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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is
dedicated to
***Brian Dowling**
***Michael Tingle**



July 31, 2026

• **The "Good News" Newspaper**

• **Vol. 35 Issue 10**

Democrats Mickey Gross And Judith Raskoshin Running For SA City Council



"Mickey" Gross

"Mickey" Gross and Judith Raskoshin are running for South Amboy City Council, bringing decades of public service, community involvement, and proven results.

Mickey and Judith join Anthony Conrad for Mayor filling the "Team South Amboy" ticket for the general election on November 3rd. Together, the candidates offer a unique combination of municipal experience, educational leadership, and community service that they believe will help lead South Amboy into the future preserving the strong sense of community that makes the city a special place to live and raise a family.



Judith Raskoshin

"South Amboy has made solid progress in recent years in managing a changing city, and we are committed to working together as a community to secure a stronger future for all residents in all neighborhoods," said Gross. "I love this City that I have proudly represented for 16 years now and I am excited to be running again. I welcome Judith Raskoshin to the team as we work to build a stronger community for all our residents through practical leadership and thoughtful planning."

Mickey Gross has served the South
continued on page 9

Republicans John Zebrowski And Mike Colaci Running For Sayreville Borough Council

Moving Sayreville Forward: Meet Candidates John Zebrowski and Mike Colaci

As Sayreville continues to grow and face new challenges, having leaders with deep local roots, professional expertise, and a genuine commitment to public service is more important than ever. Republican candidates John Zebrowski and Mike Colaci are stepping forward with a shared vision for the Borough. One centered on financial responsibility, public safety, and open communication with residents.

Here is a closer look at the candidates working to keep Sayreville a vibrant, safe, and inclusive place to live.

Meet the Candidates

John Zebrowski: 35 Year Public Safety Career & Community Boards Experience

John Zebrowski has spent nearly four decades serving the people of Sayreville through a career built on leadership, public safety, and community involvement. Starting as a patrol officer and rising through every level of the Sayreville Police Department, John served as Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and ultimately



Mike Colaci (l) and John Zebrowski Chief of Police from 2011-2022. As Chief, he led the department through complex public safety challenges while working directly with residents, community organizations, and other government agencies to keep Sayreville safe. His experience as a licensed attorney, Certified Public Manager, Emergency Management Director, and leader of professional law enforcement organizations gives him a unique understanding of the law, government operations, and the responsibility
continued on page 8

Celebrating USA 250



Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 proudly marched in to kick off South Amboy's Stars and Stripes Spectacular at the Ferry Terminal on June 27th. See more photos on page 14. (Photo by Phyllis Stratton)



Mayor Kennedy O'Brien (front) visited with Borough of Sayreville employees including Recreation Director Brian Van Dongen (2nd from left) at Sayreville's America 250 Celebration. See more photos on page 14 & 23.



On July 2nd Perth Amboy presented a drone show prior to their fireworks display. The drones lit up the sky in spectacular fashion. They were enjoyed in both Perth Amboy and from the South Amboy Ferry terminal. See more photos on page 12. (Photos Submitted)



The Tall Ships were spotted at Sandy Hook on their way to New York Harbor. On July 4, 2026, the international tall ships fleet sailed through New York Harbor for the Sail4th 250 celebration. The majestic vessels participated in a grand parade from the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, sailed up the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge. See more photos on page 9. (Photo by Ed English)

Next Issue August 29th - Deadlines August 17th

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FROM THE DESK OF
TOM REILLY

Those who attended South Amboy's Stars and Stripes Spectacular on June 27 experienced more than an outstanding community celebration. The event was a fitting exhibition of the continued transformation of our city's waterfront. Against the backdrop of Raritan Bay, the new South Amboy Ferry Terminal provided a beautiful setting as historical reenactors, live music, family activities, and a spectacular fireworks display brought residents and visitors together to celebrate our nation's independence.

The event also showcased what has quickly become one of the most significant public investments in our city's recent history. The launch of direct NY Waterway ferry service to Manhattan marks a historic milestone not only for South Amboy, but for the entire region. For the first time in years, our community enjoys another convenient transportation link to New York City while opening new opportunities for economic development, tourism, and recreation.

The ferry terminal itself is an impressive facility. Its 750-space paved parking lot, permanent galvanized steel pavilion, modern infrastructure, sanitary sewer pump station, and electrical conduits to support future electric vehicle charging stations demonstrate that this project was designed with both today's needs and tomorrow's growth in mind. Already, it has become the crown jewel of South Amboy's revitalized waterfront.

But the story does not end there. The next phase of the project will include construction of a two-story terminal building designed to reflect the architectural character of South Amboy's historic Camden and Amboy Railroad heritage. More than simply a place to purchase ferry tickets, the building is envisioned as a destination in its own right. Plans call for a high-end restaurant occupying the entire second floor, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows with breathtaking panoramic views of Raritan Bay and the New York City skyline.

Perhaps most importantly, the waterfront has been designed with more than commuters in mind. The city's master plan incorporates a 1.5-mile interconnected waterfront promenade that will seamlessly link the ferry terminal, downtown business district, train station, waterfront parks, and the shoreline. By reconnecting residents and visitors with the bay, this project strengthens South Amboy's identity as a true waterfront community while creating inviting public spaces where families can walk, exercise, gather, and simply enjoy the outdoors.

Both the waterfront and Broadway have already become vibrant community destinations. Raritan Bay Waterfront Park continues to attract large crowds



for beloved seasonal traditions, including the popular Music in the Park concert series. This summer, Broadway will see the return of Broadway Nights. These events have transformed the waterfront and our downtown into a gathering place where neighbors come together to enjoy live entertainment while supporting local businesses and restaurants. The city's master plan ensures that these two civic spaces will be connected into perpetuity.

Projects like the ferry terminal also demonstrate that thoughtful public investment can accomplish far more than its original purpose. Throughout American history, communities that invested in their infrastructure also invested in their future. From the canals that opened commerce in the nineteenth century, to the railroads that helped build communities like South Amboy, to the highways, bridges, and public works projects of the twentieth century, these investments connected people, expanded opportunity, and strengthened local economies. The South Amboy Ferry Terminal continues that proud tradition. While it provides an important new transportation option, it also serves as a catalyst for redevelopment, recreation, and renewed civic pride. It is an investment not only in how we travel today, but in the kind of community we hope to leave for future generations.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the new ferry terminal, I encourage you to do so. Take a walk along the waterfront, enjoy the spectacular views of Raritan Bay, attend one of the many community events, or simply spend an afternoon appreciating one of South Amboy's greatest natural assets. As additional phases of the project come to life, our waterfront will continue to evolve into a destination that residents can enjoy for generations to come.

South Amboy has always been defined by its connection to the water. Today, with the return of ferry service and the continued revitalization of our shoreline, we are writing the next chapter in that history -- one that honors our past while confidently investing in our future.

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

SOUTH AMBOY ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT FOR TRIMESTER 3
2025-2026

FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL: Michaela Acevedo, Melanie Acevedo-Mercado, Liam Downs, Ava Green, Shea Hortillas, Daniel Mulligan.
FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL: Logan DePasquale, Arabelle Doranzil, Cy Fenton, Kyle Flores, Zaria Galarza, Jaxon Henao, Zahki Lee, Malcolm Llanos, Kamila Lopez-Pena, Leah Lozano, Hamza Mohamed, Jeremias Montano, Sofia Morillo, James Mount, Vivienne Ortiz, Brandon Reed, Liam Rodriguez, Annalie Santana-Monegro, Aurora Stratton, and Tiffany Vargas-Molina.

FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL: Josef Alfonso, AnaSophia Bodkin, Julia Philistin, Mikaela Sundquist and Sophia Vargas Hernandez.
FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL: Jake Almazo-Delgado, Genesis Alvarado, Edgardo Avila-Paz, Abel Diaz, Maksym Hevko, Sara Kisiel, John Lawson, Ameena Lominy, Ricardo Macuado-Roman, Yaseen Mohamed, Allison Oliveira, Emily Paredes, Gianna Pierre, Emily Polanco, Joseph Rowley, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, Xavier Santos-Ferreira, Ryder Sepulveda, Nikko Sipsis, and Ryder Stratton.

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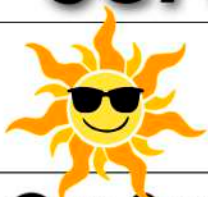
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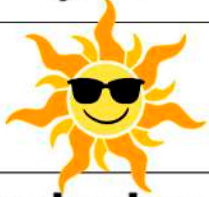
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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.In 1996, this business was located at 777 Washington Rd., Parlin?
a.Scoop It Up b.Cool It Ice Cream c.Ice Cream N Stuff

2.South Amboy's new Fire Chief, who was sworn in on July 1, 2002?
a.Michael Toris b.Mark Herdman c.Ed Szatkowski

3.Father Eugene Schellberg was Pastor of this Sayreville parish for 7 years?
a.St. Bernadette's b.St. Stanislaus Kostka c.Our Lady of Victories

4.South Amboy's unofficial "Historian" who passed away in '04?
a.Bill Marshall b.John Bridgeman c.Mary Alvaro

5.Sayreville War Memorial HS Valedictorian in 2004?
a.Danielle Vargas b.Hakeem Bolermo c.Jennifer Smith

6.Back in '04, where was Bake & More Confectionery shop located in South Amboy?
a.Bordentown Ave. b.South Broadway c.South Stevens Ave.

7.Who received the most votes in the Borough of Sayreville 2012 Republican Primary election?
a.Nick Perrette b.Larry Doyle c.Frank Bella

8.In '06 was selected South Amboy's new Democratic Organization Chairman?
a.John F. O'Connell b.Mickey Gross c.Robert Dato

9.President of St. Bernadette's Holy Name Society in 2012?
a.Tom O'Leary b.Jack Turbin c.Michael McNabb

10.South Amboy Fire Chief who was sworn in July 2008?
a.John Dragotta b.Larry Martin c.Paul Mundy

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

The
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TIMES

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South Amboy Captains Sworn In

(Photos submitted)

On July 15th, in a packed council chambers surrounded by family, friends, and fellow officers, Captain Holovacko and Captain Kelly were officially sworn in as Captains of the South Amboy Police Department.

Captain Holovacko will serve as the Administrative Captain, overseeing the Detective Bureau and civilian employees.

Captain Kelly will serve as the Patrol Captain, leading the Patrol Division and Traffic Safety Unit.

Congratulations to both Captains on this well deserved promotion. We wish them continued success as they lead our department into the future and continue their dedication to serving the residents of South Amboy.



(l-r) Captain Daniel Holovacko, Business Administrator David Kales, Chief Patricia Kanecke and Captain Michael Kelly.



Mayor Fred Henry swears in Captain Michael Kelly while his family looks on.



Mayor Fred Henry swears in Captain Daniel Holovacko while his family looks on.

National Night Out Tuesday, August 4

Mark your calendars for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, in the South Amboy High School parking lot! This free community event promises an evening of fun for the whole family, featuring music, food, games, and activities for all ages. National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for residents to come together, meet their neighbors, and strengthen the partnerships between our community and the dedicated men and women who serve and protect South Amboy. Come out and spend the evening with members of the South Amboy Police Department, Fire Department, and First Aid Squad. We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of community spirit, family fun, and hometown pride!

