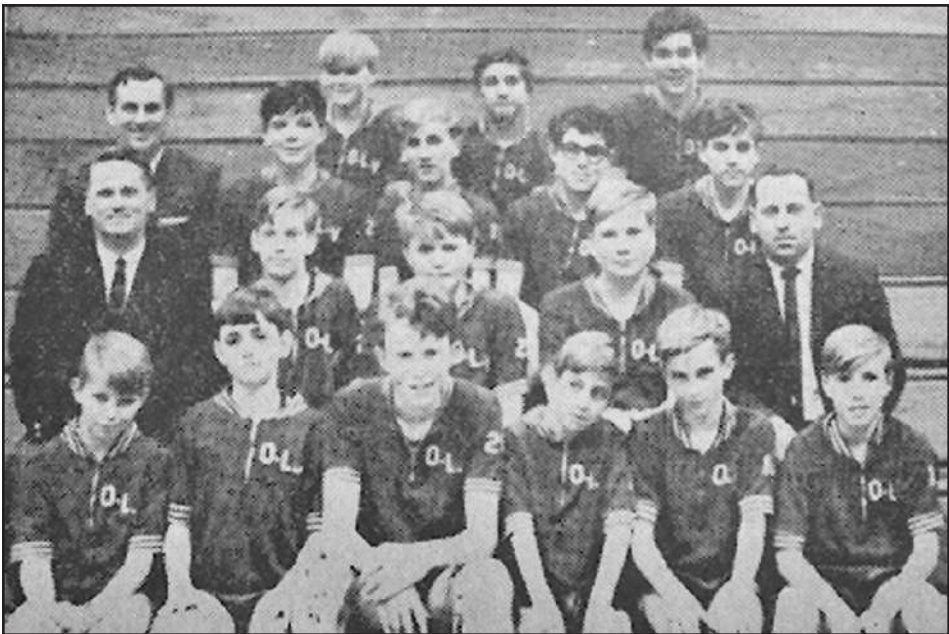
A PRAYER FOR HEALING
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach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

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

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

They Were Champions



1969-Our Lady of Victories Grammar School boys basketball team captured 1st place in the Middlesex County Catholic Conference, and also won the playoff championship of the Tri-County Basketball League, by defeating St. John's of New Brunswick, 33-24. OLV finished with an amazing (27-3) record. Pictured bottom row (l-r) Steve Birmingham, Cliff O'Brien, Dave Kwiatkowski, who was named MVP in both leagues, John Przybylko, George Keenan, Robert Fedor. 2nd row (l-r) Coach Leo Farley, Ray Lasko, Jeff Miklos, Brian Jensen, Coach Francis Veczsak. 3rd row (l-r) Coach John Wojcik, Doug Cox, John Wojcik, John Perez, Walt Rondesko. Top row (l-r) Brian Swider, Jim Marusiak, Brad Picher. (Photo/info courtesy of John Przybylko)



1975-Our Lady of Victories, Sayreville captured the Diocesan CYO High School Girls Basketball Tournament, which was held at the CYO Center, Trenton. In the title game, the talented and undefeated OLV team, under the brilliant coaching of Carol Galley, defeated a strong St. Anthony's of Trenton, 24-22 in a real thriller. Rhonda Rompola, who won the Most Valuable Player trophy, fired in the game winning basket with only 0:10 seconds left, to give OLV the championship. Pictured bottom row (l-r) Marylou Puchala, Karen Anderson, Rhonda Rompola, Lynn Lucas, Michelle Czachur. Top row (l-r) Diane Klein, Debra Miara, Donna Rondesko, Barbara Sulikowski, Anita Shorosky, and Coach Carol Galley.



1985-The Hoffman girls talented Cross Country team, under the guidance of Coach Reggie Carney captured the Greater Middlesex County Conference championship and also the State Sectional title. The Lady Guvs were also the runner-up in the State Group 1 Championship. The champions consisted of Top row (l-r) K. Wallace, Lisa Smith, Debbie Lagoyda, Chris Noble, Coach Reggie Carney. Middle row (l-r) Caren Stegway, Mary-Anne Lewis, K. Reick, A. McCarthy. Bottom row (l-r) Kris Kuziemski, Michelle Charmello, Jen Kuziemski, Amy Toscano, Mary Ann Stephanick.

10 Years Ago - 1974 Taite Scores 1,000th Point

Sayreville standout Corey Taite joined the elite 1,000 point scoring club, as the Bombers won their 12th in a row, defeating Edison, 58-53. Taite ended the game with 13 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Teammate Jehyve Floyd pumped in 17 points.

