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This issue is dedicated to
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*Kelly Ann Hayes
*Frank Medina
*Eleanor Munck
*Frank Nebus
*John Phillips
*James Strzykalski



February 28, 2026 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 35 Issue 5

SOUTH AMBOY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION ENDORSES ANTHONY CONRAD FOR MAYOR, AND COUNCILMAN MICKEY GROSS FOR RE-ELECTION, AND SUPPORTS JUDITH RASKOSHIN FOR THE AT-LARGE COUNCIL SEATS

The South Amboy Democratic Organization proudly announces its unanimous endorsement of Anthony Conrad for Mayor, along with Michael "Mickey" Gross and Judith Raskoshin for Council. Vice Chair Zusetta Dato released the following statement:

"Councilman Anthony Conrad is a dedicated public servant and longtime community leader who brings both experience and vision to the race. First elected to the Council in 2022, he has spent the past four years working collaboratively to address our local priorities while advancing policies focused on responsible growth and strengthening our local economy. A resident for more than two decades, Conrad has deep roots in the community and a steadfast commitment to its future. Professionally, he brings more than 30 years of international experience in management, finance, and banking, having worked as a commercial banker, stockbroker, and business consultant. His extensive background provides a strong foundation in financial oversight, strategic planning, and economic development – skills that will serve South Amboy well as it continues to grow and thrive.

"We are excited that Mickey Gross will continue on the ticket, bringing unparalleled dedication and institutional knowledge to this team. A lifelong public servant with more than four decades of experience in public health and community leadership, Gross has served 16 years on the South Amboy Council and recently retired after more than 40 years



as Division Head of the Middlesex County Environmental Division. As a licensed New Jersey Health Officer, he spent his career protecting residents' health and safety across the region. His extensive professional background reflects a deep understanding of regulatory oversight, public safety, and responsible governance – experience that continues to benefit us in South Amboy.

"We are excited that Judith Raskoshin has joined the ticket and will be running for the At-Large Council seat, bringing a fresh perspective and a strong focus on South Amboy families and the city's future. Currently serving as President of the South Amboy Board of Education, she was first elected in 2023 and combines professional

expertise with a deep personal investment in the community she serves. For the past 13 years, she has worked full-time as a Special Education teacher, dedicating her career to supporting students, advocating for families, and strengthening public education.

"Anthony Conrad, Mickey Gross, and Judith Raskoshin are committed to continuing the legacy of leadership and progress established by Mayor Fred Henry. The South Amboy Democratic Organization looks forward to a strong campaign, to success in the June primary, and to electing Anthony Conrad as the next Mayor of South Amboy, re-electing Mickey Gross to the City Council, and electing Judith Raskoshin as At-Large Councilmember this November."



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry

FRED HENRY WILL NOT SEEK A FIFTH TERM AS MAYOR OF SOUTH AMBOY

After decades of public service, South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry has issued the following statement announcing his decision not to seek another term:

"As many of you know, this year is an election year in South Amboy, with the offices of Mayor and two Council-at-Large seats on the ballot.

"It has been the great honor of my life to serve the people of South Amboy – first for 18 years as a councilman and the past 16 years as Mayor. Throughout my time in office, every decision was made with your help and was guided by what was in the best interest of the community. When I took the oath to faithfully, impartially, and justly perform the duties of Mayor, I took that responsibility seriously and did my very best to uphold it each day. With your help we have made South Amboy a great place to live and raise a family.

"I am deeply grateful to the many dedicated public servants, employees, and community partners who worked alongside me over the years. No one accomplishes anything alone, and I have been fortunate to be surrounded by talented and committed people throughout my tenure.

"After much reflection, I have decided that I will not seek another term as Mayor of South Amboy. This decision is not related to my health or the upcoming election. After decades of public service, I believe the time

Continued on page 4

Sayreville VFW Post 4699 80th Anniversary



The following veterans were presented with Recognition Plaques for their service to our country and Sayreville VFW Post 4699 at the Post's 80th Anniversary celebration on Jan. 17. In photo (l-r) Commander Dan Vardalis, Ray Skarzynski, Keith Kandel, Stanley Drwal, Charlie Woods, Ken Kelly, Joe Albin, Harry Pachkowski. Missing from the picture are Stanley Przybylowski and Frank Straczynski. (Photo/info submitted) See story on page 15.



Next Issue March 28th
Deadlines March 16th

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Easter

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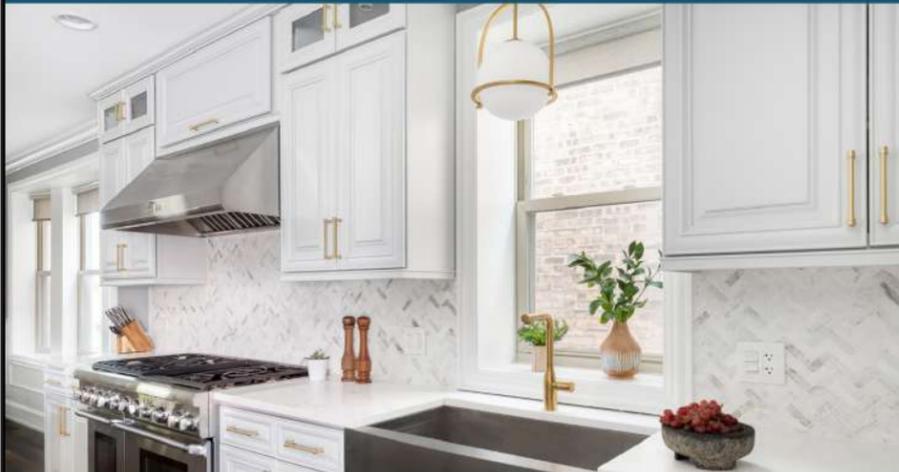


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Black History Month Celebration



Dr. Frederick Williams (3rd from right) Superintendent of schools for South Amboy with students singing Lift Every Voice at the district's 2026 Black History month celebration held on Feb 5, 2026 at the Middle/High School auditorium. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Talk Of The Towns

Smith On Dean's List
By Tom Burkard

South Amboy resident Benjamin C. Smith has made the Centenary University Dean's List

Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. To achieve this honor, full-time students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.8 or above and complete a minimum of 12 semester credits. Congratulations Benjamin!

Lent Simple Supper

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 will be hosting a "Lenten" Soup, Salad, & Pasta Night. When: Friday February 27th 2026 5:30pm to 8:00 pm. Where: Council Hall 308 4th St. So. Amboy. Cost: \$15.00 Per Person, \$6.00 Children (6-12 yrs). Under 5yrs. Free. The menu includes 4 different kinds of "meatless" soups, salad, pasta, dinner rolls, desserts, tea and coffee.

Sorry: "no take outs". Reservations recommended: call or text Ed 723 485-4226. All proceeds go to help local charities.

The Story of Sayreville Film Premiere

The Sayreville Historical Society is proud to present the premiere of the film "The Story of Sayreville" on February 27, 2026 from 6 to 9 pm at the Active Adult Center at 423 Main Street.

The one-hour documentary, based on the book by author and historian John Schneider, tells the powerful story of Sayreville's history. The film tells the often-overlooked story of Sayreville, a community shaped by clay, bricks, waterways, industry, immigration, war, and generations of residents. It's local history with national consequences brought to life.

In addition, before and after the screening, attendees are invited to pose for selfies with Revolutionary War-era costumes, with period props and relics in front of an historically inspired backdrop. Author and filmmaker John Schneider will also be on hand to autograph several of his books, including "The Story of Sayreville: The Town Built With Bricks".

This is an event you don't want to miss! Admission is free and refreshments will be available for purchase.

If you have any questions, please email info@sayrevillehistory.com

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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.

The Miraculous Prayer

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

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- The current Commander of V.F.W. Post #4999 of Sayreville?
a. Andy Currithers b. Jamal Bowman c. Danny Vardalis
- Mayor of Sayreville in '75?
a. John Czernikowski b. James Zagata c. John McCormack
- South Amboy Superintendent of Recreation in 1981?
a. John Zdanewicz b. Jack Hulsart c. Mary Lou DeBlis
- Pastor of St. Mary's Church in '75?
a. Rev. James McConnell b. Rev. William Leonard c. Msgr. John Gerety
- Where was Berman/Rossi Eyeglasses located in Sayreville back in '96?
a. Main St. b. Washington Rd. c. Rt. 9 South
- St. Mary's HS Principal in 1995?
a. Frank Ianniruberto b. John Gloss Jr. c. Gilbert Pritchard
- This diner was located on Route 35 South in Morgan back in 2006?
a. Up The Creek Diner b. Morgan Diner c. Paramount Diner
- Grand Marshal of the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade in '96?
a. Peter John Kenny b. Leo McCabe c. Jim Ryan
- Sayreville Borough Clerk in 2019?
a. Terry Farbaniec b. Josephine Brown c. Susan Donovan
- Captain of South Amboy First Aid in 2006?
a. Thomas Parsons b. Chris Mader c. Rob Sekerak



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

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



It is sometimes called the "great hunger," or "the great famine." In the local language, it is loosely translated as "the bad life" or "the hard times." It was one of the most cataclysmic social and environmental crises in the history of Europe. And it is the reason that many of us live in the United States today.

From 1845 until about 1852, the people of Ireland suffered from a blight to potato crops that brought the nation to its knees. Even to this day, the island's population has not returned to its pre-famine numbers. Many people died, many more left the small island nation for a better life.

Our local community is one of the thousands of places to which these Irish travelers made their new homes. It was not always easy. Antagonistic towards the British, and deeply Catholic, many Irish people were wary of the overwhelmingly Protestant and Anglo-Saxon nation that was Nineteenth Century America. Nevertheless, they placed their hopes on the egalitarian, religiously tolerant nature of American society. It paid off for them.

Irish people got to work, and not just by planting potatoes. They worked on railroads, and in factories and coal mines. Then they built skyscrapers and interstate highways. And then they became statesmen and fathers of industry. Two of the most famous men whose families escaped Ireland during the famine were Henry Ford and President John F. Kennedy.

But Irish contributions to our history are not limited to the period after the famine. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington's army was so swelled with Irishmen that he gave his men the day off for St. Patrick's Day of 1780 (one wonders whether he also did so to insult the British). Washington issued the proclamation from his headquarters in Morristown, not far from here. Of Ireland itself, Washington later wrote that it was "friend to my country in my country's most friendless days."

These shared values and solidarity are a source of much joy and reflection as we approach the St. Patrick's Day season. Our own St. Patrick's Day parade also has

a storied history. It began in 1975 due to the efforts of Frank Conley, then the owner of the Monaghan House. Like those first Irish settlers, the initial parade was modest. It included one bagpiper, local police, and various volunteers.

Over the past 50 years, it has become one of South Amboy's largest and most celebrated traditions. During much of that period, South Amboy's Irish American Association contributed to numerous charitable causes in our community. Today, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic organization, continues that proud tradition of noble charitable work. With over 150 members, and with chapters across the country, it is one of the preeminent charitable organizations in our community and across the country.

This year's parade will be held on March 15th beginning at 2:00pm. The list of honorees include: John Dragotta - Grand Marshal; Lee Steiner - Deputy Grand Marshal; and Joseph Britton - Honorary Grand Marshal. Mark your calendars and come out to celebrate a South Amboy tradition. And for those of us with Irish heritage, when you next have your favorite Irish meal -- accompanied as it should be by potatoes of some sort -- remember that "the hard times" often beget good times.

One final note. With all of the cold weather recently, remember that it always could be worse. During the winter of 1917-18, it became so cold that the Raritan Bay froze over completely, allowing locals to walk and drive their cars across the frozen water and all the way to the lighthouse.

Respectfully

Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

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South Amboy Elks, Citizen of the Year

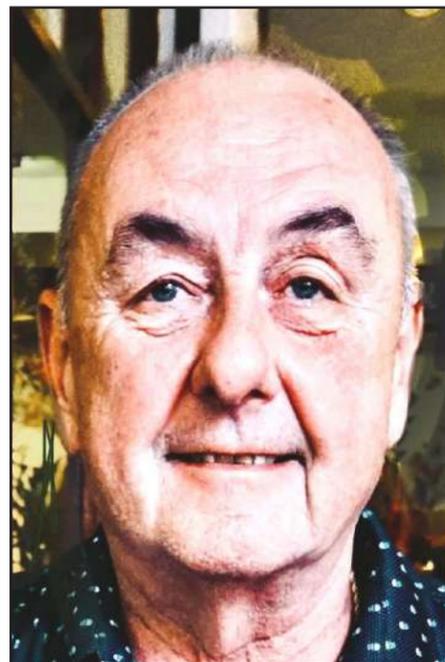
Every year each local Elks lodge picks a citizen in the area they represent and honors the individual with a Citizen of The Year award. Criteria for this award is based on how the honoree has contributed to the community by leadership, volunteerism, and all-around good citizenship.

This year the South Amboy Elks are proud to announce our winner of this prestigious award: Stanley "Stash" Synarski. Stash is a lifelong resident of Sayreville. He worked for Middlesex County Utilities Authority for 40 years, and also taught Auto Mechanics at the Vocational School for 16 years and served on the Vocational "Magnet School" Trade School Advisory Board. Currently, he serves as Borough Councilman for Sayreville.