Bus Trip To Wind Creek Casino

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be running a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino on Saturday, November 7th in Bethlehem, PA. The cost is \$50.00 per person which includes \$25.00 in slot money and snacks on the bus. The bus will depart from the AOH building located at Second St. and North Stevens Ave., South Amboy, at 9:00am. The bus will depart Wind Creek at approximately 4:30pm. Must be 21 yrs old and proper ID is required. To reserve a seat, contact Claire, at 732-619-5630. Proceeds will benefit local charities.



Councilman John’s Monthly Minute

By the time you read this, our nation will have marked the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Independence Day and had the opportunity to reflect on the significance of this historic milestone. Here in Sayreville, our celebration included a public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Borough Hall, reminding us that the words adopted on July 4, 1776, continue to challenge and inspire us today. As our community also celebrates the Borough’s 150th anniversary, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on both our country’s history and our own.

Few documents have had the lasting influence of the Declaration of Independence. Among its best-known passages is the belief that all people are created equal and are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,” including “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Those words have inspired generations of Americans and continue to remind us that freedom is not something to be taken for granted. Those freedoms endure because each generation accepts the responsibility to protect them, strengthen them, and pass them on.

Sayreville’s history is closely connected to our nation’s story. The Borough was incorporated in 1876, exactly one hundred years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. While America celebrated its Centennial, Sayreville was beginning a new chapter of its own. It was a chapter built by hardworking families, local businesses, civic organizations, and residents who cared deeply about the future of their community.

Many residents remember the excitement surrounding America’s Bicentennial in 1976. Across the country, communities celebrated with patriotic events, parades, concerts, and neighborhood gatherings. Sayreville shared in that national spirit as residents proudly recognized both their country and their hometown. Although much has changed since then, the pride people feel in both their country and their hometown remains just as strong today.

The past fifty years have brought remarkable change. Advances in technology have transformed nearly every aspect of our daily lives, and our nation has become more connected and more diverse than anyone could have imagined during the Bicentennial.

Here at home, Sayreville has changed in many ways over the past fifty years. Our community has adapted to changing times while continuing to invest in its parks, public facilities, recreation programs, and neighborhoods. Through it all, what has remained constant is the willingness of residents to become involved, volunteer their time, and lend a hand whenever their community needs them.

Serving on the Borough Council



has reinforced something I have long believed: our best decisions are made when we take the time to listen. We will not always agree on every issue, nor should we expect to. Different viewpoints strengthen public discussion when they are shared respectfully. Listening carefully, considering different perspectives, and working collaboratively has always produced better outcomes than simply talking past one another.

The Declaration of Independence also reminds us that governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Those words remain just as meaningful today as they were in 1776. They remind us that democracy depends on participation. Whether someone volunteers with a local organization, coaches a youth team, serves on a Borough committee, attends a Council meeting, or simply takes the time to offer a thoughtful opinion, each contribution helps strengthen our community.

This anniversary year provides many opportunities to celebrate both milestones. Historical programs, patriotic observances, and community events throughout the year will recognize America’s 250th anniversary and Sayreville’s 150th anniversary. The community time capsule buried earlier this year is another reminder that while we honor our past, we also have a responsibility to preserve today’s story for future generations.

Every generation has the opportunity to shape Sayreville in its own way. The residents who came before us built the neighborhoods, schools, businesses, parks, and organizations that we enjoy today. It is now our responsibility to preserve what is important, improve what we can, and ensure that those who call Sayreville home fifty years from now will look back with the same sense of pride that many of us feel today.

As we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary and Sayreville’s 150th anniversary, I hope we continue to appreciate the history that brought us here while remaining engaged in the work that lies ahead. May we honor the sacrifices of those who came before us by preserving the values they entrusted to us and by leaving an even stronger Sayreville for those who will follow.

With gratitude and pride,
John Zebrowski
Sayreville Councilman

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70th Anniversary

Congratulations to Marge & Joe Donnelly who recently celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 30th. Moving to Parlin soon after they were married, they have worked, raised their family, & been active with St Bernadette’s parish for many years. The endurance & strength of their marriage leaves a lasting legacy to their family, friends, and neighbors.



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

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

Rumbles from the Rock n Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

September is just around the corner, that means Clem and Friends Band playtime, onstage at Sayreville’s annual “Blast from the Past” Car Show, and Sayreville Day, Sept. 26th and 27th in Kennedy Park! Speaking of, many thanks and kudos to the entire Sayreville Rec Dept. and Parks Dept. staffs for a really incredible 4th of July/America’s 250th Birthday Celebration, with an incredible fireworks show! Thank You for your efforts and hard work! October brings a “Halloween Dinner Dance” at Sayreville’s VFW Post 4699..Saturday October 24th, “Friends” will be onstage, along with a buffet, open bar, 6 to 1. More info to follow next month.... Contact Val Olszewski@732-266-8102 or Carmen Delikat @732-991-0615 for all info too! Sunday Oct. 25 takes us to the St. Stan’s Super end of season Halloween Car Show, from 11am to 3pm, food, music, hot rods, classics and fun! This being its 6th Annual Show, and an incredible success every year.. Many thanks to Tony and Brian Jackowski and their fantastic staff for putting this show together every year.. Hey, July is a busy month for special days... Wishing my Super Spouse, Kathy a very Happy Birthday on July 21st.. Not gonna mention any “ages”... but we’re at Our 44th Anniversary too!!

My Hero Cancer Survivor.. stay strong, need you here, Love you!! And Our Incredible daughter celebrates her Birthday on July 31st!! Happy Birthday Jess! We Love You! Wow.. July is my lucky month! Clem and Friends Vocalist/Guitarist and wife Sue celebrating their Anniversary on July 17th... AND of utter importance.. wishing a really Special 13th Birthday on July 17th, to the girl who gave “The Clem and Friends Band” a new dimension, by being Our 1st “Onstage Classic Rock Dancer,” Riley Wisniewski! What a hit you were for the crowd and fun for the band.. Thank You Riley.. hope you really enjoyed your special day.. You made the crowd’s and the bands day special everytime you danced onstage.. oh, yeah And you “choreographed dance moves” with the King Twins, Maddie and Miley, was a definite crowd pleaser!! Contagious fun! So, till the next issue keep humming those songs that make you Smile.. and “rock out”!!

Annual Hoffman HS Multi-Year Reunion

All alumni of Hoffman High are invited to join us at our multi-year reunion on Sunday, October 11th from 1-5pm! This nostalgic event will take place at the Enterprise Snorkel Fire Co. Station, located at 107 George St, So Amboy. Tickets are \$60 per person, and MUST be purchased in advance. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate walk-ins.

Tickets include a delicious buffet, as well as beer, wine, and sangria. Please send your check payable to Bill Croddick, 130 So. Stevens Ave, So Amboy. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sept 24th. Don’t miss out on the fun! Questions?, contact Helenmae Stader Bilder @ (hbilder1@gmail.com) or stop one of our other committee members, Edward Szatkowski, Grace Hoffman Spencer, Kathy Koerner O’Leary, or Roy Dragotta.



Al Gomolka (l) is pictured with last month’s happy winner of Gomolka’s Collectables Free Give Away contest, Joe Kabara of Sayreville. Congratulations, Joe! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

#1 Pop Hits On July 31

- 2021-Butter-BTS
- 2015-Cheerleader-OMI
- 2007-Hey There Delilah-Plain White T’s
- 1990-She Ain’t Worth It-Glenn Medeiros
- 1983-Every Breath You Take-The Police
- 1978-Shadow Dancing-Andy Gibb
- 1962-Roses Are Red-Bobby Vinton

#1 Country Hits On July 31

- 2020-I Hope-Gabby Barrett
- 2018-Meant To Be-Bebe Rexha
- 2002-The Good Stuff-Kenny Chesney
- 1998-This Kiss-Faith Hill
- 1985-40 Hour Week-Alabama
- 1974-Pure Love-Ronnie Milsap
- 1965-Before You Go-Buck Owens

One Hit Wonders 30 Years Ago

1996-That Thing You Do-The Wonders; Spaceman-Babylon Zoo; Renee-Lost Boyz; Nobody Knows-Tony Rich Project; Natural One-Folk Implosions; Little Britain-Dreadzone; In The Meantime-Spacehog; I Love You Always Forever-Donna Lewis; Flood-Jars of Clay; Counting Blue Cars-Dishwalla; Children-Robert Miles; The Chanukah Song-Adam Sandler; Breakfast At Tiffany’s-Deep Blue Something; Anything-3T; 5 O’Clock-Nonchalant.

South Amboy Summer Concert Series

- 7-31 Rebel Creek
- 8-7 Emily Grace Lucas Band
- 8-14 DNA
- 8-21 No Direction
- 8-28 Almost Average

6-8 pm at the Train Plaza on Broadway.

Remember When?



Juke boxes could be found almost anywhere in the country, at restaurants, diners, bars, pubs, clubs, etc. The machine would feature the top 45 rpm records of the day, and you could select the ones you wanted to hear for a small amount of change. Was it a dime for one song, or 3 songs for 25 cents?

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HALL RENTAL

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From the Officers and Members of Council #426"

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MUSIC TRIVIA Red, White & Blue

By Tom Burkard

1. Courtesy of the Red, White & Blue
2. Nights In White Satin
3. Song Sung Blue
4. Little Red Corvette
5. White Room
6. True Blue
7. Little Red Riding Hood
8. A Whiter Shade of Pale
9. Crystal Blue Persuasion
10. Red, Red Wine
11. White Wedding
12. Suite: Judy Blue Eyes
13. White Lightning
14. Blue Eyes
15. Blue Christmas

- a. Crosby, Stills & Nash
- b. Sam The Sham/The Pharaohs
- c. Madonna
- d. Procol Harum
- e. Elvis Presley
- f. Elton John
- g. Prince
- h. Cream
- i. Toby Keith
- j. Neil Diamond
- k. The Moody Blues
- l. Tommy James/The Shondells
- m. UB 40
- n. Billy Idol
- o. George Jones

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

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 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.

For August Give Away-----Free Beach Collectables!
“ It’s summer, so get ready for FREE Beach Collectables!
Lots of very hard to find sea glass, boxes of various shells, rocks & minerals, driftwood, 200 year-old shards of pottery, and other finds from my 70 years of beachcombing. Not only is it rare-it is valuable. This excellent collection can be yours to enjoy.
“It’s so easy to enter. Happy Summer”!
Al Gomolka

Enter to win these FREE goodies!

Last Month’s winner was: Joe Kabara

The winner must pick up the winning prize in person at a certain location in South Amboy or Sayreville. *The winner must be available to pick up the prize at a predetermined location and time, or the prize will be forfeited.
*No prizes will be mailed, and must be picked up in person.
Email your name to: satimes@aol.com
Put Gomolka’s Contest in the subject line
By August 8th
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.

