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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is dedicated to *Shane Mason



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 250th ANNIVERSARY

June 27, 2026

The "Good News" Newspaper

Vol. 36 Issue 9

Congratulations



The South Amboy Police Department held a swearing of three of their newest Patrolmen. Pictured (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, Ptl. Jake Szatkowski, Ptl. Ryan Shereyka, Chief Patricia Kanecke, Ptl Hernan Durana-Torrez and Business Administrator David Kales. Congratulations and thank you for keeping the city safe. (Photo Submitted)

Chris Smiga Announces Independent Campaign for Mayor of South Amboy

Christopher "Chris" Smiga has officially announced his candidacy for Mayor of South Amboy, launching an independent campaign centered on transparency, accountability, community engagement, and responsible growth.

Having secured the necessary signatures to appear on the November ballot, Smiga is entering the race with a clear message: local government should work for residents first.

A South Amboy resident since 2012, Smiga has spent years actively involved in community initiatives, environmental stewardship efforts, and public advocacy projects aimed at improving the quality of life for residents. At 41 years old, he believes the city stands at an important crossroads and is ready for a new generation of leadership focused on practical solutions and long-term planning.

"South Amboy is a city with incredible potential, strong neighborhoods, and people who genuinely care about their community," said Smiga. "I'm running for Mayor because I believe the government should be open, responsive, and accountable to the residents it serves. We need leadership that listens, communicates, and works collaboratively to address challenges while building on the city's successes."

With an educational background in economics and nearly two decades of professional experience in accounting and analytics, Smiga brings a data-driven



Christopher "Chris" Smiga

approach to problem solving. He believes residents deserve a city government that manages taxpayer dollars responsibly, operates transparently, and continuously evaluates programs and expenditures to ensure they deliver value to the community.

His campaign platform focuses on six key priorities: • Environment and Health; • Education and Workforce Development;

continued on page 10
(News Release Submitted)

Local Primary Election Results South Amboy

Democrat Mayor - Anthony Conrad 553 votes, Write In 22 votes
Republican Mayor - Write In 24 votes

Democrat Council-At-Large
- Michael "Mickey" Gross 510 votes, Judith Raskoshin 497 votes, write In 13 votes.
Republican Council-At-Large - Luis Cruz 104 votes, write In 8 votes.

Sayreville

Democrat Council
- Bernard Bailey 2258 votes, Dexter Thomas 2120 votes, write In 16 votes.
Republican Council - John Zebrowski 883 votes, Michael Colaci 786 votes, write In 10 votes.

Sayreville Memorial Day Parade



Danny Vardalis, Commander of VFW 4699 was the Grand Marshal of the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Post #62 Memorial Day Ceremony



Although the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62's ceremony to honor our fallen heroes was shortened by heavy rain, the purpose and meaning of the day remained unchanged. (Photo by Mary Szaro)

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Deacon Rich O'Brien and his family on June 6, 2026 at St. Mary's Church. (Photo by Jan Williams)

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Congratulations Deacon O'Brien

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Deacon Rich O'Brien has served the parish faithfully for 25 years, and is retiring from full-time ministry. Best of luck Deacon and thank you for all that you've done for all the parishioners for your 25 years with the Diaconal Ministry!

Deacon Gajewski Celebrates 30 Years

St. Lawrence Church Deacon Steve Gajewski is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination. He has done a wonderful job in his role, and we wish him continued success in doing God's work with St. Lawrence Parish!

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.



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FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



On July 4, the United States will celebrate 250 years of independence. For two and a half centuries, our nation has endured profound challenges. Yet through it all, the American experiment has endured because generations of citizens have remained committed to the timeless principles of liberty, self-government, equality under the law, and the belief that our future can always be brighter than our past.

When we think of Independence Day, we think of summer weather, fireworks, barbecues, and parties. Such celebrations are appropriate for a holiday that falls in the heart of summer and that fills many of us with joy and nostalgia. But I want to tell you a different story.

This story does not take place amid the warmth of summer. It begins instead on a dark, freezing winter night not far from here. Near the end of December 1776, a couple thousand soldiers huddled in a winter camp on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River. They lacked adequate clothing, food, and ammunition. In the months leading up to that night, they had endured one defeat after another. After narrowly escaping disaster near New York City, they slipped into New Jersey under cover of night, then retreated across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The fledgling Continental Congress, faced with the prospect that Philadelphia might be threatened, began to question whether the Army's commander, a Virginian named George Washington, could continue to lead. A young nation discovered the brutal reality that declaring independence—as it had done five months earlier—was easy; but fighting for it, and defending it, was viciously difficult.

Their adversaries commanded an empire that stretched from the British Isles to the Caribbean, Canada, and India. The British did not fight alone; with them were Scottish Highlanders, Loyalists, and elite German soldiers known as Hessians. The British had taken New York City, the most important port in the colonies. Their powerful navy isolated the American colonies from the rest of the world. Their professional army seemed poised to rout the mostly volunteer farm boys who made up the United States' Continental Army. For the small group of American soldiers huddled near the Delaware River on those dark and cold nights, it must have felt as though they were up against the entire world.

Most Americans believed the cause to be hopeless. Remarking on the events of the day, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet fittingly titled "The American Crisis."

Although today we connect American independence with a summer holiday, Paine warned that this was no moment for the "summer soldier" or the "sunshine patriot." "These are the times that try men's souls," he lamented. But he added a note of optimism: "the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

On the night of December 25–26, 1776, George Washington made one of the war's boldest moves and changed the course of history. He and his men crossed the freezing Delaware River under cover of darkness and entered New Jersey. The attack was guided by a stark but fitting password: "Victory or death." His men fought a victory over a Hessian garrison at the Battle of Trenton, followed days later by another victory at Princeton. Morale improved, enlistments were extended, Washington strengthened his position as the Continental Army's commander, and the British—though outwardly dismissive—were unsettled. No one knew it at the time, but those victories turned the tide of a cause many believed was lost.

Today, Washington's crossing is memorialized in everything from paintings to postage stamps. It stands as a symbol of leadership, bravery, and beating the odds – as it should. But it also stands for something else: steadfastness in the face of adversity. None of his men, and likely not Washington himself, knew they were making history. More likely, they were apprehensive, scared, and unsure of what would happen. But they did it.

As we celebrate the ultimate summer holiday, remember that it was made possible by people who refused to give up on a cold New Jersey winter night. I hope all of us will carry that lesson into our own lives. Anyone who had said in December 1776 that America's best days were ahead would have faced skepticism, if not derision—but that person would have been right. I continue to believe our best days are ahead of us, and that our dedication to the cause is worth celebrating.

Happy Fourth of July.
Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

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40 Years Of Service



Jamie Norek (l) and Sean O'Connor recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary as volunteer firefighters for the City of South Amboy. Congratulations to both men and a big thank you for your dedication and caring for the citizens of South Amboy. (Photo submitted)

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Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!



(Images are for example and not the actual items)

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

All one has to do is to e-mail to: satimes@aol.com 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 July's Give Away-----Jewelry!! Yes, Jewelry!
Some old, some new, and the jewelry boxes included.
Plus, over a 4-foot high stack of very collectable ephemera—various paper collectables and advertising (including comic books, sports and non-sports cards, postcards, magazines in all fields, maps, rare books, advertising, etc.).

Enter to win these FREE goodies!

Last Month's winner was:
Vincent Rizzo

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 July 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.



Yearbook-Sayreville 1971

By Tom Burkard

1971 was the year of the smile button, hot pants, water beds, and a religious movement among the youth that spawned the term "Jesus Freaks." "All In The Family" with Archie Bunker ruled TV. "The French Connection" was the best movie of the year. 18-year olds got to vote for the first time. Frazier beat Ali for the title. At Sayreville War Memorial HS, several popular teacher were: Carol Kadi, Colette Solinski, Steve Cserr, Richard Denike, William Horne. Senior Class officers were: Pres.-Craig Dowling; VP-Kathy Zeeb; Sec.-Bridget Potthoff; Treas.-Kevin Corrigan. Gail Esposito was Editor-In-Chief of the yearbook. The Student Council consisted of Pres.-Charles Cunliffe; VP-Greg Evigan (World famous actor); Recording Sec. Kathy Barbieri; Treas.-Keith Dowling. Mary Cegerenko was voted Homecoming Queen. Sayreville had plenty of social activities ranging from numerous clubs to the superb athletic teams, as well as the Spring Musical "Hello Dolly," which featured Greg Evigan and Donna Unkel playing the leads. Other events were the Science Fair, Youth Week, T.A.P., Blue & Gray Week, Trip to Italy, and the fall play "Flowers For Algermon." Some of the huge Class of '71 selected randomly included: Diane Bailey, Rosemary Beavers, Richard Bender, Beth Boehm, Linda Boehm, Richard Boehm, George Bove, Jo Ann Brush, Gail Carney, Mary Ellen Cannon, Carol Chase, Howie Clark, Gary Cottrell, Edward Covell, Daniel Deatherage, Charles Dooling, Jim Dunn, Deborah Edelman, Theresa Eskra, Daniel Farrell, Stephen Fischer, Cornelius Fogarty, Mark Gawron, Kathleen Gulick, Jim Hammer, Jack Humphrey, Marcia Jackson, Janice Kreiger, Linda Krzyzanowski, William Lockwood, Catherine Low, Patricia Lis, Glenn Mahoney, Marie Malik, Denise Manion, Michael Melnick, Lawrence Nagle, Michael Noble, Gary Obid, Kathleen O'Brien, Robert Palmer, Alexis Pohl, Valerie Popp, Bill Rappleyea, Frank Rowley, Donna Spezzi, Jim Shell, Robert Standowski, Carl Zapoticzny. Three of Sayreville War Memorial HS finest guitar players back in '71 were Eugene Crowley, Walt Moskal and Jimmy Mathisen. The sports program had a highly successful year, as the baseball squad under rookie coach Norbie Smith captured the County Tournament and the CJ Group IV crown, finishing at 19-10-1. Some of the many talented senior athletes included: Bruce Buckiewicz, Kevin Corrigan, Dennis Coyle, Greg Lyon, Dan Hockenjos, Anthony Mancini, George Olszewski, Thomas Roberts. In cross country, Ray Cerankowski came in 1st place, 10 times, and set a new course record of 12:45.5 after breaking the previous mark 4 times. The field hockey squad finished (8-1) and ranked #3 in NJ. Mary Cegerenko and Susan Zarobinski were co-captains of the cheerleaders. During graduation week, The Rolling Stones ruled the charts with "Brown Sugar" and Three Dog Night's "Joy To The World" was right behind. Robert Miglin was Valedictorian, and Gail Esposito the Salutatorian. Sayreville's Class of '71 certainly produced some highly successful people in the business world, and also a top-notch professional actor/singer, Greg Evigan. Many other class members have also fared exceptionally well in their chosen career fields.



