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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is  
dedicated to  
\*Mary Krzykowski Kazer  
\*Frank Keenan  
\*Judith Meinzer  
\*Carl Nemeth  
\*Colleen Norton  
\*James "Red" O'Connell  
\*Antoinette "Toni" Potthoff  
\*Henry Rinkewich  
\*Robert Stary  
\*Jo Ann Testa



**January 24, 2026 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 35 Issue 4**

## South Amboy Fire Chiefs Sworn In



On January 1st, Mayor Fred Henry in front of family, friends and fellow firefighters swore in South Amboy's new fire chiefs for 2026. Pictured (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, 1st Assistant Chief Charles Honimar of Protection Engine 6, Michael Kelly of Enterprise Ladder Truck 8, as the new Chief of Department, and 2nd Assistant Chief Ken Kokoszka of Independence Eng. 7. Mayor Henry praised the new chiefs as well all the Department's volunteers for their training and dedication to community and duty. Outgoing Chief Rafael Albarran was congratulated on a job well done. (Photo/Caption by Jamie Norek) See more photos on page 15.

## New Local Officers Sworn In



South Amboy's two newest officers recently graduated from the Cape May County Police Academy! The new officers are Ptl. Ryan Shereyka and Ptl. Jake Szatkowski. Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!



Sayreville's newest Police Officers graduated from the Cape May County Police Academy on January 9, 2026! After approximately six months of rigorous training, these dedicated individuals are ready to serve and protect our community. Congratulations and best of luck! - Officer Vincent O'Donnell; - Officer Parker McCall; - Officer Kamil Kowalczyk. Their commitment and perseverance through the challenges of the academy are commendable, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have in Sayreville. (Photos/Info Submitted).



Bob "The Barber" Stary (l) passed away on Dec. 26th. He is pictured cutting the hair of fellow barber and good friend for over 40 years, Robert "Red The Barber" Jankowski of Sayreville back in 2020. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Renowned actor Vincent D'Onofrio (r) is pictured with Henry "The Barber" Rinkewich at his Bordentown Ave. Shop in South Amboy during the filming of the movie "Crackers" back in 2010. Henry passed away on Dec. 11th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## South Amboy Mourns Longtime Barbers

By Tom Burkard

If you happened to get your haircut in South Amboy over the last 60 years or so, you probably went to either Bob "The Barber" Stary owner of Bob's Barber Shop on Washington Ave., or Henry "The Barber" Rinkewich, proprietor of Henry's Raritan Barber Shop which was located on Bordentown Ave. Henry died at 95 years old on Dec. 11th, and Bob passed away on Dec. 26th at 91 years old.

Bob's original location was on the corner of Main and Potter Streets, and was a popular site for getting the latest style haircuts, especially the high school kids in the late 1960's, including myself. He later moved his business to Washington Ave., where he spent most of his illustrious career.

In a 2020 exclusive interview, Bob said, "I enjoy cutting hair. It's not a job. I'd like to thank all of my customers through the years. They're not just customers, they're my friends."

Bob was an amazing guy who could talk about any subject, especially sports and baseball with his patrons, and was a very big fan and friend of former Mets player Tom O'Malley. Most people didn't know that

*Continued on page 3*

**Next Issue February 28th  
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Surjit Singh (c), owner of John Auto, was presented with an award from the City of South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) Council President Mickey Gross, Councilman Tom Reilly, Speaker Craig Coughlin, Surjit, Mayor Fred Henry, Councilman Anthony Conrad, Councilman Larry Lenahan, Business Administrator David Kales. Congratulations Surjit, on an award well-deserved! (Photo/info submitted)

### Thank You

On behalf of the Friends of South Amboy we would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our charity games on December 13th. With your support we can assist city residents in need. A special thank you goes out to all the sponsors, participating teams and the South Amboy Board of Education.

Sincerely

### Friends of South Amboy

Registered 501c3 non profit.

### Barbers -continued from page 1

Bob really enjoyed playing softball, and was a good pitcher who won his share of games pitching for The Federals in the Sayreville Sunday Morning League, which his team competed in.

Henry, who was a barber in South Amboy for over 60 years, had many wonderful highlights in his great career, and one that stands out happened from Sept. 13-17, 2010, when the cast and star of the new movie "Crackers," Vincent D'Onofrio, came to South Amboy and did lots of filming, with some scenes shot at the barber shop, where actors also relaxed and hung out. Henry's business motto was "Where the promise is still performed."

May God Bless Bob and Henry for their wonderful and positive impact they made in the local communities throughout their many years of service. They will always be remembered.

*\*Note: Check the story/photos from Sept. 2010 about the movie "Crackers" at the SA Times archives. Go to [www.thesatimes.com](http://www.thesatimes.com).*

*Also see the Tom Burkard interview/story "117 Years of Hair-Cutting Experience" about Bob "The Barber," and Red "The Barber" in the September 2020 issue, page 14.*

## Sayreville Seafood & Main St. Sub Station/Deli

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### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

# THE TIMES

The South Amboy/ Sayreville Serving The Dayshore Area

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard



- Sayreville Fire Chief in 1997?  
a.Robert Johnson b.Daniel Martin c.Mike Ruskiewicz
- South Amboy Board of Education President in '97?  
a.Janet Kern b.Tom Tice c.Bob Kelly
- Exalted Ruler of the South Amboy Elks in 2016?  
a.Mike Green b.Viktor Jokic c.Andrew Moreno
- Principal of OLV School in 2006?  
a.Jacqueline Kraus b.Sister M. Lavin c.Sister M. Nadine
- Pastor of OLV Church in '06?  
a.Father Herschel Jones b.Father Michael Krull c.Father Daniel McMann
- President of St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Mary's Church in '06?  
a.James Bonis b.Mike Muskiewicz c.Rocky Kusic
- President of the AOH in 2006?  
a.Gary Bouchard b.Mickey Gross c.Seamus O'Brien
- Selected President of the South Amboy City Council in 2011?  
a.Zusette Dato b.Joseph Connors c.Donald Applegate
- This Sayreville man was elected to Senator in 1992?  
a.Randy Corman b.Alan Karcher c.John Wisniewski
- Commander of Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 in '92?  
a.Rich Kosmoski b.James Mulvey c.Edward Rappleeya

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



FROM THE DESK OF  
TOM REILLY

For many families in our community, the local food pantry is no longer a last resort -- it is a vital part of their weekly routine. Like millions of Americans in 2026, many of our residents face a perfect storm of economic pressures, including persistent food inflation (up 3.1% over the last year) and tightened eligibility for federal nutrition programs. Recent 2026 forecasts from the Feeding America Network suggest that 1 in 6 people now face persistent hunger, an increase from 1 in 7 just a year ago. This rising tide has forced food pantries to evolve from emergency stopgaps into sophisticated community markets that prioritize health and dignity. Winter often exacerbates these issues for many families. The cold weather brings higher heating bills, post-holiday expenses, seasonal slowdowns for many jobs, and disruptions to transportation brought about by winter weather. While many of us look forward to a cozy night at home and out of the cold, many of our neighbors are wondering how they might put food on the table now that their heating bill has doubled, or because they missed a day of work due to snow, or lost their job due to post-holiday staffing changes.

Our local food pantries provide a lifeline for these residents that allows them to stay healthy and hopeful through the coldest months of the year. The food pantries help ensure that no one has to face winter hunger alone, or make impossible choices about which necessities they can afford. To that end, our food pantries are both an indispensable public good, and a showing of solidarity with the most vulnerable members of our community.

Of course, the increase in residents in need also requires an increase in volunteers. We are fortunate that South Amboy has both the volunteers to allow our local food pantries to operate and many corporations that are kind enough to supply the food. In this past year our local food pantries distributed over 35,000 pounds of food with donations from Aldi, Shop Rite, Fed Ex, Target, and Amazon. Even so, our food pantries will require additional volunteers for 2026, and always are looking for help. If you would like to donate your time, or if you are in need or know someone in need, please contact the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy Food Pantry or the St. Mary's Food Pantry. Contact information for both is provided below. For those of you who choose to volunteer, know that your neighbors and your community will be forever thankful. For those in need,



know that you do not have to face these difficult times alone and that your friends and neighbors are here for you. A couple of other quick notes.

I want to thank our outgoing Fire Chief, Rafael Albarran, for his dedication and commitment to our city. Mechanicsville Fire Company will be hosting a testimonial dinner in his honor on April 24, 2026, at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus. Best wishes to the recently elected South Amboy Board of Education members: Brandon Russell, Janet Kern, Damion Campbell, and Maribel Aquino.

Best of luck to the following residents appointed to the Planning Board: Gregory Czocho, Dr. Jorge L. Gonzalez-Gomez, George Baranowski, Sean (Xiong) Li, and Michael Greenhaus.

Finally, a quick shout out to our South Amboy girls and boys varsity basketball teams, who are both off to 8-1 starts. GO GUVS!

**First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry**  
150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879  
By phone: 732-721-4516  
Text only: 732-902-1172

Hours of Operation: Monday and Thursday every other week, 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Appointment required for food pick-up, except in cases of emergency. Must show identification and proof of residency, be over the age of 18, and able to complete paperwork. Serving residents of South Amboy, Parlin, Sayreville, and Laurence Harbor.

**St. Mary Food Pantry**  
256 Augusta Street  
South Amboy, NJ 08879  
Telephone: 732-721-7418

Hours of Operation: fourth Saturday of every month, 8:00-10:00 a.m. (additional times available in cases of emergency).

Serving residents in need who live in South Amboy, Sayreville, and Old Bridge. Respectfully

Tom Reilly  
2nd Ward Councilman  
City of South Amboy

SOUTH AMBOY ELEMENTARY  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR  
TRIMESTER 1 - 2025-2026

**FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Michaela Acevedo, Melanie Acevedo-Mercado, Liam Downs, Shea Hortillas, and Kamila Lopez-Pena.

**FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL:** Kasim Campbell-Jauregui, Cy Fenton, Jaxon Henao, Brielle Kelly, Zahki Lee, Leah Lozano, Daniel Mulligan, Vivienne Ortiz, Liam Rodriguez, and Annalie Santana-Monegro.

Sayreville Feeds

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be hosting our next Sayreville Feeds Dinner on February 21, 2026 at 6pm to 8pm in our Christian Education Building. Our address is 172 Main Street, Sayreville, directly across from Borough Hall. As always, donations are voluntary, everyone is welcome regardless of ability to contribute. If you have questions please leave a message at the church at 732-257-6353 or email at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

**FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Josef Alfonso, AnaSophia Bodkin, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, Xavier Santos-Ferreira, Ryder Stratton, and Sophia Vargas Hernandez. **FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL:** Jake Almazo-Delgado, Genesis Alvarado, Imani Anderson, Sofia Castro-Tlanipa, Meighcy Cedeno, Madison Drust, Maksym Hevko, Bram Horigan, Sara Kisiel, John Lawson, Ricardo Macuado-Roman, Yaseen Mohamed, A'Lahna Moran, Allison Oliveira, Emily Paredes, Gianna Pierre, Andrew Rosario, Ryder Sepulveda, Kiley Slover, Mikaela Sundquist, and William Vicente.