The Smoke Column

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

(Part 2 of a two-part Article.) This fire was a hazardous materials incident producing dangerous smoke conditions to the first responders and the surrounding areas. As additional apparatus arrived on scene, a much-needed water supply was obtained. It was very difficult to apply water to the burning batteries as they were on the underside of vehicles and enclosed in casings with limited available openings. Unfortunately, to suppress Lithium-Ion battery fires, they need to have their temperature lowered to below 160 degrees. This fire suppression procedure can require thousands of gallons of water. The lack of readily available water complicates suppression efforts and requires the Incident Commander to quickly assess alternative strategies and resources. This limitation can hinder the ability to control and extinguish fires effectively, especially when dealing with intense blazes or hazardous materials. As a result, additional apparatus or water sources may need to be requested, which can delay response times and increase the severity of the incident. What would be the results if this type of incident occurred on one of our local bridges and the water run-off was flowing off the bridge and contaminating the waterways or the run-off coming down the bridge to where the responding apparatus were situated or into those storm drains at the base of the bridge or any gullies or collection basins? Emergencies can quickly grow and become far more serious. This article demonstrates how a minor problem, such as an overheated brake, developed into a significant hazardous materials incident. The various levels of ICS-200 courses teach our first responders to think ahead. When firefighters respond to any incident, it is essential to approach the situation with an initial plan—Plan A—in mind. However, real-world incidents often develop in unexpected ways, and relying solely on a single strategy is not sufficient. Therefore, responders must always be prepared to consider alternative actions, keeping Plan B ready, and even developing a Plan C if initial efforts are unsuccessful. This mindset ensures that firefighters can adapt quickly as conditions change, allowing them to effectively address evolving challenges and



maintain control over the incident. The Incident Commander should know which resources are needed immediately, within an hour, and in the hours ahead. Plan to rehabilitate the crews and how many additional first responders are needed to rotate the crews. Always plan for the worst-case scenario because what resources are not necessary can be returned. The Incident Command course (ICS-200) is now mandatory for all firefighters in the State of New Jersey. When volunteers respond to an incident there is the possibility that any firefighter may be responsible to assume the position as Incident Commander and therefore MUST be qualified. This article shows how incidents can quickly exceed the initial crew's control, requiring the Incident Commander to manage escalating situations. A junior grade line officer can often handle minor incidents but must have the necessary knowledge and training to recognize when a situation exceeds their control and promptly alert senior line officers to take command. Collaborating with a senior officer would be a great learning experience for a junior officer and maybe even allow him to make some decisions within his scope of authority. This is an excellent opportunity to get job training and experience in managing a situation and beneficial when moving up to a higher level of authority. The Incident Command courses are more intense at the ICS-300 and ICS-400 levels and provide much needed information for chief officers and for those in public leadership office who may also play a part in emergencies in the mayoral, chief executive officer, and chief financial officer as they will be involved in funding the first responders BEFORE any extended emergencies arise.



"Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 was proud to sponsor Kcen L. Ventura, a junior at South Amboy High School, to attend the New Jersey American Legion Boys State this past June. American Legion Boys State is a highly selective, week-long summer leadership program. It teaches high school juniors how to participate in a mock government. Students run fake cities, counties, and states. The program builds skills in civics, leadership, and public service. We were proud to have you represent us. Congratulations Kcen."

Commander Joseph Szaro

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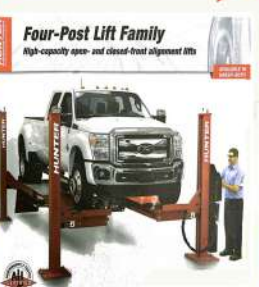
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SAFETY BY THE FACTORY'S DESIGN

Yearbook-Hoffman 1971

By Tom Burkard

Hoffman’s Class of ’71 returned to the John St. institution for its final year in September 1970, and probably “grooved” to the top songs of the day, “War” by Edwin Starr and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” by Diana Ross, as they cruised “The Pleasant Little City.” Eugene “Jimmy” Dobrzynski was the Superintendent of Schools, and several of the faculty included: William Ulbrich, Rich Kady, Carol Smarch, Sally Ahlsten, Febronia Grener. The yearbook was dedicated to Andrew Kriss. In ’71, “Jesus Christ Superstar” was huge on Broadway; “Look” magazine went out of business; George C. Scott won an Oscar for his role in “Patton,” but refused it; President Nixon devalued the dollar; militants bombed the U.S. Capitol in Washington over the prolonged Vietnam War. While at old Harold G: Donald Cross was senior class President, Mary Susan Switzer, V.P., and Judith Jonason, Sec. Mary Theresa Bobek and Susan Kijowski were co-editors of the yearbook. Karen Vona was editor of the school newspaper. Marianne Moroski was Student Council President. Susann Muller was President of the Future Teachers of America Club, and also the Library Council. Bobek was President of the National Honor Society. The graduating class of 70 was one of Hoffman’s largest in history at the time. Some of the terrific people, selected randomly from

the Class of ’71 include: Karl Buickerood, Deborah Cahill, Barbara Charmello, James Charmello, Dawn Dadan, Francis Dragotta, Linda Eppinger, Deborah Garsick, Maureen Helton, Karen Johnson, Frank Jonason, Christine Kozak, Alex Letts, John Mackiel, Deborah Mason, Nancy McCabe, Patrick McCarthy, Eileen O’Leary, William Parsons, Kenneth Peterson, James Ploskonka, Richard Scully, Linda Skrynka, Michael Tingle, Mary Ward. Sports was big in the “Land of Governors” in ’71. The basketball team under Coach Ray “Butch” Tomaszewski was one of the best in the school’s history, and the baseball club under coach John “Mr. Z” Zdanewicz, finished 13-5-1. Many seniors participated in sports, including: Ed Mancini, Dean Colucci, Ed Conlon, Don Gendlek, Tony Charmello, Raymond Smith, Charles Pawlowski, the late Carolyn McCarthy, Mary Ann Chonsky, Janet Shaluha, Karyn Nix, Benita Formoso, Alfred Clark, Michael Colucci, James Croddick, Peter Dobrzynski, Robert Huryk, Patrick Quinlan, Dan Paone, the late Joseph Vigilante, Roger White, John Wojciechowski, Tom Wortley, Dennis Yanoski. H.G. Hoffman High’s Class of ’71 was a truly fine group of most interesting and talented people, many who were really talented in sports, competed against, and defeated some of the finest schools around.

Dowdell Library News

Jump start your summer with Dowdell Library!

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

To celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary, look for many library events this year! The next program will take place on Thursday, November 19, “A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing”!

Visit the Dowdell Library at South Amboy’s National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The building will be open from 12:00 to 5:00 pm.

Get excited! For the Eyes of the Wild animal program this summer! Join Dowdell Library to meet some animal friends on Thursday, August 13 at 2:00pm!

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

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

Kids! Come and have some fun this summer every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. Do a fun craft, play some games, and join the Summer Reading program!

Join the Food Explorers on August 7 at 1:00pm. Registration is required! Call, email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 5-10

Young Artists! Compete in Dowdell’s Summer Art Contest! Create a work of art for each theme and enter to win a razor scooter! Ages 5 to 10. August’s theme: Summer! Submit your art by August 31 in person or email to comments@dowdell.org

Tweens and Teens! Don’t miss Drop in Club this summer! Bring a friend to make ice cream sundaes and do a STEM project every Monday at 2:00 pm. Stop by from 2:00 to 4:00 pm Fridays for Video Games.

Stop by to register for the August Test Kitchen to learn how to make different treats and snacks! Tweens, sign up for Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm (ages 10-12).

Teens, sign up for Tuesday, August 18 at 2:00 pm (ages 13+).

Adults! Join us this summer and enjoy viewing streaming movies, sampling new culinary delights at the Adult culinary programs, enjoying trivia nights, and making an object on the new four color 3D printer! Attend any program or check out library materials for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. For more information: dowdell.org

Gardeners! Enter our tomato growing contest on Thursday, August 27 at 1:00 pm. Grow the biggest or the heaviest tomato and win!

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, August 3 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, August 24 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing community@dowdell.org. Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long 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.

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

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

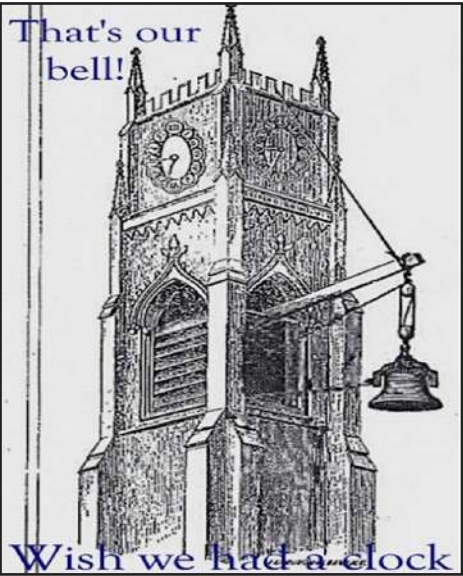
Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

Oh! Hells Bells, We Found an Error!

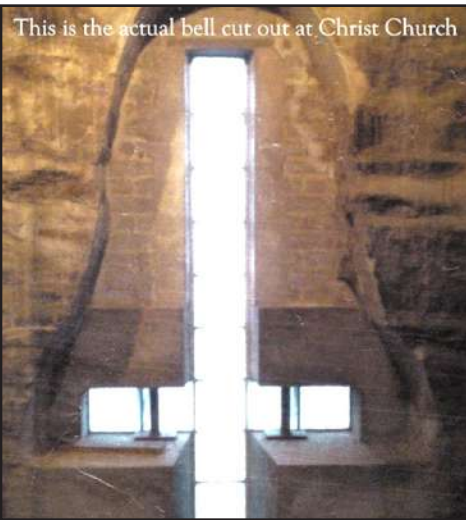
In the June 2026 issue a few photos were mistakenly cropped or omitted pertaining to the article about the bell at Christ Church. The article was titled “The Bell at Christ Church,” written by Kurt Kvist, who also supplied all of the photos.



Here’s the rubber bat in the steeple at Christ Church as mentioned in the article.



Typical bell installation during the 1800’s using Block and tackle.



The actual cut out in the Christ Church Steeple.

Sayreville Borough Council

continued from page 1

of serving the public. That combination of hands-on leadership, legal knowledge, and lifelong commitment to Sayreville provides him with the experience needed to make thoughtful decisions for the community.

Mike Colaci: Financial and Operational Expertise & Hands-On Community Service

Mike Colaci has spent nearly two decades building a career in finance, operations, and business leadership, where he earned a reputation for solving complex problems, managing budgets, and leading organizations through critical challenges. From serving as vice president in finance to leadership roles in logistics and pharmaceutical operations, Mike has been responsible for strategic planning, financial oversight, business continuity, and operational efficiency. His experience serving on multiple borough advisory boards before being elected to the Borough Council has given him firsthand knowledge of how local government works and how to turn practical ideas into results. That combination of private-sector leadership and public service gives Mike the experience, judgement, and common-sense approach needed to make responsible decisions for the people of Sayreville.

John and Mike believe that real progress comes from working together. Alongside their fellow council members, borough professionals, and community partners, they have helped move forward the long-awaited transformation of Bailey Park, creating a modern, inclusive space where children of all abilities can play and families can gather for years to come. They also led the effort to place a referendum before voters to increase LOSAP benefits for Sayreville’s volunteer firefighters and first responders. This will help retain experienced volunteers and attract

the next generation of those who serve our community. In addition, they worked with borough officials to secure funding for new lighting at the Little League fields, improving both safety and the experience for the hundreds of children and families that use the park each season.