Pictured with Al Gomolka (l) is last Month's Winner of Gomolka's Collectables Giveaway Vincent Rizzo. Congratulations Vincent!! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1. Won the South Amboy election for Second Ward Council in 1991?
a. John Kelly b. Michael Makransky c. Peter Ewtushek
2. Won the Sayreville election for Mayor in '91?
a. John McCormack b. Kennedy O'Brien c. James Zagata
3. Sciortino's in South Amboy was never called?
a. Fatso Fogerty's b. Tutty Tease c. Bottle Stop
4. St. Bernadette's new Pastor in 2000?
a. Fr. Eugene Schellberg b. Father Lawrence Smith c. Father Jim O'Callahan
5. Grand Marshal of South Amboy Memorial Day Parade in 2000?
a. Bob "Zak" Sekerak b. Jan Williams c. Gary Poland
6. This popular doctor had an office on Ernston Rd. in Parlin for many years?
a. Dr. Topanski b. Dr. Ambrosio c. Dr. Jonap
7. This Chinese/Japanese restaurant held their grand opening in 2000 on Rt. 35, Morgan?
a. Ruby 88 b. Mai Sun c. Uncle Lai's
8. Selected new Superintendent of South Amboy Schools in '05?
a. Robert Sheedy b. Patrick Martin c. Rasheed Murambi
9. 2005 Valedictorian at Sayreville War Memorial HS?
a. Denise Balili b. Janaki Patel c. Elizabeth Szamareta
10. Selected South Amboy's new Municipal Court Judge in 2010?
a. Andrew Jones b. Dorothy Hairston c. Emery Toth

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

Councilman John's Monthly Minute



As you know, before serving on council I spent a career in law enforcement and as a first responder. Those experiences never really leave you. You do not forget the crashes, the injuries, or the moments when something that seemed harmless turned into something life changing in an instant. So when the State of New Jersey enacted its new law regarding e-bikes, it was difficult for me not to look at it through that lens.

Over the past several years, e-bikes and scooters have become increasingly popular. They are convenient, fun, and for many people a practical way to get around. Along with that growth, however, has come an increase in accidents and injuries, particularly involving younger riders and higher speed devices. The reality is that many of these vehicles are capable of traveling much faster than most people realize. When speed is combined with inexperience, distracted driving, traffic, or a lack of clear rules, the results can be devastating. The purpose of this new law is straightforward. It is designed to establish reasonable safeguards that help protect riders, pedestrians, and motorists, especially our young people.

The law, signed on January 19, 2026, changes how e-bikes are regulated in New Jersey. E-bikes are now classified as motorized bicycles under state law. Riders must be at least 15 years old to operate one. Individuals who are 17 years of age or older must possess a valid driver's license, while riders between the ages of 15 and 16 must obtain a motorized bicycle license. Registration through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission is required, and certain higher speed models may also require insurance coverage. The law is currently in effect, with a grace period extending through July 19, 2026, to allow owners sufficient time to meet the new requirements.

Here in Sayreville, we are taking additional steps to address public safety concerns. The Borough is currently working on an ordinance that would extend these regulations to our parks and municipal properties. The objective is to protect those enjoying these facilities, keep our children safe, and ensure that our parks remain welcoming and well maintained for everyone. Our parks are intended to be places where families can gather, children can play, and residents can enjoy the outdoors without concern for fast moving vehicles operating in shared spaces.

I also recognize that many parents have

already purchased e-bikes or scooters for their children. These purchases were often made with the best intentions. They were birthday gifts, holiday presents, or simply a way for kids to enjoy time outdoors. If you have already purchased one of these devices, you have not done anything wrong. However, now is a good time to become familiar with the new rules and ensure your family is prepared. Parents should review the capabilities of the device, including its top speed, confirm that riders meet the minimum age requirements, and begin exploring any licensing obligations that may apply. Most importantly, families should have conversations about safe and responsible operation. Helmets, visibility, and awareness of surroundings remain just as important as ever.

I also want to emphasize that this is not simply about enforcement. Throughout my career, I learned that the most effective public safety initiatives combine enforcement with education. We can certainly look forward to public service announcements, community outreach efforts, and educational programs from our local police departments that are designed to provide guidance and information. The goal should always be compliance through understanding, not compliance through punishment. Education remains the most effective tool we have for preventing accidents before they occur.

At the end of the day, this law represents a proactive effort to address a growing safety concern before more people are seriously injured. From my perspective as a former police chief and first responder, it is difficult to ignore the potential consequences of inaction. If these measures help prevent even one devastating accident or serious injury, then they are well worth the effort. Most importantly, they help us fulfill our responsibility to protect our residents, preserve the quality of life in our community, and keep our young people safe.

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

Congratulations!



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 celebrated their Clergy last month with a dinner at Camillo's Italian Restaurant in Sayreville celebrating their commitment and dedication to the Knights from Sacred Heart and St. Mary's churches. Pictured (l-r), Retired Deacon Steve Laikowski, Fr. Michael Gromadzki, Deacon Jose Diaz, Grand Knight Ed Vassallo, Fr. Stanley Gromadzki, Retired Deacon Rich O'Brien, Fr. John Alvarado and K of C member Ramon Sierra. (Photo/ info submitted).



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**Wish Everyone A Safe and Happy
4th of July Holiday**



Sayreville Police Auxiliary Welcomes Newest Officer Zachary Sargent

Sargent graduates Middlesex County Auxiliary Police Academy; 2027 recruitment drive now open

The Sayreville Police Auxiliary is proud to welcome its newest member, Patrol Officer Zachary Sargent, who graduated from the Middlesex County Auxiliary Police Academy on Wednesday, May 21, 2026.

The academy is a 13-week training program held at the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Training Center in Edison, NJ. Recruits complete more than 150 hours of instruction covering topics including Criminal Law, Use of Force, Traffic Control, Patrol Function, CPR/First Aid, and Investigative Report Writing. Ptl. Sargent joins a dedicated team of volunteer officers who serve the Borough of Sayreville alongside the Sayreville Police Department.

The Sayreville Police Auxiliary is also currently accepting applications for its 2027 recruit class. The 100% volunteer organization invites men and women who want to serve their community — whether exploring a career in law enforcement or simply looking to give back — to apply before the

November 27, 2026 deadline. Applications are accepted exclusively online. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, hold a high school diploma or GED, possess a valid New Jersey driver's license, and reside in Sayreville or within 5 miles of its border.

To apply or learn more, visit www.sayrevillepoliceaux.org/join or email recruiting@sayrevillepoliceaux.org.



(L-R) Ptl. T. Murphy, Ptl. Z. Sargent, Sgt. M. Dias (Photo Submitted)



We would love
to hear from
you!



The Bell at Christ Church

By Kurt N. Kvist

“Therefore send not to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.”

Every Sunday, just around 10 AM, I pull the inch-thick braided rope ascending 100 feet to the large brass bell just below the steeple at Christ Church. We’ve been doing this for 168 years. The rope wraps around a huge 53” flywheel that gets the 600 lb. church bell swinging. Fabricated by the Troy Bell Foundry in Troy NY, this solid brass bad boy rings out in a C# to call the faithful to church. My grandchildren hang on the rope as I pull it down and exclaim, Sanctuary! Sanctuary! They get pulled into the air off the floor on the return. The benefits of being 5 years old. Quasimodo has nothing on us.

Bells were invented in China, circa 5000 BC. It wasn’t till about 400 AD or thereafter, that macaroni and bells found their way from China to Europe. Churches were one of the first to employ this sonic “technology” in Europe making them a beautiful way to call townfolks to prayer. As society advanced, other purposes for bells were introduced during emergencies to notify everyone of fire and other occurrences to say hey, wake up! Get to school!

One of the more interesting uses of bells was during the 18th century. Taphophobia was the fear of being buried alive. (Who Doesn’t?) A string was attached to a bell above ground from inside the coffin to ring if you were accidentally buried alive. (Ever heard of the graveyard shift?) The popularity of the “Safety Coffin” grew after a wealthy Virginia socialite was heard yelling from inside her coffin. Her name was Anne Hill Carter Lee.

She endured 72 hours in the coffin before a worker heard her calling. They brought in Miracle Max who claimed she was not dead but, “mostly dead.” She barely survived the ordeal and returned to good health. As she had gotten better, 13 months later, she gave birth to a son. I think you’ve heard of him, his name was Robert E. Lee. (Fact.) These “safety coffin bells” were still being used in today’s society, well into the 1990’s. I want one. I’m working on one for cremation, but I hit a snag.

Back here in South Amboy, how did Christ Church South Amboy end up with a bell from Troy, NY? As the saying goes it’s not what ya’ know, it’s who ya’ know. Again, we go back to the Stevens family. John Cox Stevens and family built Christ Church and knew the Troy Bell Foundry intimately. On the cover of their brochure, they state they are manufacturers of bells for Churches, S T E A M B O A T S , LOCOMOTIVES, and fire alarm bells of all sizes. Also, academies, factories and plantations. (The civil war hadn’t started yet.) We find the association with the Stevens family and the Troy Bell Co. pretty self-evident. It was just a trip up the Hudson River to Troy NY from Hoboken or South Amboy to get bells for the Amboy & Camden railroad and Stevens’ multiple steam ships. The racing yacht AMERICA probably had a Troy Bell on board as it won the trophy from England to bring home and founded the NY Yacht

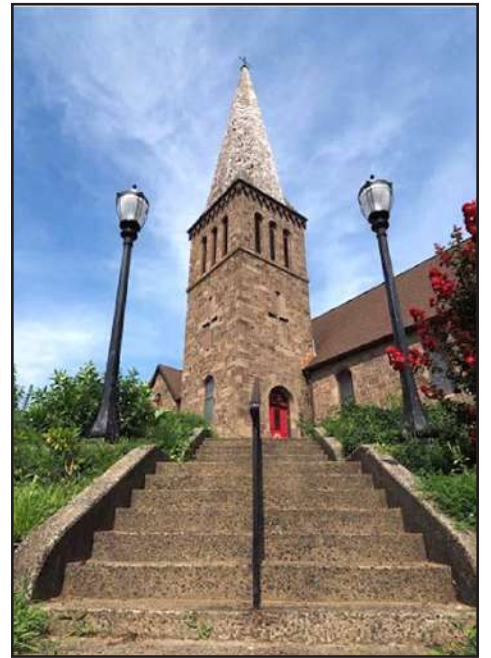
Club and the Americas Cup Race. There’s a “ring” of truth to this. LOL, I crack myself up!

So how did they get the bell, flywheel, rotary yoke and oak sled up into the steeple?

The eight inch thick oak timbers creating the base are installed in place and the 600 pound bell, yoke and flywheel are hoisted up through a cut in the side of the steeple itself. Yes, the steeple is fabricated first for structural integrity and weather, and a hole is cut into the side to later hoist the bell up into place. Block and tackle are used to pull the bell into the tower. The exterior of the steeple is repaired to hide the aforementioned endeavor. We still have the cut out visible from inside our steeple.