Stash stays busy being a member of many charitable organizations. He belongs to The Moose, Sons of The American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and the Elks. He has been involved with BIC (Brain Injured Children) for over 25 years, volunteers with St. Stans at the carnival, and takes time to cut grass for disabled homeowners around town, Sayreville VFW, Knights of Columbus and the Trinity United Methodist Church in South Amboy/Sayreville. Stash is an all-around gentleman; always willing to lend a hand.

His most beloved job is being a husband to his wife Lori, a dad to his son, Matthew and daughter, Allison and grandpa to his granddaughter, Ayla.

The South Amboy Elks congratulate Stash on his award and are proud to have him as a member of our organization. The



Stanley "Stash" Synarski

Elks have a motto; Elks Care-Elks Share and Stash Synarski is a true example of this motto.

Stash will be honored at the Elks Central District Awards Dinner with all the participants from other Elks Lodges. This will be held on March 7, 2026, at 5pm at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge located at 665 Rahway Ave. Tickets are available for purchase at \$25.00 a person. For information or to purchase tickets, please contact the South Amboy Elks at 732-727-7170.

We would love to hear from you!





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Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!



(Images are for example and not the actual items)



Al Gomolka
As seen on
American Pickers

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

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

Al's next Free Give-A-Way for March 2026 will be Back by popular demand RECORDS!

Also music related material: Hundreds of Albums, 45 and 78 RPM records, Sheet Music, Music Books, etc. Everyone wants Vinyl.




Last Month's winner was:
Jim Kenny

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

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

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Staff of The SA Times and their family members are not eligible to enter. One entry per household.
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Yearbook-Hoffman 1966

By Tom Burkard

H.G. Hoffman High's Class of '66 probably orbited "The Pleasant Little City," on the first day of school in September 1965, groovin' to the super songs of the day, such as "Satisfaction," "Help," "Hang On Sloopy," and "Eve of Destruction." Popular teachers were Sandra Muller, Myrna Osnowitz, Layton Shoemaker, Arnold Schwartz, Marilyn Simon, Lyn Ballas. The Governors basketball team turned in a fine (16-6) record under Coach Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski. Tony Pelican and Tom House were two of the top senior athletes. Tony was also Sports Editor of the school newspaper. Janice Pauloski was the President of the Student Council, and Chris Russo President of the senior class. Christine Baranowski was Editor-In-Chief of the yearbook. Claire Kierst was Editor-In-Chief of the school newspaper, "Hoffman Hi Lites." The school play was "Arsenic And Old Lace," and it really packed the house. Some wonderful members of the Class of '66 that I've known through the years are Gerald Arose, Paul Bauman, Marilyn "Lynn" Burkard, Angela DeMarco, Danny Erickson, Gary Flanagan, William

Garnett, Tom Gorman, Charles Hicks, Tom Kelly, Leo McCabe, Bob McKeon, Pat Podufalski, George Point, Claire Prasnal, John Rowley, Linda Scully, Sandra Skwiat, Dianne Sloan, Roger Swanton, Gene Switzer, John Szatkowski, John Trotter, Elaine Wojciechowski, Bruce Wood, Louis Zrebiec. Let's take a moment to say a prayer for the class members who have passed away. In sports, the boys basketball team was overloaded with talented underclassmen. One of the most popular movies in '66 was "Dr. Zhivago." "Batman" arrived on TV, and quickly made an impact on the youth... "Valley Of The Dolls" was the best selling book in the U.S... Miniskirts were "in," and men's hair was getting longer... The mod look was popular in '66, and Hoffman High School had a truly outstanding group of graduates in June.



Jim Kenny (l) of Sayreville is pictured with Al Gomolka showing just a small portion of the many great prizes he won in the monthly Gomolka's Collectables Giveaway Contest. It's easy to enter, just send your name and e-mail address to: satimes@aol.com., for a chance to win some great items. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

FRED HENRY—continued from page 1

is right to pass the baton and support the next chapter of South Amboy's progress.

"I want to thank the voters of South Amboy for placing their trust in me for 34 years. It has been my privilege to serve you and this community, and to help advance projects that benefit our families today and in the future. Together, we have invested in public safety and infrastructure, including new state-of-the-art athletic fields, a new ambulance for our First Aid Squad, new fire trucks, appointed the town's first female Police Chief, provided our local police department with new police equipment, hired new police officers increasing the size of the police department, and expanded parking along Broadway. We successfully launched a ferry service, revitalized long-neglected and contaminated properties, and transformed them into productive ratables – all without burdening taxpayers with the high cost of remediation.

"One project that holds special meaning for me is the Veterans' Memorial Plaza on

Bordentown Ave. When the property was donated to the City, I felt strongly that it should be dedicated to the Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

"I want to thank the Council members I served with. It is through cooperation with them that so much was able to be achieved during my tenure. Their hard work helped make possible the accomplishments in South Amboy during my tenure.

"I am also proud that my administration delivered a budget that reduced municipal taxes while producing a surplus of more than \$6 million, leaving South Amboy in a strong and stable financial position.

"Finally, I want to thank my wife, Linda (Mrs. Mayor!), and my family for their unwavering support over the years. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

"As a proud son of South Amboy who followed in the footsteps of my father serving this City, it has been a great run. Thank you for the trust you placed in me, and may God bless all of you."

Zest Life
By Al Gomolka
Times Poet Laureate
C.2026

Live
Live your life
Being true to yourself
Remain with God
Uniquely Zest!

TRINITY TREASURES THRIFT SHOP

The Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop at 815 Bordentown Avenue will be open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 am to 11:30 am. If the weather continues to be cold/rainy, we are open inside the church. We have clothing, housewares, holiday items, linens, coats, shoes, toys and so much more. Great prices always!!

Our drop off shed is always open. We cannot accept furniture, televisions, old books, car seats and outdated/broken items. If you drop off items, please be considerate and place it neatly in the shed filling from the back first - so we can accommodate others.



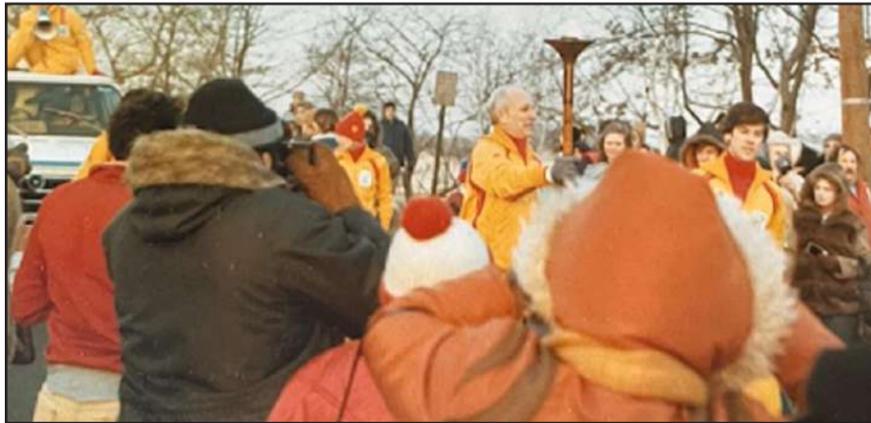
LETTERS



Brian & Tom

In 1980, the Olympic torch came through Sayreville on its way to Lake Placid. It came out of South River, went through town on Washington Rd. and from there, to points north. Attached are 2 photos from that morning. I was standing in front of Sayreville High School.

Mike Gressman



Councilman John's Monthly Minute

Highlighting Community Efforts That Make a Difference



This month, I'd like to amplify the work of Sayreville TNR / Coalition of Advocates for Shelter Animals, led locally by Denise Morgan and supported by a dedicated network of volunteers and nonprofit partners. Their mission is simple but essential: humanely manage our community's population of free-roaming and feral cats through Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR).

Denise's involvement began a few years ago when she discovered a small colony of cats near her home. What started as concern for a handful of animals quickly grew into a deeper understanding of how unmanaged cat populations affect neighborhoods, strain shelters, and create recurring challenges for residents. She connected with experienced organizations, learned the TNVR process, and soon became part of a larger volunteer effort committed to addressing the issue responsibly.

TNVR is a hands-on, time-intensive process. Volunteers identify colony sites, humanely trap the cats, transport them to partner veterinarians for spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations, oversee post-care recovery, and return them to monitored locations. Kittens and socialized cats often enter foster or adoption programs. Even after the veterinary work is complete, volunteers continue monitoring these colonies to ensure long-term stability. The goal is not just compassion—it is practical management that reduces the number of unmanaged cats over time.

Much of this work is funded entirely through private donations. Volunteers contribute fuel, food, medical supplies, emergency care costs, and countless hours of their own time. Their efforts help prevent growing colony sizes, reduce nuisance

concerns, lighten the load on municipal resources, and create a more balanced approach to a longstanding community issue.

While no single method is perfect, TNVR has been used across the country because it is a thoughtful, workable solution that helps communities stabilize outdoor cat populations without placing the entire burden on local government. Here in Sayreville, Denise and her team are filling a real and immediate need.

To Denise, our nonprofit partners, and every volunteer involved—thank you. Your work may be quiet, but its impact is felt across our town. Residents interested in learning more or supporting this work can follow Sayreville TNR on Facebook at facebook.com/sayrevilletnr.

Before closing, I'd also like to recognize Brianne Rogers and her newly formed 501(c)(3), Saving All Species NJ (SAS). Although the nonprofit is new, Brianne has supported animal welfare efforts in Sayreville and South Amboy for many years. At the end of December 2025, SAS hosted its inaugural TNR Van Day event, expanding local access to low-cost spay/neuter services and offering another valuable resource for responsible colony management. We appreciate Brianne's continued commitment to our community.

**With gratitude and pride,
John Zebrowski
Sayreville Councilman**



CONGRATULATIONS TO



**The 2026 South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Honorees
Grand Marshal**

John Dragotta

Deputy Grand Marshal

Lee Steiner

Honorary Grand Marshal

Joseph Britton



2026 AOH Honorees

John Cronin - Hibernian of the Year

Ed Smith - Irishman of the Year

Jamie Cregin - Irishwoman of the Year

Dennis McQuade - Flag Raiser

Christine O'Hara - Lady Hibernian of the Year

Great Job Mickey & Parade Committee!

Best Regards, Bob Heiser





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St. Patrick's Day Vintage Postcards



This 1910 postcard is 116 years old!

The Historical Society of South Amboy presents

George & Martha Washington: A Love Story

Join us for a historical reenactment as we journey back to Revolutionary America, where love, loyalty, and liberty intertwine to tell the story of the birth of a nation.

Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 10am - 12pm
South Amboy Senior Center 108 S. Stevens Ave

Presentation 11:00 am

BREAKFAST starts at 10:00 am



\$5 Donation

Alt. Vernon In collaboration with the City of South Amboy



"Erin go Bragh" Way back in 1909, this postcard was a popular greeting to friends all over the country.

Just Once A Year

The AOH runs the show
In "The Pleasant Little City"
The big day comes
Just once a year
St. Patrick's Day Parade
And everyone is here
People come from near and far
By bus, by train,
By plane and car
To enjoy the marching bands play
On this very special
St. Patrick's Day
That comes just once a year
After the parade everyone parties hearty
It's corned beef and cabbage
And of course green beer
St. Patrick's Day comes
just once a year
Sing an Irish song and raise a glass
To toast St. Patrick who
brought us here
On his very special day
just once a year



Sayreville Recreation Announces 2026 Event Schedule

Sayreville Recreation is proud to announce its 2026 Event Schedule, featuring a full year of family-friendly celebrations, seasonal festivals, and signature community traditions designed to bring residents together.

The 2026 schedule includes returning favorites offering something for residents of all ages. Throughout the year, Sayreville Recreation continues its commitment to creating vibrant, accessible experiences that strengthen community connections.

"Sayreville Recreation's event schedule reflects the pride we have in our community," noted Councilman Michael Colaci, liaison to the Recreation Department. These events create opportunities for families to gather and neighbors to connect."

Highlights of the 2026 event schedule include the always popular large community gatherings: the Independence Day Celebration and Sayreville Day. This year, Sayreville Recreation is growing the annual fireworks event, with more fireworks, more entertainment, and more activities as the town celebrates America's semiquincentennial.

Other events include indoor LED Mini Golf, fishing derby, car shows, Hit the Bricks trail run, Holiday Parade of Lights and National Night Out in partnership with the Community Policing Division of the Sayreville Police Department.

Lenten Fish Fry

OLV Knights of Columbus and OLV Columbiettes® Lenten Fish Fry located at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus, 775 Washington Road, Parlin. Our menu includes Fried Flounder Platters (\$16), Fried Shrimp Platters (\$16) and Fried Combo Platters (\$17); all which include Salad, Vegetable, French Fries & Dessert. Also available: Fish Sandwiches (\$12); which includes French Fries. Dates: 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 and 4/3/2026 Time: 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Reminder: This event is Take Out Only. no phone orders.