John and Mike believe that good governance starts with listening. They want to hear your thoughts, answer your questions, and engage in honest, open dialogue about the future of Sayreville. The candidates recently hosted two community conversations. One at the River Road gazebo and the second at a resident’s backyard, where a total of 50 residents gathered to discuss critical local issues. This open-floor discussion covered the topics that matter most to our neighborhoods, including the impact of data centers, local traffic management, the structure of municipal PILOT agreements, Main Street and the future development of properties throughout the Borough.

Join the Next Community Conversation

If you missed the gatherings, John and Mike invite you to their next neighborhood meet and greet. Come out, ask questions, share your concerns and get to know them, along with fellow Councilman Stash Synarski, in a casual, welcoming setting.

Our Tour of the Town will continue with the second Gabbing at the Gazebo on River Road on August 18, a Deckside Dialogue on September 15 at 9 Burlington Rd., and a Morgan Meet-up on September 21 at 99 Liberty Street in Morgan. All three events will start at 6 pm. John and Mike are listening and want to hear from you.

If you’d like to host a session, please reach out to info@sayrevillegop.org. Feel free to visit our website as well SayrevilleGOP.org.

We would love
to hear from
you!



or



or

Guestbook



SA City Council continued from page 1

Amboy community for 16 years as a member of the City Council, working to improve city services, strengthen infrastructure, and support initiatives that enhance residents' quality of life. Professionally, he has dedicated more than four decades to Middlesex County's Environmental Division, overseeing environmental programs and helping protect natural resources throughout the county.

Judith Raskoshin is a mother of 3 young children and has a career as a special education teacher with more than 13 years of classroom experience. Judith has been serving on the Board of Education since 2022 and is the current Board President. Her work in the community is focused on supporting students, strengthening partnerships between schools and families, and ensuring educational opportunities are available for all students in South Amboy. Judith, her husband Stan, a State Trooper, and their children are active members of the community and regular participants in local events and activities.

"Throughout this campaign we have been listening to the residents and sharing our ideas for maintaining South Amboy as a great place to live, and raise a family," said Raskoshin. "We are committed to keeping South Amboy a safe community, making the

investments needed in our neighborhoods, and steadily improving the quality of life in our "Pleasant Little City."

Gross and Raskoshin believe South Amboy's greatest strength is its people and the pride we all have in our city. Therefore, meaningful collaboration among residents, community organizations, city government, and local businesses, is essential to protecting the strong sense of community we all value so dearly.

"Public service is about showing up, listening to people, and getting things done," Gross said. "We've built a strong foundation, and we're going to keep delivering for South Amboy every step of the way."

Raskoshin echoed that sentiment, adding, "We are proud to serve this community and will continue working hard to earn our neighbors' trust through practical leadership and real results."

Team South Amboy is committed to strengthening the community through stable taxes, value for every taxpayer dollar spent, making smart targeted investments in community services, amenities, and infrastructure. By fostering strong partnerships with residents, community organizations and local stakeholders, the team will uphold South Amboy's core values of family, service and community!

Policemen Save Child's Life

South Amboy Police Department
Chief Patricia Kanecke



Ptl. Ryan Shereyka (l) and Ptl. Max Garcia (r) (Photo Submitted)

"On Friday June 12th at approximately 1126 hours Patrolmen Garcia and Shereyka were dispatched to North Stevens Avenue for a report of a child choking.

Upon arrival, Patrolman Garcia responded to the residence, where he was met at the front door by the child's father holding a two year old child who was in visible distress and actively choking. Recognizing the severity of the emergency and understanding that immediate intervention was critical, Patrolman Garcia quickly took custody of the child and began administering life saving back blows, as the child was still breathing but experiencing severe respiratory distress.

For over two minutes Patrolman Garcia continuously administered life saving back blows while remaining calm under extreme pressure. During this time, he also provided reassurance and remained in communication with the child's parents as they witnessed the life-threatening emergency involving their child.

Upon the arrival of Patrolman Shereyka, he immediately assisted Patrolman Garcia

in his life saving efforts. While assisting, Patrolman Shereyka was able to observe the airway obstruction at the moment it was successfully dislodged, confirming the removal of the object and the restoration of the child's airway.

Following the successful removal of the obstruction, the child immediately began breathing normally and regained the ability to speak.

Due to their immediate response, decisive actions, teamwork, and effective application of lifesaving techniques in a highly stressful and rapidly evolving emergency situation, Patrolman Garcia and Patrolman Shereyka were directly responsible for saving the life of a 2 year old child.

Their actions demonstrated exceptional composure, sound judgement, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the preservation of human life. The actions of both officers reflect great credit upon themselves and the South Amboy Police Department and exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement service."

Knights of Columbus Council #426
Officers Selected

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus have selected their slate of officers for the 2026-27 Columbian year. (Grand Knight) Ed Vassallo, (Deputy Grand Knight) Bob O'Connor, (Chancellor) Steve Szabo, (Recorder) Bruce Grankowski, (Financial Secretary) Jack Mieczkowski, (Treasurer) Ken Smetana, (Advocate) Ray Sucheicki,

(Warden) Brian Bolla, (Inside Guard) Ramon Sieira, (Outside Guards) Kevin Magliaro & Gary Mangiaracina, (1 year trustee) Tom D'Amico, (2 year Trustee) Jan Williams, (Three year Trustee) Jim Hoehman, (Chaplin) Father Stanley Gromadzki, (Lecturer) Deacon Rich O'Brien. Congratulations to all the new officers. (Info Submitted)

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

Save the Date

Stars & Stripes 250 TRIBUTE

Live Music by Dennis Dell, the "Voice of Nostalgia"

Join us for a memorable afternoon of live music and light fare as we cruise for a cause along the Hudson River, sailing past the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Governors Island, One World Trade Center, and the iconic Brooklyn Bridge.

Saturday, September 26, 2026

General Admission \$75 | Veterans \$50 - Advance Ticket Purchase Required

Tickets available online at Zeffy or by contacting post62americanlegion@gmail.com

Cash Bar

Boarding: 1:30 PM | Departs: 2:00 PM | Returns: 5:00 PM
South Amboy Ferry Terminal 100 Radford Ferry Road

Proudly sponsored by Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, with all proceeds advancing the construction of the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy.

Building Homes, Community & Tradition

Permit #155834

Tall Ships Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary (Photos by Ed English)

SUDS 4 SOLDIERS

End of Summer Bash

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 | 5-9pm

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\$20 Entrance Fee at the Door

Includes domestic house beers, wine & wings

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Kalvin Manion Receives Eagle Scout Award



Right: **Kalvin Manion**

Below: On Sunday July 12th the rank of Eagle Scout was conferred to Calvin Manion at a Court of Honor ceremony held at South Amboy's Troop 91 Camp Dill campground. Calvin's project was revitalizing the community garden on David Street. South Amboy Councilman Anthony Conrad (r) is pictured presenting a Proclamation from the City of South Amboy to Calvin. At the ceremony Brian Dowling, who passed away days before the Court of Honor, was remembered for his service and contributions to Troop 91 and Camp Dill.



South Amboy Elks had the distinct pleasure of being present for the Eagle Scout Award Ceremony for Calvin Manion from Troop 91, South Amboy. Exalted Ruler Dawn Roberts along with Valentine Tarr presented Calvin with a framed American Flag displaying a certificate of his achievement to Eagle Scout. The Youth Activities Committee within the Elks strive to be present in the community supporting youth leadership and community service. For more information about the South Amboy Elks and our programs, contact us at 732-727-7170. Pictured (l-r) Exalted Ruler Dawn Roberts, Calvin Manion, Kevin Manion and Valentine Tarr. (Photos/Info Submitted)



Speaker Coughlin and the NJ Department of Treasury recently at the South Amboy Senior Center to assist seniors across the City sign up for the State's various property tax relief programs.(Photo Submitted)

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.

Troop 91 Community Garden.



Troop 91 proudly posed by the Community Garden (Photos Submitted)

Local Wildlife (Photos by Tom Burkard)



Does anyone know what kind of duck this is? The long neck looks like a Runner Duck, and it runs very fast, and only flies a short distance, but duck hunters say it's a female Mallard. What's your guess?



Pretty Butterflies are back this time of year, and so are...



SNAKES!!! They love the hot weather.



Egrets always add a special beauty to parks and other water bodies.



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(All Types)



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\$9.99

LA CREMA
SAUVIGNON BLANK



750ML
\$8.99

MARK WEST
PINOT NOIR



750ML
\$11.71

INVIVO SJP
ROSE'

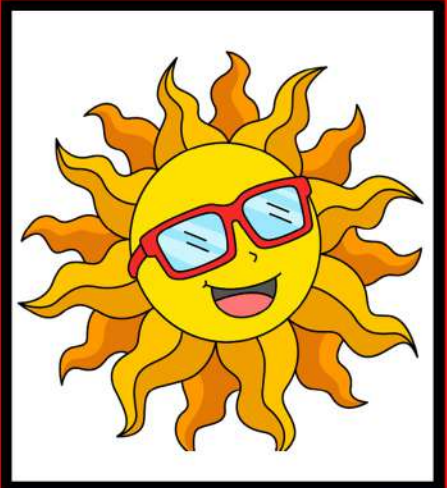


750ML
\$7.99

LINE 39
WINE
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As a lasting tribute, the Historical Society of South Amboy proudly memorializes all 47 of South Amboy's known Revolutionary War Patriots with commemorative street pole banners lining Broadway, ensuring their service and sacrifice are remembered for generations to come. These Patriots became the first Veterans of the United States of America. (Photo by Phyllis Stratton)



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Sophia Hernandez sang the National Anthem.



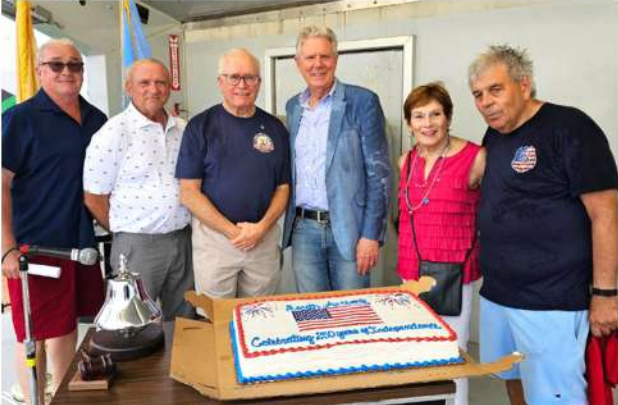
(Photos by Brian & Phyllis Stratton and Tom Burkard)



Father Stanley Gromadzki said the opening prayer.



Mary Szaro introduced the actors that presented the Morgan Family Legacy see more photos and info on page 23.



(l-r) Councilman Larry Lenahan, Councilman Tom Reilly, Mayor Fred Henry, Congressman Frank Pallone, Councilwoman Zusette Dato and Council President Mickey Gross pose with the birthday cake prepared for the nation's 250th birthday,



Teddy Lenahan was one of the many performers during the recreation of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Mayor Fred Henry (l) and Council President Mickey Gross.