In closing, if you please notice, across the top of the yoke it states, “Patented.” As we already learned in the March issue of the S.A. Times, the US patent office was a creation of Colonel John Stevens. (Does that ring a bell?) He was the state secretary (Governor) of NJ under George Washington. The patent office was passed into law by congress in 1790. It’s a small world after all.

As you can see in the photo, some wise guy hung a large rubber bat off the bell in the belfry of Christ Church some time around 2014. So we have bats in the belfry! If I could only find this miscreant, I’d “ring” his neck! Or maybe there was a conspiracy



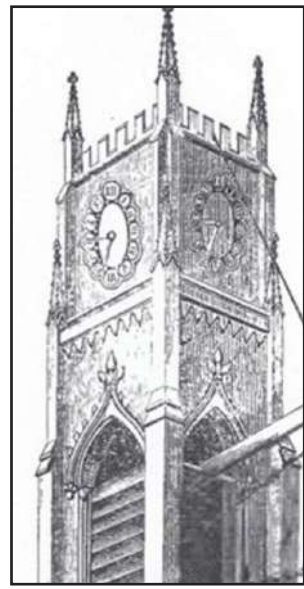
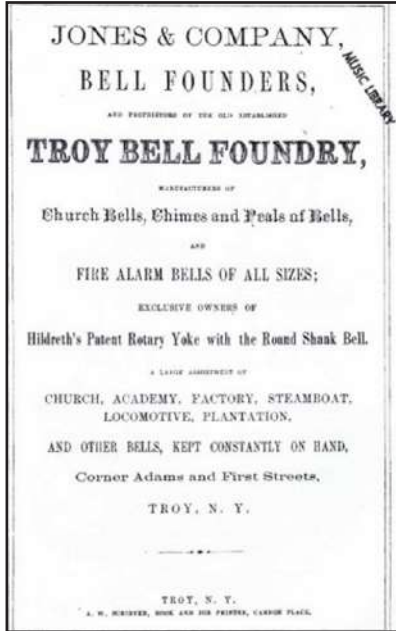
“ring” operating in the church. Time for me to go. I have a ringing in my ears from too much Led Zeppelin, and I’m feeling a need to change into my bell bottoms!

Religious Class Registration

Sacred Heart Church is now accepting religious formation classes registrations. Classes are Monday, 5pm - 6:30pm for grade levels 1-8.

Our program offers comprehensive, faith filled instruction for your children. Oh, what they will learn—not only the basic tenets of our Catholic faith, but also how to pray, participate at Mass, understand the sacraments, pray the Rosary, walk through the Stations of the Cross and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Most importantly, they will learn that our faith is not just something we study for an hour a week—it is something we live each and every day. Also available is instruction for children who have not attended religious education in a few years and are in need of sacraments.

Contact Mrs. Duffy @ 732-721-0040 or prep@sacredheartsa.org



St. Stan’s Annual Carnival

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



This happy group really enjoyed the Carnival, which is the most popular in Middlesex County! Great job to everyone from the church and school who volunteered, and a special thank you to all who attended.



As always there were plenty of rides and fun for everyone.



The cake stand is always a popular stop!



Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien is pictured with staff members prior to his show, “A Chat With The Mayor.”



People lining up to enter the Monkey Maze.



Sayreville Police Officers were on patrol, and did a fine job throughout the carnival.



Many great items were raffled off including a Barbecue Gas Grill and more. Pictured (l-r) are carnival volunteers Colette Solinski, Connie Modzelewski, and Debbie Petrone.

The Smoke Column

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

Part One Firefighters who may command an incident must complete the Incident Command Course (ICS-200) and receive certification from the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. This is a basic classroom course of 24 hours on teaching the initial actions to be taken by the first officer to the scene of an incident. Most incidents are easy to manage during the initial stages when first responders arrive at the scene quickly. ICS-200 teaches first responders how to manage an incident in its early stages. This first officer to the scene of an incident is usually a Fire Captain/Lieutenant. It is up to them to decide the actions necessary to suppress the incident or determine if additional resources will be needed and when. If additional resources are required, rapid decisions must be made regarding who will provide them, their source, availability, expected arrival time, potential escalation of the incident before assistance arrives, whether the situation will worsen, personnel safety, environmental protection, and economic impact. Consider a typical incident that occurs frequently over our roadways. The fire department is notified of a tractor trailer that has a locked-up rear brake. The brake pad had been overheated for some time before the driver became aware of it and was able to stop. In most cases the heated pad will produce smoke and will cool down in time and not cause additional damage to the vehicle. The fire department arrives on scene and evaluates the incident and determines that they are not necessary. We will now examine this scenario from another perspective: the tractor trailer is experiencing an overheated brake pad, and the incident has occurred in a remote area where there is limited access to water. This trailer is a car carrier with a cargo of eight vehicles, all of which are powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. Upon arrival, the fire officer noticed that the heated brake pads had ignited the rear tires which were burning with intense heat and fire. Water was immediately applied but had little effect on suppressing the burning tires. Having a limited supply of




water on the engine was a concern. This is what is referred to as an expanding incident, one that continued to intensify and required the Incident Commander to decide what additional resources are needed. Unable to control the burning tires with the limited water supply, the heat from these burning tires impinged on the underneath of an electric vehicle and focused heat upon the Lithium-Ion battery casings. These batteries then become heated to a point that they explode inside their containers and cause Thermal Run-away. When a single battery overheats or catches fire, it generates a significant amount of heat. This intense heat is not contained to just the affected battery; instead, it spreads to adjacent batteries. As the temperature rises, the neighboring batteries are exposed to this heat, which can cause them to begin their own burning or even exploding process. This chain reaction can quickly escalate the severity of the incident, as more batteries ignite in succession. Since this incident happened in an area where lack of water was a concern, additional apparatus was needed. The incident involved a single vehicle whose battery pack ignited and burned with exceptional intensity. As a result of the severe heat generated, the fire quickly spread to a neighboring vehicle located alongside. This escalation was particularly alarming because modern vehicles are constructed with substantial amounts of plastic materials. The combustion of these plastics posed additional hazards, complicating the response efforts and increasing the risk associated with the fire.

Part 2 will appear next month.



On Sunday May 24th, members of South Amboy First Aid Squad held their annual Memorial Day service for departed members. The DeFort family placed the wreath in remembrance of Philip DeFort who passed away this past year. (Photo/info submitted)



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RUMBLES FROM THE ROCK AND ROLL REUNION

By Clem Skarzynski

Summer is here..time for some Outdoor Music...Sayreville Cultural Arts Program has begun their series of Summer Music shows at Kennedy Park with the Michael Jackson Mega Tribute Show to a super appreciative crowd..Check their schedule of events on their website. DJ Richie Hart and the Just us Cruisers Crew are back in Kennedy Park on Wednesday nights with the "Cruisin in Kennedy Park" Classic Car Shows.... Wednesday nights..Once a Month..May thru October..all to benefit The Sayreville Food Bank and The Sayreville B.I.C...Entrance Fee is 4 non-perishable food items! C'mon out and support the causes, and take a walk thru memory lane, checking out the beautiful "rides" of the 50s, thru the 80s! The Clem and Friends Band is warming up in their basement playroom for their upcoming shows...Sept.26th ..Kennedy Park.."Blas from the Past" Car Show, where this year the guy who allowed me to go ahead and get this show going 21 years ago,the late Jerry Ust, will have "HIS TROPHY," The Jerry Ust Best in Show Memorial Trophy, presented to the lucky winner..right where his "Dream Show" began..in Kennedy Park..My sincerest

#1 Pop Hits June 27

- 2022-As It Was-Harry Styles
- 2013-Blurred Lives-Robin Thicke
- 2003-This Is The Night-Clay Aiken
- 1991-Rush Rush-Paula Abdul
- 1983-Flashdance...What A Feeling -Irena Cara
- 1977-Got To Give It Up-Marvin Gaye
- 1966-Paint It Black-The Rolling Stones

One Hit Wonders 35 Years Ago

1991-Wicked Game-Chris Isaak; Silent Lucidity-Queensryche; Lily Was Here-David A. Stewart; Pop Goes The Weasel-3rd Bass; Kiss Them For Me-Siousie & The Banshees; Rush-Big Audio Dynamite II; Candy-Iggy Pop; Moneytalks-AC/DC; This Is Ponderous-2nu; Heaven Help The Lonely-Willie Nile; Walking In Memphis-Marc Cohn; Temptation-Corina; Power Windows-Billy Falcon; Groovy Train-The Farm; The Truth-Tami Show.

#1 Country Hits June 27

- 2020-The Bones-Maren Morris
- 2010-The House That Built Me -Miranda Lambert
- 2007-Find Out Who Your Friends Are -Tracy Lawrence
- 1995-I Don't Even Know Your Name -Alan Jackson
- 1987-Forever and Ever, Amen-Randy Travis
- 1973-Satin Sheets-Jeanne Pruett
- 1965-Before You Go-Buck Owens

thanks go out to Tony and Brian Jackowski, organizers of the St.Stan's Super Mega Halloween Show, for allowing us to present Jerry's Trophy at their show for 5 years...and to Sayreville's Rec Director, Brian VanDongen, for welcoming the presentation to the Sayreville Show! Sep27th, the Band will be part of the annual Sayreville Day events entertainment stage..more info to follow on these events..Saturday October 24th will bring Sayreville VFW Post 4699 Halloween Dance..6-11pm..doors open 5pm..buffet dinner at 6pm..open bar..Clem and Friends Band on at 7pm...Tables of 8-10 available for groups..for tix price, etc..call Val Olszewski at 732-266-8102..The following day..Sunday, Oct.25th..we'll be onstage at St.Stan's Mega Halloween Car Show...11am to 3pm, at the St.Stan's Fairgrounds in Sayreville..again..as we get closer to these events..I'll have more info..Till next column....when you awake each morning.turn on the radio..find, listen to a song you like, remember, makes you smile, makes you think, makes you question yourself, or just "gets you going"..See what happens...It's kinda amazing !!Later..

Hangin' With The Stars

(Photo Submitted)



Former Sayreville resident Walter Krzyzkowski (l) with Rachel Bolen, bassist for Skid Row, have been friends for 40 years.

South Amboy Summer Concert Series

- 7-24 Whiskey Time Machine
- 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.



