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Happy Thanksgiving The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is
dedicated to

*Thomas Baranowski
*Raymond Suchcicki
*Camille Tooker



November 23, 2024 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 2

City Of South Amboy Mourns The Loss Of Camille Tooker



Former South Amboy Business Administrator Camille Tooker passed away on October 22, 2024. The very popular and beloved lady touched countless lives in such a positive way through the years, and will be sadly missed by everyone who was blessed to know her. See full Obituary on page 3.

Three Elected To Sayreville BOE



Katya Hernandez



Carrie Chudkowski



Leidy Maldonado

Sayreville voters elected three new members to the Board of Education. Katya Hernandez with 7,411 votes, Carrie A. Chudkowski 6,516, and Leidy Maldonado 5,162. They were followed by Anthony Esposito 4,861, and Matthew Lubeski 4,286.

South Amboy Council Results



Lawrence "Larry" Lenahan



Thomas Reilly



Zusette Dato

South Amboy Democrats, who ran unopposed were Ward 1-Lawrence "Larry" Lenahan 782 votes, Ward 2-Thomas Reilly 761 votes, and Ward 3-Zusette Dato 877 votes.

Dedication



The family of the late Jerry Pizzillo stands near a special tree planted at Veterans Plaza in South Amboy in memory of their husband, father, grandfather, who passed away earlier this year. The dedication also featured two new benches and a monument to honor Jerry. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

On behalf of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 South Amboy and the Auxiliary Unit, I would like to thank everyone who attended, supported and participated in our Veterans Day ceremony and our dedication ceremony for Jerry Pizzillo. The overwhelming attendance by all shows how our great little city comes together to support one and all. A special shout out to the best Department of Public Works for getting the Veterans Memorial Plaza ready for the day.

Joseph K. Szaro
Post #62 Commander



Synarski, Novak Win In Sayreville



Stanley "Stash" Synarski



Mary Novak

Stanley "Stash" Synarski (R) was the top vote-getter and re-elected to the Borough of Sayreville Council with 9,314. Former Councilwoman Mary Novak (D), claimed the other council seat with 9,289 votes. Vincent Conti (D) received 9,038, and Christina Sitaca (R) notched 8,920 votes.

Sayreville Voters Favor Preservation

The Sayreville voters overwhelmingly supported the referendum to preserve the 1909 Town Hall/Firehouse at 165 Main St. The voting was Yes-10,527, No-5,368.

Dems Win

In the election for two County Commissioner seats, Democrats Ronald G. Rios and Shanti Narra top the field. Rios led the way with 172,739 votes, Narra 171,758, and GOP candidates John J. McConville tallied 136,396, and South Amboy resident Peter "Pedro" Pizar 130,292.

SA BOE Results

Three candidates for 3-year terms on the South Amboy Board of Education ran unopposed: John J. Dragotta was top-vote getter with 1,723, William A. DeMasi 1,714, Theodore Tympanick 1,267 votes.

Raritan Bay 5K Turkey Trot

With an 8:30am start time on Thanksgiving morning (Nov. 28th), the Raritan Bay Waterfront Park will be hosting our 2nd Annual Turkey Trot. This will be the first Turkey Trot (and food collection) at the RBWP and we are already speaking of the years to come!

We ask that all participants/attendees bring a minimum \$10 donation AND any non-perishable food items to be collected that morning. REPLENISH of Middlesex County and FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY will directly benefit from all funds and food raised that morning!

Please call/text 732-501-4114 or email TheSchoolCounselor123@gmail.com with any questions! THANK YOU for feeding our neighbors!



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Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's 2025

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- Scallops

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Publisher

Tom Burkard

Associate Publisher

Brian Stratton

Feature Writers

Teo Weber

Clem Skarzynski

Jordan R. Drevelus

Layout Design

Phyllis Stratton

Photographer

Jamie Norek

Poet Laureate

Albert Gomolka Jr.

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Ray Downs (l) and Jerry Prusakowski, two childhood friends from South Amboy attended the Veterans Day Service and Special Memorial Dedication honoring their good friend Jerry Pizzillo. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Friends Of South Amboy Annual Charity Basketball Games

Event is on December 21 at South Amboy Middle High School

12:00 Noon

South Amboy girls vs New Brunswick

2:00 pm

South Amboy boys vs Calvary Christian

4:00 pm

Sayreville boys vs CSI McCown Staten Island

6:00 pm

St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs Moore Catholic Staten Island

8:00 pm

St. Joe's Metuchen boys vs Montgomery

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Advent Family Walk To Bethlehem

On Sunday Dec. 8th, a Family Walk To Bethlehem will begin at South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 at 308 Fourth St., starting at 2 p.m. in the parking lot. Four Christian Church Visitations with presentations by their Pastors will be featured. Following the visitations, the walkers will return to the K of C Hall for hot soups and light refreshments. Dress in the fashion of old or Christmas attire.

Contact info: Pat Regan 732-727-2768; Elaine Lopez 732-721-7851; Lois Ann Smith 732-266-9195; Gary Lattanzi.

I Am Already Rich

By Al Gomolka

Times Poet Laureate C. 2008

Searching for riches

That first million bucks,

Sought by most, Yet found by few

I may not have a brand new car

But my 12-year old,

130,000 mile clunker

Still gets me around...

I may not live in a

McMansion on the hill

But this 2 bedroom in town

Is home enough for me...

I've met the insurance

of IRA's and bonds

But I'm not in the red

From paycheck to paycheck...

Vacations to Rio

are out of my league

But nothing beats visits

To family and friends...