South Amboy Poice Chief Patricia Kanecke (c) with Captains Daniel Holovacko (l) and Michael Kelly (r).



A very talented group!



Local artist Jenny Ma working on the beautiful painting she did during the celebration.



A little rain could not dampen the spirit at the celebration.



Alec Knapik performed a great version of "The Times, They Are A Changing."



Councilman Tom Reilly and Dowdell Library Director Elaine Gaber with the great staff from the Library.



Beautiful shirts were available to commemorate this special occasion.

110 Years Ago

The Terror in Matawan Creek

The summer of 1916 was one of the hottest New Jersey had ever seen. Families escaped the sweltering cities by flocking to the Jersey Shore, hoping to cool off in the ocean and nearby rivers. No one imagined that the greatest danger would come from beneath the water.

After two deadly shark attacks along the coast, most people believed the threat was confined to the ocean. Then, on July 12, the impossible happened.

More than 10 miles inland, in the quiet town of Matawan, a group of boys gathered at Matawan Creek for a swim. The water was warm, calm, and familiar. Eleven-year-old Lester Stillwell laughed with his friends as they splashed near Wyckoff Dock.

Suddenly, a dark shape glided beneath the surface.

Before anyone could react, a shark exploded from the murky water and grabbed Lester, pulling him under. His terrified friends ran through the streets shouting that a shark was in the creek. Many adults refused to believe them. A shark in Matawan Creek seemed impossible.

Local businessman Stanley Fisher volunteered to help search for Lester. As he entered the creek and reached toward the water, the shark attacked again, biting him so severely that he later died from his injuries. Just a short time later, another boy, Joseph Dunn, was attacked nearby but survived after a fierce struggle.

News of the Matawan attacks spread across the nation. Fear gripped New Jersey. Beaches emptied, fishermen hunted sharks, and towns stretched nets across swimming areas. Even President Woodrow Wilson discussed the attacks with his Cabinet as the public demanded action. Scientists still debate whether a great white shark, a bull shark, or more than one shark was responsible, but the terror those attacks created was undeniable.

More than a century later, the 1916 Matawan shark attacks remain one of the most chilling chapters in New Jersey history. They inspired books, documentaries, and even helped influence Peter Benchley's novel Jaws. Today, visitors can still stand beside Matawan Creek and imagine the shocking events that turned a peaceful summer afternoon into one of America's most famous shark stories.

Happy Summer



Cindy and Gary Poland of South Amboy are pictured as Summer is officially here!..The Poland Garage Lounge is open! (Photo/caption submitted by Recreation Director of the Poland Garage Lounge Clem Skarzynski)

CCD Registration

Registration is open for Sacred Heart CCD Faith Formation classes. Many parents ask, "Why attend Faith Formation every Monday night for an hour and a half? Why not do it all in one week during the summer or complete the lessons online?"

While summer programs and online resources can be helpful, they cannot replace

the many benefits of gathering together each week. Faith Formation is about much more than completing a curriculum. .By gathering together each week, they build friendships, deepen their faith, and develop habits that can last a lifetime. If interested, please call Paula @ 732-721-0040 or email @ prep@sacredheartsa.org

Fancy

By Al Gomolka
c.2005

Is it where I'm at right now
That this very moment allows
To find some rhymes for
answers perhaps
Or to concede myself
some z's in naps
What happens to these
drift off minutes
When thoughts are
permitted to become cynics
Or teachers or students
or dreams
Whatever these spaced
out moments mean
It seems to do my soul good
And puts me in a
pensive mood
So that when I return to
awareness
There permeates a fairness
Sporadic daydreams
come and go
For purpose no one
seems to know.

26th Annual
Car Show

Sunday, August 2, 2026

10:00am to 4:00pm

Rain date: Sunday, August 9, 2026



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at

140 North Broadway, South Amboy, NJ

Admission is **FREE** for the General Public



Vehicle Registration and Lineup on Broadway by the Firehouse

Advanced Entry Fee \$10 per Vehicle / Day of Show Entry \$20
Pre-Registration Deadline: July 31, 2026

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50 / 50

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Prizes &
Giveaways

🎵 Music By Jukebox Jimmy and Rockin Ronster 🎵

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Mayor's Trophy
Specialty Trophies
People's Choice Trophy

\$2.00 Domestic Draft Pints @ RTB Lounge for All Registered Participants (over 21 years old) with wrist band

For more information contact:
*(also mail registrations to)
Call Mike at: (908) 930-3497

Mike Toth
14 Haven Terrace
Parlin, NJ 08859

Wanted: Car vendors only!
Early entry fee \$20.00
Day of show fee \$25.00



Free entry for spectators

Fun for the Whole Family



****Checks should be made payable to: Independence E&H Co #1****

Name:	Age (if under 21):		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Vehicle Make:	Model:	Year:	Plate:
Signature:			

Upon signing this form I release the City of South Amboy from any responsibility for injury, accidents, damages, or stolen property, that may or could occur to myself or my vehicle(s) while at the event. I will be responsible for any and all persons entering the event with me. I will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Independence Engine & Hose Co #1. while participating at said event.

Thank You, Frances

By Philip

In the short time I knew you,
I came to love you.
Your beautiful smile and warm
embrace
Told me that you loved me too.
We were sweethearts
and I was happy,
You gave me a reason to carry on.
You brought me back to life again,
When I thought
all hope was gone.
Rest easy, Frances,
and pray for me,
That we'll see each other once more.
We'll laugh and sing and play
Rumay again
When God opens Heaven's door.

Believe

By Robert W. Eginton

If you believe in God,
And continue to pray
Sometimes he'll send
A miracle to you.
I know this advice
To be very true
I believed...I prayed...
And he sent me you.

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this mystery person? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by August 17th.



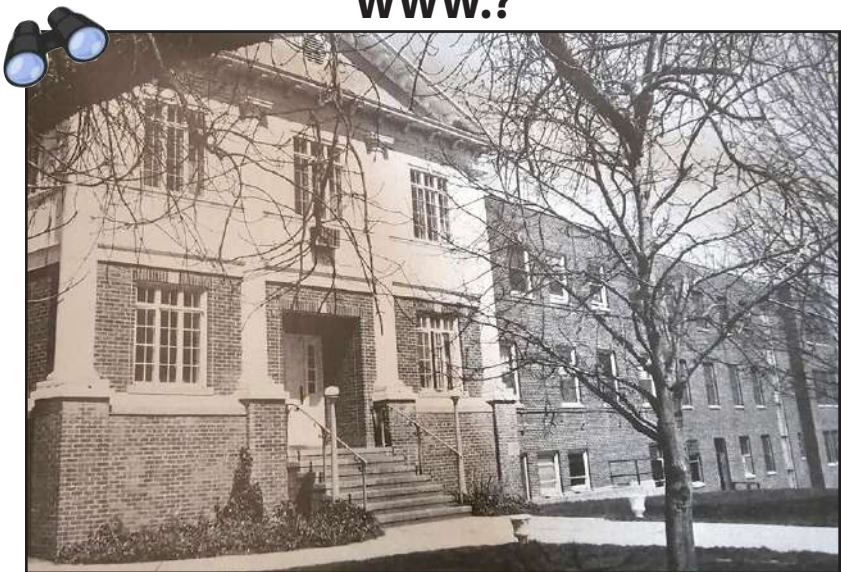
Johnny Bench of the Cincinnati Reds



Last month’s mystery person was the Cincinnati Reds catcher Johnny Bench. Some of his stats over his career were: BA .267, HR 389, RBI 1,376, OPS. 817. He was a two time World Series champion in 1975 and 1978 he was named the series MVP in 1976. Bench was inducted into the MLB HOF in 1989.

The following are baseball fans because they got it right: John Giaquinto, Dennis Quinlan, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Pete McIntyre, Vincent Rizzo, Edna Pilch, JoAnn & John French, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Ed English, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Chris Pelletier, Walter Starzec Jr, Dane Colburn, Betty Leveille.

WWW.?



Can you identify this building? Hint, it may look a little different today! Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by August 17th.

WWW.? Winners

WWW.? Morgan Bridge. How many of you were stuck on one side or the other when it opens on the hour! June Winners: Adele O’Hara, Dennis Quinlan, Paul Conlon, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Pete McIntyre, Martin & Lorrie Lorentz, Mary Hahn, Steve Kieselowsky, Sonia Iglesias, Edna Pilch, Debbie O’Connor, Dee Ujobagy,

JoAnn & John French, Mary Agnes Morris, Stephen Laskiewicz, Edna English, Marybeth Chodkiewicz, Ray Andrejewski, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Chris Pelletier, Walter Starzec Jr, Anne Szatkowski, Ann Surina, Dane Colburn, Barb Bockus, Lisa Grankowski, Betty Leveille.



Morgan Bridge (Rt 35)
Spans the Cheesequake Creek between the Morgan section of Sayreville and Laurence Harbor



LETTERS



Dear Staff,

While I really enjoy each edition, the June 2026 edition was beyond excellent in covering all the history, events, and upcoming happenings in the area. Keep up the great work!

In regard to the photo of the nuns, I had already graduated, but many were there when I attended. I believe they are (starting at bottom left and coming around and up the entrance ramp): Sr. Rosemary Malauge, Sr. Celeste McCoen, Sr. Marlene Fritz (German teacher, distant cousin), Sr. Rose Burghardt, Sr. Marianne McMahon (nice Principal), Sr. Borromeo Butchko, Sr. Agnes Kelly (Librarian), Sr. Theresa McNichols (Vice Principal and Honors Math teacher), Sr. Marianne Chorba, Sr. Carol Jaruszewski. Sr. Donna Campbell, Sr. Robertine Bulman, Sr. Helen O’Donnell, Sr. Mary Cosgrove, Sr. Nathaniel Kurtz, & ?

Sincerely,
Deborah C. Marion



WWW.? Letter

Hi Tom and Brian,

Pictured in the June 27 issue is the Rt 35 bridge over Cheesequake Creek, sometimes called Morgan Creek.

Back in the day, late 50’s, I jumped from the ladder under this bridge. When my Dad bought a boat, I motored happily below it, no wake of course.

As a child, I loved being driven over this bridge because of the buzz from the tires as we drove over the grate.

Thank you, South Amboy/Sayreville Times for the wonderful memories.

Ray Andrejewski
Formerly of Morgan, NJ

Sayreville Library News

Mindful Yoga

Tuesdays in August @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

How to organize a profitable yard sale with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

Tuesday, 8/4 @6:30PM

Do you stuff in a box labeled “sell” but you never host a sale? Log on and learn how to organize a successful sale. From what to sell, how to price it, and what to do with leftovers, join author and organizer Jamie Novak for all the insider secrets. 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.

Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)

8/11 & 8/18 @6PM

Join Barbara Brown, an expert in stress reduction meditations, for this virtual meditation session. Ease your mind and relax with some deep relaxed breathing and focused meditation. 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.