Soup-er Bowl

Friends of Sayreville Public Library is collecting donations of canned and boxed items for distribution to local food pantries. Donations are accepted through February 9 and may be dropped off in the "soup can" Library lobby.

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**Gomolka's  
Collectables  
Give Away!**



(Images are for example and not the actual items)

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

**All one has to do is to e-mail to: [satimes@aol.com](mailto: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 Feb. 2026 will be**

**Vintage and Antique books, magazines, ephemera. This is your month to take a chance for this FREE Giveaway! There will be boxes of books, magazines of all types, maps, advertising, posters, collector issues, etc. Some are highly-collectable and valuable! Good luck to all!**

**Last Month's winners were:**  
**JoAnn & John French**

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

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



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

**Yearbook - St. Mary Diocesan HS 2001**  
By Tom Burkard

Twenty-five years ago, Frank Ianniruberto was Principal at St. Mary Diocesan HS, and some of his fine staff/faculty, selected randomly included Assistant Principal of Academics Jeanne Polinski, Assistant Principal of Students Eugene Malhame Jr., Athletic Director Gil Pritchard, Enrollment Manager Cynthia Burns, Development Director Janet Gray, Librarian Jo Ann Testa, and School Nurse, Margaret Dombrowski, who the yearbook was dedicated to. Other faculty members were Sister Esther Hernandez, Ed Twomey, Carol Moskwa, Sr. Joan Gavron, Tom Tice, Sr. Anastasia Maher, Don Szatkowski, Sr. Kateri Hawley.

The Augusta St. school was loaded with activities for the students that included clubs, various sports teams, plays, dances, the Christmas Ball, Christmas Festival and so much more. Rachael Siecinski was the Editor-in-Chief of the "Sceptre" yearbook.

Some of the seniors who were also chosen randomly include: Shannon Abel, Jade Anderson, Andrew Bartczak, Doug Boucher, Kevin Burns, a basketball standout and member of the 1,000 points scoring club, Kristine Castro, Nicole Chevere, Alaina Dowd, Susan Halmi, Amy Jones, Katelyn Keegan, Alesia Lamourt, Daniel Matuszewski, Margaret McBride, Wayne Meyers, Megan Wnorowski, Michael Wong, David Apito, Alexandra Kotula, Brent Kronowski, Carolyn Krutul, Jamie Mackiel, Steven Maslowski, Thomas McTighe, James Morrissey, Robert O'Buck, James O'Kelly, Brian Ostrowski, Melissa Pasaniello, Mark Przygoda, Anita Rainford, Jennifer Ringer, Colleen Runkel, Sean Russer, Bernard Siegel III, Carmen Spezzi, Colleen Swinarski, Melanie Townsend, Kyle Woolf, Alaina Dowd, Jamie Cannon, Katelyn Keegan.

Just to name a few of the top senior athletes selected randomly: Kevin Burns, Kara Kurzawa, Brian Matousek, Jillian Palomo, Jeffrey Simpson, Richard Starega, Casey Woods, Colleen Swinarski, Dan Kouvas, Paul Fiore, Craig Kierst, Steve Maslowski.

The St. Mary Diocesan School Class of 2001, was a pretty amazing group, who have gone on to make the world a better place.



Al Gomolka (l) is pictured with Jim Sissick, the winner of Gomolka's Monthly Giveaway for November. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Al Gomolka has just finished loading the car with the prizes for his monthly contest, "Gomolka's Collectables Give Away." The lucky winners were John and Jo Ann French of Sayreville. Congratulations! Readers, don't forget to enter this fun contest. There are different, great prizes each month! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

**South Amboy YMCA Offers LIVESTRONG®**

Beginning February 2026 The completely free 12-week program where cancer survivors increase their strength, promote physical activity and improve mental health in a supportive peer community will be available in South Amboy. Beginning in February, the South Amboy YMCA will lead LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA, a program that's available to all cancer survivors. This free 12-week program focuses on cancer survivors' physical and mental health. It also allows survivors to be in a supportive peer community with fellow survivors. As of 2026, hundreds of individuals have already graduated from the research-backed LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA program at the YMCA of MEWSA. This program is run by LIVESTRONG® ambassadors who undergo significant training to work with cancer survivors. "I'm much stronger than I was before," says a Metuchen LIVESTRONG® graduate. "I'm not as fatigued, I'm more stable and made great friends along the way." Wellness Director from the South Amboy YMCA, Tom Ryan, says, "It is an honor to be a part of this program. It is amazing to see the participants grow throughout the session. They become stronger physically but also become so much more confident in themselves. They truly are reclaiming their body, mind and spirit." The session will begin on February 9, 2026 and run until April 27, 2026. The classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. Individuals interested in participating can contact Tom Ryan at [tom.ryan@ymcaofmews.org](mailto:tom.ryan@ymcaofmews.org) or call the YMCA at 732-553-9622.





Sayreville Library News

**Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)**  
**Feb 2 & 24 @6PM**

Join Barbara Brown for an evening of relaxing meditation. This month's 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.

**Mindful Yoga**

**Tuesdays in Feb @6:30PM**

Come & join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic yoga class is open to all levels of experience. This class is designed for stress relief. Participants should be able to get down to the floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing. \*Please note: young children cannot be left in the library unattended while an adult patron is

in yoga class.\* Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

**Valentine's Day at Home with Vanessa (Virtual)**

Join Vanessa from Thirsty Radish for another fun cooking demonstration. This time, learn how to make a nice Valentine's Day celebration, including a chocolate dessert, a beautiful seafood main dish, and additional recipes for holding a cozy meal at home. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Patrons must provide a valid email address.

**Movie Matinee**

**Tuesday, Feb 17 @1PM**

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy. Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant. Rated R-2 hrs 5 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.

Locals Generate Donation to Toys for Tots



We want to Thank **EVERYONE** who donated to make this such a successful collection. I also just want to say I DID NOT DO THIS. We did this as a team, where everyone came together donating to help put smiles on children's faces. I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered at our Photos with Santa event, as well as taking part in the loading & delivering the toys and bikes to the Marines for distribution. We have donated over 600 bicycles in the last 3 years. This year's total was the largest collection with over 4,100 toys and 263 bicycles. All of the bicycles were distributed to children

by the Marines and NJ State Police. I could not feel prouder after hearing this from the Marine who runs the warehouse for Toys For Tots, where I drop everything off. Looking forward to collecting even more next year.

*Richard & Patricia Schnyderite*

**Publisher's Note:** Congratulations Richard and Patricia on a job very well done! You have been collecting Toys for Tots for 9 years on behalf of Parkwood Kennels, which is owned by Patricia, and have made Christmas so happy for countless children.

Last Look



The old Designer Shirt Co. factory on the corner of Main & North Feltus Streets in South Amboy, right before it was demolished. Does anyone know how many different businesses occupied this site through the years? (Photo by Tom Burkard)

LETTERS

**Brian & Tom**

Wishing you a Happy Holiday!  
Love your newspaper as it brings back great memories of when I went to St. Mary Regional High School in South Amboy and grew up in the area. Keep up the great work.  
**Best,**  
**Matt Marciano**



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**UPCOMING  
ZOOM EVENTS  
By Tina**



**Trusts for Minor  
Children and Grandchildren  
2/12/26 at 5 PM**





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*In collaboration with the City of South Amboy*

# The Stories Windows Tell: The History Around Us

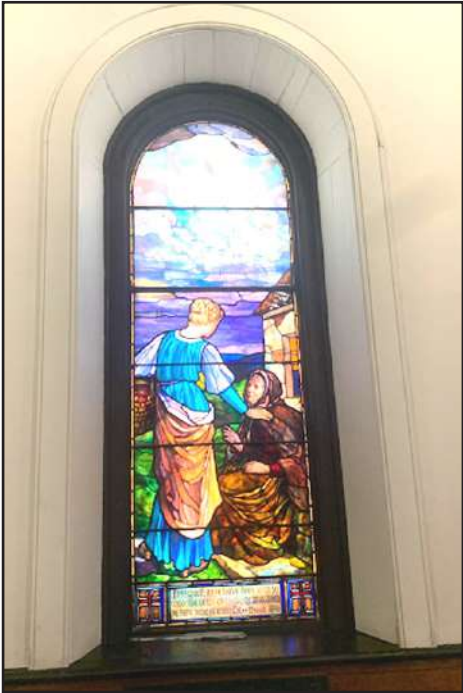
By Jordan Drevelus

Almost every building has windows; they come in many sizes, ranging from large to small. Windows are such a common building feature that we often do not pay attention to them or realize that, perhaps, there is more to our windows. Wooden windows and visible chains can tell us the age of a structure. Older homes and buildings have larger windows as well. In South Amboy, the difference is evident. But what of our houses of worship that are adorned with stained glass? As new generations move in and older generations move out, history, as preserved by word of mouth, is lost. Even with such changes, history is around us and is told even by our stained glass.

Our area has many historic buildings, including houses of worship. In South Amboy, two of the oldest congregations are Christ Episcopal and St. Mary Church. As such, they are both adorned with beautiful and well-preserved stained-glass windows. In the glass in these two churches, biblical stories are told. The Christian Bible comes to life in pictures from a time before the internet and movies. Parishioners of these houses of worship fundraised and contributed to obtaining these works of art. On some of them, in some churches, we see the names of those who donated them or in whose memory they were purchased. These people are important figures in the history of these churches, but sometimes also in the history of South Amboy. The same applies to other churches in our area. Those who could afford to donate did so, and of course, stained glass was not (and is not) cheap! Not just anyone could have afforded to buy such a work of art!

Yet, something happened that devastated the City of South Amboy and shattered homes, lives, and some of the historic stained glass. On May 19, 1950, the city was rocked by a major explosion of munitions that were brought by railcar to be loaded onto barges for transport. The city was forced to repair

the damage and rebuild some of the lost infrastructure. As for the churches, they suffered structural damage and shattered windows. At Saint Mary Church, half of the church’s windows had to be replaced. When walking into the church, one can note that the windows on the left are darker than the windows on the right. This is due to differences in the manufacture of the glass, although one must look hard to notice the difference. The church itself also has tension wires to keep the shaken walls in place. Christ Church’s windows and edifice, due to its place on a hill, fared worse. All but one of its original Tiffany windows remains. On the new windows, one can note newer historical names and figures. Building repairs may not be so evident, but windows, our sources of light, are! History is etched in these windows, and each and every difference tells a story.



The last remaining Tiffany window at Christ Church not destroyed by the munitions explosion.

## Councilman John’s Monthly Minute

Happy New Year, Sayreville! As we begin 2026, I want to share some exciting progress happening along our historic downtown — progress shaped directly by residents who care deeply about preserving the character of Main Street while making it a more inviting destination for all of us. Over the past year, many of you reached out through conversations, community events, emails, or simple friendly chats to express your hopes for a downtown that offers more gathering spaces, more dining and shopping options, and a place people can comfortably stroll and enjoy. As a lifelong resident myself, I share that passion. I’ve always believed Main Street has the potential to be a vibrant centerpiece of our community without losing the history and charm that make it special.