That Rolex or Gucci

I'll never afford

But Timex and Walmart

Are just fancy enough...

I've got a job and health,

And people that love me,

And my faith in a God

That constantly guides me,

What more does one

need to be rich...

Simple, isn't it?

Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.Installed as pastor of a local church on Oct. 26, 1997?

a.Rev. Dennis Weezorak b.Rev. Joseph Romanowski c.Rev. Stanley Gromadzki

2.South Amboy's 3rd Ward Councilman in '97?

a.James Inman b.Jim Reick c.Donald Thomas

3.Wine Cellar Pizza & Restaurant was located where in Sayreville back in '97?

a.Washington Rd. b.Jernee Mill Rd. c.Bordentown Ave.

4.Where was All Car Tech located in South Amboy circa 2000?

a.South Pine Ave. b.Ridgeway Ave. c.South Broadway

5.In '97, where was Connie's located in Sayreville?

a.Rt. 35 South b.Rt. 9 North c.MacArthur Ave.

6.Selected South Amboy Business Leader of the Year for 2003?

a.Al Sorrentino b.Frank Kurzawa c.Ed Gorczynski

7.Received the most votes for the Borough of Sayreville Council in '08?

a.Lisa Eicher b.Kenneth Kelly Sr. c.Ron Green

8.Where was the Lions Den located in South Amboy?

a.John St. b.North Broadway c.South Stevens Ave.

9.President of OLV School Student Government Executive Board in 2008-09?

a.Ian DiGuilio b.Katie Latham c.Julianne Cornell

10.The SA Times feature writer of the Hoffman Hi-Lites column?

a.Lenn Ambroziak b.Ed Sztakowski c.Bill Croddick

Answers

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



John Auto Center



Pictured (l-r) Surjit Singh (Owner of John Auto), Poonam Bamrah (wife), Sahib Singh Bamrah (son) and Chris. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

John Auto Center in South Amboy, opened for business in January 2008, under the ownership of Surjit Singh, and quickly became one of the most popular auto repair establishments in the state of New Jersey. One of his first customers was South Amboy City Council President Mickey Gross. In October of 2021, Surjit was honored by South Amboy for his volunteer services and dedication to the city. He has strongly supported police and city officials throughout the years.

Singh, and his fine mechanics deal with computers that monitor engine emission, and they'll inspect your vehicle and fix anything so it will pass inspection. Their work is 100% guaranteed. They fix any vehicle, old or new, foreign or domestic, and no job is too big or too small for John Auto Center. In addition to their expertise in countless types of repairs, they will be glad to give you an oil change if you need it.

Surjit has plenty of experience in car repairs and he began working on them when he was back in junior high school. He and his mechanics are always satisfied when they get their customer's vehicle up

and running and back on the road again. A couple of the many positive comments by customers, which can be found online are as follows:

Cynthia W. said, "John is awesome! I needed an emergency brake job on a Saturday morning, and he got it done! The service was fast, reliable and reasonable. I highly recommend John Auto Center in South Amboy."

Bob M. stated "I've been going to John's since he opened and he and his team are knowledgeable and professional. He always does a job in a timely manner, and prices are fair. I wouldn't take my car to any other mechanic."

The motto for John Auto Center is "Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, we can do it all."

John Auto Center is located at 272 North Stevens Ave., South Amboy. They are open Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm, and Saturday 8am to 5pm To make an appointment call 732-727-8500 or stop by and say "Hi" to John and his talented and friendly staff. You'll be glad you did.

Camille Tooker

Camille Tooker, beloved wife, mother, sister and friend, passed away peacefully on Oct 22, 2024 at JFK Medical Center. Camille was born in Quebec, Canada, and was adopted at six months old by Anna and Salvatore Riggio of Brooklyn, New York. She spent her formative years in Brooklyn before moving to Linden, New Jersey, where she graduated from Linden High School. It was there that she met the love of her life, Robert Tooker. The two married on November 15, 1969 beginning a journey of love and partnership that spanned more than five decades. Throughout her life, Camille worked a variety of jobs, always rising through the ranks due to her intelligence, reliability, and tireless work ethic. In 1982, she and her family moved to South Amboy. Camille took a job at the Landmark Tavern, working in the café in 1986. Over time, she became the face of the café side of the business, running it with her dear friend and partner, Bob Heiser, for almost two decades.

Her career didn't stop there. Camille went on to work for the city of South Amboy, starting with the Neighborhood Preservation Program. Through sheer dedication and passion for her community, she eventually became the Business Administrator of South Amboy, a position in which she poured her heart and soul into improving the town she loved. One of her proudest achievements was seeing the long-awaited South Amboy Ferry project come to fruition, a testament to her unwavering commitment to the city's growth and future.

In her personal life, Camille was known for her love of family and gatherings. Growing up in a vibrant Italian household, she mastered the art of cooking and relished in hosting family meals and celebrations. She enjoyed trips to Atlantic City with friends and family, and on a good night, she could be found belting out her favorite tunes during karaoke sessions. Camille had a warmth and charm that endeared her to all who knew her. She touched countless lives with her kindness and

generosity. Camille volunteered with the Morgan-Parlin Panthers Football Program in the mid-80's. Camille wore many hats from commentating the football games, to running the snack bar, and taking part in program leadership roles.