Mexican Dishes with Vanessa (Virtual) Wednesday, 8/12 @3PM

Who doesn't love a good fiesta? Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish, and learn to make bright and beautiful Mexican-inspired meals. We will explore how to create healthy and fresh tacos, salsas, guacamole, and a refreshing non-alcoholic agua fresca to sip. 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 8/18 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: The Devil Wears Prada-Starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway. Rated PG-13 1 hr 49 Mins. Refreshments will be provided. 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.*

Adult Summer Reading Finale Party Wednesday 8/19 @5:30PM

Join us for an evening of fun as we announce the winners of our Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo contest. Prepare to be amazed as Mark Zacharia performs his "In a Class by Himself" Mind Reading show. You will believe in Magic. Refreshments will be provided. 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.*

Bird Watchin’



This Gold Finch (The State Bird of New Jersey) was spotted enjoying a snack on recently bloomed Heather. (Photo by Phyllis Stratton)

Inspired by a True Leader: A Tribute to Former Police Chief Darren LaVigne

By Surjit Singh

Sometimes in life, you meet someone whose life and career completely inspire you to sit down and write. For me, that person is former Police Chief Darren LaVigne, a spectacular leader, a true professional, a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy Session 287, and a great friend.

What makes Chief LaVigne so special is his incredible ability to connect with people. He is an outstanding speaker who can stand before a crowd and deliver a powerful message loudly and clearly without a single note in his hand. He speaks straight from the heart, and when he talks, everyone listens.

Leadership in the Face of Crisis

We saw the true strength of his leadership during some of our community's most challenging historical moments. When Superstorm Sandy hit and left chaos in its wake, Chief LaVigne handled the crisis with immense grace and unwavering professionalism.

Years later, during the height of the pandemic, he made a massive impact yet again. He worked tirelessly to keep everyone safe during the absolute worst of COVID-19, managing the public health crisis with a steady hand and a clear mind.

When the country faced deep social unrest during the peak of the Black Lives Matter movement, his exceptional communication skills kept our community safe and united. Because of his clear, strong direction and his constant communication with both his department and local authorities, our town suffered absolutely no damage. We were all incredibly grateful for his guidance.

A Heart for the Community

Beyond the high stakes crises, Chief LaVigne's leadership has always been defined by quiet acts of kindness and a genuine concern for the people he protected.

I have personally witnessed the depth of his character on multiple occasions. On one unforgettable day, I watched Chief LaVigne take his own personal vehicle and donate it to a less fortunate young man. The young man was determined to go to school but had no means of transportation. Chief LaVigne didn't just hand over the keys; from pure kindness, he stayed involved and mentored the young man to ensure he successfully finished his education.

His compassion extended to the most



Retired Police Chief Darren LaVigne

vulnerable among us. I have frequently seen him dedicating his time to helping and uplifting children with special needs, ensuring they felt seen, supported, and valued by local law enforcement. I also observed him taking the time to hand out free bicycle helmets to local children. He didn't do it for publicity; he did it because he was deeply concerned about their safety. That is the mark of a leader who cares about his community from the ground up.

A Legacy of Dedication

Throughout his career, Chief LaVigne inspired everyone around him to work harder and reach higher. He brought that same drive to his professional development, proudly representing our town when he attended and graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy Session 287 a testament to his elite standing in law enforcement.

He is a man of true honor and deep respect, someone who consistently went above and beyond the call of duty. There are simply too many acts of kindness and goodness he did for our community to count.

I am profoundly grateful to call him my friend. Thank you, Chief Darren LaVigne, for always being on the line for all of us. Your legacy of dedication is something this community will never forget.

Sayreville Cultural Events

Kennedy Park has been Rockin' with the events the Sayreville Cultural Arts has been presenting this summer. (Photos/captions submitted)



The Sayreville Cultural Arts (l-r) Brianne Rodgers, Michele Babbino, Greg Cuneo, Billy Bossa, Debbie Gordon, Sharon Rodas, Chris Cuneo, Jessica Vant, Nancy Sedlak (not pictured).



Michael Jackson Tribute



Never Say Goodbye, Bon Jovi Tribute

SAYREVILLE CULTURAL ARTS

tunes and movies

Kennedy Park

7/30 THURSDAY	BIG BANG BABY - #1 Shore Band
8/6 THURSDAY	Sayreville's Own - 4 bands!!
8/8 SATURDAY	Happy Birthday Sayreville ★ 150th ★ Captain America Screening
8/13 THURSDAY	ELVIS TRIBUTE BAND - Richie Santa
8/27 THURSDAY	BUCKSHOT - Nashville Country Band

★ 7-9 PM ★

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SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS.

★ ONE COACH. FIVE DECADES. A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON. ★
♥ Thank you, Coach Tony G! ♥

Mexican Martyr Relics



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 in collaboration with Sacred Heart Church hosted the "Mexican Martyr Relics" that were on loan for one night on July 17th. Mass was celebrated for the 6 Martyrs that were persecuted for their Christian beliefs in the early 1900s. Mass was celebrated in both English and Spanish languages. The Relics were held and guarded by members of the Knights. Pictured above (l-r) Bruce Grankowski, Ken Smetana, Jack Mieczkowski, Jim Hoehman. (Photo/ Info Submitted)

Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I import you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer will require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. -A.R.S.P.

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

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Happy 250th Birthday America! Our home, sweet home! God Bless the USA! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

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

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 -B.S.,P.S..

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

America 250 Celebration At Kennedy Park In Sayreville

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Recreation Director Brian Van Dongen and members of his staff. Great event, Brian and staff, and thank you!



Frank Terzino Sr., the Past President of the Sayreville Historical Society.



Former Sayreville Councilman and U.S. military veteran Ray Skarzynski had a great time at the big event.



Food vendors were kept very busy throughout the celebration.



This youngster looks ready to help the Sayreville Recreation & Parks Dept. at the celebration.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Youth League Archives



1969-The Knights of Columbus Little Fellas League team in South Amboy, had some very talented future players on its roster. Pictured top row (l-r) Vincent DeFillipo, Jerry McAndrew, Kevin O’Brien, Mike DeJoy, John Miller, John Connors, Bob Stratton, Frank Cheeseman, Tim Connor. Bottom row (l-r) Ed Foley, Mark DeFillipo, Bob Bulman, Bill Croddick, ?, Tom Rogers, Mike Connor, ?

T.H.E. Game

Year:2011

Sport: Baseball

Teams: South Amboy vs. New Brunswick

Recap: The Governors blasted the Zebras of New Brunswick, 11-1, behind the fine pitching of Dustin DeVoe, who struck out 8 batters in the 5-inning contest. Kevin Riley drove in 2 runs, while Alex Olivares added 2 hits and an RBI.

Player of the Game: Dustin DeVoe, South Amboy.

45 Years Ago

1981-South Amboy Youth Leagues Draft South Amboy Babe Ruth League

The following is a list of teams and players who were selected back in ‘81 as draft picks:

Boat Club-Mike Lopez, Tom Hessner, Mark Kelly, Frank Bizien, Joe Chrzaszcz, Jay Kennedy; Mechanicsville-Tom Skarzynski, Paul Kenny, Bernie Warnowicz, George Francy, Tom Kenny, Brian McCabe, Greg McCabe; Independence-Matt Blaha, John Clayton, Steve Martin, Brian Brinamen; Komars-Bob Ruskuski, Jim McCabe, Robert Pacansky, Brian Bajkowski; First National Bank-Dave Gumprecht, Martin Hudak, Frank Liposky, Raymond Rakoski, Pat Leonard, Tom Krygier.

South Amboy Little Fellas League

English Association-Thomas Toth, Tom Moran, Andrew Christie, Brian Caputo; Progressive-Christopher Yaniak, Peter Pawlik, Jeffrey Bleicki, Marcos Bodon; Rotary-Christopher Marrone; Lions-Thomas Kross; Modern Transportation-Louis Malanowski; Daylight Bakery-Andrew Bandola, Peter DeLucia, Anthony Pappa, Gordon Crowell, Chad Nagy; Protection-Donald Szatkowski, Scott Kennedy, Craig Olah; Enterprise-Gary Coble; K of C-Craig Halpin, Tracey Chodkiewicz, Patrick Tierney, Jade Lacko; First Aid-J.D. Roberts, Colin Olsen, David Lobyecz, Robert Reilly.

South Amboy Girls Softball League

Indians-Cathy Vinsko, Jamie Kane, Jennifer Pluskota, Dottie Ann Butth; Jets-Cindy Brown, Cheryl Cymanski, Lee Ann Durski; Royals-Mary Claire Brinamen, Pam Smith, Patricia Smith, Anne Marie Krygier; Pirates-Kim Quirk, Mary Ann Wherle, Sandra Wence, Lori Hummell, Dawn Falk, Catherine Savin, Terry Corlatt; Dodgers-Brenda Lee Norman, Chris Kwiatek, Vicki Gonzalez, Lisa Quimby; Giants-Kim Schuck, Sharon Charlton; Orioles-Kristine Kuziemski, Jennifer Kuziemski, Dawn Mocarski, Julie Carroll, Taryn Zulin; A’s-Cathy Shea; Angels-Kelly Jensen; Yanks-Deborah Rosado, Debbie Burlew, Colleen McQuade, Regina Green, Susan Kuhn, Sandy McGowan, Alicia Wahler, Lelli Fessler; Mets-Maureen Martin, Chris Lucovitz, Tammy O’Grady, Roseanne Spitaleto, Nadine Puccio; Rangers-Hope Van Wagenen.

Prayer to St. Jude

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

10 Years Ago

Soporowski Fires No-Hitter

2016-Sayreville’s ace lefty Pete Soporowski twirled a masterful no-hitter in the opening round of the GMCT, as the Bombers jolted JFK, 6-0. He struck out 11, walked 2, and also hit an RBI single. Joe Polomene and Kyle Richards each added 2 RBI.

15 Years Ago

2011-South Amboy girls softball contingent outslugged Perth Amboy Tech, 22-15. Victoria LaVigne led the way with 4 hits and 5 RBI. Brittany Larkin drilled 4 hits and knocked in 3, while Melissa McCleery and Carissa Policastro had 2 hits apiece.

20 Years Ago

2006-Amy Pacansky led Cardinal McCarrick girls softball squad to an 8-3 major upset over crosstown rival South Amboy. She blasted a 2-run double in the 4th inning to break a 3-3 tie, and finished with 2 hits and 3 runs scored. Danielle Lussier had a hit and drove in 3, Lauren Puk added 2 hits and an RBI. Jessica Hartland fired a 7-hitter, and struck out 4 for the huge win. Sarah O’Connor belted 2 singles and a double for the Lady Guvs.

25 Years Ago

2001-The girls softball team of Sayreville blasted Metuchen, 9-1 in the opening round of the GMCT. Winning pitcher Kristen Karbowski fired a 2-hitter and struck out 8. Justine Robe unloaded a solo homer...

Diamond Dust

1964 South Amboy AAABA Baseball Team

South Amboy 7 North Brunswick 2-Art O’Donnell went a perfect 4-for-4 with 2 doubles to support Harry Borik, who struck out 8 and notched the win.

South Amboy 7 South River 3-Billy Clayton was 4-for 4 with 2 two baggers, and Dan Hansell was the winning pitcher.