Transportation

By Tom Burkard



1. Drive My Car
2. Come On Down To My Boat Baby
3. Leaving On A Jet Plane
4. Motorcycle Mama
5. Last Train To Clarksville
6. Fast Car
7. Truckin'
8. Jet Airliner
9. Don't Sleep In The Subway
10. Peace Train

- a. Petula Clark
- b. The Monkees
- c. Sailcat
- d. Tracy Chapman
- e. The Steve Miller Band
- f. Cat Stevens
- g. Every Mothers' Son
- h. The Beatles
- i. Peter, Paul, & Mary
- j. The Grateful Dead

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

A Slice of Fun With The Girl Scouts

(Photos/story submitted)



Children in the community joined the Girl Scouts of Sayreville & the Amboys at a free pizza making event held at Camillo's Restaurant. Each child was instructed and enjoyed making their very own individual size pizza. In addition to pizza Camillo's provided them with chicken fingers and soft drinks. Patriotic crafts were made to distribute to the veterans and the public on Memorial Day. Several of our local heroes attended, participated in a question-and-answer session with the children, and shared personal experiences. The event was a fun, learning experience enjoyed by all who attended.

Celebrate Tony G's 50 Years Of Soccer Coaching We Need Your Help To Plan A Party!

When the new school year begins in just a few short months, Tony G will begin his 50th year as the Head Coach of the boys soccer team at Hoffman/South Amboy High School.

A group of Tony's players from the first team he coached - Gerard Marrone, Bill Lewis and John Dragotta are getting together to plan a party to recognize this great achievement. That's where the challenge comes in. Over the past 50 years it is realistic to think that Tony has coached well over 500 student athletes. Add to that the cheerleaders, coaches, counselors, teachers and parents that were impacted by the program. It means this party could be HUGE!

In an effort to come up with a time for the party and a venue that would work, we are trying to understand how many people would like to attend. That's where we need your help. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY: <https://forms.gle/dhRyucJpEjzbfFcu5>

You can also scan this QR Code to take the survey:



Tony G - 50 Years of Coaching Celebration RSVP

docs.google.com

The Cultural Arts of Sayreville presents **KENNY K. & THE WAY**



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Thursday - August 6th, 2026
"Sayreville's Own Show"



Flag Day Ceremony at the St. Stans

By American Legion Past Commander Rich Kosmoski

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, Our Lady of Victories Assembly conducted the annual Flag Day Ceremony at the St. Stans Catholic Church grounds. The American Flag was honored during the ceremony in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of America. The Flag was raised as the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance. The St. Stan's choir sang patriotic songs during the program. Veterans conducted military honors for the fallen in a volley of weapons being fired, followed by the playing of TAPS. A Memorial Flag was folded properly as the meaning of each fold was recited. The memorial flag was then presented to Grand Knight William O'Neill as Chairperson PFN Andrew J. Gnapp looked on.



Father John Alvarado recited the prayers during the ceremony.



American Legion Past Commander Rich Kosmoski folds the American Flag to VFW Commander Danny Vardalis.



Military Veterans fire a volley of rifle shots in tribute to the American men and women who gave their lives for the freedoms our country enjoys every day. (Photos by Rick Branagan)

Congratulations!



South Amboy Education Association recently held their End of the Year Celebration. Honored were (l to r) Retirees: Lisa Wilson, Joyce Charmello, Anna Mae O'Connor; Teacher of the Year: Marcia Mercado; Retiree: Sharon Koy; Teacher of the Year: Brittany Toribio and Education Support Specialist of the Year: Christine Colon. Not pictured: Joan Crowley-Retiree and Education Support Specialist of the Year.

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FREE Pest Inspection



Sayreville Library News

Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo Beginning Monday, July 6. Adult Summer Reading Bingo is returning. Beginning on July 6, stop by our reference desk to sign up and receive a bingo card. Mark a square on your card for every category of book you read until you complete a Bingo. (Bingo can be horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal, or all four corners) Once you complete a Bingo, turn in your card at the Reference Desk for a raffle ticket to win one of our prizes at the finale party on August 18. Call us at 732-727-0212 Ext 112 if you have any questions.

Mindful Yoga Tuesdays in July @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

Movie Matinee Tuesday, July 14 @1PM. Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Airplane! The classic-starring Leslie Nielsen Rated PG-1 hr 27 mins. Refreshments 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.

Trivia with Dan Monday, July 27 @6:30PM. Think you are good at trivia? Want to try and win some prizes? Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game. Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.



Members of the American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62 salute during the Memorial Day service at the Veterans Plaza on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy. (Photo by Mary Szaro)

Annual Flag Retirement Service

By American Legion Past Commander Rich Kosmoski

On Sunday, June 14th, 2026, American Legion, Lenape Post 211 of Sayreville held the Annual Flag Retirement Service. This year's ceremony included the retiring of thousands and thousands of American flags that had flown over municipal buildings, schools, parks, homes, and the graves of our fallen veterans. The ceremony included the visual inspection of torn and tattered flags which needed to be retired and replaced with bright new flags in their place. Especially important in the accumulation of flags to be retired is the many small American Flags tucked inside the pile. These are the flags that flew upon the graves of our fallen Veterans. It is because of those brave men and women who fought so vigilantly for our First Amendment giving us the freedoms we enjoy every day.



Right: Past Commander Rich Kosmoski conducted the ceremony.



Post Commander Larry Bishop reciting the history of the flag.



Retirement of the flags. (Photos Submitted)

Smiga Campaign for Mayor -continued from page 1

- Responsible and Open Government;
- Quality of Life and Business Development;
- Public Safety;
- Recreation and Community Engagement

Among his proposals are expanding public participation in government through virtual access to city meetings, modernizing permitting and municipal services, increasing transparency through enhanced reporting and resident feedback initiatives, supporting volunteer first responders, improving public spaces, investing in recreational opportunities, and pursuing innovative environmental initiatives that strengthen South Amboy's resilience and quality of life.

Smiga's commitment to community service extends beyond campaign promises.

He obtained Core Certification through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Urban and Community Forestry Program and earned Green Infrastructure Champion Certification through Rutgers Cooperative Extension. He also identified an error in the city's Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). The correction resulted in additional contributions being made to volunteer firefighters and first aid volunteers for multiple award years.

Additionally, Smiga served as a co-author of South Amboy's Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance required by the NJDEP, worked with community partners on environmental restoration initiatives, advocated for open space preservation, and supported projects designed to improve public access to South Amboy's waterfront and natural resources.

His campaign emphasizes collaboration, community involvement and unconditional

support for veteran housing initiatives.

"Some of the best ideas come directly from residents," Smiga said. "People want to be heard. They want transparency. They want the city government to communicate clearly and be accessible. My administration will prioritize those values and work every day to ensure residents have a seat at the table."

As South Amboy continues to experience growth and redevelopment, Smiga believes the city has an opportunity to balance economic development with quality of life, environmental stewardship, and fiscal responsibility.

"This campaign is not about politics," he added. "It's about our city, our neighborhoods, and our future. South Amboy deserves leadership that is energetic, transparent, and focused on delivering results. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant community for generations to come."

For more information about Chris Smiga's campaign for Mayor, visit www.smigaformayor.org, email Chris_Smiga@smigaformayor.org, or follow the campaign on social media.

About Chris Smiga

Chris Smiga is a South Amboy resident, community advocate, environmental steward, and independent candidate for Mayor. Since moving to South Amboy in 2012, he has been actively involved in local initiatives focused on environmental sustainability, government accountability, volunteer support, and community engagement.

His campaign slogan is "Energetic Leadership, Working for All."

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, July 16 at 6:30 pm. Real Housewives of New Jersey: Early American Women and their Kitchen Gadget presented by Lesley Parness!

Have fun at Family Sports Day celebrating the FIFA World Cup on Thursday, July 30 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Refreshments, games, and prizes! Basketball, ping pong, foosball, corn hole, and more!

Get excited! For the Eyes of the Wild animal programs this summer! Join Dowdell Library to meet some animal friends on Thursday, July 23 at 2:00pm and 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 July 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 Friday, July 17 and 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. July's theme: America 250! Submit your art by July 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 July Test

South Amboy Elks, In the Community



South Amboy Elks, In the Community The South Amboy Elks are happy to help this beautiful young girl from our community. Her name is Brielle and she needed an Adaptive Stroller to help her and her family get her around. The South Amboy Elks Special Children's Committee led by chairperson Frank Glennon, and co-chaired by John Leo was able to fulfill the need. As we always say, "Elks Care, Elks Share" Trying to make a difference every day. May the days be easier for Brielle and her family. For information on membership please contact us at 732-727-7170. (Photo/info submitted)

Kitchens to learn how to make different treats and snacks! Tweens, sign up for Tuesday, July 7 and July 21 at 2:00 pm (ages 10-12).

Teens sign up for Tuesday, July 14 and July 28 at 2:00 pm (ages 13+).

Adults! Join us this summer and enjoy viewing streaming movies and live FIFA World Cup games, sampling new culinary delights at the Adult culinary programs, enjoying trivia nights, making an object on the new four color 3D printer, and learning how to code for websites and gaming! Attend any program or check out library materials for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, July 13 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, July 27 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 communityed@rwjbh.org. Stretch It Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

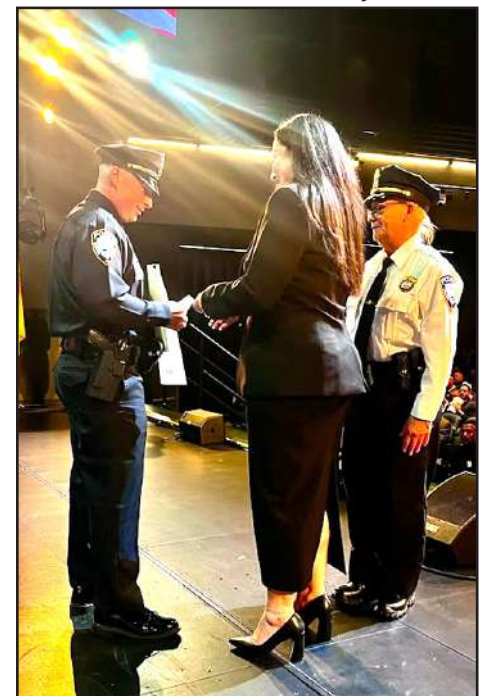
The Knitting and Crochet Club meets Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started! Interested in learning how to knit? Drop in for some informal tips.

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.

Congratulations Officer DeJoy!



Recently, members of the South Amboy Police Department joined fellow law enforcement agencies from across Middlesex County at the 200 Club Valor Awards ceremony, recognizing officers and first responders for their dedication, bravery, and service to their communities.

Officer Michael DeJoy was presented with a Meritorious Service Award for his actions during a first aid call. His professionalism, commitment to helping others, and dedication to serving our community exemplify the values of our department. Pictured Officer DeJoy (l) receives his award as Police Chief Kanecke proudly looks on. (Photo/info Submitted)

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Flag Ceremony At Truman School

(Photos/Info Submitted)

On Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, Members of American Legion Lenape Post 211 of Sayreville conducted a flag Day ceremony at Truman School. This has been an annual ceremony which has been held for the past 30+ years. American Legion members raised the American Flag as the students and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by all. A proper flag folding ceremony was conducted where Past Commander Rich Kosmoski read off the meaning of each flag fold. In conclusion, a volley of rifle shots was fired followed by TAPS.