40 Years Ago 1984 Bombers Bow In Semis

The Sayreville girls basketball team was eliminated in the CJ Group IV semis by Trenton Central, 68-53. Caryn Lukie paced the Bombers with 22 points, while Terry Lockwood poured in 13 points, and controlled the rebounding with 21. Kate Briody added 11 points.

Glory Days In Local Sports

1964-Hoffman boys basketball squad mauled Madison, 86-69 as Chet Meinzer topped the scoring attack with 24 points. Dennis Wood added 23, Jerry Drill 19, and Ted Reick 12...1970-St. Mary's boys basketball team shocked St. Joseph's, 88-63. George Krzyzanowski fired in 23 points and Nick Charmello 22...1984-Sayreville girls basketball team destroyed Colonia, 62-27. Kate Briody pumped in 21 points, Caryn Lukie 10 points and 9 assists, and Vanessa Carney 10 points...1998-St. Mary's

girls basketball contingent downed New Brunswick, 54-49. Lisa DiBernardo scored 16 points, Heather Baumlin 12, and Laurie Ust10 for the Lady Eagles...

2007-South Amboy boys basketball team won their season opener, 69-50 over Dunellen. Mark Simko torched the nets for 33 points, and Larry Lenahan scored 19...2014-Sayreville girls basketball opened their campaign with a 64-25 rout over JP Stevens. Jackie Rodriguez led the way with 21 points, and Amanda Quintero added 14.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1980
Sport-Girls Basketball
Teams-Hoffman (21-1) vs. Sayreville (16-6)
Recap-The Lady Guvs hammered the Bombers, 68-53, behind Sue Akerman, who led the way with 16 points and 20 rebounds. Linda Smith tossed in 12 points, Carol Akerman 11, Jamie White 10, and Sue Check, who joined the 1,000 point club also scored 10 points for Coach Reggie Carney's powerhouse.
Player-of-the-Game-Sue Akerman, Hoffman.



Carol Galley, who coached the undefeated O.L.V. girls C.Y.O. championship team during the 1974-75 season, still has this jacket as one of her prized possessions and mementos from that amazing season.

50 Years Ago

South Amboy Men's
Senior Basketball League
1973-74

Final Regular Season Standings-Bottle Stop 11-0; Lions Den 10-1; Pilots 8-3; Bowery 7-4; Bay City Liquors 7-4; Playboys 7-4; Frank's Cafe 6-5; Halfway House 3-8; South Amboy A.A. 3-8; Mechanicsville A.C. 2-9; Hot Dog City 2-9; Bulman's Shell 0-11.

Leading scorers (In no particular order) Bottle Stop-Gary Lange, Dan Paone, Ray Downs, Ron Croddick; Lions Den-Ron "Mucky" Ciszewski, Greg Havlusch, Jim Croddick, Bob Keegan; Pilots-Paul Borgan, Gil Stankiewicz, Dan MacKay; Bowery-Joe Belmonte, Tom Wortley, Tom Boychuk, Walt Binkowski, Al Sorrentino; Bay City Liquors-Nick Charmello, Tom Kelly, Bob Kukulski, Bill Connors; Playboys-Joe Zailski, Val Nadin, "Pistol" Pete McIntyre, Bob McDonald; Frank's Cafe-Fran Fitzmorris, Gene Cross, Bob Howarth, Tom Grabert; Halfway House-Jim Pavlonnis, Jay Derent, Don Fross, Jack Bloodgood; South Amboy A.A.-Ed Paczkowski, George Ogborn, Bob Carew, Edwin Witkowski, Ron Kuran; Hot Dog City-Tom Holovacko, Gene Lopez, Henry "Henny The DJ" Conroy, Rick Jarusiewicz; Bulman's Shell-Joe Keegan, Ed Campbell, Boehm, Ray Nebus.
Note: Individual stats were incomplete for the season.

25 Years Ago

1999-South Amboy standout basketball player, Ed Behnen finished the 1998-99 season with 543 points, #2 in Middlesex County, and also had the top scoring avg. 25.8 for the Governors. Ed, a junior, was a 3rd Team All-State Group 1 selection.

1000th Point Celebrations

(Photo by Jamon Dunn, SAHS Athletic Director)



The South Amboy High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team and Varsity Cheerleaders celebrate Gavin Pelkey's 1000th career point.



Gavin Pelkey celebrates his 1000th career point with his family.