1964-South Amboy Babe Ruth All-Stars Area 3 District 13 NJ State Babe Ruth Tournament Quarterfinals

South Amboy 5 Middlesex 0-Winning pitcher Curt Wood fired a 1-hitter and fanned 9. Tom Kelly lined 2 hits.

SA Lineup-Billy Clayton cf Kelly lf Wood p Tom Beninato ss Tony Ruszala rf Tom “Tee” O’Connell 2b Vince “Coop” Cannata 1b Don Szatkowski 3b Harold McLaughlin c.

1964-South Amboy Babe Ruth League

Sacred Heart 1 Mechanicsville 0-The Hearts shocked the Firemen, despite a magnificent 12 strikeout 0-hitter by the great Curt Wood, who also ripped 3 singles.

Mechanicsville 3 Independence 2-Winning pitcher Billy Clayton twirled a 2-hitter and struck out 8, beating his old Hoffman teammate Bob Keegan, who also turned in a fine performance.

1964-South Amboy Mid-County Senior Baseball League

Edison A.L. 5 South Amboy 2-Jim Carney laced 2 hits and knocked in both SA runs.

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., A.R.S.P.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2014-Sayreville girls softball team topped Colonia, 6-3. Erin Stvan belted a 2-run homer, and Erin Fitzsimmons was the winning pitcher while striking out 5...2009-Cardinal McCarrick girls softball squad shocked Spotswood, 6-1. Winning pitcher Jessica Hartland fanned 8, Jamie Williams hit a single, double and drove in 3. Jessica Costa stroked 2 hits and had 2 RBI...1999-Rich Klein led the South Amboy boys baseball club to a 9-6 victory over East Brunswick Tech. He ripped 3 hits, drove in 2 runs and stole 3 bases. Craig Colfer notched the win for the Purple & Gold...1985-Hoffman’s

ace pitcher Scott Gumprecht was a 1st team All-County selection with fine credentials: (11-1) record, 9 complete games, and #1 in the county with 116 strikeouts and a 1.94 ERA...1971-Jeff St.Amour fired his second straight shutout to lead St. Mary’s baseball nine to a 1-0 win over C.B.A. Dave Keenan belted an RBI double...1968-Sayreville boys baseball team, behind a Bob Keister shutout, downed Perth Amboy, 7-0. Reggie Carney had a huge offensive game by blasting a homer and double, to drive in 5 runs, while Gary George and Joe Gabel drilled 2 hits apiece.

School Sports Tennis Clinic 2026



The South Amboy Recreation Department held its annual Tennis Clinic at 6th Street Park earlier this month. Enrollment improved in its 3rd year. Coach Greg Wyzykowski is pictured far left, Thanks Coach Greg! (Photo Submitted)

Speaker Coughlin’s Annual “Bowl For Hunger” Raises a Cumulative \$1 Million Over its 17 Years for 19th District’s Food Banks

Nearly \$250,000 raised this week – the 2nd highest amount in event history. Arnold Ventures donates \$25,000 – highest amount ever from a corporate donor. Bowl for Hunger, Inc. released the following statement on Wednesday:

As part of his continuous efforts to eliminate food insecurity in New Jersey, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin held his 17th Annual “Bowl for Hunger” event on Monday, July 20. The popular event attracted hundreds of participants and raised a record \$246,000 to support Central Jersey food banks. That number will continue to climb, as pledges and donations are still forthcoming.

Since Bowl For Hunger’s inception in 2010, more than \$1,076,000 has been raised to support the 19th Legislative District’s twenty-plus food banks, which help nourish food-insecure residents.

Monday’s event was held in partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health, Middlesex Water Company, and Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce at Majestic Lanes of Hopelawn.

Speaker Coughlin thanked event participants and sponsors for supporting the fun and meaningful event:

“I am truly grateful to the 700-plus bowlers who attended on Monday and the scores of sponsors and volunteers who continue to sustain this event year after year. In my years of fighting for food security in Trenton and here in the 19th District, I have taken great pride in the fact that it’s never been a lonely endeavor. People genuinely care about helping people meet this most basic human need, even for those they may not have even ever met. Further, hunger and food security know no bounds and do not discriminate based on any demographic, political affiliation or one’s municipality of residence. We are so blessed that our community rallies behind this cause without hesitation.”

Speaker Coughlin and the Bowl for Hunger Committee thank the combined 116 corporate and individual sponsors, including 13 organizations that donated \$5,000 or more

included Arnold Ventures, Elizabethtown Gas, Amazon, Altria, Caesars Entertainment, Hard Rock, RWJ Barnabas Health, Waymo, Anheuser-Busch, Bernie and Ann Flynn, Colonial Pipeline, DEVCO/HELIX, and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ.

The following 16 organizations donated between \$2,500 and \$5,000: Comcast, SIMS Metal, WONDER, CVS Health, PepsiCo, AARP New Jersey, Johnson and Johnson, Newport, The Coca-Cola Company, NJCAR, NJ State Troopers Fraternal Association, CMC, Ancient Order of Hibernians of South Amboy, Fidelis Care, Wellpoint and Tilcon.

For the second time in the event’s history, the event featured three two-hour sessions of bowling, all of which sold-out weeks in advance, demonstrating the community’s support for fighting hunger. This year’s event featured a 2:00 to 4:00 pm matinee, coupled with the traditional 5:00 to 7:00 PM and 8:00 to 10:00 PM sessions, where over 700 bowlers took part on 120 bowling lanes. Interested community members or businesses still wishing to make a donation to the “Bowl for Hunger” should contact the Bowl for Hunger committee at BowlforHunger.com or e-mail info@Bowlforhunger.com.





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Fishing Flashes
By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

It's still slow fishing at our local beaches. I checked Ideal Beach, Cliffwood and SA beaches a few times. I did not see any fish caught. The people I talked to didn't get any bites but I heard of a few small Bluefish caught. I did see some people using a large seine net hauling in the usual small baitfish but they also hauled in a small Cow Nose Ray in the net which they released. Party boat fishing is good at times for Bluefish and Bonito. Fish are 2 to 4 pounds mostly. Larger Bluefish up to 8 pounds are in the surf at LBI and Island Beach. A few Striped Bass are present and Kingfish are in these areas too. In Barnegat Bay are some Weakfish and Blowfish. Triggerfish and Sheepshead are being caught at coastal inlets especially at Barnegat Light. Fluke fishing is good at its normal pattern coast wise along with Sea Bass and Ling which rounds out the picture.

Fresh Water

Statewide the hot summer weather has slowed everything down. The thunderstorms and heavy downpours don't help either. Various small Panfish, Carp, and Catfish are biting. The Delaware River has Small Mouth Bass, most of them are small. Fishing for Large Mouth Bass is now an early morning and evening deal. Trout fishing too is now very slow. Water levels in the Spruce River Reservoir are low.

Catch Any Fish Lately?

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



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

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

Connors, Floyd N., 90, of Sayreville died on July 14.

Contrabasso, Anthony J., 37, formerly of Sayreville died on June 26.

Cordes, William G., 94, of Parlin died on July 1.

DeLamater, James, 75, of South Amboy died on July 3.

Dowling, Brian C., 75, of Sayreville died on July 8.

Fitzgerald, Joseph F. III, 67, of Parlin died on June 16.

Francis, Lorna, 79, of Old Bridge died on June 24.

Golec, Caroline C., 78, of Parlin died on June 22.

Gurgul, Frances, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on May 27.

Isaacs, Mimi S., 62, of Laurence Harbor died on July 7.

Johnson, Gregory, 79, of Sayreville died on July 3.

Mazzuchelli, John C. Jr., 77, of Sayreville died on June 30.

Novak, Linda Roberts, 80, of Sayreville died on July 2.

Peters, Linda, 83, of Sayreville died on July 13.

Popowski, Judith “Judi,” 64, of South Amboy died on July 5.

Smith, Judy A. Cannon, 75, of South Amboy died on July 9.

Tingle, Michael E., 72, formerly of South Amboy died on June 21.

Toht, Josephine, 79, of Sayreville died on June 29.

Vassallo, Joan, 82, of Laurence Harbor died on July 7.

In Memoriam

Frances Gurgul, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on May 27. She was a past president of the Columbiettes Council 2061. Michael Tingle, 72, formerly of South Amboy died on June 21. Mike, who was a 1971 Hoffman HS graduate, went on to proudly serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He had a terrific personality, and was liked by everyone who had the chance to know him or just get to meet him. Mike will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Lorna Francis,

79, of Old Bridge died on June 24. She was a member/Religious Education Director at St. Bernadette Church. John Mazzuchelli Jr., 77, of Sayreville died on June 30. Before retiring, he was the owner/operator of J & H Maintenance in Sayreville. William Cordes, 94, of Parlin died on July 1. He worked until he was 84, finishing his career at his daughter’s business, Jacqueline’s Florist in South Amboy.

Shane Mason

Shane Mason, 47, beloved son, husband, friend, and colleague, passed away on Sunday, May 31st, 2026, surrounded by his family of caregivers. This ended a five-year struggle with bile duct cancer.



was known to be a kind and efficient supervisor, someone who loved and cared for animals, a Lego aficionado, a pop music curator, the boldest laugh at any party, a loyal and attentive son, a considerate and loving husband, and a compassionate, irreplaceable human being.

He is predeceased by his paternal grandparents, John and Rita Mason, his father, Britt Mason and other loving family members; his maternal grandparents, Marion and Fred Conroy, and his uncle and aunts, Kenneth Conroy, Eileen Whisner, and Cheryl Conroy.

Shane is survived by his mother, Barbara Mason, his husband, James Falstrom and their cherished cat Maddie, a paternal aunt, Margaret Ryan and several paternal cousins, and his maternal cousins, Kenny Huff, Flower Conroy, Richard Huff, Kathleen Mercado, Krystina Conroy, Michelle Conroy, and many nieces and nephews.

He grew up in South Amboy and graduated from Ramapo University in 2000 with a degree in graphic arts. He went on to work at Corporate Graphics in Piscataway and U.B.S. in Weehawken, and

Services were under the direction of Kurzawa Funeral Home, South Amboy, NJ. A prayer service was offered by Father Dennis Wezorak before processing to Christ Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be mailed to the Clyde F. Barker Penn Transplant House at 3940 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104 - donations will be used to support lodging expenses for transplant patients experiencing financial hardship. Shane, James, and Barbara found this place to be a sanctuary and a home away from home during Shane’s treatment. <https://www.pennmedicine.org/giving/fund-for-penn-medicine/donate>

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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.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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Prayer to One's Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom his love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen. A.R.S.P.



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• 4:45 to 5:15PM	Holy Rosary
• 5:15 to 5:30PM	Act of Consecration Prayer
• 5:30 to 5:45PM	Litany to Our Lady of Fatima
• 5:45PM	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
• 6:00PM	Presentation by Statue Custodian
• 6:30PM	Holy Mass
• 7:30 to 8:00PM	Private Prayer

Animal Friends At Dowdell Library

(Photos by Phyllis Stratton)



Animal expert Travis Gale from Eyes of The Wild was on hand at the Dowdell Library to educate a room full of youngsters about different animals. In this picture is shown with a Red Foot Tortoise who is enjoying a treat.



I'm not afraid of snakes!



Hands-on experience with this super large snake.



The kids were mesmerized by the albino snake.