Past Commanders Ed Streck (l) and Joel Bloom instruct students on the proper procedure of folding a flag.



Past Commander Rich Kosmoski Conducts Flag Day services at the Truman School in Sayreville.



Legionaries and students fold the flag.

Congratulations on 30 Years!



Joanne Niestempki (center with flowers) is surrounded by her fellow South Amboy Crossing Guards. Joanne is retiring after 30 years! Congratulations and best wishes for the future. (Photo Submitted)

South Amboy Memorial Service



On May 25th, members of South Amboy Fire Dept. held their annual Memorial Service in front of City Hall. 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Ken Kokoszka (l) and Department Chief Michael Kelly placed the wreath in remembrance of deceased members. (Photo submitted)



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Amazing Season!



The South Amboy Pirates, a SAYAA Recreation team finished the 10U season (11-0). The Pirates will be the first South Amboy team to enter the prestigious District 9 All-Star Playoffs in over 20 years according to the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken District Commissioner. Best of luck to the South Amboy Pirates! (Photo/info submitted)

American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62 Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony

(Photos by Mary Szaro)



Just a few of the Patriotic Supporters who joined the American Legion for the Flag Retirement Ceremony,



Boy Scout Troop #95



Mechanicsville Hose Co. #1 and Protection Engine Co. #1 assist in the Flag Retirement



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Sayreville Middle School Student, Miranda Muller, Receives National Award



Sayreville Middle School recently honored 8th grader, Miranda Muller, for achieving the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award. She was chosen nationally for exemplifying the National Junior Honor Society's 5 Pillars: academic achievement, leadership, service, citizenship, & character. She maintains a cumulative GPA of 98% out of 100% & has been on the High Honor Roll her entire middle school career. She's been a volunteer for the Sayreville School District's Unified Club & Sports Programs for the past 7 years, is a peer tutor, member of the Environmental Club of Sayreville (ECOS), School Newspaper & Career Club. She's been an avid dancer since age 3 & enjoys giving back to her community by volunteering in numerous school & community-based programs like the Knights of Columbus. Congratulations Miranda! (Photos/Info Submitted)

Real Housewives of New Jersey:

Early American Women and Their Kitchen Gardens

This year, Dowdell library will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as well as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America250 initiative is led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to honor our nation's history and diversity. The Library will make history come alive with - not to miss - fun programming throughout the year, presented by various professionals. The upcoming program on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 pm will be presented by noted horticulturist, Lesley Parness, who has also been the Superintendent of horticultural education at New Jersey's Morris County Park Commission.

Ms. Parness will note how kitchen

gardens in the 1700s fed, healed, and clothed Early American families. The 18th century "huswife" skill set included "physicke," cookery, distillation perfumery, the making of wool, hemp flax, dayries, brewing, baking," and, of course - gardening. Growing plants, both Native American and from their homelands, these women turned their soup pots into the "melting pot" that is America.

Don't miss this special program on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 pm. The Dowdell Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School - off O'Leary Blvd. in South Amboy.

For more information, contact the Dowdell Library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Going Beyond the Call of Duty: How Two Police Officers Saved a Life

By Surjit Singh

We often hear about the police catching bad guys, but we don't always hear about the quiet ways they save lives through pure kindness. Recently, I witnessed an incredible act of compassion by two police officers: Lieutenant An S. Wang from the South Amboy Police Department and Lieutenant Angela Moat from the Sayreville Police Department.

A Hidden Danger

The situation started with a heartbreaking discovery. A local resident had been targeted by an online scam. The scammers had been tricking him for a very long time, and he had no idea it was happening.

When the victim finally realized he had been scammed, he lost all hope. He felt so overwhelmed and devastated that he was planning to end his life.

Compassion and Quick Action

Thankfully, contact was made with the

Sayreville Police Department. Lieutenant Angela Moat stepped in to help. She handled the situation with the utmost professionalism, but more importantly, she showed deep sympathy. She listened to the victim, understood his pain, and made him feel safe during his darkest moment.

At the same time, Lieutenant An S. Wang from the City of South Amboy Police Department stepped up to guide the victim. He patiently showed him the proper steps and channels to take to handle the scam and protect himself.

A Life Saved

Because Lieutenant Moat and Lieutenant Wang cared so much, a tragedy was avoided. Their kind words and professional guidance completely changed the victim's mind. Instead of giving up, he chose to live, and he is now slowly getting his life back to normal.



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 presented awards to outstanding students and altar servers: Grand Knight Ed Vassallo (l) and Father Stan Gromadzki (r) are pictured after the presentation with the recipients: Paige Cleary, Michael Wiszenko, and Jeffery Tuquero. (Photo/Info by Jan Williams)

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Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Tis the season for our next guest. Do you know who he is? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 19th.

Last month's mystery men were four of the Greatest Bowlers of all time! Together they amassed 133 PBA Tour Titles! Don Johnson, left, Mark Roth, back, Earl Anthony, Center, and Dick Weber right!

The following must have spent some Saturday afternoons watching them play because they got it right: Jim & Debbie Sissick, John Baginsky, JoAnn & John French, Edna Pilch, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Gary Feret, Walter Starzec Jr, Dane Colburn, Laurie & Gary Loftus.



Don Johnson, left, Mark Roth, back, Earl Anthony, Center, and Dick Weber right!



Community Leaders Recognized at YMCA of MEWSA Annual Dinner

(Article Submitted)



Pictured (l-r) at the annual YMCA Dinner are the Malinowski Award Honoree Ashley Erin Dunne, South Amboy YMCA School Age Child Care and Camp SAY Director Tony Brewster, and YMCA of MEWSA President and CEO Laura Muñoz Humphreys.



Pictured at the YMCA Annual Dinner are (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, YMCA of MEWSA Vice President of Operations Kyle Strohm, Councilman Anthony Conrad, Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross, Susan Gross, South Amboy Board of Education President and Candidate for Council Judith Raskoshin, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, and Councilman Larry Lenahan.

WWW.?



Look familiar? Not exactly the most popular site during the summer. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 19th.

WWW.? Winners

WWW.? Last month's answer was The Ancient Order Of Hibernians, Middlesex County Div. #1 located in South Amboy. Previously it was home to the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library and The Second Baptist Church.

Winners: Patti Tengelijks, Adele O'Hara, John Gelsinon, Dennis Quinlan, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Mary Agnes Morris, Betty Leveille, Martin & Lorrie Lorentz, JoAnn & John French, Paul Conlon, Debbie

O'Connor, Edna Pilch, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Sonia Iglesias, Elizabeth Levine, Georgianna McDonald, Steve Laskiewicz, Gary Feret, Walter Starzec Jr, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre, Ed English. Lisa Grankowski, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

*Betty Leveille correctly identified Raritan Bay Credit Union in our monthly contest, but was not listed with the other winners. Sorry Betty!



The Ancient Order Of Hibernians, Middlesex County Div. #1

The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge, South Amboy, and Piscataway recently welcomed nearly 300 community leaders, partners, volunteers, and supporters to its Annual Dinner, an evening dedicated to celebrating service, leadership, and community impact across Middlesex County. The event brought together local officials, business leaders, and advocates from across the region, including representatives from South Amboy. Among those in attendance were Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry, Council President Mickey Gross, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Councilman Larry Lenahan, Councilman Anthony Conrad, and Councilman Thomas Reilly. A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of longtime community advocate Letitia "Tish" Coughlin, who received the Barnes Community Champion Award for her outstanding dedication to community service and leadership. A lifelong Middlesex County resident with strong ties to South Amboy and the surrounding area, Tish has spent years supporting local families, schools, youth programs, and community organizations. She currently serves on the YMCA of MEWSA Board of Directors and chairs the organization's Childcare Committee, helping guide programs and services that support children and families across the YMCA's service area. "Tish's commitment to serving others and strengthening the community reflects the heart of the YMCA's mission," said Laura Muñoz Humphreys, YMCA of MEWSA President and CEO. "Her leadership continues to make a meaningful impact on families throughout South Amboy and beyond." The evening also celebrated South Amboy YMCA staff member Ashley Erin Dunne as a recipient of the Malinowski Rising Star Award, which recognizes exceptional youth employees who demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the YMCA mission. Ashley serves as a counselor in the South Amboy YMCA Childcare Department and

is currently studying Elementary Education at Kean University with a focus on children with disabilities. She was recognized for the care, patience, and enthusiasm she brings to the children and families she supports each day, as well as her commitment to creating inclusive and welcoming environments. Throughout the evening, the YMCA highlighted its continued impact within the South Amboy community through programs designed to support residents of all ages. The South Amboy YMCA provides before and after school care for local families, helping children learn and grow in a safe and supportive environment beyond the school day. The branch also offers health and wellness opportunities including pickleball and group fitness classes that help community members stay active and connected. During the summer months, the YMCA's camp programs provide children with opportunities to build confidence, develop friendships, and create lasting memories in a fun and enriching environment. From youth development programs to wellness initiatives and family support services, the YMCA remains committed to strengthening the South Amboy community and creating opportunities for individuals and families to thrive. The Annual Dinner served as both a celebration of community leadership and a reflection of the partnerships that continue to strengthen the YMCA's impact throughout South Amboy and the greater Middlesex County region. About the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge and South Amboy The YMCA of MEWSA is a 501(3)(c) non-profit health and wellness organization. For 100 years, the YMCA has proudly served Metuchen, Edison, Colonia, Avenel, Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Piscataway and surrounding areas. For more information about the YMCA of MEWSA, visit ymcaofmews.org or contact the Metuchen Branch at 732-548-2044, the Edison Branch at 732-494-3232, the South Amboy Branch at 732-553-9622 or the Piscataway branch at 732-562-230

MY FLAG-YOUR FLAG -OUR FLAG

By Bob Olin

The date was July 14, 1777. A flag consisting of 13 stars and 13 stripes was recognized by Congress as the first United States flag. History has it that our first flag was sewed by Betsy Ross.

It was red, white and with a field of blue with 13 stars representing each state of our union and 7 red stripes and 6 white stripes, again a total of 13. When Vermont and Kentucky were admitted in 1892, they added 2 stars as well as 2 stripes. Realizing that adding a stripe for each future state would be cumbersome, Congress decided to revert back to 16 stripes in 1818.

The 18 striped flag which flew over Fort McHenry in 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner".

Many things have been written about the meaning of our flag since 1777. Not only is our flag a history of our American symbol but a history of our country and people. It is a unifying symbol of all of our United States.

The following meanings were assigned to the colors in 1782 by the Secretary of the Continental Congress, Charles Thompson, during the design process for the Great Seal of the United States. The red represents valor, bravery and hardiness, white symbolizes purity and innocence and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Each time a state was admitted to our union a new star was added to the field of blue the year after admission. To date we have had a total of 27 different flags.

Since our first flag was issued with 13 stars there have been 22 flags issued with 1 added star 2 with 4 added stars and 2 with 5 added stars.