Camille loved taking part in the performing arts and was a big supporter of it locally. She caught the musical bug at the early age of just 6 years old, performing in her first ever show and has been hooked since! The only thing better than seeing a production is being cast in one! Camille appeared in The King and I, Annie Get Your Gun, Oklahoma, and South Amboy Community Theater's Production of Once Upon A Mattress. She produced the 1st and subsequent South Amboy Seafood Festivals, started the Holiday Tree Lighting and headed the Emergency Vehicle Parade. She was the director of the South Amboy Arts Alliance, which expands artistic and cultural activities for South Amboy Residents. She was also Vice Chair of the South Amboy Redevelopment Agency and member of the South Amboy Municipal Alliance. Camille was predeceased by her parents, Anna and Salvatore Riggio of Linden NJ and her biological mother, Madeleine Lapointe-Morneau. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Robert Tooker; sister, Valerie Moreno; sister-in-law Dolores Chirafesi; her loving children Robert, Randall and wife, Lynda Tooker, Ryan and his wife, Barbara Tooker; Tiffany and her wife, Berenice Tooker and many loving family members in Sept-Iles and Escoumins.

Grandchildren: Courtney Tooker, Brandon Tooker, Lexi Tooker, Benjamin Tooker, Brody Tooker, Lucy Tooker, Brielle Tooker, Brynn Tooker. Nieces & Nephews: Gina Neal & Charles Chirafesi, Bonnie & Patricia Tooker, Mary Moreno... and many close friends that she considered family. A memorial celebration of her life will be held in January 2025, with details to follow.

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FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



All of us remember the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy and the hardships it brought to our residents. In the storm's aftermath I pondered what could be done to assist our many suffering families. While watching a basketball game at St. Mary's gym, I thought back to the old days of the rivalry between St. Mary's and Hoffman (now South Amboy Middle High School). A thought struck me: what if we renewed this old and storied rivalry? And what if the proceeds from the event could assist families affected by the storm to help them through the holiday season?

I walked across the gym floor and spoke with two men who have for years demonstrated a commitment to serving our community: Dave Kales and Jack O'Leary. We discussed my idea, and The Friends of South Amboy was born soon after. I am proud to say that, through the selfless service of many dedicated volunteers, the Friends of South Amboy is thriving 12 years later. From assisting children with illnesses, veterans with medical bills, and families hit hard from unforeseen tragedies, the organization has raised thousands of dollars through hosting a variety of local events, and with the help of generous donors who share our vision and goals.

This year's event will be held on December 21 at the South Amboy High

School Gymnasium. The event will feature high school basketball games beginning at 12:00 and running all throughout the day showcasing some of the area's best high school teams and athletes. We hope you will come out and support our cause, see some great local basketball, and help families in need during the holiday season. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please reach out to me at tbreilly77@icloud.com. Finally, allow me to express our sincere thanks to the donors and volunteers who have graciously assisted us over the years. It is your selflessness and dedication that makes our city the great place that it is.

May the blessings of Thanksgiving fill your heart and home with joy.

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy


Yearbook—Hoffman 1994

By Tom Burkard

The Student Council President was Amy Hoehman and her officers were homeroom representative/organizer—Grace Murray, corresponding secretary—Melissa Paul; recording secretary—Kim Oshman. Senior Class Officers were: President- Jimi Cross, VP--Jeff Melhorn, Treas.--Lenny Smith, Sec.—Jasmine Baran. Hoffman High's Class of '94 had many talented athletes including Oliver Haran, Lenny Smith, Gema Kay, Lisa Ryan, Amy Hoehman, Adam Treiber, Ronald Brown, Eric Tambora, Jim Casanova, Robert Thomas III, Gustavo Torino, Kimberly Oshman, Michael Glasser, William Disbrow, Nelson Reyes, Timothy Bowers, Christopher Skryzniarz, Nancy Baranowski, John Charmello, Robert Matthews, George Baranowski, Janice Aucone. "I Swear" by All-4-One was the song most played on radio, and Hoffman High's Class of 1994 probably listened to it in their cars on the way to graduation. As Hoffman HS Class of '94 returned to its final year at the John Street institution in September, 1993, the top song in the nation was a remake of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling In Love" by UB40. Bill Beattie was principal, and some of his excellent staff of educators included Carol McDonnell, Rich Klein, Tony Gonsalves, Barbara Russell, John Bernosky, Joanne Blackmore, Sheila Inman, Roberta Rim. The yearbook was titled, "All Mixed Up," and was co-edited by Amy Hoehman and Lori Standowski. It was dedicated to Lyn Davis. The Homecoming

King and Queen were Oliver Haran and Christine Wence. Some of the Class of '94 selected randomly: Amy Szatkowski, Kim Brinkerhoff, Mark Felice, Lisa Thomson, Robert Senape, Fred Terris, Joseph Farrell II, Daniel Salmon, Beata Piotrowski, Jennifer Walczak, Kathleen Duggan, Chi Leach, Christopher Smith, Monica Lang, Amy Lapworth, Jennifer Simeone, Ronald Ross, Brian Walsh, Annette Was, Grace Murray, Keith Ludlow, Lydia Nicewicz. Some of the many "big" social happenings at the school included Pudding Wrestling; Halloween Happening; Spirit Week Olympics; Medieval Times; National Honor Society Tapping; and of course the school play, "Little Shop of Horrors." H.G. Hoffman High School's Class of '94 was an interesting and talented group, and what a "crazy" yearbook! I have researched hundreds of yearbooks through the years, but this one is a real "standout!" It really was "All Mixed Up." I'm still dizzy from turning it upside down! (LOL)

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



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South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee 2025 Grand Marshal's Dinner

The South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Committee will host its annual Grand Marshal's Dinner honoring its 2025 Grand Marshal Mark Herdman, Deputy Grand Marshal, the Reverend Stanley Gromadzki, and Honorary Grand Marshal, Donna Williams at the Knights of Columbus Council 426, 308 4th Street South Amboy at 7 p.m., Friday, January 17, 2025. Honorees will be congratulated and recognized for their contributions to the City of South Amboy and its residents. Each honoree will be presented with sashes to be worn on parade day.