Travis discussed the differences between an alligator and a crocodile.



(l-r)Library Director Elaine Gaber, Children's Librarian Miss MaryAnn and Librarian Dennis Kuhn discuss upcoming events this summer.

New Study Highlights \$594.4 Million Annual Economic and Community Impact of Middlesex College

The study details Middlesex College's economic value through development, community partnerships, and improving the quality of life for residents of Middlesex County.

A newly-published economic impact analysis shows that Middlesex College promotes economic growth for students and taxpayers, generating nearly \$600 million annually in added income and supporting thousands of jobs in the region.

The study, completed by labor analytics company Lightcast, details the College's value through economic development, community partnerships, and improving the quality of life for residents of Middlesex County.

The \$594.4 million in annual impact from Middlesex College includes:

- \$508.2 million in alumni impact—resulting from the increased earnings of Middlesex College alumni and businesses they work for, resulting in 4,362 jobs or a similar economic boost to hosting the Super Bowl.
- \$71.8 million in operations spending impact—employing 1,349 full-time and part-time faculty and staff in FY 2023-2024. Operations impact includes College spending as well as College employees as consumers within Middlesex County.
- \$12.4 million in student spending impact—retained student spending on groceries, accommodations, transportation, and other household expenses that supported 171 jobs within Middlesex County.
- \$2 million in construction spending impact—investments in capital projects each year to maintain facilities, create additional capacities, and meet growing demands. This number does not include the recent development of the Middlesex County Community, Innovation, and Opportunity Strategic Investment (CIO) Plan projects on campus, which will continue to grow as they develop.

"We at Middlesex College know the tremendous impact that the College has on our community," said Middlesex College

President Mark McCormick. "We offer a pathway to a better life for tens of thousands of Middlesex County residents and serve as an economic engine in collaboration with businesses of all sizes to provide a pipeline of well-trained employees. This economic impact study confirms the significant economic impact the College has on Middlesex County. Through our students, alumni, employees, and operations, we are proud to be able to stimulate the Middlesex County economy and provide a valuable return on investment for taxpayers."

The study also found that the average associate degree graduate from Middlesex College will see an increase in earnings of \$10,400 each year compared to those in New Jersey with a high school diploma. This means the average Middlesex College student's annual return on investment is 14.5%—exceeding the U.S. stock market's 30-year average rate of 10.9%. And for the 65% of Middlesex College transfer-seeking students, this number will continue to increase as they complete a bachelor's degree while saving tens of thousands of dollars in tuition costs by attending community college.

"Education is a key cornerstone of economic growth in Middlesex County," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "Strategically investing in Middlesex College and partnering with higher education institutions strengthens our workforce, economy, and communities to create a sustainable future. This study underscores the County's commitment, and I commend President McCormick, the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff for their dedication to expanding educational opportunities."

For Middlesex County residents, taxpayer costs for the College are \$48.6 million while benefits amount to \$152.8 million, resulting in a return rate of 7.8%.

"The College benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government supported social services," Lightcast stated in their report. "Middlesex College benefits society as a whole in New Jersey by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students."

WE THE PEOPLE- JULY 4TH

By Bob Olenczak Olin

Firework, parades, hot dogs, a holiday off from work!!! Is this the way you think about July 4th ? Many of us do.

But we all should sit back at least for 5 minutes reading about what happened on this day.

Let us go back to July 4, 1776. Yes, if you do the math, you keep hearing we will be celebrating our 250th birthday this year. It has been that long since we declared our independence from Great Britain.

It was the day that the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence which started with the words "We The People". But history has it that the delegates voted on July 2 in favor of seeking independence.

The Declaration was suggested by Virginia Delegate Richard Henry. The document was mostly written by Thomas Jefferson, presented to the Continental Congress members who suggested edits and approved the famous final copy.

Only John Hancock, President and Charles Thompson, Secretary signed first.

Later, in early August, the rest of the signees put their "John Hancock" on the document.

Do you remember that phrase, put your "John Hancock" on this document? Well, it came from the first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, that he thought that there should be a celebration which would include fireworks, bonfires, parades and games. So, I guess the tradition continues in our 250th year of independence. Maybe that is why our first thoughts are of what John Adams suggested and what we do today.

Also remember, the Revolutionary War, which started on April 19, 1775 by the "Shot Heard Round the World" was still happening.

The war concluded on September 3, 1783.

But back to July 4th.

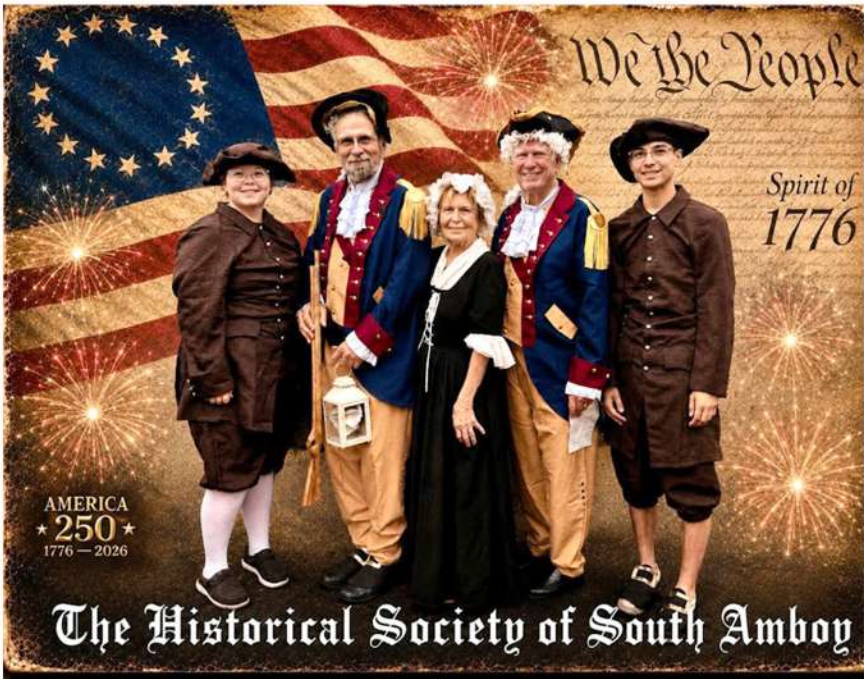
History has it, that George Washington celebrated the first anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by providing extra rum to the Revolutionary Soldiers.

Statement from Speaker Coughlin on MVC Voter Registration Errors

"The integrity of our elections is a responsibility we all share, which is why I commend the Governor and the administration for being forthright with the people of New Jersey about this error, and for taking the immediate step to hire a respected independent law firm to investigate and provide recommendations on how to prevent an error like this from ever happening again.

"Four years ago, on a bipartisan basis, we enacted a package of election integrity reforms because strengthening our voting systems is an ongoing responsibility. New Jerseyans deserve a thorough investigation that delivers accountability for those responsible, and the Assembly will await the outcome of the investigation before taking further action."

The Morgan Family Legacy
(Story and Photos by Mary Szaro)



The Historical Society of South Amboy reenacted The Morgan Family Legacy of Revolutionary Service and Sacrifice at South Amboy's Stars and Stripes Spectacular. Pictured (l-r) Loyalist, Kayla Kokoszka, Lt. Nicholas Morgan, Tom Boychuck, Narrator, Joyce Elyea, Captain James Morgan, Jan Williams, and Loyalist, Ken Kokoszka.

The Morgan Family Legacy of Revolutionary Service and Sacrifice The Historical Society of South Amboy was honored to present The Morgan Family Legacy of Revolutionary Service and Sacrifice as part of the City's Stars & Stripes Spectacular on June 27th, celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

This special reenactment brought to life the story of one of South Amboy's own patriot families whose courage, service, and sacrifice helped secure American independence. Through the lives of Captain James Morgan Sr. and Lt. Nicholas Morgan, we remembered that the freedoms we enjoy today were earned not only by famous leaders, but also by ordinary families whose devotion to liberty helped forge a new nation.

Lt. Nicholas Morgan was a young Revolutionary War patriot from South Amboy who is widely regarded as the last Continental Army officer killed in action during the American Revolution. On the night of Dec. 9, 1782, while standing guard near Cheesequake Creek, he was mortally wounded by a party of loyalist refugees from New York after mistaking them for fellow Patriots. He died four hours later at the home of his father and is buried in the Morgan Family Cemetery.



Happy 48th Birthday In Heaven Shane



*Birthday wishes sent to Heaven from your family below
We miss and love you dearly and wanted you to know.
Your Birthday's not forgotten and your memory lives on
We celebrate the life you had even though you are gone.
If we were given just one wish, one that would come true,
We'd wish you back beside us to spend the day with you.
We will always love and miss you, and will often shed a tear.
Especially on your special day each and every year.*

**America 250 Celebration
At Kennedy Park In Sayreville**



Mayor Kennedy O'Brien officially begins the festive 250 Celebration. (Photo by Amy Jones)



Youngsters entertained the crowd with patriotic songs. (Photo by Amy Jones)



A beautiful sunset as the crowd enjoys Kennedy Park, while waiting for fireworks to begin. (Photo by Debbie Carling)



The fireworks display was beautiful at the America 250 celebration. (Photo by Scott Gagliano)



The band "Big Hix" provided superb music for everyone. (Photo by Debbie Carling)



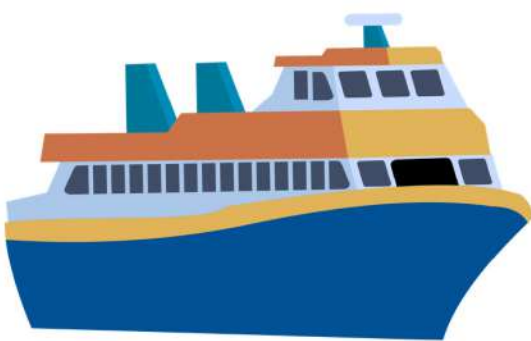
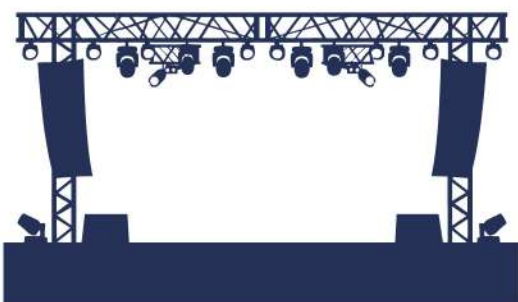
Food trucks were plentiful. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Police officers chatted with Frank Terzino Sr. from the Sayreville Historical Society. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

TEAM SOUTH AMBOY

BUILDING A STRONGER SOUTH AMBOY TOGETHER



Investing in our community, while keeping taxes stable.

Central New Jersey News

South Amboy mayor cuts municipal taxes again in final budget

South Amboy's final budget under Mayor Fred Henry cuts municipal taxes for a second year, lowers bills by \$43 and keeps services intact.

Apr 22, 2026



Anthony Conrad for Mayor

Mickey Gross and Judith Raskoshin for Council At-Large



southamboydems.org



TeamSouthAmboy



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Paid for by SA MAYOR & COUNCIL 2026, 137 S Broadway, Suite A3, South Amboy, NJ 08879