California was admitted to the Union on Sept 9, 1850 and the 31st star was added to the flag in 1851.

Our current flag of 50 stars representing 50 states was issued in 1960 and is the longest serving flag, 66 years. The shortest was 1 year, the 49th star flag which admitted Alaska and was designed by the Heraldic Branch of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corp.,

The 50-star flag was designed by a 17-year-old by the name of Bob Heft. While

his story of designing and submitting his design is a great one, here is a shortened version of his journey.

At Lancaster High School in Saginaw Michigan, Bob's class were given an assignment by U.S History teacher Stanley Pratt to prepare a history project of choice and report it in class. It was the Spring of 1958.

Bob prepared by sewing together a 50-star flag and Pratt commented, "Do you realize we only have 49 states?" And Bob was given a B-grade. Bob did 50 stars because he thought Hawaii had a good chance of becoming a state. He also designed a 51-star flag in anticipation of Puerto Rico being admitted.

Pratt went on to say "If you get the 50-star flag approved by the President I will agree to change your grade." A year later, on August 21, 1959 Hawaii was admitted. President Eisenhower called Bob at a company where he just started working, told him his design was approved and asked him to come to Washington to take part in a ceremony on July 4, 1960 to watch the official 50-star flag be raised as the official flag of the United States. Pratt changed Bob's grade to an A.

His original flag that he had sewn has been flown over the white house, all 50 state capitols and over 121 American embassies and was damaged in an attack in Saigon in 1967.

Bob Heft, later in life, joined the Napoleon Lions Club in Ohio of Lions Clubs International in 1991. He transferred to Saginaw Downtown Lions Club in Michigan in 1999. Bob was a Lions Governor of District 11 D-1 in 2005-2006

I had the pleasure of spending a week with Bob at the Lions Clubs International Headquarters in Oak Brook Illinois where we had Leadership Training. He wrote a sketch which a group of us performed. We took second place.

Bob passed away on December 12, 2009. He was 67. His granite monument simply has his name and dates and is graced with a 50-star flag. He was humble, intelligent and very patriotic.



(Photo by Bob Olin)



In time to honor Memorial Day, Knights of Columbus Council 2061 in Sayreville was contacted to help with repairing the downed Flag Poles that were damaged in the storms over the winter at the OLV New Cavalry Cemetery on Washington Road in Sayreville. The project was spearheaded by our Grand Knight Billy O'Neill. Council members removed damaged and broken poles, and installed new poles and ropes. They power washed and cleaned the monuments and cleaned up the area in time for the memorial day ceremonies. (Photos/Info Submitted)



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By Tom Burkard

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2. R.O.C.K. In The USA
3. Living In America
4. Only In America
5. South Amboy USA
6. America
7. American Girl
8. Young American
9. American Pie
10. We're An American Band
11. In America
12. American Saturday Night
13. Born In The USA

- a. David Bowie
- b. Neil Diamond
- c. Jerry Smith
- d. Brad Paisley
- e. Guess Who
- f. James Brown
- g. John Mellencamp
- h. Bruce Springsteen
- i. Lee Greenwood
- j. Jay & The Americans
- k. Tom Petty/The Heartbreakers
- l. Charlie Daniels Band
- m. Don McLean
- n. Grand Funk Railroad

Answers
11 2g 3f 4j 5c 6b 7k 8a 9m 10n 11i 12d 13h.



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 recently presented a beautifully restored painting of Father Michael McGivney, and presented it to Fr. Stanley Gromadzki to hang in the Sacred Heart Church. Father McGivney was the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Pictured (l-r) Steve Tarr, Bob O'Connor, PGK Gary Lattanzi, Fr. Stanley Gromadzki, GK Ed Vassallo, and his grandson Liam Hourahan. (Photo/Info by Jan Williams)



People are still talking about the great weekend they had at the South Amboy Citywide Yard Sale, which was held on May 2-3. Yard-salers found all kinds of treasures at reasonable bargain prices. The above sale was on Catherine St. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Middlesex County's Annual Music-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series Returns

Concerts will take place from July-September. Music with a purpose: Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to support REPLENISH and Feeding Middlesex County, which will be on-site at each concert. Donations will help local families in need. For more information, please visit middlesexcountynj.gov/replenish and feedingmiddlesexcounty.org.

WHEN / WHERE:

2026 Music-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series: Raritan Bay Waterfront Park O'Leary Boulevard | South Amboy

****In case of inclement weather (July 1-September 9), concerts will move to South Amboy Middle/High School Auditorium****

Wednesdays | 6:30-8:30 pm

July 1: Danny V's 52nd Street Band – A Tribute to Billy Joel

July 8: Parkway Soul – A Variety of Motown Classics

July 15: Ring of Fire – Johnny Cash Tribute

July 22: The Fireflies – Doo-Wop Favorites from the 50's and 60's

July 29: Live Vinyl – Ladies Who Rock the 80's

August 5: Zydeco a Go GO – New Orleans Style Rhythm & Blues, 40's Jazz & Swing

August 12: The Chronicles of Rock & Roll – The Ultimate 50's, 60's and 70's Party

August 19: BonPoison – A Tribute to Bon Jovi & Poison

August 26: Vinyl Madness – A Variety of Classic Rock, Pop and Country

September 2: JoBannano & The Godsons of Soul – A Variety of Rock and Soul

September 9: Perry Brothers – ½ Way to St. Patrick's Day – Irish Favorites and More



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Former South Amboy/Sayreville resident Bill Masterson recently purchased this beautiful horse named "The Walner Express." He will make his racing career debut on July 10th at the Meadowlands in the NJ Sire Stakes for 2-year old trotters. According to Bill "He will be facing some of the best 2-year-old trotters in the country." Best of luck, Bill! (Photo Submitted)

Local Wildlife



Mother and father goose have their young goslings out for an afternoon swim at a nearby park. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Remember When? 50 Years Ago



1976-St. Mary's High School had so many dedicated and wonderful Sisters of Mercy teaching students. If you attended St. Mary's, you probably recognize some of them. Please let us know who they are, and if you happen to have a special memory about any of them, feel free to share that with our readers. Email us at: satimes@aol.com. (Photo submitted)

The Best Things

By Robert W. Eginton

The best things
in life are free,
A smile from a loved one
Or a beautiful
distant memory.
The sound of laughter
From children at play,
Or the chance to enjoy life
Another day.
So don't make life
Too complicated,
The best things have come
To those who have waited.

Broken Time

By Al Gomoka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.1984

Although the night falls
And the day breaks
Each individual holds the glue
To put their broken
times of life
Back together again. . . Believe

George Washington

By Dr. Edwin Duroy

Young George was his name
Honesty the path he claimed
One day his father did say
who cut this tree
George with sad eye said it was me
A human fable, well known by many
But his truthfulness carried
him to greatness
A General and President for ages
He led us in battle and in leadership
Creating a country we know
At peril of his own risk
Forging the USA to top of the list
With Pride, Liberty
and a history not to end
George, your vision brought
us a nation evolving in time
You were an honest child,
great leader and tall
Tears were included with your strive to
create a new nation
welcoming all Imagine
George for a second was told USA
Two Hundred and Fifty years and bold!

School Sports

By Tom Burkard

2026 Final Statistics

Softball

Sayreville (24-3)

Coach Jordan Vazquez

Team Leaders

Runs-Mya Infante 38, Josephine Vanore 33, Gianna Falto 29; Hits-Vanore 40, Riley Arena 39, Falto 36, Infante 33, Sara Williamson 30; RBI-Arena 35, Falto 29; Doubles-Infante 12, Arena 11, Vanore 11, Kayden Badami-Menges 11; Triples-Badami-Menges 3; Home Runs-Infante 5, Arena 3, Williamson 2, Marissa Shipman 1; Stolen Bases-Falto 17; Batting Avg.-Vanore .494, Arena .488, Falto .439.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Vanore 138, Arena 28; Strikeouts-Vanore 179, Arena 45; Won-Lost-Vanore (19-2), Arena (5-0); ERA-Arena 0.50, Vanore 1.78.

South Amboy (13-11)

Coach Jake Salvatore

Team Leaders

Runs-Sophie Hernandez 44, Addison Lonardo 34; Hits-Hernandez 43, Gwen Kalantsis 40; RBI-Kalantsis 49, Hernandez 33; Doubles-Hernandez 10, Kalantsis 8; Triples-Hernandez 4, Kayla Kokoszka 2; Home Runs-Kalantsis 2, Kokoszka 1; Batting Avg.-Hernandez .606, Kalantsis .548.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Hernandez 122.2; Strikeouts-Hernandez 165; Won-Lost-Hernandez (13-11); ERA-Hernandez 7.19.

Baseball

South Amboy (9-11)

Coach Dan Poulsen

Team Leaders

Runs-Rob Senape 28, Micah Nemeth 24; Hits-Senape 28, Nemeth 20, Madden Bizzarro 20; RBI-Nemeth 23, Senape 21, Joseph Foreman 19; Doubles-Nemeth 11, Senape 6, Bizzarro 5; Triples-Robert Conklin 2, Foreman 2; Home Runs-Nemeth 1, Bizzarro 1; Stolen Bases-Senape 12, Nemeth 6, Conklin 6; Batting Avg.-Senape .444, Nemeth .444, Foreman .417.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Nemeth 38.2, Bizzarro 27.2, Foreman 24.2; Strikeouts-Nemeth 79, Bizzarro 32, Foreman 23; Won-Lost-Nemeth (4-3), Bizzarro (3-3), Foreman (1-1), Conklin (1-3); ERA-Nemeth 2.53, Bizzarro 7.08, Foreman 7.09.

Sayreville (11-15)

Coach Timothy Ballard

Team Leaders

Runs-Kyle Stevens 11; Hits-Will Lukie 24, Chase Cannan 19, Logan Kaufman 18; RBI-Kaufman 16, Lukie 13; Doubles-Kaufman 5; Triples-Cannan 1, Lukie 1; Home Runs-Cannan 2, Lukie 1; Batting Avg.-Lukie .333, Ray Koester .314.

Pitching

Innings Pitched-Kaufman 53.2, Jack Martyn 38, Justin Maher 28; Strikeouts-Kaufman 46, Maher 22, Martyn 20; Won-Lost-Kaufman (3-4), Martyn (3-5), Jaden Phillips (2-1), Maher (2-4); ERA-Kaufman 2.87, Martyn 3.25, Maher 4.79.

Sayreville Softball Finishes (24-3)

The Sayreville girls softball team turned in an outstanding (24-3) season under rookie Head Coach Jordan Vazquez, and won the GMC Red National Division championship with a perfect (8-0) record. The Assistant Coaches were Brian Keegan and Jalyn Dzamba. The roster for this amazing team was as follows: Seniors-Mya Infante, Gianna Falto, Sophia Matula, Addison Kilpatrick, Sara Williamson, Josephine Vanore; Sophomores-Isabella Rosario, Riley Swanton, Marissa Shipman, Julia Diffin, Riley Arena; Freshmen-Reina Figueroa, Sabrina Niederholtmeyer, Kayden Badami-Menges.