"Our events are about creating moments that bring neighbors together," said Brian VanDongen, Director of Sayreville Recreation. "The 2026 schedule reflects our commitment to providing high-quality events that celebrate the spirit of Sayreville throughout the year."

Event-specific details will be released throughout the year. Residents are encouraged to follow Sayreville Recreation on social media and visit the department website for updates, event announcements, and registration information where applicable.

"I'd like to thank our Recreation team and volunteers for their dedication to make these events possible and hope to see everyone enjoying the many great events," concluded Councilman Colaci.

Recreation Event Schedule

- February 20: LED Mini Golf
- March 28: Easter Egg Hunt
- May 9: Fishing Derby
- June 27: Independence Day Celebration
- August 4: National Night Out
- September 26: Blast from the Past Car Show
- September 27: Sayreville Day
- October 17: Hit the Bricks 5k Trail Run
- October 30: Halloween Trunk or Treat
- December 6: Holiday Parade of Lights

Charity Gala

Our Lady of Victory Council 2016 celebrates our council's Columbiettes® 65th Anniversary with a Charity Gala on Saturday, April 18th @7:00pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 775 Washington Rd, Parlin. This event offers an open bar, appetizers, buffet dinner, desserts, dancing and more. Live music provided by The FOG. Tickets \$50 per person. Email: knightscharity2061@gmail.com or call (732)259-7594 or (732)259-7400 for more information. Please Note: Advance purchase only - no tickets at the door.

St. Patrick's Day/Irish Trivia

By Tom Burkard

1. What animals did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland?
a. lions b. snakes c. wolves
2. What plant is the iconic symbol of Ireland?
a. Shamrock b. 4-Leaf Clover c. Daisy
3. Who was the first Irish saint?
a. Seamus b. Malachy c. Patrick
4. What is the most famous Irish symbol?
a. Shamrock b. Harp c. Snake
5. What is a shillelagh?
a. walking stick b. kilt c. hat
6. Which Irish band had a Top 10 hit with "The Unicorn" in '68?
a. U2 b. The Irish Rovers c. Culture Club
7. What is the term for a young Irish woman or girl?
a. Colleen b. Kathleen c. Rosanne
8. What does Erin go bragh mean?
a. Long live Ireland b. Always united c. Ireland forever
9. What is the capital of Ireland?
a. Dublin b. Belfast c. Killarney
10. In 1972, this Irish musician had a number 1 hit with "Alone Again Naturally?"
a. Don McLean b. Barry McGuire c. Gilbert O'Sullivan



Answers

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

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" Casey 2008-Elizabeth "Betty" Leveille 2009 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 2025-Mark Herdman 2026-John Dragotta.

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

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

The Smoke Column

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

(Part #2) At 0001 hours radio traffic indicated that there were holes in the floor followed by a partial floor collapse. A muffled MAYDAY was heard approximately 0004 hours after the radio announcement of the partial collapse at 0001 hours. Since the MAYDAY was muffled and unclear, the IC asked to have the MAYDAY repeated. There was no response! Hearing a MAYDAY should automatically activate the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) but there was none in place yet. All MAYDAYS should be understood that someone's life is in peril. Two MAYDAY calls were issued from the basement-a basement that fire officials did not know existed at the time. Command officers heard the Mayday calls, but did not know who was issuing them, where the firefighter was located, or what the problem was. They initially identified another firefighter as being the one thought was missing; when he was found, NO further work was done to make sure no one else had made the call. An incomplete Personal Accountability Report (PAR) was conducted. It was at this point that the IC was unaware of who could be missing and called the MAYDAY. Any one of many unaccountable firefighters could have called MAYDAY. At 0017 hours, there was an increase in smoke conditions under the front window and thoughts were that there may be a fire below grade. REALLY! As a result of an incomplete 360-degree size-up by the IC, no one realized that YES there was a basement in the structure. The homeowners were near the command post and at any time could have been asked if there was a basement but was not asked until AFTER MAYDAY. At 0017 hours, firefighters attempted to enter the basement through the garage but were turned back due to a collapse. At 1237 hours, a full 83 minutes since arrival and 33 minutes since the MAYDAY call, it was determined that someone was missing. NFPA 1561 8.13.2(1) directs that "the safety officer must be assigned as early in the incident as possible." This did not occur. It did not occur until AFTER the MAYDAY was called by "the lost firefighter, some 45 minutes into



the incident. As a result of this incident, the firefighter was LODD. The responsibility for the LODD fell upon the Fire Chief (IC) and other officers. The incident resulted in a court case because of the decisions or lack thereof made by the IC and his assistants. We know that all officers and IC's must be trained and certified on Incident Command and to use this system at ALL incidents. The IC in this case had NO incident command training or certification until after the incident. The deviations from the standards that were directly cause of the LODD were because of: failure to maintain a stationary command post; no training in NIMS; confusion with management with multiple chiefs issuing orders; incomplete 360-degree survey; failure to conduct a proper PAR; failure to establish a Safety Officer on the scene; failure to evaluate the risk versus benefit; failed RIT operation. The court case lasted 7 days and the jury deliberations only took 3 hours to decide the results. The IC and other officers were each to blame for the LODD and were found liable for on-scene decisions they made in the hours after the fire broke out. The court awarded 31.5 million to the widow and children of the LODD. I would never want to find any officer/officers in a similar position as we all try our best at ALL incidents. To the officers in our local fire departments, train, train, and more train. Evaluate the decisions you plan to make BEFORE you make them and think of the consequences. As I said, many of those decisions must be made in seconds. We think that this will never happen to us, it always happens to the other guy but to the other guy, we ARE the other guy!



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Open House

You Are Invited to an Open House on March 26

Join Jupiter Power to discuss our site clean-up and redevelopment efforts at a retired coal plant on River Road in Sayreville, as well as a planned battery project. The project is designed as a low-impact, high-value infrastructure investment in Sayreville that will benefit the entire region.

Open House details:

Sayreville Active Adult Center, 423 Main Street in Sayreville
Thursday, March 26, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
(Drop in anytime)

Learn more at woodslandenergy.com

Cinco de Mayo Bingo Fiesta!

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

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

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



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Scouting News



Scouting America (Boy Scout) Troop 96 took advantage of the recent snowfall and learned how to make a snow shelter. Scoutmaster James McCracken and David Ritchie employed safe scouting principles and made sure all safety measures were employed. The Scouts enjoyed taking turns forming the shelter and were treated to Hot Chocolate afterwards. It was a fun learning experience for wilderness survival.



On Feb 8, 2026, The two Scouting America Troops 96 and 777 celebrated Scout Sunday at the First Presbyterian church on Main Street. Scouting Sunday honors the Anniversary of the Founding of Scouting America. It also recognizes the contributions of the youth and adult members of Scouting. The Scout groups are chartered through the First Presbyterian church which proudly supports Scouting in Sayreville. The two scout troops assisted in Raising the Colors and helped with the service. The Scouts enjoyed conversation with refreshments afterwards.



The Scout Troops are also looking forward to Monmouth Council's Winterburgh event at the Forestburgh Scout reservation in NY, where scouts from around the area can do Ice Fishing, Rifle Shooting, wood cutting tournaments, enjoy a hike to a frozen Darlington Falls or just have fun with friends on a frozen lake! (All photos/info submitted)

Did You Notice This?



Well recently, The SA Times staff writer Rich Kosmoski saw this at Waterfront Park in South Amboy/Sayreville, and snapped this unique photo.

Dowdell Library News

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

To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, watch for many library events this year! The first one will take place on Monday, March 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Don't miss Remembering the Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates!

Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is turning 112 this month! Don't miss the Maker's Day program on Thursday, March 26 from 2:30-4:30 pm. Participate in some fun STEAM activities and celebrate with birthday cake!

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

Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in March from 12:00 to 3:30 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in March from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday on Wednesday, March 4 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss out on the March Madness Basketball Contest happening all March long. Stop in the library for a chance to win an NBA basketball. Don't miss Drop in Club this March from 3:15 to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+.

Twens and Teens! Stop by to register for the February Test Kitchen on Monday, March 16 for ages 13+ and Tuesday, March 17 for ages 10 to 12 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks! Participate in the Women's History Scavenger Hunt on March 9 and 10 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and

win a prize!

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, March 9 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic. Snow date Wednesday, March 11.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, March 30 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed. Snow date Wednesday, April 1.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on March, February 10 and 24 at 1:00 pm.

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

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

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

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.

Pallone Secures \$250,000 in Funding for New South Amboy Park and Playground

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) secured \$250,000 in federal Community Project Funding in Fiscal Year 2026 to support the creation of a new park and playground near South Amboy Middle High School, converting a vacant lot into a safe outdoor play space designed for young children.

"This funding gives South Amboy the ability to turn an underused space into something families can rely on," said Pallone. "A safe, well-designed playground near the school creates opportunities for kids to be active and for families to spend time together, while strengthening the surrounding community."

The funding will allow the city to construct a dedicated preschool play area featuring age-appropriate playground equipment, including low swings, slides, a sandbox, and play structures. The project is intended to provide a safe, accessible outdoor environment that encourages physical activity and healthy recreation for South Amboy's youngest residents.

"On behalf of the City of South Amboy and especially our young citizens, I would like to thank Congressman Frank Pallone

for the \$250,000 appropriation," said South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry. "This generous funding will go a long way in helping to relocate our David Street park to the Allie Clark Sports Complex. With the expansion of the park more opportunities will be provided for our city's children to recreate in a healthy and safe environment. Congressman Pallone continues to be a great friend and representative to the City of South Amboy."

According to city plans, the new play area will span approximately 2,500 square feet and will be designed to meet national childcare standards for outdoor play spaces, accommodating up to 33 children at a time. The project also includes landscaping with shade-providing trees and native plants, as well as improvements to a nearby parking area to enhance safety and accessibility for families.

The South Amboy park and playground project was requested by Pallone through the Fiscal Year 2026 federal appropriations process, which allows members of the U.S. House to direct Community Project Funding toward local priorities that improve public spaces and quality of life.

South Amboy Elks, Lenten Fish Fry Fundraiser

The South Amboy Elks are doing their Fish fry fundraiser again this year. Every Friday during lent from 2/20 through 4/3/26 from 5:30 -7:30 pm. All selections are fresh and made to order. Your fish selection can be broiled or fried. Soup, dessert, coffee & tea are included with all dine in dinners. A cash bar is available for cocktails, beer, soda, juices & bottled water. The Elks are located at 601 Washington Ave. For more information call 732-727-7170. Large parties please call to reserve a table.



The Time Of The Year
 It's the time of the year
 For green beer
 Lots of fun
 And Irish cheer
 Enjoy the parade
 With lots of fire trucks
 And First Aid
 And so much more galore
 It's Saint Patty's Day Again!
 The world is Irish
 And everyone's a friend
 Just look around
 Everything is green
 It's the St. Patrick's Day scene
 It's wall to wall people
 All over town
 It's the time of the year
 For green beer
 Lots of fun
 And Irish cheer

The Interview: Mayor Fred Henry

By Tom Burkard

On January 1, 2027, the City of South Amboy will have a new mayor for the first time since Fred Henry succeeded John T. "Jack" O'Leary in 2011. Recently, Mayor Henry decided not to seek office again, and at the end of this term, will have served a total of 16 years at the helm. The 16 years in the top spot is second all-time in the history of South Amboy, with O'Leary's 24 year run as mayor number one. Prior to his time as mayor, Fred served the city for 18 years as a dedicated councilman, so his combined total of 34 years in political office is the most-ever for "The Pleasant Little City."

When did Fred Henry initially develop an interest in politics? His father Fred Henry was a South Amboy City Council President in the 1960's, and the mayor recalled how as a youngster his political interest began. "I still remember the first year my dad ran in 1960, and I got involved watching the city when I was about 10 years old."

He attended St. Mary's Grammar School and then St. Mary's High School, where he graduated in '68. He was very active in high school, especially sports, and was a starting pitcher for Coach Tom Otto's Eagles. In addition, he played basketball for St. Mary's C.Y.O. team under legendary Coach Jim MacKay. Following graduation, he went to Middlesex County College and then to Trenton State College. He majored in Social Studies and earned his degree in English. "I liked history, and wanted to resurrect the Historical Society in South Amboy," he said. During his college days, he also pitched on the varsity teams at MCC and Trenton State College.

After college, he worked on the Raritan River Railroad for a year under Ray Stockton. A teaching position became available at St. Mary's Elementary School in 1974, and he was hired and became the Science teacher for 7th and 8th grade. "Ed O'Connor was in my first class," recalled the Mayor.

A Social Studies teacher position opened up, and he stepped into that role, and worked a total of 7 years at St. Mary's.

His next step in the educational field came when South Amboy Middle School had an opening for a fill-in English teacher, and Henry took the job, and commuted to Spotswood everyday for a half year, because at that time, the children were bused from South Amboy due to overcrowding.

When Hoffman HS was seeking an English teacher, Fred made another move there, and then taught Social Studies. Around 2005, he was hired to the new position as Dean of Students at the high school, a job he held for 10 years through 2015. He said, "The job was to discipline kids, and I was also responsible for putting together a code book. I liked the job, but missed teaching in the classroom, because it was always interesting."