Several months ago, Sayreville received county approval to reduce the speed limit on Main Street from 30 mph to 25 mph. Afterward, the Borough Council voted to adopt the change, and in November 2025, new signage was installed. While the adjustment may seem small, it carries meaningful benefits. Slower traffic makes Main Street safer, more walkable, and more comfortable for families, seniors, children, and anyone who wants to enjoy the area at a relaxed pace. The intention behind this step is simple: to encourage people to stop, browse, linger, and experience Main Street as a welcoming destination rather than just a pass-through.

Much of the direction for these improvements came from a community survey initiated several months ago, and it’s important to highlight that the survey was not funded by taxpayer dollars. Through outside partnerships, high-quality feedback was collected with no cost to residents. To build on that effort, listening sessions were also held to encourage straightforward, open conversations and ensure every voice — whether from a resident, a shopkeeper, a property owner, or someone who simply enjoys our downtown — was heard.

The feedback gathered through the survey and listening sessions was thoughtful, sincere, and incredibly helpful. Many participants expressed concerns about cars traveling too fast through downtown, limited foot traffic, inconsistent storefront signage, lighting and safety issues, parking challenges, aging sidewalks and infrastructure, and the need for a more cohesive and welcoming identity along Main Street. These weren’t complaints — they were caring observations from people who want to see Main Street thrive



and evolve.

Now that the speed limit change is officially in place, additional improvements are being reviewed to complement the change and enhance the pedestrian experience. These contemplated upgrades include enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian-activated flashing beacons, updated signage and roadway markings, improved sidewalks and lighting, and streetscape enhancements designed to maintain Main Street’s historic character while improving its function and appearance. Every potential improvement is being evaluated carefully, with a focus on steady, meaningful progress rather than dramatic changes that could compromise the charm and identity of our downtown.

All of this is part of a larger effort to explore opportunities that enhance quality of life in Sayreville, support existing businesses, and attract new investment in thoughtful ways. As someone who grew up here and continues to call Sayreville home, I want Main Street to be a place where memories are made, where local businesses flourish, and where the spirit of our community shines — all while preserving the historic significance that defines this cherished part of town.

With the speed limit change implemented and new signage installed this past November, the groundwork is now in place for additional improvements throughout 2026. I look forward to sharing updates with you as plans develop, always guided by your ideas, concerns, and hopes for Main Street’s future. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey, joined the listening sessions, or shared your thoughts in passing. Your engagement made this progress possible, and your continued involvement will help shape what comes next. Here’s to a safe, vibrant, and community-centered year ahead — and to seeing Main Street grow into an even better destination for all of us.

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

Why is one window different, or why was a window sealed?

As time passes, our windows continue to tell our stories. When those who came before cease to exist, whether they be biblical figures or our local heroes, their stories are etched in our buildings and their windows. Our historical curiosity can continue as time

moves on. How can the 1950 munitions explosion or our forefathers be forgotten with visible reminders everywhere, even in our stained glass windows?



Windows at Saint Mary Church that were purchased after the 1950s explosion. It can be noted that they are brighter than those opposite them. (Photos by Jordan Drevelus)



Christ Church window purchased after 1950 explosion depicting the Raritan Bay.



Dowdell Library News

The Dowdell Library is pleased to offer the following to South Amboy residents with a library card in good standing . Free passes to the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) as well as free VIDEO streaming services from Kanopy. Also ask about the library's free MUSIC streaming services from Freegal! Contact the library for additional details:

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

South Amboy Residents! February 20 is the last day to reserve free tickets to the Intrepid Museum! Membership ends February 28. Contact the library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org) for more information.

Have fun at Family Sports Day on Thursday, February 19 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Refreshments, games, and prizes! Basketball, ping pong, foosball, corn hole, and more!

Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in February 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 February from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Celebrate Lunar New Year on Wednesday, February 18 from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss out on the Game On! Basketball Contest happening all February long. Stop in the library for a chance to win an NBA basketball. Don't miss Drop in Club this February 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+.

Tweens and Teens! Stop by to register for the February Test Kitchen on Monday, February 9 for ages 13+ and Tuesday, February 10 for ages 10 to 12 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks! Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, February 2 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic. Snow date Wednesday, February 4.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, February 23 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed. Snow date Wednesday, February 25.

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](mailto:communityed@rwjbh.org). Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday, 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.

Ask us about free passes to the Museum of Modern Art and our new video streaming service, Kanopy! For more information please visit [dowdell.org](http://dowdell.org).

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. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website at no cost to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. This is available for South Amboy cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store.

Coming soon! 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!

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

Determination

By Robert W. Eginton

There once was a snowflake  
That fell from the sky,  
It made a wrong turn,  
my oh my.  
Instead of falling  
with the other snow  
It fell to the hot sands  
Of the desert below.  
What will I do,  
he says to himself?  
I will adjust, I will survive,  
And make the best  
Of this terrible situation.  
Ahh, now that's  
determination!  
So if there is ever something  
You think you can't do  
May this snowflake  
Be an inspiration to you.  
And put it in your mind  
Without hesitation,  
To make the best  
of a dire situation.  
Ahh, now that's  
determination!





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# Middlesex College Recognized for Commitment to Community Engagement

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching designated the College as an exemplary institution in community partnerships.

Middlesex College is one of 277 institutions nationwide recognized by the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement. On behalf of the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, this achievement reflects the College’s demonstrated commitment to deepening partnerships, leveraging community assets, and addressing urgent societal challenges.

The College integrates real-world experience into education through Community Engaged Learning courses, departmental partnerships, and extracurricular initiatives. This includes collaborations with local organizations such as Legal Services of New Jersey, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, the Puerto Rican Action Board of New Brunswick, Interfaith-RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment), and the Citizens Campaign and Civic Trust.

“Together, these partnerships create meaningful impact,” said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick. “From dental hygiene students providing preventive care to children with developmental disabilities, to paralegal students assisting with urgent cases such as disaster relief or domestic violence—these causes support our mission to shape a stronger Middlesex County and create future leaders in the community.”

This accomplishment showcases the work that the College’s faculty, staff, students, and community partners do every day that has created a national legacy as an institution that listens to its communities, learns with them, and designs education in partnership rather than isolation.

“Through service-learning courses and initiatives our students develop a sense of belonging, leadership skills, and civic responsibility while addressing community challenges in Middlesex County,” said José Laureano, vice president, Student & Enrollment Services. “The Carnegie recognition reflects years of collaborative teaching, learning, and service that expand opportunity for our students while strengthening the communities we proudly serve. This recognition highlights that this work increases access and enhances student outcomes.”

## Statement from Speaker Coughlin on Governor-elect Sherrill’s Decision to Keep Kris Kolluri as Head of NJ Transit and Run New Jersey Turnpike Authority

“From the very beginning of his service at New Jersey Transit, Kris Kolluri has been a tireless advocate for our state’s public transportation system, making sure the agency is not only on firm ground but also moving forward in the right direction. I commend Governor-elect Sherrill’s decision to keep him in place and naming him to lead the Turnpike Authority is a credit to the work already underway thanks to his leadership and experience.

“In New Jersey, our transportation

“The Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement positions Middlesex College among an elite group of institutions across the country committed to meaningful, sustained community engagement,” said Charlotte Quigley, director of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships. “It strengthens our ability to deepen partnerships, expand student learning opportunities, and continue serving as a trusted anchor institution in Middlesex County.”

In addition to collaboration opportunities among students, in 2021 the College established the President’s Community Advisory Committee to strengthen engagement with the communities it serves. The committee, which meets quarterly, includes over 30 representatives from government, education, nonprofit, and business sectors to identify collaboration opportunities and inform institutional planning. The resulting partnerships—such as science students working to help restore shellfish populations or working with middle schoolers in New Brunswick on homework support and social enrichment activities—help students develop holistically in their fields and personal lives.

“Carnegie recognition isn’t just a credential, it’s a public affirmation of our leadership and of Middlesex College’s commitment to community-centered education,” said Quigley.

**MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, NJ**  
Middlesex College, established in 1964, is a public, two-year institution of higher education located in the heart of New Jersey. With a main campus in Edison and centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, Middlesex College offers over 85 degree and certificate programs encouraging its more than 10,000 students to explore, grow, and thrive. Middlesex College, through dedicated faculty, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and holistic student supports, is committed to providing a high-quality, affordable college education that provides every student an opportunity for growth and achievement. Middlesex College is Middlesex County’s premier destination for lifelong learning and workforce training. Learn more at [middlesexcollege.edu](http://middlesexcollege.edu).

infrastructure is the lifeblood of our economy and a driving force behind our success, keeping our commuters connected and making sure our state maintains its competitive edge in the region. As we stand on the cusp of an unprecedented coordination of our transit system and highways with eight World Cup matches, including the final, continuity of leadership at New Jersey Transit is critical and I look forward to working together to support the progress that keeps our state moving.”

## Did You Ever Visit Here?



Roadside America, Miniature Village, Circa 1960s! This amazing attraction was located in Shartlesville, Pennsylvania it first opened in 1941 and sadly closed its doors for good in 2020.

## Be With Me

By Philip

Be with me Jesus,  
When I am lonely,  
And when I’m feeling blue.  
Be with me Jesus,  
My heart needs You only,  
I place all my trust in You.  
Come with me Jesus,  
On my journey through life,  
And when I feel like  
I’ve lost my way,  
Come with me Jesus,  
And straighten the path  
That will lead me to you someday.  
Stay with me Jesus,  
In my last hour,  
While death is waiting for me.  
Stay with me Jesus,  
And take me to Heaven,  
To live with you eternally.

## Believe In Me

By Robert W. Eginton

He came on a  
late December’s Day  
To have the sins  
of the world taken away.  
He said to believe in me  
And I will show the way.  
So that we could  
live for eternity  
He said  
“just believe in me,”  
And you will see  
how great a love  
I have for thee.  
If you just believe in me  
You will see  
What a beautiful place  
Heaven can be.

## Bill Expanding Access to State's Family Leave Act Heads to Governor’s Desk

Legislation would lower employer threshold to ensure more workers can care for loved ones without risking their job

Legislation that would extend job-protected family leave to more workers passed the New Jersey General Assembly today. Sponsored by Assemblywomen Annette Quijano and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Bill A3451 would expand access to the State’s Family Leave Act, ensuring that additional workers would have the security of knowing their jobs are safe when they need to take time away from work to care for a family member. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk for consideration.


Currently, employers with 30 or more employees must offer employees the right to be reinstated after they take family leave to care for a loved one. Bill A3451 would gradually lower the threshold to employers with 15 or more employees and reduce the waiting period for worker benefits. Under the bill, workers would be eligible for job-protected leave after three months of employment and the required minimum base hours were reduced to 250 hours.