"I would like to thank our honorees as well as all of the residents of South Amboy who volunteer their time and expertise serving the residents of our great city proving once again that South Amboy is the little city with a big heart," announced parade committee co-chair Mickey Gross. "We invite the public to attend this evening of celebration."

Tickets are available at a cost of \$60.00 per person and includes a dinner buffet, beer, wine and soda, coffee/tea and dessert. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting Mickey Gross at 732-721-5031.

The 2025 Grand Marshal Mark Herdman, a resident of South Amboy, has served the city of South Amboy and its residents in various capacities over the years. He has coached both girls and boys' sports, serves as the city's Office of Emergency Management Coordinator and a volunteer member of the city's fire department where he held the title of Fire Chief for three years. He has also been an Honorary Member of the First Aid Squad since 1988. During the recent COVID pandemic, Mark worked with a local Food Pantry and the First Aid Squad members to provide food and supplies for local families.

Father Stanley Gromadzki (aka Father Stan) has been named the 2025 Deputy Grand Marshal. Ordained to the Holy Priesthood in May of 1989, Father Stan is the current pastor of Sacred Heart R. C. Church, South Amboy, serving its parishioners since June 16, 2013.

A 35 year member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Stan serves as the Chaplin of the South Amboy Council 426. He also serves as the Chaplin of the N.J. Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association, the Knights of Columbus Council #426, and Middlesex County Sheriff's Department and is a member of the South Amboy Fire Department, a position which allows him to be on scene during fires and emergencies to assist victims, family members and others dealing with the trauma of the situation.

A warm, charismatic man, Father Stan cares for and ministers to his congregation and community with humor, honesty and love.

Honorary Grand Marshal, Donna Williams has been an active volunteer working with various organizations throughout Middlesex County.

A 22-year resident of Parlin, Donna is an active volunteer member of the South Amboy Columbiettes, a women's auxiliary council affiliated with the South Amboy Knights of Columbus, a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, the South Amboy, Sayreville and Rahway Historical Societies, the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and serves as the President of the Eastern Airlines Retiree Association, NJ Chapter and has volunteered to assist the Middlesex County Department of Health during the COVID pandemic, at various vaccine clinics.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

Prayer to St. Jude

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

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Congratulations Patrolman Traina!



South Amboy's newest Police Officer Joe Traina is sworn in by Mayor Fred Henry at a recent council meeting, as his proud family looks on. Congratulations Patrolman Traina! (Photo submitted)

Sayreville Library News

Middlesex County Presents: Resources for Seniors
Friday, Dec. 6, 1PM
Join the Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services for this informative seminar about resources in the area available to seniors and people with disabilities. Registration Required
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Mindful Yoga
Dec. 3, 10 & 17 @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.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)
Dec. 10 & 30 @6PM
Join Barbara Brown, an expert in stress reduction meditations, for this virtual meditation session. Ease your mind and relax with some deep relaxed breathing and focused meditation. This is a virtual event. Registration is required to get the Zoom Link
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

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

A Christmas Stocking-Holiday Tales for Grown ups
Monday, Dec. 16 @6PM
Come out and join Michele LaRue, theater actor, for this live performance of some classic Christmas stories. Her performances include "Their Dear Little Ghost" "The Gift of the Magi." and "The Christmas Sing in Our Village."
Registration required,
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Movie Matinee
Tuesday, Dec. 17 @1PM
This month: Jingle All The Way: Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad.
Rated PG- 1 hr 29 Mins

The Art of Coziness with Vanessa (Virtual)
Wednesday, Dec. 18 @6PM
Winter is upon us once again. Learn how to embrace a warmer and more comfortable home for the season. Vanessa Young, Chef and founder of Thirsty Radish will be sharing some new recipes, as well as home decor and lifestyle tips to make the season feel warmer. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Two Middlesex County police officers who recently died in the line of duty, Sayreville Police Captain William Gawron, and NJ Transit Police Inspector Robert Noble, a lifelong South Amboy resident were honored at the Archdiocese of Newark's 31st Annual Blue Mass on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m. in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, greets Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontura upon entering Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart for the Archdiocese of Newark's 31st Annual Blue Mass on November 7, 2024. Hundreds of Police Officers from all over New Jersey attended this very special Mass. (Photo/info by Archdiocese of Newark/Eduardo Herrera)

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

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.

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American Legion Honorees

The Luke A. Lovely Post #62 American Legion of South Amboy had their first dinner honoring two long time serving members. They are from the Vietnam era; Army veteran Bill Garnett and Navy veteran Bob Sekerak. Both legionaries were given awards from the commander of the post, Joseph Szaro, and proclamations from Mayor Henry, Deputy Director Commissioner Narra and Assembly Speaker Coughlin. Both have served the post honorably and continue to have an active role. The event was attended by legionnaires, family and friends, and other officials from the city, county and federal offices. An Appreciation award was given to Vietnam Navy veteran Bob Moglia for his current activity which he has performed the past two years.



Cmdr. Szaro presents an award to Bill Garnett.



Longtime Commander Bob "Zak" Sekerak (l) receives his award from current Commander Joe Szaro.