A History Of St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshals

Frank Connolly Association 1976-William “Doc” O’Leary 1977-Tom O’Brien 1978-Robert Hackett. The South Amboy Irish-American Association 1979-Frank Connolly 1980-James & Mary Lenahan 1981-Robert J. Hourahan 1982-Allie Clark 1983-David P. Kelly 1984-Alfie O’Connor 1985-Mary Powderly 1986-William Coman 1987-Joe Crowe 1988- John Potthoff 1989-Edward Wallace 1990- John P. Kenny 1991-Jim Harvey 1992-George Shuler 1993-Neil Hourahan 1994-Jim “Red” O’Connell 1995-Ginny Tierney-Inman 1996- Jack A McCarthy 1997-William J. McDonnell 1998-Edward Semoneit 1999-William J. Tierney 2000-

Jack O’Leary Sr. 2001-Peter John Kenny 2002- Mayor John T. O’Leary 2003-Dick Cronin, Joe Noble, Russ Stillwagon 2004-Geneva Kelly 2005-Jim “Doc” Ryan 2006-Leo McCabe 2007-Walter “Pete” Casey2008-Elizabeth “Betty” Leveille2009 John Donnelly Sr. 2010-Thomas J. Noble 2011-Francis “Butch” Mulvey 2012- Rob McQuade 2013-James Downey 2014-Msgr. John Gordon 2015-Hugh Rone, 2016 Rich Moran, 2017-Mayor Fred A.Henry 2018-Brian J. Kelly 2019-Christine Noble 2020-Karen and Tim Walczak 2021-No Parade 2022-Tom Dempsey 2023-Mary Porcello 2024-Michael “Mickey” Gross.

March Happenings at the South Amboy Elks

All are invited back to the South Amboy Elks after the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17th for Corned Beef. We Will be offering a Corned Beef Sandwich on Rye for \$7.00, or a full dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes & carrots for \$12.00. We will be opening our doors at 2:30 to start the celebration. Come join us and celebrate. A cash bar will be available.

On Sunday March 24th we will be having Lunch with The Easter Bunny! Lunch will be a buffet filled with kid friendly food, along with adult selections as well. The time is from noon to 2:30pm. We will be offering pictures with the Easter Bunny, a learning session with the 4H about Rabbits, and time

to pet and interact with the rabbits. Children will all receive a goody bag.

Also, during March, we will continue our Lenten Fish Dinners every Friday night from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Your selection of fresh cod, scallops or shrimp can be fried or broiled.

Dine-in orders include, soup, french fries, coleslaw, dessert, coffee & tea. Cash bar is available with \$3 endless soda. Take-out is also available.

South Amboy Elks is located at 601 Washington Ave; we can be reached at 732-727-7170. When calling please leave a name and phone number so we can return your call.

Thank you in advance for your support.

TLUSTY CZWARTEK

By Bob Olenczak-Olin

Holy Cow Batman!!! What the heck are you saying??? Tlusty Czwartek??? Here’s the story Robin. I’ll say it another way, Fat Thursday. That’s what it means. It’s pronounced Twu-sty Tchvar-tek. That’s how it’s known in Poland.

In the Christian tradition, in some countries, the Thursday before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is associated with the celebration of Carnival. Because Lent is the beginning of fasting, it is the last opportunity you can feast and eat some of those forbidden sweets that you may have enjoyed before. Fat Thursday is the day they celebrate it in Poland, the Thursday before Ash Wednesday.

In the United States we celebrate Fat Tuesday which is the day before Ash Wednesday. Polish people could call it Tlusty Wtorek, pronounced Twus-ty Vto-rekh.

In the Polish tradition, both in the United States and in Poland, Fat Thursday/Tuesday is celebrated by making, baking and consuming our favorite donut called Paczki, pronounced Punch-ki.

The letter a in Paczki has a little hook on the bottom of it which changes the sound. This is one of a number of letters with markings that change the sound of a Polish letter. The letter l in Tlusty Czwartek has a line through the middle of it which also changes the sound.

Paczkis are filled with a variety of things. My memory is of prune filling which was called lakvar. But some are filled with other things like fruit jams or cream and topped with powdered sugar or even icing or glaze. You forget about your diet on this day.

Everyone recognizes when we say Fat Tuesday because New Orleans comes into

mind. The Mardi Gras Is held on Fat Tuesday.

But other countries like Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain celebrate Fat Thursday. Some celebrate with food, some with parades and some with both.