Even with his very busy schedule, he found time to serve as the Athletic Director for South Amboy High School for 14 years. "It was a lot of work, but I really liked it. I got to see other schools and great teams," he said. In addition, the energetic Henry coached at least a combined 20 years in baseball/softball, basketball, and cross country.

When asked what he was most proud of as an educator, he replied, "Getting through to a couple kids who weren't into education. High school kids liked poetry, such as McBeth. I commanded respect, and kids call me Mr. Henry, even today. I taught about life, movies, history and literature. My favorite movie is "Casablanca" and I showed it to the kids and they liked it."

Mayor Henry had several highlights in his athletic career that he was most proud of sharing that include: pitching a 1-hitter as St. Mary's blasted South River, 10-0 during his junior year. One of the Rams players was future NFL star football player Joe Theisman. Fred also recalled St. Mary's Opening Day game against St. Joe's of Toms River in his senior year, when he and Mike Drahos combined for a brilliant no-hitter.

I then asked Mayor Henry what it was like for you to serve South Amboy for a total of 34 years?

He said, "When you're serving, you've got to keep in mind that you can't please everyone. Do what you can for the greater good. Do the

best you can for taxpayers. The only satisfaction is we're doing something for taxpayers. You can never accomplish everything you set out to do. For example, we got the ferry progress up and running after 20 years in the making! There were so many meetings and the process was complex, and we had to get money. We also got new state-of-the-art ballfields."

In the future, Mayor Henry said that he feels after he leaves office, "The ferry terminal will be completed, and we will need a new City Hall and Police Dept. because we're running out of space and need to be upgraded." His advice to the next mayor is simply "Just do the right thing. Think it out."

Mayor Henry said that what he will miss most about being mayor is "Working with people and trying to solve their problems, some governmental, and some personal. You can't solve everything and can't please everybody. People elected me because they trusted me and believed in my integrity. I never sought self-accolades. People come back to South Amboy, and say how nice the town looks."

The only thing he didn't care for as mayor was "People making comments, when they didn't have all the facts."

He hopes "People will remember me, not as a politician, I've never considered myself as a politician, but as a person with integrity and honesty would be sufficient to me."

Mayor Henry has plenty of praise and thanks to his wife Linda and brother Bill. He said, "My wife Linda has been my right hand person all along. She's very supportive and was always there. I told her she could get involved as much as she wants, someone I could confide in. She's first to hear and edit my speeches." He also credits his brother Bill (who is Chairman of the Sayreville Democratic Party) with helping him win his second time in a primary against Jack O'Connell. "If it wasn't for Bill, I don't think I would have won." He also said "I will miss the dedication of all the good workers at City Hall and all the employees, Public Workers, Firefighters, First Aid, and Police. So many dedicated people that love our community."

Mayor Henry's City Council members had the following to say about him:

Council Member Anthony Conrad
 "Mayor Fred Henry's decades of service to South Amboy reflect a deep love for this community and an unwavering commitment to doing what was right for our residents. From strengthening public safety to revitalizing our waterfront and infrastructure, his leadership helped shape the city we are proud to call home. It has been an honor to serve alongside him."

Council Member Zusette Dato
 "Mayor Henry leaves behind a legacy of thoughtful, steady leadership and real results. His focus on fiscal responsibility, public safety, and long-term planning positioned South Amboy for continued success. Our community is stronger because of his dedication, and we are grateful for his years of service."

Council Member Thomas Reilly
 "For more than three decades, Mayor Fred Henry put South Amboy first. Whether it was investing in our first responders, improving quality of life for families, or honoring our veterans, his decisions were always guided by what was best for our city. South Amboy owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Council Member Larry Lenahan
 "Serving with Mayor Henry showed me what principled leadership looks like. He worked collaboratively with the Council, respected the voices of residents, and never lost sight of the responsibility entrusted to him. His impact will be felt in South Amboy for generations to come."

Council Member/President Mickey Gross

"Mayor Henry's service is defined by integrity, partnership, and a genuine belief in this community. From balancing budgets responsibly to advancing projects that improved everyday life, he led with care and purpose. On behalf of the residents of South Amboy, I thank him for his extraordinary service."

The longtime mayor's future plans following his final year in office include playing golf, traveling—"We hope to visit Hawaii, Pearl Harbor and also Mount Rushmore on a road trip," he stated.

Notebook: Mayor Fred Henry coached



2011 - South Amboy City Clerk Kathleen Vigilante (l) swears in new Mayor Fred Henry, as his wife Linda holds the Bible. Fred's mother Ann (2nd from left), and daughter Erin (right), proudly look on during the private ceremony, which took place on New Year's Day at City Hall. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



2012 - Brian Noble (l) is sworn in as Sergeant of the South Amboy Police Dept., by Mayor Fred Henry (r), as his wife Amy and children, Erin and Robert holding the Bible, look on. (Photos courtesy of Ptl. Matt Barcheski, SAPD)



2017 - South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal, Mayor Fred A. Henry and wife Linda wave to the crowd from a beautiful Rolls Royce convertible. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



2023 - On January 4th the South Amboy City Council held their yearly reorganization meeting at City Hall. Many state, county and local officials were present as well. Mayor Fred Henry is sworn in by NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (l) for his fourth term as Mayor, with his wife Linda holding the Bible, and proud family members looking on. See more photos on page 20. (Photo/info by Jamie Norek)

varsity sports including baseball at St. Mary's HS for 6 years; South Amboy HS baseball-5 years; South Amboy HS girls softball-2 years; South Amboy HS cross country-at least 2 years; Hoffman-junior varsity coach/assistant varsity basketball coach-5 years. The girls varsity basketball team under great Head Coach Reggie Carney, and his Assistant Coach Fred Henry captured 5 consecutive state championships, including the coveted first Tournament of Champions title...In addition the mayor organized, coached

and played for teams in the South Amboy Men's Senior Slow Pitch Softball League for over 20 years, and his teams captured the elusive championship at least 4 times.
 *A special thank you to Mayor Fred Henry for granting me this interview, and more importantly for the outstanding work he and his council members have done throughout the years, in making the City of South Amboy one of the greatest communities in the U.S.A. Best of luck in your final year as Mayor and may God Bless you and your family always!

Sayreville Library News

Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)

March 2 & 24 @6PM
Self-Compassion & Loving Awareness

Theme: Kindness Toward Self and Others
A time to cultivate warmth, patience, and understanding—especially toward oneself.
Loving-kindness practices

Self-forgiveness

Softening inner criticism

This is a virtual event. Registration is required to get the Zoom Link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Please be sure to be in a quiet room, where you will not be disturbed, and be seated in a chair with your feet flat on the floor

Stop Procrastinating and Sort Out Your Home with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 3 @6:30PM

Don't wait until the last minute to begin your spring cleaning. Join best-selling author Jamie Novak for this seminar on how to declutter your house this spring.

This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Patrons must provide a valid email address.

Estate Planning for Animals

Monday, March 9 @5PM

Join Tina M. James, Local Attorney for this informative seminar on how to plan for the care of pets during estate planning. Learn about how to provide caregivers, housing, veterinary care, and more. Whether it's a family dog or a barn full of horses, your estate will be handled smoothly.

Registration Required

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

**NOTE* Small Children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.*

Toastmasters International

March 14 & 28 @11AM

Join the toastmasters and learn how to speak in public clearly and without fear.

**NOTE* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.*

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, March 17 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee.

This month: Jane Austen Wrecked My Life: Starring Charlie Anson and Annabelle Lengronne.

Rated R 1 hr 38 mins

Refreshments provided

Registration required.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

**NOTE* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.*

Trivia with Dan

Monday, March 23 @6:30PM

Think you are good at trivia?

Want to try and win some prizes?

Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game.

Play solo or join up with a team.

Prizes offered to the winners.

Open to teens and adults.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

No more than 4 per team please.

All team members must register.

A Day's Passing

By Al Gomolka Jr.

Times Poet Laureate

c.2006

My, how my days are passing,
passing, passing
Slyly and wily,
unnoticeable to an extent
Does this time of life slip by
I did that last week
You mean two months ago
At the end of the day
I can't believe that happened
Three years ago now!
My how you've grown
I haven't seen you since
It's been that long?
I just don't have the time
Society sure has changed
I feel so many aches and pains
Boy, he died so young
Generations have passed
Are there any I know still alive?
Until a lifetime comes around
My, how my days are passing,
passing, passing
Where have the years gone?
I can't remember when
One doesn't realize as
days come and go
Until it creeps up on you
And you don't have much
time left to consider.

Pallone Encourages Young Artists in NJ's Sixth District to Enter Congressional Art Competition

NJ 6th District Congressman Says Students Have Until March 13, 2026 to Submit Applications

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced the launch of the 2026 Sixth Congressional District High School Art Competition, part of the national Congressional Art Competition: An Artistic Discovery program. This annual contest provides young artists an opportunity to showcase their talent and have their work recognized at the national level.

High school students residing in New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District are encouraged to participate through their schools. The submission deadline is March 13, 2026.

"The Congressional Art Competition is a great opportunity for young artists to gain recognition and share their creativity with a wider audience," said Congressman Pallone. "Each year, I am impressed by the incredible talent of students in our district, and I look forward to seeing this year's submissions."

Winners will be selected in April and honored at a Sixth Congressional District Awards Ceremony. The first-place artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year alongside winning pieces from across the country.

For more information, including submission guidelines and entry forms, students and teachers can visit Congressman Pallone's website or contact his district offices.

Green Everywhere

Green, green everywhere
People celebrating
As Irish songs fill the air
It's a day to be proud
Say you're Irish and say it out loud
Green, green everywhere
Today's the day
Everyone is Irish
Isn't it wonderful that way
Bagpipers pipin' at the
St. Pat's Parade
It's a special day
That the Lord has made
Green, green everywhere
On the proudest and happiest
Irish day of the year.

Winter Memories-Long Ago

(From Ken Rogers Archives)



Remember when the South Amboy Water Works pond was frozen, and provided ice skating fun for the locals.



1960's-Kids sleigh riding down Main Street in South Amboy. Can't imagine that happening today, can you?



Believe it or not, other youngsters were ice skating down the Main St. in South Amboy!

Middlesex County Office of Health Services Measles Update

County provides critical information for residents, healthcare providers, and public health partners

The Middlesex County Office of Health Services is reporting to residents about a potential exposure associated with a newly diagnosed case of measles in a non-New Jersey resident who visited New Jersey while infectious at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital–New Brunswick in the Pediatric Emergency Department on Friday, February 6, 2026, 11:15 pm through Saturday, February 7, 2026, 4:25 am.

As of Tuesday, February 10, 2026, no additional cases have been identified in New Jersey. The Middlesex County Office of Health Services and the New Jersey Department of Health are working to identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed to the individual while the individual was infectious. Exposed individuals who are infected could develop symptoms as late as Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. People can also become sick if they come in contact with mucus or saliva (spit) from an infected person.

Common Symptoms of Measles

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red watery eyes
- Rash (breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin)
- Exposure to Measles

Individuals who believe they have been exposed to someone with measles should call their healthcare provider before going to a medical office or emergency department. A person infected with measles can spread the disease before showing symptoms. Special arrangements need to be made when visiting a healthcare provider or emergency department to help protect others from getting sick.

Measles Prevention

The best way to prevent measles is with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The following people should be vaccinated against measles:

- All children over one year of age who have not yet been vaccinated
- Children between 6 months and 1 year of age who will be traveling internationally or visiting a community with an ongoing measles outbreak (This dose will not count toward the primary series, and two additional doses after one year of age will still be required.)
- Adults who have not yet been vaccinated and were born after 1957 and have not had laboratory confirmation of a previous measles infection.
- Adults of any age who will be traveling internationally or visiting a community with an ongoing measles outbreak, who have not previously received two doses of MMR.

The Middlesex County Office of Health Services will continue to work with local partners to monitor the situation and will provide updates as they become available. For additional guidance and information for residents, please contact the Middlesex County Office of Health Services at 732-745-3100.

Everyone Is Irish

Everyone is Irish today
They're wearin' green
All over the U.S.A.
A joyous time
A happy scene
To party and play
Because everyone is Irish today.

The South Amboy Scene On St. Patrick's Day

The South Amboy scene
On St. Patrick's Day
The huge parade and kids at play
The AOH is the host with the most
As Irish music fills the air
People wearin' green
And happiness everywhere
At the South Amboy scene
On St. Patrick's Day.

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**OLD BARDS
TOWN
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MOSCATO**



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**TURNING
LEAF
CHARD.**



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**JOSH
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GRIGIO**



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**J LOHR
CAB**



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The Sofilkanich Sisters Of South Amboy

(Photos/Info Submitted)



(l-r) Brooke, Ashley and Taylor Sofilkanich

Brooke and Taylor have been big contributors to the success of the St. John Vianney girls basketball team this year.

Brooke is a freshman, Taylor is a senior committed to Duke University for next year. In addition, the Sofilkanich sisters played on the school's Shore Conference, and state championship volleyball team this year. Ashley Sofilkanich is a junior starter at Michigan University she scored her 1,000th collegiate career point in her first game of the season. She starred at Bucknell University for 2 years before transferring to Michigan U.