Bob Moglia is very proud after receiving his award from Commander Szaro.



Spezzi's semi-annual Paper Shredding Event was held Sat. Nov.2nd . The expert paper handlers that were there are pictured (l-r) Meghan Wisniewski, Lynn Brow, Carmen Spezzi Jr., Christine Spezzi, Ed Simmons, Clem Skarzynski, and Paul Kulakis. Missing from photo-John"Jash" Ruzicki, Meaghen Spezzi, and event organizer, Moira Spezzi. Once again a great turnout, and it was an added pleasure to see and talk with friends from our Community. (Photo/Info Submitted)



The 4th annual Trinity's Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat would not have been possible without all of the love & support from Pastor Vincent Frunzi Jr., members of my congregation, family, and friends. Words cannot express the thanks to all of the organizations & businesses that participated and helped put smiles on so many children's faces. (Photo/Info Submitted)

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The new Stella Maris Columbarium at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Cemetery on Washington Avenue in South Amboy, is now open and available for those wishing to purchase a niche for cremated remains. Located in front of our mausoleum, we have 96 available niches. If you are interested, please contact the parish office at 732-721-0179 during business hours for pricing. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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The Smoke Column

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

Throughout the past fifty years there have been numerous fires of a historical nature. Many veteran firefighters can list these fires at a moment's notice. These fires may have caused death and destruction or may have been publicized due to the nature of the incident. At the end of a working fire a firefighter may be asked, "how did your day start"? Most of the time it will be, "an ordinary day just like any other." Unfortunately, there are NO ordinary days in the fire service. Every fire call is different than a fire call of the past. Firefighters cannot take ordinary things for granted. Firefighters will remember these historical fires from hearing it through the media or for the death and destruction it may have caused. In about all cases, these fires have a "NAME" of their own. Throughout my "Smoke Column" I have written on many of these historical fires over the years. As December 3, 2024, approaches, it will be the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the infamous "Cold Storage Facility" fire. Those in the fire service that have heard of or studied the strategy and tactics of this fire know exactly where it happened and the circumstances surrounding the fire scene. It occurred in Worcester, Massachusetts, in the early evening of a chilly December night. Twenty-five years ago, six brave firefighters lost their lives in the Line-of-Duty! This fire situation was not unusual and could happen in any other town. The fire occurred in a six-story, unoccupied, thick brick building, which was super insulated in order to keep the interior cold. The interior walls were insulated with a cork material which when it burns, emits enormous amounts of heavy black smoke that is extremely hazardous to humans. This fire was first reported by a passerby who had noticed light smoke in the area of the facility. As local firefighters

passed by this vacant building for years, there was always the thought of this facility being a "target hazard" which is a type of structure susceptible to fire or maybe just an eyesore. As you look around your own community, you can find one or more of these facilities located somewhere. When firefighters arrived at the Cold Storage facility, they were advised that there were homeless people inside. The structure had all utilities shut off and all windows and doors boarded up. But homeless people needed a place to get out of the weather and to keep warm so they broke into the building and started a small fire for heat. The Incident Commander, upon hearing that people may be inside the building, sent in two firefighters to investigate, and search for the people and the seat of the fire. Within minutes the firefighters reported that they did not find anyone else inside and that they were now lost and running low on air to breathe. Two other firefighters were sent inside to find the first group. At this time, the first group reported that they were out of air which meant they were unable to survive the hazardous smoke. The second group now reported that they were also lost and running low on air so a third group of two firefighters were sent inside. The second group succumbed to their death as the first group. The third group found themselves in the same situation and also died. Other firefighters wanted to go inside to get their brothers out but the Incident Commander would not allow this to happen. He said that he, "lost enough firefighters already." This fire became a learning situation for all firefighters, young and old and that it should never happen to them. It was not just another "ordinary day." As the Anniversary approaches, please remember these brave firefighters in your thoughts and prayers!

Dowdell Library News

We would not be able to spread the joy this holiday season without our lovely and amazing patrons. Come visit the Dowdell Library to see what we have in store!

"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. This exhibition was made possible by the Dowdell Library Foundation.

'Tis the season to meet your neighbors! The annual **Holiday Open House** is on Monday, December 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Stop by for some holiday cheer, music, refreshments and fun for all ages! Drop in and meet Santa!

We need the community's help! The star of our sculpture "After Lunch" doesn't have a name and the **What's My Name? contest** will help us determine one. Please see the website (dowdell.org) or visit us in person to see the full list of names you can choose from. Vote for your favorite either by email (comments@dowdell.org) or in person. Winner will be announced December 2nd at the Holiday Open House.

Amboy Bank Foundation awards Dowdell Library Foundation a grant for museum passes for South Amboy residents. Keep an eye on dowdell.org when more details are announced.

Enter the **Dowdell Library Foundation Raffles!** The first one is a chance to win a set of homemade quilted travel bags. \$1 per entry drawn on November 30 at 4:00 pm. The second is a 50/50 Fundraiser and each entry is \$5 a ticket drawn at the Holiday Open House on December 2.

Parents with Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for **Toddler Thursday Play Dates** Thursdays in December from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the **After School Fun Club** on the first three

Wednesdays in December from 3:15 to 4:30 pm for 3D Popsicle stick sculptures, a scavenger hunt, and video games. Don't miss out on **Food Explorers** on Friday, December 27 at 1pm. Participants must register beforehand.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for **Teen Drop in Club** on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Also, don't miss out on **Teen Video Games** on Friday, December 6 from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Be sure to come to the library for **Teen Canva How To** on Friday, December 13 from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Stop by for **Guess the Holiday Song/Movie** on Friday, December 20 from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, December 30 from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided **Imagery Relaxation Sessions** are on Tuesday December 10 and 24 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, **Stretch it** Thursdays occurs all December long at 1:00 pm.