Congratulations Bombers on an incredible run in 2026!

**See the team leaders under the 2026 Final Statistics column.*

Sayreville Falls In GMCT Final

Playing in their first GMCT Softball championship game since 2015, when the Bombers captured the title over East Brunswick, 7-0, our Sayreville locals were upset by a fired-up St. Thomas Aquinas team, 9-0. The Bombers entered the contest with a (22-1) record and were the #1 seed in the tourney, and had a 13 game winning streak, while St. Thomas was (16-8). Sarah Williamson laced 2 hits for Sayreville.

South Amboy Bows In 2 Tourneys

South Amboy Lady Guvs had very tough outings in the GMCT and also the CJ Group I tournaments. In the quarterfinals of the GMCT, Perth Amboy pounded the Purple & Gold 11-1, while our locals managed only 3 singles. In CJ Group 1 First Round action, Florence flew by the SA contingent 15-0 in a 4-inning contest, no-hitter.

Bombers Nipped By Hightstown

In NJSIAA CJ Group 4 action, Sayreville boys baseball squad lost a heart-breaking 8-inning battle to Hightstown, 5-4. Will Lukie drilled a 2-run single, while Kyle Stevens and Jarret Intili each ripped rbi singles.

Guvs Eliminated In 1st Round

Point Pleasant shocked the South Amboy boys baseball team, 10-0 in 5.1 innings on a combined no-hitter, in round 1 of the NJSIAA CJ Group 1 Tournament. The Guvs were seeded #14 and powerful Point Pleasant was the #3 seed.

Sayreville Upset In Semis

The powerful Sayreville Bombers girls softball squad was shocked by Marlboro, 7-0 in the CJ Group 4 semifinals. The locals managed only 2 hits off Marlboro ace hurler Emily Gaudio, who struck out 12. Josephine Vanore and Gianna Falto each hit a single in Sayreville's final game of the season.

College Notebook

Mike Novak (Sayreville) saw some action in 25 games for New Jersey City University (11-27-1), and batted .273, with 6 hits, 10 runs, 3 doubles, and 2 RBI...Hailey Kilpatrick also saw some playing time with Kean University (24-16), appearing in 12 games, and getting 5 hits, 1 double, and 3 RBI, while batting .167.

Samantha Mierzwiak Chooses American University!



Samantha Mierzwiak from South Amboy/Sayreville and a Junior Defender for Red Bank Catholic and NJ Premier FC has committed to play her collegiate soccer at American University D.C. Along with playing soccer in the Patriot League she will be studying Investment/Securities Law. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Clark Follows In Great-Grandfathers Footsteps



Above: Colin Clark (l), great grandson of South Amboy baseball legend and former MLB player Allie Clark, who played for the Yankees, is pictured with his grandfather Allie Clark Jr. and his mother Stephanie Clark.

Right: Colin shows his complete concentration during a recent at-bat. He plays second base, shortstop and pitches, and can hit the long ball. (Photos/info Submitted)



Below: The Sayreville Flash Bombers 13-year old travel team that competes in the USABL League is a very talented group of future stars, and Colin Clark, a power-hitter, plays an important role in the team's continued success.



Sayreville's Sofia Muller Named Greater Middlesex Conference's Scholar-Athlete



Sofia Muller was honored with the Jay H. Dakelman Scholar-Athlete Award for balancing exceptional academic performance with multiple school and community contributions. Sofia was a four-year member and two-year captain of the Sayreville Girls Varsity Bowling team. She was instrumental in building Sayreville's Unified Sports Program for the past 11 years, most recently acting as a Student-Coach, Activity Fair Coordinator and Recruiter. Sofia is ranked sixth out of 464 students. She is an active member of the National Honor Society, Rutgers University's Business for Youth Program, the Knights of Columbus, a Student Teacher through Sayreville's Co-Op program and an avid dancer. Sofia will attend Rider University's Norm Brodsky School of Business to study Accounting in the fall. Pictured (l-r) (l to r): Sofia Muller & Varsity Girls Bowling Coach James Zolla. (Photo/Info Submitted)



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Salt Water

Fishing at our local beaches remains slow. I checked Cliffwood, SA and Ideal Beaches but didn't see too much action going on. I did see one keeper Striped Bass at Cliffwood caught by someone using a kayak and another one at Lawrence Harbor which to me was about 33 inches-above the 31 inch limit allowed max size. This could change with the arrival of Bluefish which can happen at any time now. They are catching some big Bluefish in the surf at Island Beach and LBI. Stripers and Black Drum are mixed in. Party boats are catching their limits of Sea Bass along with Ling and a few Blackfish. Fluke fishing has picked up especially at Sandy Hook Bay. Many keepers have been caught along with plenty of shorts.

Fresh Water

Trout stocking is now finished and will continue in the fall. My wife and I visited some of our favorite spots on the Pequest River. In mid-May on a weekend, we only caught 2 trout and missed some in low water conditions. We returned on the last day in May with me catching one and losing 3 and she outdid me by catching her 6 Trout limit. As of June 1st the keeper limit is now 2 Trout at all other times rather than the previous years when the allowed limit was 4 until next year's opening day. Plenty of fish remain.

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.



Gone Fishin'



Devyn Pilot caught this largemouth bass at Grekoski Park in South River NJ on 6/14/26. (Photo Submitted)

Trinity Methodist Church Thrift Shop

The Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop at 815 Bordentown Avenue is changing their hours for the summer. We are now open on MONDAY NIGHTS at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and again, on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am.

We have great sales in our housewares shed - 50% off many of our already low prices. Our clothes shed is full and we have great sales going on. Our drop off is open 24/7. Please stop by during our hours.

Obituaries

Bartz, Frederick, 88, formerly of Parlin died on May 12.
 Bobbins, Anita, 66, of Sayreville died on May 11.
 Bracht, Francis J., 89, of South Amboy died on June 4.
 DeLucia, Dolores, 74, formerly of Sayreville died on May 18.
 Doherty, Margaret "Peggy," 73, of Parlin died on May 15.
 Donnamaria, Anthony J. Sr., 93, of Parlin died on June 11.
 Evers, Michael J. "Micky," 68, of Parlin died on June 11.
 Garreck, Anna P. Murawski, 85, of Sayreville died on May 17.
 Giera, Maria T., 65, of Sayreville died on June 8.

Henry, Bill, 81, formerly of Sayreville died on May 16.
 Mancini, Nicholas, 75, of Parlin died on May 30.
 Mason, Shane, 47, formerly of South Amboy, died on May 31.
 Mastorio, Kathleen M., 65, formerly of Sayreville died on May 30.
 Ogarek, Patricia, 75, of South Amboy died on June 5.
 Semoneit, Joyce G., 91, of South Amboy died on May 14.
 Solanki, Joyce, 86, of Parlin died on May 29.
 Wong, Anna L., 64, of South Amboy died on June 8.
 Zakrzewska, Krystyna, 95, of Parlin died on June 2.

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

PRAYER TO 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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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 may 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 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.

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The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1970's- Raritan River Railroad Babe Ruth Team. Standing (l-r) Jack Hulsart, Dennis Carey, Scott Douglas, Steve Boychuk, Steve Makwinski, Ray Stockton. Seated (l-r) Frank Norek, Ed Dooling, Mike Kelly, Al Cox, Joe Mantz, Bob Fell. (Photo/info submitted)



2003-South Amboy's ace pitcher, Keryn Rosenberger shows the fine form which made her one of the top pitchers in Middlesex County. Her 17 wins were #4 in the county, and she racked up 159 strikeouts to go with a fabulous 1.06 ERA for the Lady Guvs. (Photos by Brian Stratton)

Towns A World Champion!



Karl Anthony Towns, a key member of the newly crowned World Champion New York Knicks is shown shooting a free throw while playing for St. Joe's HS in Metuchen in 2014. He went on to the University of Kentucky for one year and was drafted number one overall in the 2015 NBA draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves where he won Rookie of the Year honors in 2016. Congratulations on the big win KAT! (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Way, Way Back In '68

St. Mary's opened the 1968 season with a 6-0 victory over St. Joseph's of Toms River in the first game ever in the newly-formed CJ Catholic Conference. Mike Drahos was the winning pitcher after going 4.1 innings in relief of starter Fred Henry, as they combined for a most memorable no-hitter. Tom Kelly blasted a single and long home run, and Bill Farrell ripped a single and triple.

Biggest Blowout

The greatest victory margin for a Hoffman/South Amboy High School softball team came on April 12, 1984, when the Hoffman Lady Guvs annihilated Piscataway Tech by an unbelievable 52-2 score! Coach Rich Klein's extremely talented club went on to win the County Championship and finished with a superb (23-2) record.

Charlie Kolakowski



Charlie Kolakowski, one of the greatest pitchers and all around athletes in Sayreville High School history is pictured at the Cleveland Indians Spring Training camp in 1959. He starred in the minor leagues, and was invited to train with Cleveland's big league club. Kolakowski had a chance to compete with some of the greatest Indian players in history, including Rocky Colavito, Jim "Mudcat" Grant, Gary Bell, and Woody Held. Charlie said "I remember going out with Billy Martin and Woody Held for a couple of beers. Martin was a regular guy."

45 Years Ago

Tom Mulligan Leads Guvs

1981-Hoffman hammered East Brunswick Tech, 17-1. Winning pitcher Tom Mulligan had a fantastic game, and also unloaded 2 home runs in the second inning! His first dinger was a grand slammer that traveled 380 feet, and the next moon shot was a 3-run blast that was tape-measured at 370 feet. He also belted a double and had 7 RBI! Tim Bloodgood added 3 RBI, John Mulligan and Glenn Vona drove in 2 runs apiece.

In addition to setting records for the 2 home runs and 7 RBI in one inning, he set school records for a season with 40 runs scored, 9 doubles, 22 walks, and 43-43 stolen bases.

50 Years Ago

1975-76-St. Mary's girls varsity excellent basketball team was coached by Sister Marianne Chorba. The players were superstars Kathy Redling and Sue Wilson, Donna Brunialti, Nancy Flannery, Nancy Pascale, Mary Jane Pascale, Barbara Turso, Jane Di Cosmo, Kathy Perry, Diane Kline, Grace Bentivagna.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2023-In the second round of the GMCT, South Brunswick pulled a major upset over the Sayreville boys baseball team, 5-3. A.J. Zapotyczny had 2 RBI, Aidan Crimmins drilled 2 doubles and knocked in 1, Michael Novak stroked 2 hits and stole 2 bases, while James Kehoe struck out 6 in 4.2 innings...