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UNIVERSITY



Do You Want To Build A Snowman?



South Amboy DPW worked very hard clearing the snow off the streets in the city. The snow was brought to Jack McKeon Veterans Park. Great job DPW!! (Photos Submitted)



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VFW Honors Sayreville Siblings



Pictured (L to R): VFW member Andy Mazur, Brandon Muller, Miranda Muller, & Commander-in-Chief Edward Machinski. (Photo/Info Submitted)

VFW post 7508 (Old Bridge) honored Sayreville Middle School siblings as recipients of the Patriot's Pen Award. Eight grader Miranda Muller and her brother, sixth grader, Brandon Muller, were chosen as winners of the essay writing contest, "How are you showing patriotism and support for

our country?" Patriot's Pen is an annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth essay contest for 6th through 8th graders. It encourages students to explore American history and contemporary society through writing.

Sayreville's Barry Muller Named to Dean's List



Barry Muller of Sayreville has been named to Rider University's Norm Brodsky College of Business Fall 2025 Dean's List. Barry is enrolled in their 4+1 Masters in Accounting Program with a minor in Sports Management. He is a 2025 graduate of Sayreville War Memorial High School.

Full-time undergraduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 to be named to the Dean's List. Rider University, founded in 1865 as the Trenton Business College, is a private, Division I, accredited university in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

CHRIST CHURCH

Comedy Night

MARCH 20, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT: 7:00 PM - SHOWTIME: 8:00 PM



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JOE CONTE



FEATURING
HELEN WILDY

STARRING

MARK RICCADONNA

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Y2K Time Capsule Unearthed



The time capsule.



The crew that participated in digging up the time capsule.



Scouts both Old and young cataloging the contents of the capsule. (Photos by Art Rittenhouse)

Sayreville Scouts, Arleth Students Unearth Y2K Time Capsule

(Article Submitted)

As the world prepared to ring in the new year and welcome 2026, local scouts and local elementary school students had one last bit of unfinished business to attend to in 2025.

In January of 2000, to commemorate the turn of the new millennium, the town's now-defunct Cub Scout Pack 469 buried a time capsule in front of the flagpole at Arleth Elementary School to be opened 25 years later. However, with those young scouts now well into their 30's and many of the pack's adult leadership retired, January 2025 quietly passed and the capsule remained buried and mostly forgotten past its 25th year.

As the year continued, the prospect of opening the capsule became an infrequent "what if" for the Clark family, whose father served as the pack's Scoutmaster but later moved out-of-state and left scouting. With the end of 2025 drawing nearer, the family's four sons, who all became Eagle Scouts as members of Troop 97, turned "what if" into "why not?"

Determined to follow through with the pack's promise to open the capsule in 2025, brothers Michael and Christopher, high school history teachers in Union County, drew on their experience as educators to organize the capsule's unearthing alongside local scouts and to create an educational experience for the third graders of their alma mater, Arleth Elementary. After emailing school and district officials, Michael quickly received a response from Arleth principal Mr. Robert Preston, an active scout leader himself, who proved immediately receptive to the idea. Preston, who taught the eldest Clark, Curtis III, and Michael, an AP and honors-level history teacher at Rahway High School, helped organize an assembly for Arleth's third grade students on Friday, December 12 to review the contents of the capsule, which included: **Photos and letters from each Cub Scout den; A copy of Boys' Life magazine; Coins from 1999; Art, drawings, and collages; Pokemon trading**

cards; Pokemon, Hot Wheels, and Rugrats figurines; A letter included in the capsule reads in full:

"As you look through the items that were placed in here twenty-five years ago, we hope they bring a smile to your face, maybe some memories to those who placed a memento in here and some insight to who and how we were (sic) in the year 2000. As the items were placed in this time capsule, some tried to envision what the year 2025 would be like - from cars that floated, to computers built into students desks, to a much more peaceful and thoughtful world. Maybe some or all of these thoughts are what it is like during 2025! But one thing we hope is still around during your time is the Cub Scout Tradition! As you read this, many of the children who placed items in here will be between the ages of 30 and 40, and their leaders in the 50's and 60's. Hopefully we have done our jobs and your world has become a better place because of our efforts. So sit back and enjoy going through this time capsule. Take some time to look at the coins of the 1990's, the fads, the toys, and the pictures of the Cub Scout Pack 469. Maybe you'll even see yourself! GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!

Yours in Scouting, Curtis Clark and the Leaders of Pack 469 - January 2000"

As part of the presentation, Clark also included momentos, keepsakes, and collectibles from his time at Arleth Elementary: A working GameBoy Color; Pokemon, Yu Gi Oh!, and sports trading cards; A class photo from Ms. Bulla's 3rd Grade Class in 2000; Mr. Clark's 2nd and 3rd Grade report cards from 1999 and 2000; Mr. Clark wishes to extend a special thanks to the scouts, scout leaders, and local figures who attended to support the initiative and help catalog the capsule's items: Mr. Art Rittenhouse, Mr. Tom Tighe, Mr. Joe McCoy, Mr. Brant Wright, Mr. Edward Anderson and scouts and leaders from local Troops 95, 96, 97 and 777.

**South Amboy's Annual
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Sunday, March 15, 2026 2pm
Rain Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026**

2026

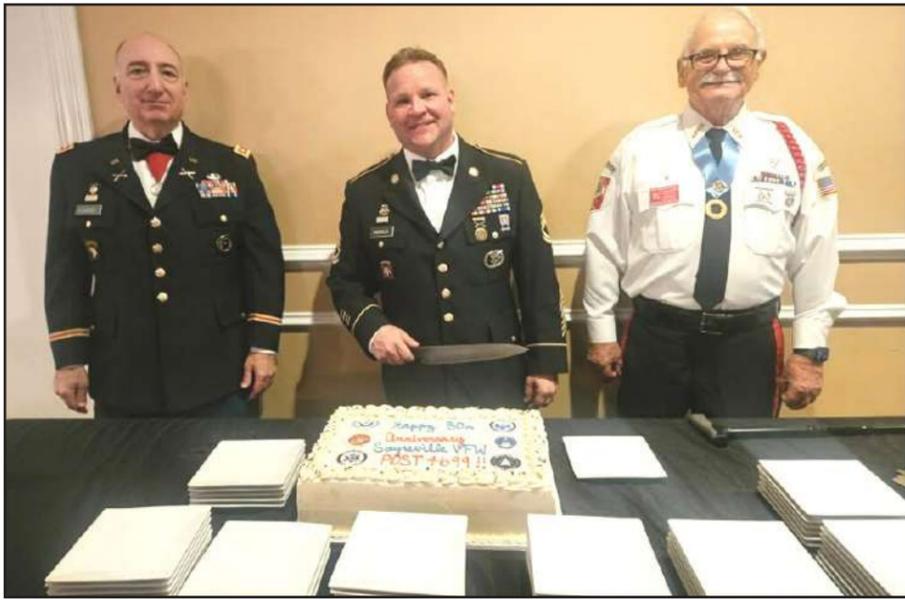
Grand Marshal John Dragotta
Deputy Grand Marshal Lee Steiner
Honorary Grand Marshal Joe Britton

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day so bundle up the family and sit along the parade route as South Amboy presents its Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Family friendly, free and multi-cultural the parade will include 20 marching bands, floats, local community and civic organizations as well as Fire, Police and EMS vehicles from surrounding communities.

Participant registration information and parade updates can be found at-
www.southamboyparade.com

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





Sayreville VFW Post 4699 Commander Danny Vardalis prepares to cut the cake at the 80th Anniversary celebration. Vice Commander Keith Kandel (l) and eldest veteran Ray Skarzynski (r) are also pictured. (Photo submitted)

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council #426 will be hosting our annual St Patrick's Day Dinner of "Corned Beef and Cabbage." When: Sunday March 15th from 3:30pm to 7pm. Where: K of C Hall 308 4th St. So. Amboy. The menu consists of a "generous" portion of Corned Beef and Cabbage, potatoes, mixed vegetables, rye bread, desserts and coffee. Cash bar!

Cost: Adults \$20.00; children (6yrs to 12yrs) \$10.00; 5yrs & under free. Hot dogs available for kids. "Eat in or take out" reservations are recommended. Call Ed V. 732 485-4226. Proceeds benefit local charities.

You Are

By Robert W. Eginton

You are the crutch
that I lean on
The flame that lights
my candle
The balance that
I walk with
The grip that's on
my handle.
You are the green
That makes the
grass grown
The blueness of the sky
The color of the flowers
The apple of my eye.
You are the ground
that I walk on
The earth beneath
my feet
The pillow on which
I lay my head
The cushion
on my seat.
When I need to
be happy
You never make me sad
You are the best some one
That some one ever had.

One Hit Wonders

50 Years Ago

1976-Afternoon Delight-The Starland Vocal Band; Play That Funky Music-Wild Cherry; Fooled Around & Fell In Love-Elvin Bishop; Moonlight Feels Right-Starbuck; Shannon-Henry Gross; Welcome Back-John Sebastian; Disco Lady-Johnnie Taylor.

Upcoming Performances!



Kenny Kurczeski (r) of Sayreville, who is the leader/singer/songwriter of the talented Kenny K & The Way band, is pictured with Efrén Castro, owner of Java Dave's Coffee 110 North Broadway in South Amboy. Kenny stopped in to visit, and announced three upcoming performances for the group; Saturday Feb. 28 from 6-8 pm, Chubby Pickle, Highlands; Thursday March 5th from 7-9 pm, Sensorium Emporium, Red Bank; Friday March 20 from 8-11 pm, Blue Moon, South Amboy. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



"An Evening To Remember"... Lived Up To Its Promise....

By Clem Skarzynski

On Saturday, January 17th, the Sayreville VFW Post 4699, Celebrated its 80th Anniversary in a very special, well deserved way... Through the planning and efforts of Katie Vardalis, with help from the Post Commander Danny Vardalis and former Auxiliary President Val Olszewski, 9 local veterans and members of the Post were recognized for their service to our country and Post Home. Long overdue, Recognition Plaques were presented to..Ray Skarzynski, Marines, 1958, South China Sea; Ken Kelly U.S. Air Force, 1967-68, Viet Nam; Frank Straczynski, Army, 1966-67 Korea; Charlie Woods, U.S. Air Force, 1965-67, Viet Nam; Stanley Przblyowski, Army, 1969-70, Viet Nam; Joe Albin, Army, 1971, Viet Nam; Stanley Drawl, Army, 1995-96, Bosnia; Harry Pachkowski, Air Force, 1971, Viet Nam; Keith Kandel, Army, 2010-11, Afghanistan. Also, not to be forgotten were the ladies of the former Auxiliary, for their service to the post: Joanne Hockenjos, Debbie Keegan, Val Olszewski, and Carmen Delikat..with their countless years of help with events, dinner dances, etc. at the Post!

It was quite an evening of remembering

all who served our country, community, and VFW Post 4699..I the writer can't say enough on the effort that Katie, Dan and Val put into their "Evening to Remember".. The Hall was beautifully decorated..The Cocktail Hour, Gourmet Dinner was beyond outstanding..And the crowd and guests so appreciative..My personal thanks, and the thanks from my bandmates from "The Clem and Friends Band," for having us be a part of such a well planned event, and to such an appreciative partying crowd! We, the Band, have been a part of many, many events at the Post for numerous successful dances and benefits organized by Carmen Delikat and Val Olszewski..So, this was a wonderful "Homecoming" for us too! But, the accolades have to go to Dan and Katie Vardalis and Val Olszewski for such a unique approach to celebrate the Post's 80th Anniversary by honoring the persons who made it possible for the Post to be here, and who served our country, and community! Super Idea you Guys, so, Dan, Katie, Val, veterans, and Ladies of the Auxillary... Thank You for.. "An Evening..we the community, and most important, the Veterans, will Remember."

#1 Country Hits On Feb. 28

- 2023-Last Night-Morgan Wallen
- 2012-I Don't Want This Night To End -Luke Bryan
- 2002-Good Morning Beautiful-Steve Holy
- 1996-Bigger Than The Beatles-Joe Diffie
- 1983-Inside-Ronnie Milsap
- 1976-Good Hearted Woman -Waylon & Willie
- 1969-Skip A Rope-Henson Cargill

#1 Pop Hits On Feb. 28

- 2021-Drivers License-Olivia Rodrigo
- 2016-Thinking Out Loud-Ed Sheeran
- 2003-All I Have-Jennifer Lopez
- 1992-To Be With You-Mr. Big
- 1985-Careless Whisper-Wham
- 1970-Bridge Over Troubled Waters -Simon & Garfunkel
- 1962-Duke of Earl-Gene Chandler



Taking a final bow at the January Acoustic Friday showcase at the South Amboy Arts Gallery (l-r) Jerry Smith, Jackie June, Eric Ginsberg, and Diane Doolittle. Erez Lirov is missing from the photo. (Photo by Teresa Rehberg)

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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..

Sayreville Recreation Announces Spring 2026 Programs

Sayreville Recreation is excited to announce its Spring 2026 lineup of programs, offering a wide variety of recreational, educational, and wellness. From youth sports and enrichment programs to fitness classes and community events, this spring's schedule is designed to keep Sayreville active, engaged, and connected.