“The number of people helped by this bill reaches far beyond just the individual workers,” said Assemblywoman Quijano (D-Union). “For every employee that benefits from A3451, even more New Jerseyans –

parents, children, siblings – would benefit as well.”

“Study after study shows that expanding family leave is good for the workforce, good for babies and families, and good for our state as a whole,” said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “By reducing the amount of time someone has to be on the job before becoming eligible for family leave, this legislation recognizes the realities of today’s workforce and makes sure more parents can care for and bond with their newborn without fearing they’ll lose their job. No one should be penalized for needing time to care, and this bill helps make sure the vast majority of workers never will.”

“Workers in multi-generational families face tough choices on a regular basis, but deciding to take time off to care for a sick relative or a newborn child should not come with the added pressure of worrying if they will have a job to return to,” said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson (D-Mercer, Hunterdon). “This meaningful piece of legislation is designed to remove that barrier for anyone who works somewhere that has five or more employees and wants to spend time focused on their families.”



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

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

**2026 Bulk Drop Off**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM-12PM (Exluding Holidays)**

**&**

**EVERY 3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 7AM-11AM**

January 17th February 21st March 21st	April 18th May 16th June 20th	July 18th August 15th September 19th	October 17th November 21st December 19th
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\*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER AND UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES\*



The Smoke Column

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

(PART #1) At the beginning of each year newly elected fire officers assume duties to lead their fire departments and fire companies. With each one of these positions comes an immense amount of responsibility for the safety of the firefighters they lead and the property they protect. Some can handle it well while others may not. Remember as an officer you have people’s lives in your hands when you make decisions at a fire scene. This article will give an overview of an incident that happened in a mid-west community a few years back and has finally been settled. This incident occurred where a fire officer became a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD). I Never want to criticize a fire officer’s decisions at a fire scene because that decision might have to be made in seconds and under duress. Some decisions are good while others may not be proper. If the officer makes good decisions at a fire scene, kudos to him. If decisions go bad, we take them as a learning experience for future incidents. In this incident a fire lieutenant was LODD at a one-story, ranch style, light-wood frame constructed home consisting of 3-bedrooms, 2-baths, family room, kitchen, and attached garage. The fire alarm was called in by the homeowner at 2304 hours reporting that there was fire in the attached garage of the home. At 2314, the fire chief arrived on scene and reported a size-up of what he has, “fully involved attached garage with extension to the house.” The chief established an Incident Command (IC) system upon arrival. He attempted to make a 360-degree size-up of the entire structure, but it was incomplete as he never went to the rear (side C) of the structure. First due apparatus was arriving at the scene and were receiving their assignments such as accountability officer and operations officer. Firefighters began entering the structure to attack and suppress the fire. As the fire started in the attached garage, it intensified and entered the ceiling area of the one-floor structure.



Using tools, firefighters opened-up various sections of the ceiling and found that the fire had entered the entire ceiling space. In my opinion, it would be at this point that the fire should have been fought in a defensive attack mode and from the exterior. There was no benefit in sending anyone inside the structure to fight the fire as the house was lost. Remember Chief Alan Brunacini’s statement, “risk a lot to save a life, risk nothing to save nothing.” There was nothing to save but to put the fire out at this time. Unfortunately, this is not how the IC proceeded to fight this fire. At 2354 hours, forty-five minutes after the arrival of the IC, the fire was declared under control. Three firefighters were sent into the structure to open-up more ceiling areas on the north side of the structure for overhaul and suppression fire extension. All residents were out of the home safely, yet firefighters were sent back into the burning structure as roof trusses were collapsing, and holes were developing in the floor. While inside the structure, one of the firefighter’s low-air alarms activated that he was running low on breathing air and he exited the building. At his exit he noticed a partial roof collapse and reported such to the IC. The second firefighter now had his low-air alarm activated and he proceeded to leave the structure. Firefighters are trained so that if one firefighter’s low-air alarm activates, the entire crew exits the structure. (PART #2 will appear in the next Smoke Column. (PART #2 will appear in the February Smoke Column)

Past Business



One of South Amboy’s most recognizable landmarks and popular business establishments in history, the Raritan Diner is pictured in all of its glory on Bordentown Ave. The diner was purchased and moved to New York state many years ago, and at present, a barber shop sits on the same exact lot where the Raritan Diner had been for so long. (Photo/info courtesy of Ken and Joyce Elyea)

Statement from MCC Director Ronald G. Rios Regarding Commissioner Charles Kenny’s New NJTPA Chair Role

“Middlesex County is proud to congratulate Commissioner Charles Kenny on being elected as Chair of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Board of Trustees, for a two-year term effective January 12, 2026. Throughout his tenure on the NJTPA Board of Trustees and in Middlesex County, Commissioner Kenny has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to transportation safety, innovation, and regional collaboration. From championing Vision Zero strategies to reduce traffic fatalities, to supporting the County’s RIDE program, and leading our annual Transportation Symposium. His work has helped expand safe, reliable options for how people and goods move throughout our communities. As Chair of the NJTPA Board of Trustees and Chair of the Middlesex County

Department of Transportation, Commissioner Kenny will continue to ensure that federal transportation investments are planned and prioritized with a focus on safety, accessibility, and long-term mobility.” ABOUT MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ Middlesex County is bettering the lives of residents and providing economic growth opportunities to business and industry. Home to several Fortune 500 companies, three universities, 21 county parks, and world-class healthcare and research facilities, Middlesex County is one of the nation’s most dynamic regions — and a leader in life sciences, transportation, the arts, and food innovation. With more than 860,000 residents across 25 municipalities, Middlesex County is among the most diverse areas in the United States. Its award-winning Middlesex County Magnet Schools and two-year Middlesex College



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How Old Are You?

By Al Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate  
c.1983

There is no such time as old  
Age is a measurement.  
It is: the people  
that one contacts.  
The places that  
one has been,  
The thoughts of one's mind.  
The food that one eats.  
The environment that  
one lives in.  
That causes the things  
that one has done  
And these surely age one's body  
And formulate one's life...  
Hours, days, years,  
time is irrelevant,  
Yet not meaningless  
For one is never old,  
One just keeps getting older.


Basketball Legends



One of Hoffman High's greatest athletes, Gary Lange (l), a member of the elusive 1,000 points scoring club, met up with Pat Dineen, who coached Sayreville War Memorial HS varsity basketball team. Dineen coached the junior high team for 2 seasons and had an outstanding (40-8) record. He moved up to varsity from 1971-80, and turned in a fine (139-92) mark. The two legends reminisced at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa, which they attended with their families. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

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

**PRAYER TO ST. JUDE**  
(To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, on far cases almost despaired of). Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of, pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. Thank You St. Jude. M.S., P.S. B.S..





TEAM SANTA



"Team Santa" all with matching shirts, and headed by Brian Stratton (far right), Associate Publisher of The SA Times, are pictured at the great kickoff for the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 "Breakfast with Santa." The event was successful and Santa had a chance to talk with all the kids as well as take photos. (Photo/info submitted)

Old Friends



This photo was taken at Tom Mulvey's house during a barbecue circa 1975. Pictured (l-r) Tom Mulvey, Steve Talarick, Jim Kopystucky, Bill Henry, Jim Pearson, Ken Rogers. (Photo/info submitted by Jim Pearson)

K of C Presentation to Sacred Heart Church



The Knights of Columbus, Council 426 presented Fr. Stanley Gromadzki, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church with an oil painting of Blessed Michael McGiveny. He is the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Pictured on the left is the Grand Knight Ed Vassallo, holding the picture with Father Stanley on the right. This past year the Council had a bus trip to New Haven Conn, (the birthplace of the K of C) where Fr. Stanley was given the honor to say Mass at St Mary's Church in New Haven. (Photo/info submitted)

Winter Memories



1960- Pictured is the frozen South Amboy Water Works pond, with people ice skating and enjoying the winter weather. Does anyone remember when they used to flood the old Sixth Street tennis court so it would freeze, and skaters had their own local "ice skating rink" to enjoy? If you have any favorite winter memories or photos to share, please e-mail to: satimes@aol.com. (Photo courtesy of John Ruszala)

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**Breakfast With Santa At  
The South Amboy Knights of Columbus**  
(Photos by Brian & Phyllis Stratton)



Santa was very popular with the children.



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**LOCATIONS IN NEWARK**



## Brian O'Connor School of Music 25th Anniversary Holiday Concert



The Brian O'Connor School of Music performed their 25th concert at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park on December 14th. The residents always look forward to Brian's annual Christmas and Spring concerts with his top students. Everyone had a wonderful time and got to enjoy some great talent, performing some very cool classic rock with of course some classic Christmas songs in the mix. The performers are as follows: front row: Daria Dobrin, Carolina Paredes, Brian O'Connor, Jayden Adackapara and Angel Zarzuela back row: Warren Rappleyea, Sean Rappleyea, Chase Warnock, Chris Schaaf, Jake Wells, Anuraag Godavari, and Matt Boehler. (Photo/Info Submitted)

- #1 Pop Hits-Jan.24
- 2022-Easy On Me-Adele
- 2015-Uptown Funk-Mark Ronson
- 2006-Don't Forget About Us-Mariah Carey
- 1994-All Four Love
- B. Adams/R.Stewart/Sting
- 1984-Owner Of A Lonely Heart-Yes
- 1970-Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head
- B.J.Thomas
- 1966-The Sound Of Silence
- Simon & Garfunkel



Elvis Tribute Artist (ETA) Richie Santa of Sayreville gave an outstanding pre-Christmas performance at the Old Bridge Public Library on December 13th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

- #1 Country Hits
- Jan. 24
- 2020-10,000 Hours-Dan & Shay
- 2012-Let It Rain-David Nail
- 2004-Remember When-Alan Jackson
- 1992-No One Else On Earth-Wynona Judd
- 1988-Where Do The Nights Go
- Ronnie Milsap
- 1975-Kentucky Gambler-Merle Haggard
- 1967-It's Sure A Pretty World Today
- Wynn Stewart

- One Hit Wonders
- 60 Years Ago
- 1966-Flowers On The Wall-The Statler Brothers; Lies-The Knickerbockers; The Duck-Jackie Lee; The Men In My Little Girls Life-Mike Douglas; No Matter What Shape (Your Stomach's In)-The T-Bones; The Cheater-Bob Kuban & The In-Men; Elusive Butterfly-Bob Lind; Barefootin'-Robert Parker; Oh How Happy-The Shades Of Blue; Cool Jerk-The Capitols; Doubleshot (Of My Baby's Love)-The Swingin' Medallions; Dirty Water-The Standells; Little Girl-The Syndicate Of Sound; They're Coming To Take Me Away, Ha-Haaa!-Napoleon XIV; Black Is Black-Los Bravos; Psychotic Reaction-Count Five; Winchester Cathedral-The New Vaudeville Band.