My recollection of Fat Thursday/ Tuesday was Sacred Heart Church’s celebration by having a Paczkovy Bal, pronounced Punch-covy Bal. They had a lot of polka music, and loads and loads of Paczki to consume and take home. In addition my memory recalls pitchers of coffee. They probably had other drinks but what kind I don’t remember.

Again, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Traditionally Lent lasts for 40 days and in the past you were only to have one meal a day. Rich foods, like Paczki, were not allowed.

In Poland, so as not to waste any food by spoiling, Fat Thursday was time to clean up all the food you could not eat during lent. Of course you had to consume the rich tasting Paczki one more time before Lent. This tradition was started in medieval times during the reign of Poland’s King August III. He was King from 1733 to 1763 and was also the Grand Duke of Lithuania.

Today in Poland every Pole eats two and a half doughnuts, Packzki, on that day and the country consumes 100 million.

When you read this article I would have been at the Polish American Club of Sacramento, California helping to prepare and bake 500 paczki which we will sell to members and the public.

I hope everyone has had their two and a half Paczki on February 13. You can continue to have more at the end of Lent.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Tom Burkard

It's that time
of the year
It's finally here.
It's that time
of the year
For Irish happiness
And lots of cheer
It's partying time
For drinking green beer
The St. Patrick's Day
Parade is finally here
Bringing lots
of joy and fun
And corned beef
and cabbage for everyone
The color of green is
everywhere
And bagpipers Irish
music fills the air
It's that time
of the year
The St. Patrick's Parade
is finally here.

Time

By Robert W. Eginton

Time is one thing
You cannot see or touch
But it's always there.
The one thing God has given us
That we all can share.
No one owns it,
It belongs to everyone.
It can't be wasted,
But it can't be saved
Time stops for no one
It cannot be delayed.
But don't take time for granted
Treat it respectfully.
And it will always be
There for you,
And always be there for me.

The Wearing Of The Green

By Al Gomolka Jr.

Times Poet Laureate

Green is my favorite color
But that's not why I wear
Parties and jollies
on March 17th
But that's not why I care
Corned beef, cabbage,
potatoes and beer
Still not the reason
why I join the cheer
I'm not even Irish,
nor pretend to be,
Though there's
a spirit alive,
Goodwill is the key
That a saint from
one nation,
A hero he be,
Is honored by many,
and quite openly
With parades, shamrocks,
and music that smiles,
For one day forgetting
Ol' Ireland's trials
to share these festivities,
Come let it be seen,
Commemorate, celebrate,
By wearing the green.

Prayer to St. Gerard

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

15 Years In Heaven



Lou Letwenski

October 4, 1935 - February 23, 2009



Never Forgotten!

Love, Your Family

Ken Kubinak
Happy 15th Anniversary in Heaven

Our love for you
will never cease.

You will always be
our missing piece.



February 12, 2009 - February 12, 2024

We love you!
Shirley, Brandon, John
Family and Friends



Sacred Heart and St. Stan's Seniors enjoyed a great time in Lancaster PA for two days in December. (Photo Submitted)

Obituaries

Alvarez, Vera, 97, formerly of Morgan died on Feb. 12.
Barbieri, Marianne “Mim” Woznica, 65, of Parlin died on Jan. 22.
Bongiovanni, Antoinette “Ann,” 96, of Parlin died on Feb. 11.
Borjesson, Kristina, 69, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29.
DeBaro, Victoria, 101, of South Amboy died on Feb. 13.
Dill, Edwin, 80, of South Amboy died on Feb. 9.
Donnelly, John J., 102, of Parlin died on Feb. 1.
Drotar, Stacia Dabrowski, 94, of South Amboy died on Jan. 19.
Ducsak, Bruce, 63, of South Amboy/Morgan died on Jan. 15.
Dusko, Lois E. O’Brien, 66, of Sayreville died on Feb. 7.
Farrell, Paul D., 89, formerly of South

Amboy died on Feb. 1.
Halmi, Helen Yablonicki, 87, of Sayreville/South Amboy died on Jan. 31.
Kulick, Dorothy D., 92, of Sayreville died on Feb. 1.
Millan, Ann Marie, 65, of South Amboy died on Feb. 4.
Rooney, Jackie, 66, of South Amboy died on Feb. 8.
Sencher, Frank J., 77, formerly of Laurence Harbor died Feb. 1.
Telepan, Evelyn M., 87, formerly of Parlin died on Jan. 19.
Van Pell, Gerard F., 78, of Parlin died on Feb. 12.
Wozniak, William “Billy,” “Monk,” 72, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 22.
Zapoticzny, Gerald J. “Jerry,” 74, formerly of Morgan died on Feb. 3.
Zebrowski, Mary A., 89, of Sayreville died on Jan. 28.