Spring programs include a trivia night, parent and me canvas painting with a spring and Mother's Day theme, youth skateboarding, youth performance training, adult yoga, and group tickets to a Somerset Patriots game. After school sports for SUES students continue as does the Little Kids Playtime program at Kennedy Park.

"Our spring programs are designed to

encourage trying something new, staying active, or simply spending more time together as a community," said Recreation Director Brian VanDongen.

Registration for Spring 2026 programs is currently open with spots available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents are encouraged to register early, as many programs fill quickly and have registration deadlines in advance of the program.

The Sayreville Compass, the Recreation Department's program guide, is available online. Additional information, including registration deadlines, fees, and program details, can be found on the Recreation Department's website or by contacting the office directly.



Artists Using 1 Name

By Tom Burkard

1. Someone Like You
2. Mellow Yellow
3. Foolish Games
4. If I Could Turn Back Time
5. I've Never Been To Me
6. Crazy
7. Material Girl
8. Brand New Key
9. Turn Me Loose
10. Whenever, Wherever
11. To Sir With Love
12. Purple Rain
13. Big Girls Don't Cry
14. Abraham, Martin & John
15. Halo



- a. Madonna
- b. Fabian
- c. Fergie
- d. Cher
- e. Donovan
- f. Charlene
- g. Dion
- h. Lulu
- i. Melanie
- j. Prince
- k. Beyonce
- l. Seal
- m. Jewel
- n. Adele
- o. Shakira

Answers

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



20 Years Ago



2006 - Joe Bartlinski (l) of South Amboy High School releases a jump shot against Dunellen to score his 1000th career point. Vincente Rosario (r) of Cardinal McCarrick High School connects for a three pointer against Bishop Arh for his 1000th career point. (Photos by Brian Stratton)

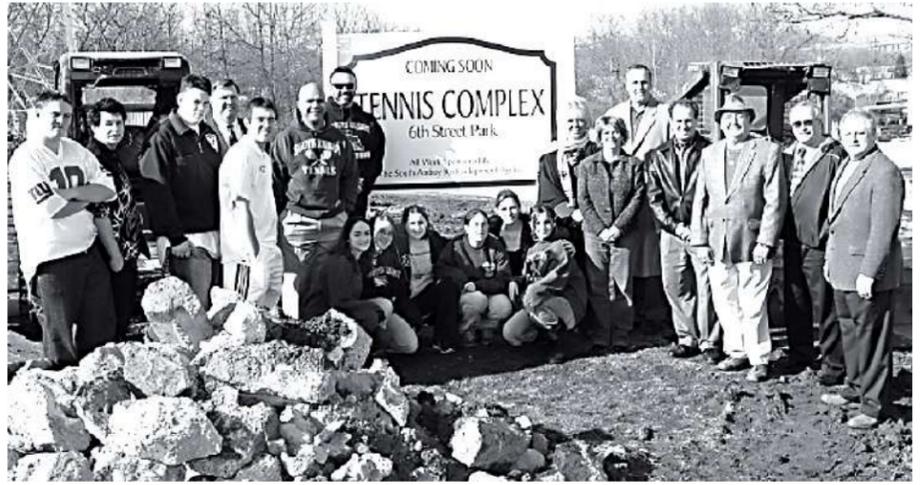
Bartlinski, Rosario Score 1,000th

By Tom Burkard

South Amboy High's Joe Bartlinski, joined the elite 1,000 Point Club against a strong Dunellen Destroyers team. Bartlinski's historical moment came when he connected on a turnaround baseline jumper with 4:10 left in the game, in which Dunellen prevailed, 75-65. He finished the game with 19 points. Cardinal McCarrick High's Vincente Rosario became the 6th player in St. Mary's/ Cardinal

McCarrick history to score 1,000 points. He scored his milestone point against Bishop Ahr, on a 3-pointer from the left corner with 0:54 left in the third quarter. The Trojans won 76-65 despite 29 points from Rosario. Bartlinski and Rosario join South Amboy's Brian Seres, who scored his 1,000th point the previous month. Congratulations to all!

20 Years Ago



2006 - Mayor John T. O'Leary, City Council members, Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education, faculty and students of South Amboy High School were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the city's tennis complex located at the former Zdanewicz Park on 6th Street. O'Leary said, "This is just another example of how redevelopment projects in the City of South Amboy can extend far from the area itself, bringing recreational benefits to the general public. In particular, these projects will provide an additional benefit to our local public school system." (Photo by Brian Stratton)

From The Local Band Archives



1965-The Videls were formed in '64, and became a popular local group, playing at local school dances, block parties and parties. Pictured (l-r) are Dennis Trautweiler, sax; Clem Skarzynski, guitar; Tom Smith, drums; Bob Wickley, bass; Mike Fabiszewski, guitar. This photo was featured in the Sat., Feb. 6, 1965 edition of the old "Perth Amboy Evening News" newspaper in its "Young Moderns Corner" section. (Photo courtesy of Clem Skarzynski)



City of South Amboy Department of Public Works 2026 Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule *Schedule is subject to weather-related adjustments*

HOLIDAY	DAY OF THE WEEK	HOLIDAY PICKUP
New Year's Day	Thursday	January 1 st will be picked up December 31 st
Martin Luther King Day	Monday	January 19 th will be picked up January 21 st
Lincoln's Birthday	Thursday	February 12 th will be picked up February 11 th
President's Day	Monday	February 16 th will be picked up February 18 th
Good Friday	Friday	April 3 rd will be picked up April 1 st
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25 th will be picked up May 27 th
Independence Day	Saturday	July 3 rd will be picked up on July 1 st
Labor Day	Monday	September 7 th will be picked up on September 9 th
Columbus Day	Monday	October 12 th will be picked up on October 14 th
Election Day	Tuesday	November 3 rd will be picked up on November 4 th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 26 th will be picked up on November 25 th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	November 27 th will be picked up on that day
Christmas	Friday	December 25 th will be picked up on December 23 rd

2026 Bulk Pickup Schedule

NO MORE THAN 10 ITEMS

Items must be bundled, bagged or canned

NO CONSTRUCTION/HAZMAT MATERIALS OR TIRES

BOXSPRING MATTRESSES MUST BE BAGGED OR THEY WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

If your trash pick up is Monday - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: January 7th March 4th May 6th July 8th September 2nd November 4th	If your trash pick up is Tuesday (Broadway included) - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday (with the exception of Veterans Day): January 14th March 11th May 13th July 15th September 16th November 10th	If your trash pick up is Thursday - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: January 21st March 18th May 20th July 22nd September 23rd November 18th	If your trash pick up is Friday - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: January 28th March 25th May 27th July 29th September 30th November 25th
--	--	--	--

2026 Bulk Drop Off

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM-12PM (Excluding Holidays)

&

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 7AM-11AM

January 17th	April 18th	July 18th	October 17th
February 21st	May 16th	August 15th	November 21st
March 21st	June 20th	September 19th	December 19th

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER AND UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

On St. Patrick's Day

The town is rockin' In old SA
 The crowd is huge
 For the parade
 On St. Patrick's Day
 Firemen, First Aid,
 Bands and more
 Proudly march through town
 And people cheer
 As they pass by their front door
 From Pine Avenue
 to Bordentown
 And across Stevens Avenue too
 It's a proud day for the Irish
 So much fun, and parties
 Lots of things to do
 The town is rockin' In old SA
 It's time to party
 Time to play
 And wear the green
 On St. Patrick's Day.



Troop and Pack 91 Celebrate Scout Sunday



On February 1st Scouts and Leaders of South Amboy's Troop 91 and Pack 91 gathered for a group photograph after celebrating mass at the First Presbyterian Church. The photo was taken in the church's basement where parishioners and scouts had an opportunity to enjoy coffee and donuts. From September to early July, Pack 91 meets at 6:15pm and Troop 91 meets at 7:30pm on Monday nights at the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy. Regardless of your religion, if you have a son aged 5 through 10 for the pack or 11 through 18 for the troop interested in Scouting, contact Kevin Manion at 732-791-3024 for further information. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Wind Creek Casino Trip

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus council 426 are sponsoring a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem Pa. on April 9th 2026. Bus leaves KofC parking lot 308 4th Street S.Amboy. Cost: \$45.00 PP includes \$25.00 back in slot play. Snacks included for the ride. Must show proof of age (21y.o.) Contact Ray to reserve a seat 732 721-2025. Any profits go to help local charities.

Fish And Chicken Fry

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 20, 2026 from 5pm-6:30PM. Tickets are \$20.00 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, corn, coleslaw, roll and slice of fruit pie. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

Corned Beef Dinner

There will be a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872 on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Price: \$18.00 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.

The Wearing Of The Green

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.1995

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.



My Garden

By Philip

My garden is a special place
Where peace and quiet reign.
I go there often times alone
To help reduce life's strain.
The flowers blooming
cheerfully
In pink and white and red.
Help me forget
the troubled world,
And think of them instead.
Pink impatiens
lined up bright
In neat and tidied rows,
Like little soldiers
in the shade
Where nothing
else will grow.
The daisies white with
golden eye
Standing tall and proud,
A thousand suns
a' glowing bright
Upon a sea of clouds.
A scent from heaven
A crimson jewel that shines,
Like rubies in the summer sun
Amid the emerald vines.
My garden is most beautiful
For God has made it so
I may have planted
all the seeds
But He has made them grow.
I know God's love
is everywhere,
But I feel it most of all
In the garden that
He's given me
Where His flowers
say it all.

Flashback: 45 Years Ago

In late March of 1981, Betty Leveille, was feted with a plaque by the Fraternal Order of Wardens, for her countless hours of dedication, and many acts of kindness as Captain of the South Amboy First Aid Squad in 1980. The award was presented by the 1981 Most Worthy Warden Larry Parsons, and Past Most Worthy Warden Gerry McCracken, who also received a plaque thanking him for his leadership and service in '80.

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Last month's mystery duo was The Collins Kids who were an American rockabilly duo featuring Lawrence "Lorrie" Collins and her younger brother Lawrence "Larry" Collins. We would encourage everyone to do a search on Youtube for the Collins Kids and check out their early performances.

The following know their music: Thomas Harrigan, JoAnn & John French, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Edna Pilch, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret, John Meleski, Dane Colburn.



Do you recognize this music personality? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by March 19th



The Collins Kids - duo featuring Lawrence "Lorrie" Collins and her younger brother Lawrence "Larry" Collins.

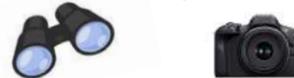
WWW.?



Do you recognize this business? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by March 19th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? Winners

Last month's mystery building was Progressive Fire House, South Amboy. Winners: Dennis Quinlan, Marybeth Chodkiewicz, Paul Conlon, Thomas Harrigan, JoAnn & John French, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Lisa Grankowski, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Barb Bockus, Kathie Brown-Godoy, Steve Laskiewicz, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Ed English, Walter Starzec Jr, Don Zrebiec, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre, Sonia Iglesias.



Progressive Fire House, South Amboy

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South Amboy, NJ

BETTER....."BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE"



Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

It's the Weeblemeister once again wishing you all a great fishing year. The rivers and bays are now mostly closed for Striped Bass and Winter Flounder until March 1st. It's just as well as I didn't see much when I checked local bay beaches, so it was nothing to write home about. The fishing will be slow when it reopens later on, however there are a few Stripers in the ocean at LBI and Island Beach surf as it is legal to fish for these fish. Regulations require one slot fish between 28 and 31 inches remain the same. Party boats and private charter boats are catching Blackfish. Some of their catches are going from 10 to 13 pounds with a 22 pound monster caught on a private charter out of Barnegat Light. Some Ling and a few Cod have been caught.

Fresh Water

It's the worst of both worlds with very cold weather and low water conditions. For the most part there is not enough safe ice in most upstate lakes but some safe ice is in the coves in upstate Lake Hopatcong. Some nice Pickerel and Large Mouth Bass have been caught there. Try the cove at Bertrand's Amusement Park as it produces some nice Pickerel and Yellow Perch. River and stream water levels still remain low at this time.



Catch Any Fish Lately?

Let The SA Times and its readers share in your good day of fishing. Why not show it to everyone? Send a photo of you and your catch with a caption including your name and town, type of fish, when and where you caught it, the length and weight if you wish, or any other pertinent information. Please make sure it's a clear picture and we will be glad to publish it in The SA Times for FREE! Email your photo/caption to: satimes@aol.com.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



2013 - The Cardinal McCarrick girls varsity bowling team captured the Group 1 State Championship! (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Cardinal McCarrick Wins State Title

By Tom Burkard

Cardinal McCarrick's amazing girls' bowling team rolled to its second consecutive NJSIAA Group I championship, by turning in a strong third and deciding game score of 961 to hold off a determined Carteret team, 2,995-2,912. Katie Latham, the Blue & Gold's top bowler came up big in the final game with a 278, the second highest score in the

state finals. CM qualified for the Tournament of Champions (TOC), but bowed to Brick Township, 3-1 while using the Baker Format. Congratulations to Coach Maureen Jones, and her group of talented, hard-working, and dedicated team on a truly exciting and successful season!