Sight & Sound Trip

Sayreville United Methodist Church will be having a bus trip on Friday, July 31, 2026 to Sight & Sound Lancaster, PA. Price: \$185.00 (Adults), \$135.00 (Ages 3 - 12) (includes the Show, Buffet Lunch, Transportation) Deposit: \$25.00 (non-refundable)

Reserve early! Limited seating! Tickets sell out fast!

Departure time: 9:00 AM

Return time: 8:00 PM

Sayreville Municipal Building (Right-side parking lot)

167 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872

Please call to reserve: 732-207-3284

## Acoustic Friday

### Feb. 20, 2026

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance's next music showcase will take place on February 20, 2026 when Craig Shorie returns to the gallery. Craig is a versatile musician who plays in several bands. When he plays solo, Craig covers a wide variety of genres, including, rock, soul, blues, folk, jazz and calypso. A second performer will soon be announced.

SA Arts is located at 141 N. Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is \$5.00, and complementary light refreshments will be offered. The Alliance seeks interested acoustic-oriented performers of any genre for future shows. For additional information, contact SA Arts at 732-727-4600, extension 5971 or by email at SAarts141@gmail.com. Watch for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.



## A Channel of Peace to Unveil Faith Filled Feature Film



Actor Daniel Roebuck (l) and former South Amboy City Council member Edward Jake Defort discuss the new movie, "The Hail Mary," a feature film written and directed by Roebuck. The film was produced by A Channel of Peace (achannelofpeace.org), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating faith-filled family entertainment. Defort has been a member of the Board of Directors for 5 years. (Photo submitted)

"The Hail Mary Movie To Debut Feb. 21

(Article Submitted)

Daniel Roebuck, a veteran character actor whose lists of credits include The Fugitive, Lost and Matlock, among hundreds of others, has announced the premier of The Hail Mary, a feature film he also wrote and directed.

The film was produced by A Channel of Peace (achannelofpeace.org), a Lehigh Valley-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating faith-filled family entertainment.

THE HAIL MARY is a redemptive, crowd-pleasing comedy-drama set within the heart of a Catholic school community. The film follows a disillusioned man who unexpectedly finds faith, family and football in the most unlikely of ways. Roebuck, who received a Catholic education, credits the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia – the Religious Sisters who taught him – as profound inspirations throughout his life and career.

The premier comes on the heels of Saint Nick of Bethlehem, which was co-produced under the A Channel of Peace banner, and can be streamed on Amazon Prime as well as on the Angel network.

The project also involves a former South Amboy City Councilman. For the past five years, Edward Jake Defort, has been a member of the board of directors for A Channel of Peace. "It's a heartwarming story of redemption that can be enjoyed by everyone in the family," Defort said. "Not only is the mission of the organization to produce family friendly entertainment, but producing the films in the Lehigh Valley gives an opportunity for those who are looking to work in the film industry a chance to gain experience."

The Hail Mary will debut in a spectacular, ticketed, valley-wide premiere on February 21, with screenings at multiple iconic locations:

- ArtsQuest Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas — 11:00 AM
- Bethlehem Catholic High School Auditorium — 3:00 PM
- Roxy Theatre, Northampton — 7:00 PM

The premiere will offer audiences not only a first look at THE HAIL MARY, but also the opportunity to meet the film's stars and receive exclusive premiere merchandise. Tickets are available at: <https://www.ticketSignup.io/thehailmarypremiere>

Following the premiere, THE HAIL MARY will enjoy a nationwide theatrical release the following week.

Valentine's Day

Rose Sale

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- Two dozen color roses -- \$35.00

Independence Firehouse 127 - 129 North Broadway.

21st Annual

Dad-Daughter Dance

The South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary Club will host the 21st annual dad-daughter on Friday, February 6, 2026. It will be held at the VFW on Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville. For more information or to register contact Greg at 732-721-0400 or email greg@customfinancial.org



MUSIC TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.Monday Monday

2.Friday On My Mind

3.Saturday In The Park

4.Ruby Tuesday

5.Sunday and Me

6.Tuesday Afternoon

7.Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M.

8.Manic Monday

9.Sunday Bloody Sunday

10.Rainy Days and Mondays

11.Come Monday

12.New Moon On Monday

a.The Carpenters

b.Simon & Garfunkel

c.The Mamas and The Papas

d.The Rolling Stones

e.U2

f.Chicago

g.Jimmy Buffet

h.Duran Duran

i.The Bangles

j.The Moody Blues

k.Jay &The Americans

l.The Easybeats

Answers

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

Days of the Week

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS



Past Commanders Rich Kosmoski (l) and Ed Strek show students and staff the proper way to fold and present the American Flag to the next-of-kin at a memorial service. Rich then demonstrated the presentation of the folded flag to the school principal.



Frank Sullivan, Rich Kosmoski, and Ed Strek instructed the students in the proper way of handling and folding the American Flag. Groups of students did get to participate in folding the American Flag into the thirteen folds and what each fold meant. In addition Kosmoski, a Navy veteran, discussed the importance of community involvement to the entire body of students. He mentioned the reason for many street signs in Sayreville of being blue in color in recognition of a fallen veteran of which that street is named after. Most of the students did not know the meaning of where their street naming came from, but now are well aware that it is in honor of a heroic veteran.

Sayreville Veterans Visit Upper Elementary School for Community Education Program

Submitted by Rich Kosmoski

Sayreville Veterans, U.S. Army Paratrooper Ed Strek, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rich Kosmoski, and U.S. Army Infantryman Frank Sullivan were invited to speak to students at Sayreville Upper Elementary School. We began by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, with students—including boy scouts—standing alongside us during the pledge. We stated that we are military veterans and shared our service branches and roles. Most students found this experience eye-opening.

We spoke to students about our community, patriotism, and integrity. I emphasized respect and remembering Veterans. I did notice that every student had a yellow wrist band with the word "RESPECT," what a coincidence. I served as co-chairman of the Sayreville Veterans Alliance for over 20 years, where I recommended, secured funding for, and oversaw dedications of parks, ball fields, memorials, and streets named after veterans.

During my interaction with the students, I asked them which local developments they lived in. I was seeking information on any students that lived on a street that was named and dedicated to a Wartime Hero Veteran or one of the families that had multiple family members that had served in the military. I was specifically looking for students that resided in the LaMer Complex, Towne Lake, or Patriots Hill. When some students responded with the street name they lived on, I went on to tell them that their street was named after a dedicated Veteran. They were quite surprised by this information. I went on to teach them the meaning of the "Patriot Hill" development and why it was named as such. Each street name represents a Veteran that was killed in France during World War 1. Though the names are long, some may be up to 15 letters long, they represent many of the Eastern European immigrants that came to

our country in the late 1800's and then went back to Europe to fight for our freedoms and the life safety of the Europeans. Complaints were made by new residents that the street names in Patriot Hill were TOO LONG, and their children would never learn how to spell them. Our answer to them was, "If the name could be fitted on a soldier's dog tag, then it certainly can be inscribed on a street sign." If these young men didn't go to war and win the war over the enemy, we may be speaking German today.

We proceeded to demonstrate the correct method for folding the American Flag, detailing the 13 steps required to ensure that, upon completion, neither the red nor white sections are visible. A few students were selected to fold the flag due to time limits, though many wanted to volunteer. After folding the flag, I demonstrated to the group how I present it to a fallen Veteran's family and express gratitude for their service. I presented the flag to the school principal.

I spoke to students about my 52 years with the Sayreville Fire Department and mentioned that if there's a fire alarm at UES, I may be driving the fire apparatus as it's in my main response area. This demonstrated our community involvement post-military service.

Although the session lasted only about half an hour, the children absorbed all the information given. I could have stayed in the program longer because it offers valuable information for students in the community. Speaking with these students was valuable; we benefited just as much as they did from the program.

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.



Members of the Bombers Beyond Cafe assist with the donations. (Photos Submitted)

Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry

(Article Submitted)

The Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry at 3091 Bordentown Ave., Parlin, has been growing rapidly due to the generosity of area citizens and businesses. Over 120 local families rely on our food pantry and 24/7 Blessing Box to supplement their daily meals. Faithful donors show up each month to donate food and personal items to those in need within our community. Many of these generous individuals remain anonymous, but the people of Messiah and the clients of the food pantry are forever grateful for their kindness. We would especially like to thank the following establishments:

Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post 62, Sayreville Police, Scouts troop #777, Rustoni's, Sayreville/South Amboy Girl Scouts, Bombers Beyond Café, Sayreville Shop Rite, Krauszer's, New Road School, Sara Dubinin Foundation, Crazy Cousins, Inc., Bowl for Hunger, Assemblyman Craig

Coughlin, Sayreville United Methodist Church, Trinity Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Sayreville Public Schools, OLV St. Vincent de Paul Society, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired CBVI Central Regional Office CRO, the South Amboy Elks, The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Heart of New Jersey Chorus, and more.

Donation days are held on the last Saturday of each month, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Distribution times are the second Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and the third Saturday from noon-2:00 p.m. Besides food, we accept household items (clean and in working order), cleaning supplies, personal items, and new or gently used clothing. All are given away at no cost to our clients. For more information or to arrange an alternate donation time, please call the church at 732-721-8493. We appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Remember When?



There was an old City Hall/Police Station in South Amboy on John Street, with the Firefighters monument out front to the left, and how about Marathon buses like the one this man is trying to push (lol)? City Hall was located right next to the old Harold G. Hoffman High School.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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



# Flashback To The Year 2000

## 12 Sports Legends Inducted Into St. Mary's Hall of Fame

By Tom Burkard

St. Mary Diocesan High School held its inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame induction/ dinner on Oct. 28''' at the school gym, before a sellout crowd of 368.

Five major league baseball players/ managers headed the field of 12 athletic greats. Allie Clark, who played on World Championship teams with the '47 Yankees and '48 Indians; the O'Brien twins, John and Ed, '48, who were bonus babies with the Pittsburgh Pirates: Jack McKeon, "48 who managed the Cincinnati Reds for the last few seasons, and was 1999 "Major League Manager of The Year." and 1999 "National League Manager of The Year," as well as "General Manager of the Year" in 1984 with the San Diego Padres; Tom Kelly manager of the Minnesota Twins since 1986, and winner of two World Series Championships in 1987 and 1991, was also selected "Manager of the Year" both years.

Other entrants included-Tom Scully '34, an All-State baseball and football star; Jack Kreiger '63, an All-State basketball player, and member of the '63 state base ball championship club; George Krzyzanowski "71, the school's all-time scoring leader in basketball, first player to crack 1,000 points, and holder of the single game scoring record of 50 points: Kathy Redling '78, the first female hoopster to score over 1,000 points, and owner of career softball records for highest average .599, home runs 35, and rbi-121; Eileen Fallon Seitz, '82, won the state tennis championship in 1980. Selected posthumously were Charley Eppinger, Coach and Athletic Director, whose teams won over 280 games; John Zdanewicz, '28, who starred in baseball and basketball, and later coached those teams to state crowns. Ellen Eppinger Eichele, daughter of Eppinger. and Jean Ryan Zdanewicz, wife of Zdanewicz attended, and gave acceptance speeches.