2012-South Amboy blasted Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's, 18-2 in a 5-inning baseball blowout, to win the Mayor's Trophy. Winning pitcher Dan Murphy fired a no-hitter, and had plenty of support from Jayson Olivares who belted 3 hits and knocked in 3, Tim Kales-2hits, 3 RBI, Riley Rone-2 RBI, and Tyler Oliveri a 2-run triple...2003-In a GMCT 1st round baseball game, Middlesex plastered Sayreville, 19-7. Keith Simpkins hit a single and triple, and Kyle Masterson unloaded a long triple for the Bombers... 1996-St. Mary's girls softball squad shocked Hoffman, 17-11 in Game 2 of the City Series. Alyson Baumgartner laced 4 hits including

45 Years Ago

1981-Hoffman opened their baseball season with a 10-1 romp over Piscataway Tech. Freshman pitcher Mark Thompson was the winning pitcher and fanned 9. Sophomore catcher Tim Bloodgood drilled 3 hits and had 4 RBI. Frank Wahler drove in 2 runs.

Pro Baseball Report

Riley O'Brien, star closer for the St. Louis Cardinals is having his best season ever, and is currently tied for most Saves in the National League with 17. He has pitched in 29 games, 29.1 innings, 31 strikeouts, has held opposing batters to a .248 avg., and is (3-3) with an 3.68 ERA. Riley is the grandson of the late John O'Brien, and nephew of the late Ed O'Brien. South Amboy natives, John and Ed were the most famous twins in Major League Baseball in the early 1950's, getting their start with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1996

Sport-Baseball

Teams-St. Mary's vs Hoffman in City Series Game 2

Recap-The Eagles avenged an earlier loss to the Guvs, and won 5-3. With 2 outs in the bottom of the 5th inning, Jesse Holovacko came through with one of the biggest hits in his career by blasting a bases-clearing, 3-run double. Winning pitcher Brian Moy tossed a 4-hitter and struck out 6.

Player of the Game-Jesse Holovacko, St. Mary's.

Diamond Dust

1976 South Amboy (SA)

Little Fellas League

Lions 7 Modern Trans 6-Pete Smith had 4 hits, and winning pitcher Joe Harrigan struck out 13.

Enterprise 12 Rotary 2-Billy Wagner drilled 3 hits.

English Chevron 10 Knights of Columbus 3-Winning pitcher Gary Vona fired a 3-hitter, struck out 12 and got 3 hits. Teammate Dave Silva ripped 3 hits.

Protection 4 English Chevron 2-Chet Klein stroked 3 hits.

1970 SA Babe Ruth League

Mechanicsville 4 Independence 2-Leroy Kurtz was the winning pitcher.

1969 SA Babe Ruth League

South Amboy Trust Co. 8 Mechanicsville 0-Winning pitcher Tom Boychuk fanned 7.

Al Pasztonyicky belted a 2-run homer. Sacred Heart 9 Raritan River Railroad 2-George Olszewski notched the victory,

while Dave Wisniewski, Bob Grzyb, and Tom Szatkowski had 2 hits apiece.

1969 SA Little Fellas League

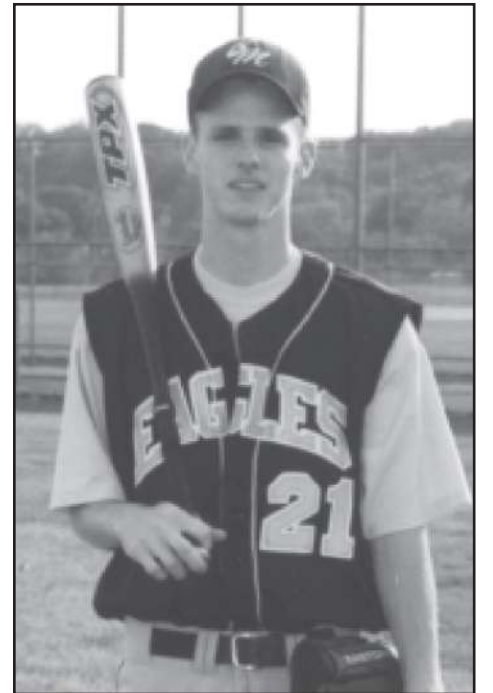
Weiss 8 Protection 6-George Bongiorno was the winning pitcher, and Dennis blasted a single, and a homer to drive in 2 runs.



a double for 2 RBI, and Jackie Demeraski smacked a 2-run two-bagger. Winning pitcher Molly McCreary belted an RBI double. The Lady Guvs were paced by Sue Rowley with a bases clearing triple, Jessica English 2 RBI, and Lyli Munoz a 2-run double... 1982-Hoffman's John "Skeets" Skarzynski was (5-2) with an 1.20 ERA, and led the team with a .367 batting avg. Glenn Vona hit .361, and Peter Smith .323. Vona topped the Guvs with 30 stolen bases. Smith added 17 RBI... 1972-St. Mary's beat Hightstown in golf, 12.5-5.5. The top golfers for the Eagles were Guy Carulli 41, Jim Riehl 45, and Jim Frenier 50... 1969-In baseball action, Sayreville stopped nearby South River, 11-9. Joe Gabel paced the offensive charge with a perfect 4-for-4, a double and 2 RBI, while Gary Unkel blasted 2 singles and a home run, and Rick Popowski smashed a 2 run double. Larry Cibrowski was the winning pitcher.

Fulham Sets Records

(Photo/Story from the Tom Burkard Archives)



Ed Fulham

Cardinal McCarrick's Ed Fulham re-wrote the Eagles' record book with a prolific offensive performance, as McCarrick belted East Brunswick Tech, 10-4. Fulham blasted a grand slam, and a two-run homer in the second inning, and finished with a perfect 4-for-4, seven RBI game, in addition to picking up the save in relief of Mark Morris. "I was just thinking about the fundamentals. I couldn't ask for a better senior year, with the basketball and baseball teams. We just went out and did it," said Fulham. Although no records have been kept through the years, my research indicates that Fulham's two homers and six RBI in an inning are school records, and his two home runs in the game tie a school record, which was set in 1986 by Bill Reilly.

40 Years Ago

1986-Sayreville Bombers baseball team captured the CJ Group IV championship over Piscataway, 5-1. Winning pitcher Chuck Frosolilo fired a 7-hitter and struck out 4. John Gluchowski had 3 RBI for the champions.

90 Years Ago

1936-St. Mary's annihilated Good Counsel, 13-0 in a 7-inning game. Winning pitcher Bill Stratton fired a no-hitter, struck out 17 and issued only 2 bases on balls. Ray Potthoff smacked 3 hits, Al Gomolka and Woodrow "Woody" McCarthy belted 2 doubles apiece.

Reilly's Great Game

In 1986, Bill Reilly, a talented all-around athlete at St. Mary's turned in one of the greatest baseball performances in the history of the school. Reilly not only pitched the Eagles to a 15-6 romp over Piscataway Tech, by striking out 7, but also went on a slugging rampage at the plate. He was a perfect 4-for-4, with 2 home runs, 8 RBI, and scored three runs. Dave Kennedy contributed 3 RBI and a homer for the Saints. Although no official records were kept at St. Mary's, it is believed that Reilly's 8 RBI is a single game record, and the two homers either set a single game record or tied one at the time.

Sayreville Memorial Day Parade

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Joel Bloom served as Master of Ceremonies of the Parade.



The Sayreville Memorial Day Parade was once again a huge success!



Having a great time marching are Sayreville and state dignitaries (l-r) Bernie Bailey, Councilwoman Mary Novak, Councilman Herve Blemur, NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Sayreville Democratic Organization Chairman Bill Henry.



Borough of Sayreville Council President John Zebrowski waves to the crowd.



This beautiful wreath was placed in front of the Sayreville Roll of Honor monument at Borough Hall.



Firefighters proudly display their banner.



Sayreville firefighters looked sharp as they marched down Main St.



Sayreville War Memorial HS Air Force JROTC.

Community Memorial Picnic 2026

On behalf of the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 and the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy, we would like to thank all the supporters, donators, contributors and people who came to our annual community picnic and helped make it a huge success. Without all of you, we would not have been able to be successful. Once again, the citizens and friends of this great little city showed why this city is so giving and supportive.

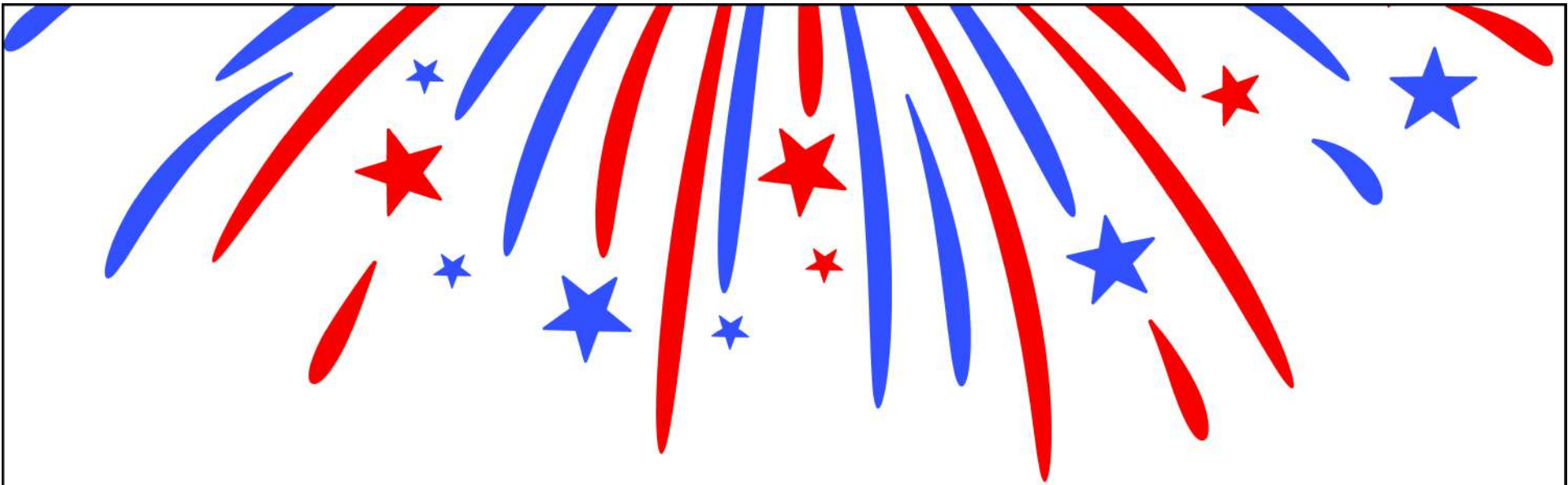
Sincerely, Joseph K. Szaro

Commander, Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62
Chairperson, Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy



AOH 🍀





HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF AMERICA

Anthony Conrad for Mayor

**Mickey Gross and Judith Raskoshin
for Council At-Large**



TEAM SOUTH AMBOY



southamboydems.org



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