The **Knitting Circle** will be meeting Mondays in December from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started!

Join us for **Mah Jongg Mondays** and **Card Game Wednesdays** every week from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring your own or use our set!

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.

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

We would love to hear from you!

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St. Stan’s Car Show & Trunk or Treat
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Clem & Friends really rocked the Car Show with their outstanding musicianship and vocals.

There were hundreds of beautiful vintage cars on display throughout the large and highly-successful show, including the following pictured below.



The Car Show also featured lots of fun with the Trunk or Treat for the youngsters.



The presentation of the Jerry Ust Memorial Trophy to the winner, Tom Mulvey. Pictured (l-r) Richie Hart, Tom Mulvey, Eileen Ust, Jackson Cook, Ella Cook, David Ust with son, Benjamin, Janet Cook, Jack Ust. (Photo submitted)



Riley Wisniewski, one half of "The Dynamic Dancing Duo" made a surprise appearance. (Photo submitted by Meghan Wisniewski)



Pictured is the winner of the Tommy Samuel Memorial Trophy. In photo (l-r) Father John Alvarado, Richie Hart, the Samuel brothers, & the trophy winner. (Photo/info submitted)

Rumbles From the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Well, the Crew from St. Stan’s, DJ Richie “The Flash” Hart, and The Clem and Friends Band, did it AGAIN!!! The 4th Annual St. Stan’s Car Show, broke all previous years records for crowd attendance, and registered entrants of Customs, Hot Rods, Motorcycles, Themed Cars, and Trucks! Unofficial number for the cars was 385, up over 40 from last year’s total. Guitarist Clem Skarzynski has dubbed this show as, “Central Jersey’s largest end of the season Car Show!” We the band, “Clem and Friends,” with Tony and Brian Jackowski’s blessings and invitation, have been a part of this show since its inception 4 years ago, and along with DJ Richie Hart, the Just Us Cruisers Car Club, and Emerson and Amy Jones’ “Basement Sound Audio,” and of course the show’s founders and organizers, Tony and Brian Jackowski, and their staff, Jean Jackowski, Karen Jackowski, Danny and Sissy Hockenjos, and Chris Bardsley. Already having a Memorial Trophy for the late Tommy Samuel slated for a chosen entrant, and we members of “Clem and Friends” asked if we could add another Memorial Trophy to the show in the name of our dear friend, the late Jerry Ust, former Director of the Sayreville Rec Dept., who 15 years or so earlier, gave me the writer, the o.k. to organize a yearly Car Show. And, “The Blast from the Past” Car Show and Concert was born! Every September, Kennedy Park...we filled the lots, and fields with over 150 plus Cars! Then on Oct. 5th 2020, unexpectedly Jerry Ust passed away after a long illness. With Covid also, all activities stopped. Please note that “Blast from the Past” Car Show, has continued under the guidance and help of Jerry Ust’s replacement at the helm of the Sayreville Rec. Dept. Mr. Brian Van Dongen and staff!...2021 brought the St. Stan’s Car Show, and a chance for us to honor our dear friend, and with a trophy in his name! A Memorial Trophy is an honor to anyone who is chosen to win, just ask the winners of the Tommy Samuel and Jerry Ust

Trophies! The beautiful purple ’33 Plymouth PC Coupe, and Tom Mulvey’s Corvette..But, I’ve got to mention on how proud and happy the Samuel and Ust Family members were as they presented their respective Memorial Trophies to the winners, and hearing their comments..Tom Mulvey, on his accepting the Ust Memorial Trophy said, “this is an honor winning this trophy and being a part of the Ust Family,” with the winner of the Samuel Trophy with a similar comment and so much gratitude! But, the real tribute, that I saw at the show was on how happy and proud Jerry Ust had to be to see and hear his beautiful granddaughter, Ella Cook, open the show with her singing the “Star Spangled Banner” onstage, in front of the large crowd, loud and proud, “true Jerry Ust Style” for sure! Also seeing his handsome grandson, Jackson Cook select the car he knew his Grandpa would’ve picked, a Corvette, and 4 year old grandson, Ben, having a great time with family. Yes, winning a trophy is really cool, but for Jerry Ust, we all could feel his smile, as he watched over us all! And, we could just see Tommy Samuel wandering through the crowd taking his beautiful photos of the cars, and crowd! So looking forward to next year’s show, oh yeah, bigger and better. You can count on it...with the organizers involved, ya can’t miss! Thank you all again, organizers, car owners, and the appreciative crowd. Great, Great show! And thank you again to the presenting family members, the Samuel Family, Tommy’s brothers, David and Michael..The Ust Family, Mrs. Eileen Ust, Janet Cook, her Beautiful Children.. Ella and Jackson..David Ust, and his son Benjamin, and Jerry’s brother Jack Ust, and a special special thanks goes out to the Spezzi Family for their trophy, in memory of Carmen Spezzi Sr. for “The Most Charming Vehicle.” presented to Jan Williams for his awesome ’57 Chevy Bel Air! See you all next year!!



The late Jerry Ust’s granddaughter, Ms. Ella Cook proudly sings her fabulous rendition of our Star Spangled Banner, to open this year’s St. Stan’s Car Show! Great job Ella!