Glory Days In Local Sports

2024-Sayreville wrestling standout, Connor Walsh captured the GMCT 285 lb. championship in a thrilling sudden victory over St. Joseph's Caden Sternliek, 2-1...2010-Cardinal McCarrick boys basketball team shocked South Plainfield, 68-56. Ahmed Williams, Charlie Gorman, and Jummane McDaniel scored 14 points each to pace the Eagles...2004-South Amboy girls walloped Woodbridge Tech, 71-22, as Katie Charmello topped all scorers with 22 points...1996-Sayreville girls basketball team ripped St. Mary's, 61-44 in the 1st round of the GMCT. Coach Lisa Smith's Bombers were led by Stephanie Allocco with 20 points, Clarissa Meyers 12, and Audrey Behrens 10...1987-In the GMCT

Girls Basketball title game, Hoffman blasted Bishop Ahr, 73-46. Lynn Ust paved the way with 22 points, Krissy Kuzemski 18, Jenny Kuziemski 11, Lisa Smith 10 for the champs. 1973-Perth Amboy blasted Sayreville, 87-67 in the Middlesex County Boys Basketball championship game. The Bombers placed 4 players in double figures, but to no avail as the Panthers cruised to victory. Sayreville was paced by Ray Borup 16 points, John Wojcik 15, Ed Walsh 12, Steve Makwinski 10. Blake Taylor poured in 30, Pennyfeather 24, and Kruppa 24 for Perth Amboy...1960-St. Mary's boys basketball team defeated South River, 63-50. Tom "Tex" Leonard topped the Saints with 21 points, Pat Mullane 12, Dan Bailey 10.

T.H.E. Game

Dedicated to The SA Times writer John "Flip" Phillips who died on January 21, 2026. God Bless John.

Year-1956

Sport-Boys Basketball

Teams-St. Mary's Perth Amboy vs. St. Mary's South Amboy

Recap-The Eagles pounded Perth Amboy Saints, 76-65. John "Flip" Phillips captured game scoring honors with 21 points. He connected on an incredible 15-of-16 free throws. Joe Viggiano scored 19, Tom Pristavec 13, Jim Higgins 12.

Player-of-the-Game-John "Flip" Phillips



South Amboy native Jack McKeon has received countless honors during his illustrious career in professional baseball including the 2 bobbleheads pictured above. Jack, who managed the Florida Marlins to the World Series Championship over the New York Yankees in 2003, is the only manager in baseball history to have won over 1,000 games in both the Major Leagues and Minor Leagues! *A special thank you to St. Mary's Eagles basketball legend, Joe Chodkiewicz for providing the bobble head on the left. (Photo/story By Tom Burkard)

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.A., R.A..



75 Years Ago

1951-Sayreville, St. Mary's, and Hoffman had 10 of the county's top scorers for the 1950-51 basketball season. The players, where they finished in the rankings, and total points are as follows: 2-Marvin Wood, Hofman 366 points; 3-Charlie Koerner, Hoffman 354; 6-Charlie Kolakowski, Sayreville 282; 10-Luke Lenahan, St. Mary's 262; 11-Rudy Balaskiewicz, Sayreville 261; 18-Al Noble, Sayreville 243; 19-John Ciol, Hoffman 241; 20-Bob "Don" "Pep" Bennett, St. Mary's 233; 21-Vic Krolik, Sayreville 230; 24-John Kovalski, Hoffman 203.

65 Years Ago

1961-St. Mary's opened their basketball season with a 70-55 victory over Roselle Catholic. Bill Tibbitt topped the scoring with 15 points, Joe Jankowski 14, Bob Suminski 13.

40 Years Ago

Lady Guvs Cop GMCT Crown

1986-Coach Reggie Carney's powerhouse Hoffman Lady Guvs captured the GMCT title by topping Bishop Ahr, 55-52. Trailing 27-23 at halftime, the Purple & Gold outscored Bishop Ahr 20-6, in the third quarter, for a 43-33 cushion in route to the huge victory. Lynn Ust topped the scoring with 18 points, and Tricia Popowski added 10 for the winners.

25 Years Ago

Katko Joins 1,000 Points Club

2001-St. Mary's standout, Kaitlyn Katko became the sixth Lady Eagles player to crack the coveted 1,000 points scoring mark. With 0:21 left in the third quarter, she fired in a 3-point field goal to reach the elusive milestone. Kaitlyn finished the game with 18 points, and despite her heroics, the Saints squandered a 14-point halftime lead, and bowed to Spotswood, 55-52.

School Sports (As of Feb. 17th)

By Tom Burkard

600 Wins For Coach Carney!



Congratulations to Gardiner HS (Montana) Lady Bruins Coach Reggie Carney (4th from right) on his 600th victory as girls varsity basketball coach. Assistant Coach Mary Ann Lewis (is pictured far right). During his 25 years of coaching girls basketball in New Jersey at Hoffman HS and East Brunswick HS, he compiled one of the All-Time greatest records in state history, with a (597-97, .860 pct.). In addition Reggie has been a highly-successful coach in baseball, cross country, softball, and women's golf. (Photo submitted)

Boys Basketball

South Amboy (16-7)
Coach Matt Wiater

Team Leaders

Points-Darion Joubert 372, Jaydius Jimenez 299, Jaydiel Vasquez 227; Rebounds-Joubert 251, Vasquez 168; Assists-Wesley Lowe 78, Robert Senape 56, Jimenez 55; Steals-Lowe 43, Jimenez 39.

Sayreville (15-10)

Coach John Wojcik

Team Leaders

Points-Chidi Chukwurah 549, Sam Jones 536, Ziyon Jones 294; Rebounds-Andrew Provenza 197, Chukwurah 180; Assists-Chukwurah 84, Joe Lewis 83; Steals-Sam Jones 41.

Girls Basketball

Sayreville (18-5)

Coach Janet Cook

Team Leaders

Points-Weronika Glazewski 326, Natalia Glazewski 294, Avery McGrath 151; Rebounds-W. Glazewski 292, N. Glazewski 245; Assists-Dyanna Sharpe 62, McGrath 35; Blocks-W. Glazewski 34, N. Glazewski 24; Steals-McGrath 64, N. Glazewski 48.

South Amboy (17-7)

Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr.

Team Leaders

Points-Valerie Figueroa 278, Gabby Evanski 254; Rebounds-Evanski 173, Figueroa 114, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 109; Assists-Figueroa 68; Steals-Figueroa 119, Evanski 86.

Jones Sets Records For Sayreville

Sayreville's Sam Jones set a new overall scoring record for the Bombers in less than a week after breaking the boys record, in a 57-49 win over Colonia. The boys record was held by the great Steve Makwinski (1974) who scored 1,546 points in his schoolboy career, while the girls mark of 1,608 was established by Rhonda Rompola (1978).

Dowdell Celebrates 250th Anniversary Of The United States

Save the date - March 2nd! This year, Dowdell library will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as well as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America250 initiative is led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to honor our nation's history and diversity.

The Library will make history come alive with - not to miss - fun programming throughout the year, presented by various professionals.

The first program, which highlights fascinating women history forgot, "Remembering the Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates," will be presented by Carol Levin Simon. Ms. Levin

GMCT Action

Boys

Preliminary Round

Monroe 49 South Amboy 44-#17 seed Monroe upset #16 South Amboy. Jaydiel Vasquez and Darion Joubert scored 13 points apiece, and grabbed 7 rebounds each for the Guvs.

1st Round

Sayreville 59 Perth Amboy 53-The Bombers seeded #7 topped a talented Perth Amboy contingent to advance to the quarterfinals. After trailing 27-20 at halftime, Sayreville outscored the Panthers 39-26 for the win. Sam Jones paved the way with 23 points, followed by Chidi Chukwurah 19, and Ziyon Jones 14. The game was huge for Coach John Wojcik, who notched his 200th career victory. Wojcik, in his 16th year as the Head Coach has a fine record of (200-173). Congratulations Coach Wojcik and keep up the great work!

Quarterfinals

Piscataway 80 Sayreville 66-The Bombers had a 41-37 halftime lead over the Piscataway crew, but the powerhouse squad came back strong to eliminate Sayreville. Chidi Chukwurah topped the scoring with 21 points, Sam Jones hit for 20, and Ziyon Jones 15.

GMCT Girls

Preliminary Round

Old Bridge 47 South Amboy 12-Gabby Evanski scored 6 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and had 3 steals, while Valerie Figueroa notched 3 steals for the Purple & Gold.

Sayreville 49 Perth Amboy 46-Weronika Glazewski poured in 25 points and ripped 14 rebounds, Natalia Glazewski had 12 points, 16 rebounds and 2 blocked shots. Avery McGrath added 3 steals for the Bombers.

First Round

St. Thomas Aquinas 83 Sayreville 39-The #1 seed had no problem with the Bombers despite Natalia Glazewski who scored 22 points and had 12 rebounds, and Weronika Glazewski who popped in 8 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

portrays Abigail Adams — who famously wrote to her husband John asking that the Continental Congress "remember the ladies" when drafting new laws for the new nation — something the new Congress definitely did not do! "Abigail" then looks forward in time to tell the stories of courageous and tenacious women of all colors and creeds who fought to enhance women's political participation — from Dolly Madison to the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote and the pioneering female activists and politicians who've worked to extend women's economic, social, and political rights into the 21st century. This special program will take place on Monday, March 2 at 6:30pm.

Sayreville Senior Bowlers Honored



The Sayreville girls varsity bowling team seniors are (l-r) McKenzie Abuzo, Anabella Barsky, Capt. Sofia Muller, Capt. Liana Bender. (Photo/Article Submitted)

The Sayreville Girls Varsity bowling team celebrated its senior Class of 2026 teammates on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Lucky Strike Lanes in North Brunswick.

Led by team captains Sofia Muller and Liana Bender, the girls are advancing to the state tournament in February. Honorees include four-year starters, Sofia Muller and Liana Bender, who have helped lead their team to victories through their guidance both on and off the lanes. Three-year member,

Anabella Barsky and two-year member, McKenzie Abuzo were instrumental in contributing to the team's advancement.

Sofia and Liana look forward to passing on their family bowling legacy, (as their siblings Barry Muller and Amber Bender did for them) to Sophomore Kayleigh Bender (Liana's cousin) and Freshman Gianna Muller (Sofia's sister), who have shown great leadership.

College Notebook

Ashley Sofilkanchich of South Amboy is having a great junior year as a starting forward for the University of Michigan powerhouse women's basketball teams, who currently are ranked number 8 in the nation with a (20-4) overall record, and (11-2) in the Big Ten.

She has played in all 24 contests, and averages less than playing a half per outing, but has still managed to score 8.5 points per game, 4.1 rebounds, leads the team with 0.9 blocks per game, and is #2 in field goal pct. With a fine 57.3. This is Ashley's first year at the U. of Michigan, after an outstanding 2 years of starring at Bucknell University. In her first game at U. of Michigan, she scored her 1,000th career point in collegiate competition.



Memories



Tony Gonsalves (l) Hoffman HS class of '70, met up at Bubbas 33 with Bill Hurd, St. Mary's class of '88 during the Super Bowl. Both jerseys are from the 80s. (Photo/info Submitted)

Amboy Bank Donates to Camp Dill Foundation



Pictured (l-r) Terry Geant and Lenny Maxfield of the Camp Dill Foundation (CDF); John Stier and Jennifer Fletcher of Amboy Bank; plus, Kevin Manion and Jim Brown of the CDF. On Wednesday, January 22, the Amboy Bank presented the Camp Dill Foundation (CDF) with a check for \$2,500 for their ongoing project to modernize their sanitary system and comfort stations at their camp. For more than 100 years, Camp Dill has served the youth of southern Middlesex County, notably Troop 91 of South Amboy. For more information in regard to the CDF's improvement project and their camp, visit www.campdill.org. Chartered in 1888, Amboy Bank presently serves Middlesex and Monmouth counties, offering a wide variety of financial services at more than 20 branch locations. Amboy Bank has been voted Best Bank by the readers of the Home News Tribune for over 25 years. Established in 1996, the Amboy Foundation provides grants to community organizations that support education, civic initiatives, health, and social services. For more information regarding Amboy Bank, please contact Jennifer Fletcher at (732) 591- 8700 x 5836.(Photo/Info Submitted)



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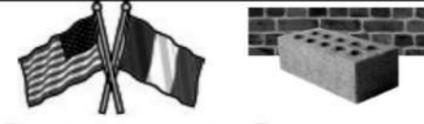
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Leila Mae Inman-Bohling Day

Leila Mae Inman-Bohling Day, 79, of East Brunswick died on Thursday January 22, 2026 at the Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center, South Amboy. Born in South Amboy she was devoted to her family.

Daughter of the late James and Helen Pavich Inman she is survived by her husband Franklin S. Day; her children Thomas Bohling and Family, Scott Bohling, Jeanne Blewitt and Family, Mark Bohling and Family and Debbie Lodigkeit and her husband; 9 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; her brother Peter Inman; her sister Jean Koerner and 3 nieces.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 6:30pm during visitation from 3 to 7pm at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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

Prayer to St. Jude

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

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 -R.S., A.S., L.P., H.S., L.S., E.P., I.P.