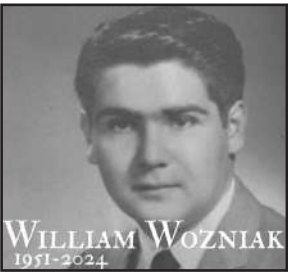
In Memoriam

Kristina Borjesson, 69, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29. She was an Investigative Journalist for CBS, and received the Edward R. Murrow Award, and an Emmy Award for her reporting on migrant farmworkers.
Well respected South Amboy businessman Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto Center, is mourning the death of his beloved mother, Kashmir Kaur Bamrah, who died January 18 at the age of 77. She was affectionately known as Bibi Ji to her family and friends. Funeral services were held January 27 in Queens NY. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Gurbachan Singh Bamrah, and children.
William “Billy,” “Monk” Wozniak, 72, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 22. He was a 1969 graduate of St. Mary’s HS,

and a really good guy, who was active in sports in South Amboy, starting in the Little Fellas Baseball League when he played for the Rotary team, and also played on St. Mary’s CYO basketball team in the High School Division. In addition he competed in the South Amboy Men’s Senior Softball League for a couple of seasons, back in the early 70’s as a talented infielder with J & B Trucking. Antoinette “Ann” Bongiovanni, 96, of Parlin died on Feb. 11. She was a member of OLV Council 2061, and was the Columbiettes President in 1975-76. Gerard Van Pell, 78, of Parlin died on Feb. 12. He was a U.S. Army veteran and member of American Legion Post 211. He also was Past President and Vice President of Steel Workers Local 4438 for 25 years.

Billy (Monk) Wozniak

We regret to announce the passing of Billy (Monk) Wozniak of Ringoes, aged 72, who passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. Billy’s fight ended on January 22nd, 2024 at Hunterdon Medical Center surrounded by his loving family.



Billy was a 1969 St. Mary’s graduate. Besides being active in South Amboy Little League, he entertained crowds on the high school stage and kept the room moving with his DJ talents after high school.

Billy was VP of Sales, with 28 years of experience at Component Technology followed by another 12 years in sales at Universal Forest Products. He was a respected member of his profession and known for his integrity.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Billy was a devoted

family man, who loved his wife of 46 years and two children above all else. His kindness and honesty made him a cherished and loyal friend to many. In his free time, Billy enjoyed 18 holes of golf, which brought him joy and relaxation. He was also an active basketball

player within the community for 25+ years. Billy is predeceased by his father Edward Wozniak and his brother Edward “Chipper” Wozniak, survived by his mother, Lillian Rusin, wife Lois (Rosenvinge), eldest daughter and husband Tara and Ben Marks, and youngest daughter Lindsay Wozniak, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Billy will be dearly missed by all who knew him, but his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and colleagues.

Edwin Dill

Edwin Dill, 80, of South Amboy died on Friday February 9, 2024 at the Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center, South Amboy. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. He was employed as a talented musician for many years.

Son of the late James and Susan Brennan Dill he is also predeceased by his brothers James, William, Louis, Leo and LeRoy and his sisters Clair, Jane, Ann,

Mary, Shirley, Margaret and Kathy. He is survived by his daughter Lisa Dill; his sister Lois Spencer and many nieces and nephews.

Cremation was private. Memorial visitation was held on Friday February 16, 2024 at The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or the Wounded Warrior Project.

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.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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..

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



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May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door

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

***South Amboy's Annual
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Sunday, March 17, 2024
2pm***

Rain Date: Sunday, March 24th

**Grand Marshal - Michael "Mickey" Gross
Deputy Grand Marshal—Yolanda Flores**

Enjoy an afternoon of marching bands, floats, pipes & drums,
fire apparatus, Mummers, and more.

Registration information and
parade updates can be found
at
www.southamboyparade.com



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO**



The 2024 South Amboy St. Partick's Day Parade Honorees



**Grand Marshal
Michael "Mickey" Gross
Deputy Grand Marshal
Yolanda Flores**



2024 AOH Honorees

**Thomas Noble - Hibernian of the Year
Tim Hartigan - Irishman of the Year**

**Denise McEnroe-Egan - Irishwoman of the Year
Dave Erla - Flag Raiser**



Great Job Mickey & Parade Committee!

Best Regards, Bob Heiser