(Photos submitted by Janet Cook)



The late Jerry Ust’s grandchildren (l-r) Jackson Cook, Ella Cook, and Benjamin Ust check out the trophies at the show!

St. Mary’s HS Class of 1974



St. Mary’s HS Class of 1974 held their 50th Reunion/After Party on Oct. 5th at the Grand Centurion Banquet Hall in Clark, NJ. Approximately 75 classmates and guests enjoyed an eventful evening of dinner, dancing, and reminiscing. Members of the Reunion Committee included Loretta O’Connell, Lynn Jefferys, Mike Giunta, Frank Norek, Mike Klimchak. (Photo/info submitted)



Handsome Vincenzo Senape, asks a dance from beautiful Grace Spezzi at St Stan’s Car Show. And they were dancing to “Earth Angel,” the perfect 50s Do Wop slow dance. Could you ask for anything more Sweet! (Photo submitted by Carmen Spezzi Jr.)



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To All Our Patrons*



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Holiday Season
Events



❄️ Tree Lighting

Emergency Vehicle Parade

Thursday, December 5th, 2024 6pm

Join us for a family fun event of musical performances, crafts with SA Arts, Emergency Vehicle Lights Parade, Santa and the lighting of our Christmas Tree!

Broadway in front of City Hall/Train Plaza

❄️ Light Up South Amboy

Home Decorating Contest

Spread Some Cheer This Holiday Season

Deck The House Merry & Bright

Registration: starts December 2nd

Deadline: December 10th, 2024

To Enter Contest:email your address & phone number to polomenep@southamboynj.gov

CASH PRIZE TO FIRST PLACE WINNER

Winner will be announced on December 16th

❄️ Holiday Lights Trolley Tour

Friday, December 13th, 2024

Tour times: 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM & 8:30PM

Seating reservations start Dec. 2nd through Dec. 5th. (limited seating - open to South Amboy residents only)

To reserve seating contact Patricia – 732-525-5965

(Trolley tours are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather)



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Bill That Paves Way for Property Tax Relief For Seniors

Final legislative approval given to bill that codifies recommendations and guidance put forward by

StayNJ Task Force

Thousands of New Jersey’s seniors are one-step closer to receiving additional property tax relief, now that both the Assembly and Senate have given final approval to Bill A4706, a bill codifying recommendations put forward by the StayNJ Task Force. The legislation, which revises certain property tax relief program statutes, now heads to Governor Phil Murphy’s desk. The sponsors of A4706 include Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Majority Leader Louis D. Greenwald.

“I’m pleased with the progress we’re making to implement StayNJ and cut property taxes in half for most seniors and I applaud the Task Force for their work,” said Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “I was

proud to sponsor the legislation creating StayNJ, which passed with a bipartisan, near-unanimous majority to become law. We made it a priority to establish a streamlined, simplified application process next year for seniors to maximize their property tax relief and we are well on our way to doing that.”

Bill A4706 simplifies the application process for all of New Jersey’s property tax relief programs, including the new StayNJ 7program, which will provide eligible seniors with property tax relief of up to \$6,500, with a majority of seniors seeing their bills cut in half. The bill would create one combined application process for property tax relief, and would allow residents to submit applications from February 1 through October 31 each year.

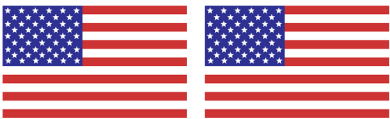
The bill also clarifies eligibility requirements and ensures consistency in income calculations.

Memorial Service/Dedication

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



The late and beloved Jerry Pizzillo was posthumously honored with this beautiful monument, which was dedicated at the Veterans Plaza on November 10th.



Pictured are all the veterans who attended the Veterans Day Memorial Service in South Amboy.

COOKING SAFELY ON THANKSGIVING DAY

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

As you culinary experts start to prepare a Thanksgiving Dinner for your family and friends, please keep safety in mind at all times. Keep any and all flammable materials away from your stove. Pots and pans with handles should have the handles facing toward the side of the stove. Those left hanging out in front of the stove have the tendency of being hit by someone walking past the stove, especially little children who may not be aware of those dangerous handles and the possibility of being burned if the pot is knocked over on them. Always monitor your stove and the food you are cooking on the burners. If you know a veteran firefighter, ask them about any Thanksgiving Day fires

they may have responded to, you may get some funny responses on a culinary disaster. From a firsthand experience, I responded to a Thanksgiving Day culinary disaster when the young cook was preparing a large dinner for the in-laws. She had prepared the turkey to be baked and needed to preheat the oven beforehand. As the oven was being preheated, heavy black acrid smoke started pouring out of the oven and throughout the house. Tupperware stored in the oven burns well when you turn the oven on. Remember to check your oven for anything left stored inside before you turn it on. In this case it was time for a new oven. Cook safely and have a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We would love to hear from you!

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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water
Striped Bass are moving in state coastal waters. Party Boats are doing well with a decent number of keeper fish. Quite a few are too big to keep with many over the slot limit of 32 inches. There are not many Bass yet at our local beaches but that should change soon. The surf at Island Beach and LBI are producing Bass as well as the back bay areas there. Some Bluefish are around but they should be clearing out with the dropping water temperatures. In early October I gave the 2nd St bulkhead bayside in Beach Haven one last try. Bringing in more hand size Sea Bass, Silver Perch, a big Blowfish, another short Fluke and two large Sand Sharks in a matter of a few hours was my result. With colder water that fishing ended. Party boats are also catching Sea Bass, Porgies and some Ling. Blackfish are a good catch at Barnegat Light rocks using green crabs for bait.