### Before The Induction

After a beautiful 6:15 Mass celebrated by St. Mary Pastor, Rev. Dennis Weezorak, which featured beautiful singing by St. Mary High School Choir, the athletes returned to the gym and were sent to the "holding room," actually the faculty room in the adjoining grammar school. New acquaintances were made and old friendships rekindled, as anticipation was high for the big evening! Allie Clark brought 10 baseballs, compliments of Jack McKeon and the Cincinnati Reds, for the Hall of Famers to autograph for a raffle to be held after the ceremony. Cameras were flashing everywhere, and I was honored to take the first picture ever of the five major league ballplayers together. Then it was show time!

A current SM athlete, in uniform escorted each Hall of Famer to their tables, and then everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner.

### The Induction

South Amboy's own, Ed Paczkowski pinch-hit as Master of Ceremonies for Fox Sports Network's outstanding sportscaster. Matt Loughlin, a '75 St. Mary's grad, who had just finished covering the Mets in the World Series, and was on assignment in North Carolina to cover the New Jersey Devils hockey club. Paczkowski turned in a superb performance, and blasted a grand slam homer as MC, drawing on his personal knowledge and experiences with the inductees, as well as mentioning interesting facts and trivia bits about each person, when introducing them.

Each of the inductees thanked their families, friends, and the Hall of Fame Committee. Some of their most memorable comments from their speeches included;

**Kathy Redling**-"I spent 20 years at St. Mary's, 4 as a student, and 16 as a teacher. This gym was my home... I was going to go to Madison Central High, but found out SM had a girls football team, and I changed my mind."

**Jack Kreiger**-thanked his family and friends for their support, and had special praise for his high school coach, Luke Lenahan.

**Tom Scully**-'It's far beyond my

imagination. I never expected anything like it."

**George Krzyzanowski**-'It's good to be back with the gym full, like it was years ago when we played basketball here."

**Eileen Fallon Seitz**-'My fondest memory was winning the state tennis championship."

**Allie Clark**-"Under this gym was St. Mary's baseball field, where I got started... Johnny Z. and Father Horan bought me my first baseball glove... The first thing I'm proud to tell people when I'm out of the area is that I came from St. Mary's. We had 5 major league ballplayers from one school."

**Tom Kelly**-'It's a very special community.. As a freshman on Luke Lenahan's varsity basketball team, he put me in with 5 seconds left, and I made a shot, and was fouled. He called me over and said 'concentrate and make this free throw. It will be important someday.' He was absolutely right."

**Jack McKeon**-"South Amboy and St. Mary's have had great traditions as far as athletics go. You have to credit the mayor and council, and Recreation Committee for providing fields and courts to play on... We were dedicated and worked at our game from 6 a.m. to 10-12 at night. It's very rare to get 5 big leaguers out of one school, but how about 3 out of the '48 graduating class of 65 students?... Thank you, Allie Clark for showing us the way!

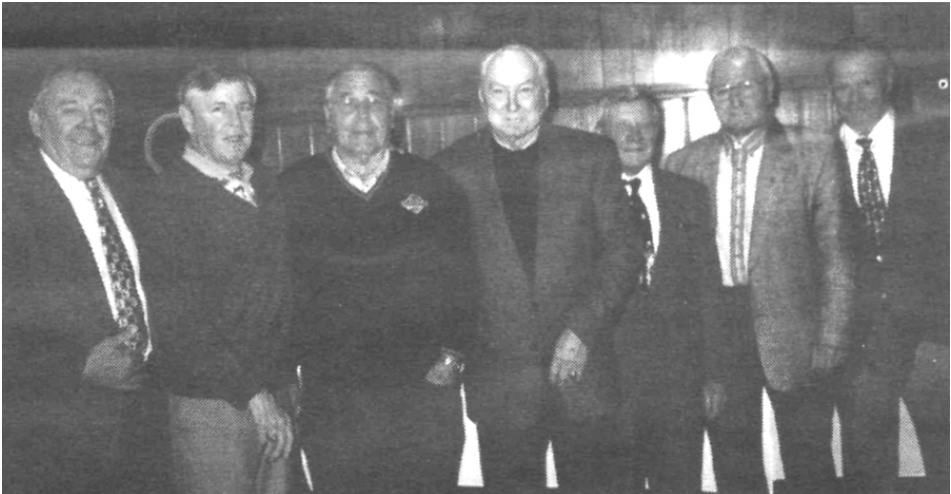
**Ed O'Brien**-"As a freshman, we met Coach Charley Eppinger, and he cut us the 1st day. The 2nd year he was more kind, and cut us the 2nd day... We didn't get a scholarship after graduation....Dr. Hoffman and his wife wanted to put us through Mt. St. Mary's College, but only if we would study to become doctors."

**John O'Brien**-"Most sports are reaction sports. You react to what you've been taught. Everyone will say that what we were taught here has helped us react properly."

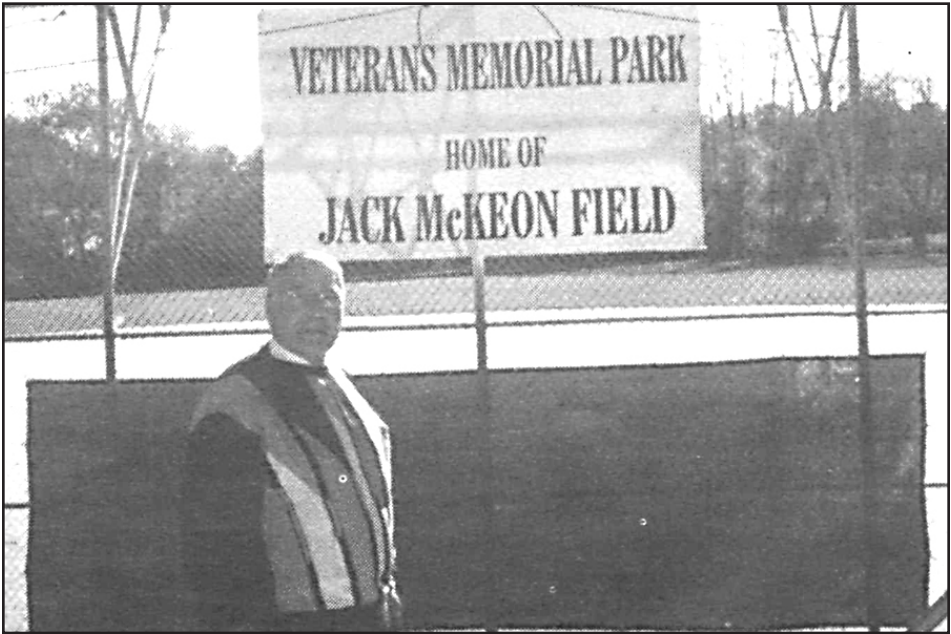
The event was an overwhelming success and will be held annually. Janet Gray, alumni development director, whose dedication and determination spearheaded the organization of the Hall of Fame, received plenty of help from Gil Pritchard, the athletic director, Ed Twomey, director of guidance/sports historian, and Bill Ryan, guidance counselor. St. Mary Principal, Dr. Frank Ianniruberto gave complete support to the project, and unfortunately became very ill on the day of the event and was hospitalized. We wish him well! The Hall of Fame Committee, who did extensive research over the last year, and met for monthly meetings included: Allie Clark. Beatrice Harvey '50, Alfie O'Connor '50, Luke Lenahan '51, Dr. Robert Bennett '52, Jerry Gorczyca '54, Ed Paczkowski '55, Richard O'Connor '65. Thomas Downs '68. Thomas Burkard '69, Kathy Redling '78, Edward O'Connor '79, Sean Regan '83, and Robert Lozzi '88.



**EXCLUSIVE PHOTO** - For the first time ever, South Amboy's five major league baseball players/ managers were in the same place at the same time. The event was their induction into St. Mary's Sports Hall of Fame. The pros are (L-R): Ed O'Brien, Allie Clark, Jack McKeon. John O'Brien, Tom Kelly. Imagine! 5 big leaguers from one high school, in a town 1 mile square. It's a small world after all. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



The Middlesex County Baseball Oldtimers Millennium 17th Reunion Dinner at Buddies was a big success, and the local oldtimers were pleasantly surprised by the visit of Jack McKeon and Ed O'Brien. Pictured (L-R): Mickey Sedlak (Sayreville Recreation Supt.), Ed O'Brien, Jack McKeon, Allie Clark, Ed "Buddy" Popowski, John Krilla and Ed Rapplelea. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Jack McKeon stands proudly near the newly dedicated Veterans Memorial Park - Home of Jack McKeon Field. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## Veterans, McKeon Honored With Renaming of Field

By Tom Burkard

On Saturday afternoon. Oct. 28, 2000. before a crowd of over 100 people. South Amboy Mayor, John T. O'Leary in conjunction with local veterans organizations honored veterans, and Jack McKeon, a US Air Force veteran, by renaming Vets Field to Veterans Memorial Park, Home of Jack McKeon Field. O'Leary said, "We are honoring the men and women who gave the supreme sacrifice for their country. We will honor them on a far greater scope by changing it to a memorial park. We will also honor Jack McKeon. a distinguished Air Force veteran, who rose to the rank of Sergeant, and in 1951 guided Samson AFB. NY to the Air Force World Series championship. He has been in pro baseball for 51 years, is an outstanding role model for the youth, and in February of this year returned to South Amboy. and helped raise over \$7,000 for the First Aid, along with other local big leaguers, Allie Clark and Ed "Buddy" Popowski." The color guards from the South Amboy American Legion and South Amboy Disabled American Veterans gave a

21 gun salute for the sailors who recently lost their lives on the USS Cole. Mayor O'Leary presented proclamations to the City's Veterans Alliance and McKeon. and stated, "this event gave people the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve democracy." McKeon thanked South Amboy's past and present administrations, the veterans, and Allie Clark who "is the guy who gave us something to shoot at. We were high school kids and he was a major leaguer. He was our idol, and inspired us to work at it." said McKeon. McKeon most recently managed the Cincinnati Reds, and was the 1999 "Major League Baseball Manager of The Year." and also the "NL Manager of The Year." His major league won-lost record is a respectable 770-733. (As Of Nov. 2000)





Contest Champions 2025!

The following are the top three winners in our monthly contests. Congratulations to all and thank you to everyone who participated.

WWW contest winners:

12 correct answers:

Barbara Bockus, Ed English, Gary Feret, Lisa Grankowski, Steve Laskiewicz, Walter Starzec Jr.

11 correct answers:

Betty Leveille, Dane Colburn, Dennis Quinlan, Jim & Debbie Sissick.

10 correct answers:

John & JoAnn French, Edna Pilch

Who is it? Contest winners:

12 correct answers:

Walter Starzec Jr.

11 correct answers:

Edna Pilch

10 correct answers:

Gary Feret, Rich & Elaine Angerstein

A Special thank you to Lisa Grankowski for keeping track each month, and compiling our winners.