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.. K.H.

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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



TO ST. JUDE

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

Obituaries

Baszak, Anna F. Zonak, 87, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 19.
 Brophy, Dawn, 56, of Sayreville died on Jan. 19.
 Connors, Ruth M., 89, of Sayreville died on Jan. 23.
 Day, Leila M. Inman-Bohling, 79, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 22.
 Dzieciol, Gregory, 76, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 17.
 Fleming, June C., 72, of Parlin died on Feb. 3.
 Forestano, John T., 71, of Parlin died on Feb. 10.
 Frank, Wilhelm J., 90, of Sayreville died on Feb. 1.
 Godwin, Debra A., 67, of Sayreville died on Jan. 25.
 Hayes Kelly A. Walsh, 53, of South Amboy, died Jan. 14.
 Hurst, Frederick R., 91, of South Amboy, died on Jan. 28.
 Jensen, Selmer J. "Sal," Jr., 81, of Sayreville died on Feb. 3.
 Kides, Nicholas D. Jr., 92, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 20.
 Lewandowski, Kevin M., 45, of Sayreville died on Jan. 18.
 Lukie, John "Ronnie" Sr., 82, of Melrose

died on Jan. 15.
 Lusch, Mary P., 90, of South Amboy died on Jan. 20.
 Mandola, Angelo, 78, of Sayreville died on Feb. 8.
 Medina, Frank, 64, of Spotswood died Jan. 28.
 Meinzer, Judith A., 74, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 16.
 Munck, Eleanor Cohan, 97, of South Amboy died on Feb. 15.
 Nebus, Francis "Frank," 57, of Parlin died on Jan. 31.
 Patalano, Josephine, 97, of Parlin died on Feb. 3.
 Phillips, John J. Jr., 87, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 21.
 Powers, Regina E., 69, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 12.
 Strzykalski, James, 41, of South Amboy died on Feb. 15.
 Tomaszewski, Patrick H., 62, of Parlin died on Jan. 30.
 Travers, Denise A. Manion, 72, of Sayreville died on Jan. 23.
 Vreeland, Mary Chance, 60, formerly of Sayreville died on Feb. 9.
 Wojewoda, Joan, 71, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 16.

In Memoriam

Frank Medina, 64, who was the owner of Medina Tire Service, who serviced the Sayreville/South Amboy area for 15 years died on Jan. 28. He was a highly-respected businessman, and resided in Spotswood. Angelo Mandola, 78, of Sayreville died on Feb. 8. He was the owner/operator of Phoenix 1 Hair Styling in Parlin for decades. John

Forestano, 71, of Parlin died on Feb. 10. He was a dedicated custodian for the Sayreville Board of Education for 37 years. Eleanor Munck, 97, of South Amboy died on Feb. 15. She was a Crossing Guard for 30 years, and touched many lives in such positive ways, especially her kindness.

Francis "Frank" Nebus

Francis "Frank" Nebus, age 57 of Parlin, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born and raised in South Amboy and made his home in Parlin. Frank worked for over 29 years with Home Depot and then found a new career as a material coordinator



survived by his siblings Marylou Flannery, Anne Bloodgood, and Robert Nebus, his fur babies Jinx, Dexter and Kemo and a number of other relatives and friends who will miss him dearly.

A memorial viewing took place on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral

Home 15 Cherry Lane, Parlin from 11:00am to 4:00pm. A prayer service took place at 2:00pm at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Frank's name be made to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance "Blue Hope" https://colorectalcaner.org/?form=donate&utm_source=email&utm_medium=footerbutton&utm_campaign=2026JanuaryNewsletterFooter

Complete funeral details, directions, and letters of condolence to the family may be found by visiting www.spezzifuneralhome.com.

as a subcontractor for Phillips 66 Oil Refinery for several years. He was an avid bowler and fisher as well as member of the Berkley Striper Fishing Club. Frank loved quoting movies and singing. His greatest joy was dressing up as Santa Claus with his wife Kerry as Mrs. Claus for many charity organizations including Toys for Tots and the Santa Train.

He is predeceased by his parents Raymond and Anne Marie Nebus and his brother Raymond.

Surviving is his beloved wife Kerry and his loving daughters Chelsea Nebus, Kristin Mahoney and Rebecca Mahoney. He had two grandchildren Mason and Colin Nunez who he cherished. He is also

Eleanor Cohan Munck



Eleanor Cohan Munck, 97, of South Amboy died on Sunday February 15, 2026 at home. Born in Jersey City she was employed as a crossing guard for the City of South Amboy for 30 years and by the St. Mary Grammar & High Schools cafeteria. She was a member of St. Lawrence R.C. Church, Laurence Harbor, the altar rosary society and the South Amboy Senior Citizens.

Daughter of the late Harry and Anna Ruby Cohan she is also predeceased by her husband William M. "Chip" Munck in 2012 and her son baby Michael. She is survived by her sons William (Doreen), Michael and David (Sunny) Munck; her daughter Eleanor Ufferfilge and her husband Tom; her sister Judy Neumann; 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday February 23, 2026 at 4:30pm during visitation from 2 to 5pm at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy First Aid Squad.

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Ken Kubinak
Happy 17th Anniversary in Heaven



February 12, 2009 - February 12, 2026

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 In
 Our*



Hearts

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



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Sixty years have come and gone and your memory still lingers on.

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Not a day goes by when we do not speak or think of you.

Sixty years have come and gone yet not one day is without you in our hearts.

Forever in our hearts, forever in our thoughts.

Remembering the joy, and love you shared with mother, and the laughter and happiness we shared as a family.

One day we will join you, one by one we will meet again, and then we will be a family for eternity.

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James Strzykalski

James Strzykalski, 41, of South Amboy died on Sunday February 15, 2026. Born in Perth Amboy he was employed as a DJ. He is predeceased by his grandparents, Joseph and Helen Strzykalski, Patrick and Josephine Fitzsimmons and Uncle Robert Smith. He is survived by his parents John and Maureen Fitzsimmons Strzykalski; his brother and sister-in-law John and Alexandra Strzykalski; his aunt Anita Smith; his uncles Patrick



spirit, his love of life, and the moments of laughter and connection he shared with those who loved him. To his family and friends, he was more than a son and friend — he was a presence that filled rooms with sound, warmth, and unforgettable moments.

He leaves behind his loving family and many friends who will forever carry his memory in their hearts. The family asks that James be remembered for the joy he brought through his music and the love he

shared with those around him. Though his time with us was too short, the memories he created and the love he gave will never fade.

Funeral services were held on Friday February 20, 2026 at The Gundry Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry or South Amboy First Aid Squad.

James will be remembered for his

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

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

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.S., J.S.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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John Joseph Phillips, Jr

November 22, 1938 - January 21, 2026

John Joseph Phillips, Jr., of Tuckertown, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on January 21, 2026, at the age of 87.

Born in South Amboy, New Jersey, in 1938, John was the son of John Joseph Phillips, Sr. and Josephine (Kominkiewicz) Phillips Lauritsen. He was raised in South Amboy and educated at St. Mary's Catholic grammar and high schools.



From childhood onward, music was one of the great joys of John's life. He began playing the accordion as a young boy, playing in bands and filling family gatherings with lively music and the Polish polkas his mother, grandparents and community enjoyed. As he grew older, he taught himself to play the keyboard, spending countless hours at the keys. Whether entertaining or simply playing for his own enjoyment, music

remained a constant thread through every stage of his life—a source of comfort, creativity, and quiet happiness.

John was predeceased by his son, Jack (John) Kevin Phillips, and by his brothers James Phillips, Joseph Phillips, and William Lauritsen. He is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Iris (Lie) Phillips; his daughters, Cheryl-Anne Stichter (Roger) and Susan Kane (Michael); his cherished grandchildren, Lori-Anne Rapposelli (Christopher), Aaron Jones (Breana), Kelly Stichter, and Sydney Kane; and his adored great-grandchildren, Noegan, Charlotte, Chase, Sekayi, and Naelle, who brought him immense happiness.

John will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, a proud Marine, and a hardworking provider whose quiet strength and commitment to family defined his life which will live on in the memories of those who knew him.

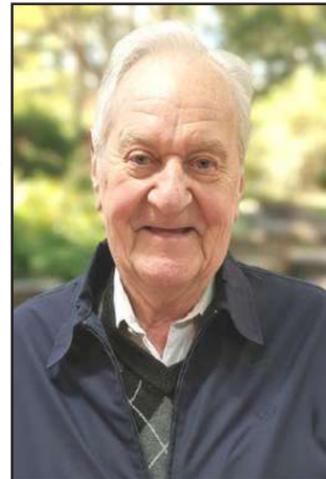
Services: A service celebrating John's life was held on Thursday, January 29 at Wood Funeral Home, Tuckerton, NJ

John's memory can be honored through donations to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

John began his professional career with the DuPont Company in Parlin, New Jersey, following his discharge from the Marine Corps in 1960. Balancing work, education, and family life, he attended night school and earned a degree in Accounting. In 1974 he transferred to the DuPont headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware. Over the years, John held several positions at multiple DuPont sites throughout Delaware, earning the respect of colleagues through his dedication, integrity, and strong work ethic, until his retirement in 1993.

Bernard A. Zegarowski

Bernard A. Zegarowski, 95, of Old Bridge, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at his home in Old Bridge. Known as "Bennie" or "Bernie" to friends and colleagues, Bernard lived in his native South Amboy for most of his life, except for 9 childhood years spent in Poland with his family. Bernard was predeceased by his parents, Antoni and Anna (Jankowska) Zegarowski, a sister, Mary Adele, and two brothers, Anthony Jr. and Edward.



Engineer under contract to Grumman) he worked alongside NASA on the design, construction, installation, instrumentation, and quality control of the fuel tank for the LEM (Lunar Excursion Module). Bernard then spent 20 years as a senior component and instrumentation engineer for various tech, radar, and early computer companies, analyzing and supervising chemical, petrochemical, and nuclear systems.

After retiring, Bernard enjoyed reading, gardening, trips to Atlantic City, and spending time with his beloved Rose Michaels. He also enjoyed time with his dear friends, Jim and Peggy Kerr, and their extended family, and enjoyed talking about stocks with his close friend James O'Shea. He is survived by stepdaughters Diane (and Diedrick) Dahl, Catherine (and Matthew) Kear, and Barbara Michaels and their families, godson Jack and Liz Kerr and their family, and friends James and Beverly O'Shea and their family. Bernard's intelligence, wit, and amazing life stories will be missed by all.

A 10am Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church in South Amboy, NJ. Internment followed at Our Lady of Czestochowa National Shrine in Doylestown, Pa. Services were under the direction of Kurzawa Funeral Home 338 Main Street, South Amboy NJ 08879, www.KurzawaFH.com

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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



THANK YOU, MAYOR FRED HENRY,
 for more than three decades of extraordinary
 public service to South Amboy!

After **34 years of serving our community**, first as a councilman and then as Mayor, Mayor Fred Henry will not be seeking re-election in order to pass the baton to a new generation. **Mayor Henry has led South Amboy with a steady hand, selfless integrity, and a genuine love for the community he calls home.** As Mayor, he delivered real results for South Amboy families, making South Amboy a great place to live and raise a family:



Launched a ferry service to NYC from South Amboy



Revitalized long neglected and contaminated properties



Kept taxes stable



Created Veterans' Memorial Plaza



Delivered a budget in 2025 that reduced municipal taxes while producing a surplus of more than \$6 million



Improved infrastructure such as new state-of-the-art athletic fields and expanded parking along Broadway



Secured a \$1 million grant to revitalize the city's waterfront walkway, adding new lights and cameras



Secured new equipment, like new fire trucks and a new ambulance, for our First Aid Squad



Appointed the first female Police Chief, provided police new equipment, hired new police officers, and increased the size of the police department

Mayor Fred Henry Has Made His Choice for South Amboy's Next Mayor:



ANTHONY CONRAD FOR SOUTH AMBOY MAYOR

After 34 years of extraordinary public service, Mayor Fred Henry will not be running for re-election. **Mayor Henry is excited to pass the baton to a new generation and is proud to endorse Councilman Anthony Conrad to be the next Mayor of South Amboy!**

Anthony Conrad's experience and leadership in the South Amboy community makes him the perfect candidate to be the next Mayor of South Amboy:



Four years serving in the South Amboy City Council, **helping keep taxes stable and passing responsible budgets**



Long time resident for over two decades, together with his wife raising their children here in South Amboy



Over 30 years of **international experience in management, finance, and banking**, having worked as a commercial banker, stockbroker, and business consultant



Former Board Chair of the YMCA, **providing leadership and oversight in support of community programs and services**



Served as a Commissioner of the South Amboy Redevelopment Agency, **advocating for smart development**



Endorsed by the **South Amboy Democratic Organization**



Served as President of the South Amboy Board of Education, **helping secure \$300,000 for South Amboy students to receive new laptops**

His experience, leadership and financial expertise will help ensure South Amboy continues being a great place to live and raise a family.

BY JUNE 2ND,

VOTE ANTHONY CONRAD for South Amboy Mayor

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