# South Amboy Fire Chiefs

## Sworn In January 1, 2026

(Photos by Jamie Norek)

South Amboy Mayor Fred Hebrt swore in South Amboy's Fire Chiefs for 2026 with each Chief having their families present to observe and support them.



Chief Michael Kelly of Enterprise Ladder Truck 8.



1st Assistant Chief Charles Honimar of Protection Engine 6.



2nd Assistant Chief Ken Kokoszka of Independence Eng. 7.



Can you identify this musical duo? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Feb. 16th.

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Last month's mystery person was Edmund Gwenn who portrayed Kris Kringle A.K.A Santa Claus in the classic file Miracle On 34th Street. The following got it right: Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Dan Owens, Howard Schmidt, Beverly Pomponio, Pete McIntyre, Ed English,

JoAnn & John French, and Mark DePazza, Kenneth Oleskin, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Bruce Grankowski, Edna Pilch, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Walter Starzec Jr, Ed Bender, Betty Leveille, Ed Puchalski, Sonia Iglesias, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Thomas Harrigan.



Edmund Gwenn who portrayed Kris Kringle

WWW.?



Can you identify this building? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Feb. 16th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? Winners

Last month's WWW.? was the Sayre & Fisher water tower located in Sayreville.

Winners: Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Jay Seyglinski, Paul Conlon, Dennis Quinlan, Pete McIntyre, Ed English, JoAnn & John French, Lisa Grankowski, Steve Laskiewicz, Patti Tengelics, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Edna Pilch, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Walter Starzec Jr, Ed Bender, Betty Leveille, Ed Puchalski, Sonia Iglesias, Gary Feret, Barb Bockus, Dane Colburn, Thomas Harrigan.



Sayre & Fisher Water Tower





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## Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber




### Salt Water

Striped Bass fishing in Raritan Bay picked up but it's mostly from boats as shore fishing at our local beaches remains slow. I checked local beaches at Cliffwood and Keansburg and spoke to fishermen but not much was going on. I did see two nice Stripers plus some Blackfish on a private boat docked in Perth Amboy. I didn't see anything at local SA beach on the times I checked there. Surf fishing at Island Beach and LBI are still producing some nice Striped Bass at times. Party boat fishing for Stripers is on and off with some days better than others. Some of the boats will stop running at season's end and upcoming winter's bad weather. Those boats that fish for Blackfish are catching well. Some big ones are around with one fish over 13 pounds. Striped Bass regulations for 2026 will not change at this time.

### Fresh Water

Winter Trout stocking in lakes and ponds statewide has been completed. My wife and I tried Spring Lake the day after stocking at the end of November and fished for a few hours but we didn't get any bites. I didn't see many other people there catch or have any fish at the time we were there. The boat launch ramp area at Round Valley Reservoir may be worth a try as Trout regularly cruise the shore in this area.





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### Catch Any Fish Lately?

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## Basketball Standouts Bring Holiday Cheer to YMCA



Students in the South Amboy YMCA School Age Child Care (SACC) program kicked off their holiday break with an unforgettable afternoon thanks to the generosity of local athletes Mackenzie and Ethan Mgbako. New Jersey natives and rising stars in the basketball world, Mackenzie Mgbako currently plays for Texas A&M while brother Ethan Mgbako is committed to Vanderbilt University. This holiday season, the brothers chose to give back to their community by personally delivering toys to the YMCA students. "Our kids were absolutely thrilled," said Dr. Alexis Korsak, South Amboy YMCA Director of Operations. "Mackenzie and Ethan not only

donated toys, but they gave our students an afternoon of excitement and fun. Seeing successful young people give back sends a powerful message to our students." The Mgbako brothers' visit reinforced the values of generosity and social responsibility that are central to the YMCA's mission. Staff, families and students expressed gratitude for the Mgbako family's kindness and commitment to making a positive impact close to home. The YMCA thanks Mackenzie, Ethan and the entire Mgbako family for helping to make this holiday season such a special one for the children in our care. To learn more about the YMCA's School Age Child Care program, please visit [ymcaofmews.org/childcare](http://ymcaofmews.org/childcare)

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### PRAYER TO 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.



# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



2006- The Cardinal McCarrick Lady Eagles Basketball team finished with a (24-4) record, best in the school's history. Pictured (l-r) front row, Tori Costa, Chrissy Keir, Jessica Costa and Danielle Lussier, middle row, Michelle Alphe, Jessica Pruiti, Kristen Babulak, Rosaly Diaz, Morgan Biloholowski and Anne Trecolis, back row, Coach Audrey Taylor, Coach Greg Babulak, Mgr. Brooke Biloholowski, Jenna Begreen, Lauren Zarantanello, Patricia Langan, Danielle Lieberman, Karen Guskowski, Mgr. Lauren Puk, Head Coach Lynn Ust and Coach Christine Noble. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

### Glory Days In Local Sports

2024-South Amboy boys basketball team downed East Brunswick Magnet, 65-56. Gavin Pelkey paved the way with 27 points and 9 rebounds, while frosh John Kelly pumped in 21 points and ripped 10 rebounds ...2017-Sayreville girls basketball team blasted Bishop Ahr, 51-32. Isi Enahoro pumped in 14 points and had 8 steals...2006-Brian Seres joined the Hoffman/South Amboy HS prestigious 1,000 points scoring club by tossing in 14 points to lead the Guvs to a 62-55 victory over East Brunswick Tech...1997-The Bombers boys basketball team upset the Piscataway powerhouse,

### City Series Basketball Showdowns

Girls

35 Years Ago

1991-Hoffman stopped St. Mary's, 50-33 behind a strong performance from Jen Ingstrup, who fired in 24 points, while hauling down 20 rebounds. Teammate Krista Ryan added 9 points. Cheryl Julg led the Lady Eagles with 8 points.

Boys

30 Years Ago

1996-Jesse Holovacko drove the length of the court on a fast break for the biggest basket of his career, which gave St. Mary's (3-3) a thrilling 57-55 win over Hoffman (1-4). Holovacko and Tom Rizzo topped the Saints with 19 points apiece, while Bob Maher poured in 24, and Joe Salkiewicz 20 for the Guvs.

Girls

30 Years Ago

1996-St. Mary's hammered Hoffman, 55-22. Tracy McCurdy pumped in 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Jackie Demeraski scored 10, had 5 steals and 4 assists. The Lady Guvs were led by Jaclyn Tomaszewski with 9 points.

Boys

25 Years Ago

2001-The Eagles (7-4), featuring a balanced scoring attack, easily blew by South Amboy, 88-48. The Blue & Gold scoring brigade was paced by Kevin Burns 20, John Towlen 14, Joe Corcione 13, and Marc Nietubyc 10. Tom Gorecki of the Guvs (1-8), took game scoring honors with 28 points, and sophomore sensation Nick Shaw scored 14 for South Amboy.

### 1 Year Ago

Sayreville Swimmer Sets New Record

2025-Sayreville junior standout swimmer, Michael Wiszenko set a new school record in the 100-backstroke with a time of 0:53.74, to shatter a 13-year old mark, which was established in 2011 by Peter Duftrat, whose time was 0:55.10.

### 30 Years Ago

1996-Sayreville girls basketball team eliminated St. Mary's 61-44 in first round GMCT action. Stephanie Allocco topped the Bombers with 20 points and was followed by teammates Clarissa Meyers 12, and Audrey Behrens 10...

The Hoffman boys destroyed Dunellen, 55-40. Bob Maher fired in 17 points, Gary Colfer 13, Grocki 12, Joe Salkiewicz 11.

68-67. Marcin Ziobron topped the team with 27 points, Leland Norris added 23, and Rafi Hargrove dished off 8 assists and had 7 steals...1984-The Eagles boys basketball club jolted JFK, 59-46. Joe Byrne hit for 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. His brother Jim Byrne fired in 14 points, and Randy Wilson scored 13...1972-St. Mary's boys hoopsters nipped Madison, 67-66, behind a strong 31-point performance by Tom Gulick. Stan Knast added 13 tallies for the Eagles...1965-Sayreville boys basketeers shocked South River, 65-50. Bob Nita scored 24 points and John Karlowitz 20...

### South Amboy Bowling Battles

Boys

15 Years Ago

2011-Cardinal McCarrick defeated South Amboy, 3-1. Zack Durso turned in a 204-255-222-681, Dan Rack 201-204-606, and Jason Latham 245-590.

Girls

15 Years Ago

2011-The Lady Eagles shutout the Lady Guvs, 4-0. Katie Latham led the way with a 201-529, and Nicole Higgins 505.

### T.H.E. Game

Year:1971

Sport:Girls Basketball

Teams:St. Mary's vs. Hoffman in City Series action.

Recap: The St. Mary's Eaglettes (later known as the Lady Eagles), led by Terry Gulick, who fired in 21 points, hammered Hoffman, 56-13.

Player-of-the-Game: Terry Gulick, St. Mary's.

### 15 Years Ago

2011-Cardinal McCarrick senior Olivia Gorczynski joined the elite 1,000 points scoring club as the Lady Eagles defeated South Plainfield....

Sayreville super bowler Phil Bailey rolled the 1st perfect game in the school's history against Carteret. The 300 was part of an amazing 790 series.

### 25 Years Ago

2001-St. Mary's boys basketball team opened the season by beating South Amboy, 80-42. Kevin Burns scorched the nets for 39 points, while Dan Nuzzie and Tom Gorecki scored 19 and 11 for the Governors.

### 10 Years Ago

2016-Sayreville wrestling phenom Anthony Porcaro captured his 3rd consecutive GMCT 285 lb. championship.

### 35 Years Ago

1991-Sayreville's football team blasted North Brunswick, 20-7. D.J. Cleary caught a 30-yard TD pass from Harry Nakielny, Joe Cavallano broke loose for a 10-yard touchdown scamper, Eric Warden had a 5-yard TD jaunt.

### 60 Years Ago

1966-The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team finished (9-13). Top scorers were Bill Mandy 316 points, 14.4 avg., Dale Kurowsky 311, 15.6, Wally Senkowski 239, 11.4.

# School Sports

(As of Jan. 9)

By Tom Burkard

## Sayreville Overcomes Piscataway

The Bombers boys basketball team, who trailed powerful Piscataway by 6 points after 3 quarters, made a terrific comeback in the final stanza and nipped the Chiefs, 68-67. Chidi Chukwurah topped the scoring with 26 points, while Andrew Provenza ripped 9 rebounds, and Sam Jones had 2 steals.

## Bombers Jolt Iselin Kennedy

Sayreville girls basketball squad blasted Iselin Kennedy, 51-28. Natalia Glazewski fired in 19 points, Weronika Glazewski added 14, and Avery McGrath notched 5 steals.

## Guvs Down Dunellen

South Amboy boys hoopsters blasted Dunellen, 55-42. Jaydius Jimenez pumped in 18 points, and had 6 steals. Darion Joubert hauled in 13 rebounds.

## Lady Guvs Win 8th

South Amboy girls basketball team pounded Perth Amboy Magnet, 38-24 to cop their 8th victory in 9 games. Valerie Figueroa tossed in 11 points and had an incredible 13 steals, while Ashley Moreira-Burgos pulled in 6 rebounds.

# Boys Basketball

South Amboy (7-1)

Coach Matt Wiater

Team Leaders

Points-Darion Joubert 146, Jaydius Jimenez 141, Jaydiel Vasquez 91; Rebounds-Joubert 93, Vasquez 91; Assists-Wesley Lowe 33, Robert Senape 24, Jimenez 23; Steals-Jimenez 21, Lowe 20.

Sayreville (7-3)

Coach John Wojcik

Team Leaders

Points-Chidi Chukwurah 217, Sam Jones 198, Ziyon Jones 118; Rebounds-Andrew Provenza 90, Chukwurah 83; Assists-Chukwurah 40, Joseph Lewis 32, Sam Jones 29.

## Girls Basketball

South Amboy (8-1)

Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr.

Team Leaders

Points-Valerie Figueroa 104, Gabby Evanski 103; Rebounds-Evanski 63, Sophie Hernandez 42, Figueroa 40; Assists-Figueroa 18; Steals-Figueroa 68, Evanski 41.

Sayreville (6-1)

Coach Janet Cook

Team Leaders

Points-Natalia Glazewski 114, Weronika Glazewski 101; Rebounds-W. Glazewski 98, N. Glazewski 65; Steals-Dyanna Sharpe 18, Avery McGrath 17, N. Glazewski 16.



The South Amboy High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team defeated New Brunswick High School 24-9, in the Friends of South Amboy Charity Basketball Tournament. The Lady Guvs are coached by Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr. (far left) and Assistant Coach Caitlin Norek (far right). (Photo/info Submitted)

## From Players to Coaches

Caitlin Norek (r) and Steven Herdman (l) were part of the first teams ever to play in the Friends of South Amboy Games during their junior year of high school (2012-2013), honoring Hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts. Herdman scored over 1,000 points in his career for South Amboy High School, while Norek represented Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's. Today, both serve as basketball coaches at South Amboy High School—Herdman as Boys JV and Assistant Varsity Coach, and Norek as Assistant Girls Coach. (Photo/info by Lisa Wiater)



The team captains from South Amboy HS and Cardinal McCarrick HS varsity basketball teams at the first Friends of South Amboy Charity Basketball Tournament in 2013. Steve Herdman is far left kneeling and Caitlin Norek is wearing jersey number 3. (Photo by Brian Stratton)





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Robert P. “Bob” Stary

Robert P. “Bob” Stary passed away on December 26, 2025 at the age of 91. Bob was born in South River and lived most of his life in the Parlin section of Sayreville. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving his country in the Korean War. After leaving the Army, Bob opened Bob’s Barber Shop in South Amboy. He loved his job, chatting with his customers while cutting their hair with precision. He only recently retired after serving that community for 65 years. He was a kind and generous man, giving countless free haircuts to those who could not afford to pay. Away from the shop, Bob married the love of his life, Martha (Kovaleski) Stary, in 1957. She predeceased him in 2020. He enjoyed spending time with his family, which includes his three children, Linda Conroy (Marty), Robert Jr. (Josie), and Kurt, his three grandchildren, Shana, Carl, and Ross Conroy, and his great-grandson James D’Orazio. Entombment in Sacred Heart Cemetery Mausoleum, Parlin was private under the direction of The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Mary C. Kazer



Mary C. Kazer, 72, of South Amboy, passed away November 30, 2025. Born in 1953 to Catherine and Frank Krzyzkowski, she was the baby of the eight children. A graduate of St. Mary’s High School, she worked administratively for the South Amboy police for some years before moving into her role as a secretary in the legal and insurance services fields. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Amboy. Mary was a lifelong lover of animals and gardening. She enjoyed canning the fruits of her garden, as well her hobbies of writing and reading. She was predeceased by her spouse Walter A. Kazer, Jr., her parents, and siblings Frank, Ronald, and Carl. Surviving are her son, Eric, stepchildren, Jennifer Krass and Walter A. Kazer, III; grandchildren Skylar & Devin Krass and Walter Kazer, IV; as well as her siblings Philip and Michael Krzyzkowski, Cathy Bonham, and Monica Boydman, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**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.

**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

Betzler, Goldie M., 92, of Sayreville died on Nov. 18.

Bielak, Leon J., 94, of Sayreville died on Dec. 24.

Boychuk, Rose Marie, 81, of Morgan died on Jan. 5.

Coyle, Arlene, 88, of Sayreville died on Dec. 11.

Cunliffe, Michael S., 68, of South Amboy died on Dec. 30.

Dziedzic, Marie Matarangolo, 100, formerly of Parlin died on Nov. 10.

Evers, Kathleen A., 69, of Parlin died on Jan. 1.

Galasso, Louise, 99, of Sayreville died on Jan. 3.

Gallagher, Lillian D. “Dotty,” 92, of Parlin died on Jan. 4.

Gorman, Lena M., 101, of Parlin died on Dec. 29.

Herman, Joanne M., 77, of Sayreville died on Dec. 18.

Hickey, Joseph “Joe,” 61, of South Amboy died on Dec. 27.

Jankowski, Troy, 51, of Sayreville died on Nov. 15.

Kazer, Mary C. Krzyzkowski, 72, of South Amboy died on Nov. 30.

Keenan, Frank P., 78, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 10.

Kehoe, Halina, 79, of South Amboy died on Dec. 22.

Koerner, Louise, 80, of South Amboy died on Dec. 29.

Kosiba, Shelly A., 54, of Sayreville died on Dec. 30.

Loughlin, Geraldine “Gerry” Saunders, 70, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 10.

Meinzer, Judit Ann, 74, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died on Jan. 16th.

Merski, Karen Jackubowski, 74, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29.

Meyer, Carolyn, 74, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 19.

Miller, Dorothy A., 89, of Sayreville died on Dec. 11.

Murray, Michael J., 84, of Parlin died on Dec. 20.

Nemeth, Carl, 79, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 25.

Norton, Colleen Kilcomins, 64, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 17.

O’Connell, James “Red,” 93, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20.

Potthoff, Antoinette “Toni” Viglionese, 74, of Laurence Harbor died on Jan 11.

Rinkewich, Henry A. “Henry The Barber,” 95, died on Dec. 11.

Ryan, Lisa L., 54, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20.

Scanlon, Lorraine, 85, of Morgan died on Dec. 26.

Scirbona, Catherine, 67, of Parlin died on Jan. 1.

Stary, Robert P. “Bob The Barber” 91, of Parlin died on Dec. 26.

Szatkowski, James R., 64, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20.

Testa, Jo Ann, 91, of Parlin died on Jan. 6.

Toht, Brian J., 52, of Sayreville died on Dec. 8.

Tramutolo, Josephine P., 90, of Sayreville died on Dec. 10.

Yuhass, Mary C., 83, of Sayreville died on Jan. 1.

In Memoriam

Mary Krzyzkowski Kazer, 72, of South Amboy died on Nov. 30. She was a Mechanicsville girl for most of her life, and was loved and respected by all who knew her. Colleen Kilcomins Norton, 64, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 17. “She was a loving and compassionate person with a deep dedication to her family,” and will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. Colleen was a dedicated member of the Melrose Black Hawks Drum & Bugle Corps and participated in countless parades through the years. James “Red” O’Connell, 93, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20. He was a Korean War Veteran, and the last living survivor off the USS Sarsi, which was sunk on August 27, 1952 after hitting a mine off the coast of Korea. In 1961-62, he became the first St. Mary’s HS CYO basketball coach in history. Former South Amboy Police Officer Carl Nemeth, 79, died on December 25. He was a dedicated policeman and respected by all. Karen Merski, 74, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29. She was a teacher for 40 years at East Brunswick, and also St. Stan’s in Sayreville. Jo Ann Testa, 91, of Parlin died on Jan. 6. She was a staff librarian at St. Mary’s Grammar School, and then went on

to become the school librarian for St. Mary’s Regional HS. In 2000, she was honored to be named Catholic Educator of the Year by the Diocesan School. Jo Ann was always kind and helpful with a beautiful personality, and will always be remembered. Antoinette “Toni” Viglionese Potthoff, 67, of Laurence Harbor died on Jan. 11. She worked most of her life in New York City as a secretary for different eye doctors, and later became very interested in professional powerboat racing, and a member of New Jersey Offshore. “Toni” was very dedicated to this organization, and eventually became their President. She was a graduate of St. Mary’s HS Class of 1969, and will always be remembered. Judith Kurowsky Meinzer, 74, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 16. A 1969 graduate of St. Mary’s HS, she was one of the most well-liked, popular, talented, and prominent members of the class. She was always a gifted musician/vocalist, and also an actress, who appeared in different TV shows including “General Hospital” and others. She also pursued an interesting multi-faceted career as a model, vocalist, conductor, music/voice teacher, music director, worship leader, and Mary Kay Consultant.

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..

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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..

In Loving Memory of



If Tears could build a Stairway  
And Memories a Lane  
I'd Walk right up to Heaven  
And Bring you Home again  
Love,  
The Ust - Tooker Family.

Joanne Knable Ust  
“Mema”  
July 17 1944 Jan 6 2021

Five Years in Heaven



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Judith Ann Meinzer

Judith Ann Meinzer, 74, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026. Born on May 17, 1951, in South Amboy, New Jersey, Judy lived a life marked by faith, music, love, and service.



Flat Rock Playhouse. Her gifts were many, but her purpose was singular: to uplift, encourage, and inspire others.

Judy was a member of Mills River Methodist Church, where her faith found expression through worship, leadership, and service. She was a true sower of faith—profoundly authentic, immeasurably caring, unapologetically passionate and strong. As an encourager, leader, and supporter, she left an

indelible mark on her community and on the countless lives she touched through music, mentorship, and love.

She passed peacefully, now taking in the warm glow of diamonds on the water, singing glory to God, and joyfully reuniting with loved ones who have gone before her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mills River Methodist Church (<https://millsriverumc.org/give>), Rising Stars Children’s Choir (<https://www.carolinaconcertchoir.org/donate>), or Four Seasons Hospice Foundation (<https://fourseasonsfdn.org/ways-to-give/give-today>)—causes that reflect Judy’s enduring love for faith, music, and service to others.

Judy’s legacy lives on in song, in faith, and in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

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Judy was the beloved wife of Chet Meinzer of 53 years and a devoted mother to her daughters Bree Hodge, Erica Zoller, and Krysta Lovelace. She was a cherished mother-in-law to David Hodge, Andy Zoller, and Luke Lovelace, and a deeply adored “JMa” to Avery, Emery, Cameron, Hayden, Lillian, and Julian, each of whom brought her immeasurable joy. She is also survived by her siblings, Jeanne Morgan (Tom), and Richard Kurowsky (April). She was preceded in death by her father, Richard Kurowsky and her mother, Marcella Kurowsky.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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