Fresh Water
Exceptionally low water levels have created problems for Fall Trout stocking. They stocked the lower reaches of popular streams such as the South Branch, Flatbrook and the Musconetcong. There was no stocking in the upper reaches of the most popular streams. Small streams like the Black River and upper North Branch have been eliminated due to low water levels. Try the Delaware River for SmallMouth Bass. You should find good fishing but many fish will be small.

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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.

Stop Complaining

By Robert W. Eginton

Stop complaining
When life gives you lemons
Just make lemonade.
You complain that The sun is too hot,
Then go sit in the shade.
You complain If I stop,
You complain if I go
If someone says yes You'll just say no.
You complain about your boss
For being a jerk,
Then go find another Place to work.
If I ask you to smile
You'll give me a frown,
I love you, I love you, I love you, I do
But please stop complaining
You're bringing me down.



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St. Stan's School

(Photos/Info Submitted)

No tricks, just treats as students and teachers had a SPOOK-tacular time on Halloween!



Indian Officer Society Dinner



Pictured (l-r) Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto in South Amboy, Capt. Brian McCabe, South Amboy Police Dept., Pardeep Singh Dogra, NYPD. Capt. McCabe was invited to the Indian Officer Society Dinner on Nov. 8th at Pearl Banquet Hall in Hicksville, NY. (Photo courtesy of Surjit Singh)



Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this person? Here is a hint his voice is very soothing. Send your answer to satimes@aol. con by December 9th.



Who Is It?

Last month's mystery person was none other than Officer Joe Bolton.

Joe was a radio and television personality whose entire television career was associated with New York City's independent station WPIX Channel 11 from its first day of broadcasting on June 15, 1948, until his retirement in 1975. He hosted many of the station's children's shows such as The Clubhouse Gang and The Three Stooges Funhouse dressed in a policeman's uniform and introducing himself as "Officer Joe Bolton". When hosting The Dick Tracy Show, Bolton wore a police chief's uniform.

We had a number of readers let us know that Officer Joe was one of their favorites when they were younger!

The following had the correct answer: Rich Angerstein, John Giaquinto, Nancy Urban, Kenneth Oleskin, John & JoAnn French, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Len Truchan, Rick Esposito, Eric Roos, Ken Buck, Bruce Grankowski, Stephen Laskiewicz, Edna Pilch, Pat Scully, Betty Leveille, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Emily Calle, Pete McIntyre, Walter Starzec Jr, Ed English, Mark Moniello.



October Who is it? Officer Joe Bolton

WWW.?



Look familiar? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Dec. 9th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Last month's WWW.? was The Center for LifeLong Learning and Aquatics Cheesequake Road, Parlin NJ/ Wimmers: Don Zrebiec, John & JoAnn French, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Stephen

Laskiewicz, Edna Pilch, Pat Scully, Betty Leveille, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Lisa Grankowski, Barb Bockus, Walter Starzec Jr, Ed English, Mark Moniello.



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School Sports

By Tom Burkard
(As of Nov. 15)
2024 Final Statistics

Girls Soccer

Sayreville (7-9-1) Coach Jillian McGarry
Team Leaders
Goals-Laila Stevenson 14, Isabelle Deoliveira 10, Emma Halmo 5; Assists-Karina Cardoso 5, Deoliveira 5; Points-Stevenson 31, Deoliveira 25, Halmo 12; Saves-Breanna Amponsah 105.

South Amboy (3-11) Coach Kelsey Oliver
Team Leaders
Goals-Ashley Moreira-Burgos 10, Eleny Leonor-Aleman 7; Points-Moreira-Burgos 20, Leonor-Aleman 7; Saves-Anna Szczepanik 132.

Boys Soccer

South Amboy (8-7) Coach Tony Gonsalves
Final Statistics Not Updated

Sayreville (4-13-1) Coach Nick Cifelli
Team Leaders
Goals-Michael Bangura 7, Lloyd Buck 6, Sallu Kabba 6; Assists-Buck 4, Aiden Petras 3, Christian Wozny 3; Points-Buck 16, Bangura 16, Kabba 13; Saves-Braydon Paczkowski 51.

Field Hockey

Sayreville (7-8-1) Coach Mary Charmello
Team Leaders
Goals-Danielle Zapoticzny 15, Caroline Astarita 6, Sheridan Markowski 6; Assists-Markowski 10, Savannah Parse 5; Points-Zapoticzny 32, Markowski 22, Astarita 14; Saves-Kaylie Roldan 90.

Edison Edges Bombers

In GMCT Group Play A, Edison nipped Sayreville, 3-2 in soccer action. Michael Bangura and Nana Darbo scored a goal apiece, both coming on great assists by Christian Wozny.

Guvs Fall In Finale


The South Amboy Governors boys soccer was shutout by Howell, 7-0 in a first round CJ Group 1 Tournament game. Coach Tony Gonsalves' Purple & Gold squad finished at a respectable (8-7) for the season.

Sayreville Beats Woodbridge

The Sayreville girls soccer squad finished their season on a positive note, nipping Woodbridge, 3-2. Karina Cardoso blasted in the winning goal at 50:49 left in the second period. Leah Eskolsky had a goal and assist. Isabelle Deoliveira scored a goal, while Cardoso also added an assist to her fine performance.

Bombers Fall In GMCT

Sayreville girls field hockey team dropped their final game of the season, bowing to Metuchen, 2-0 in the quarterfinals of the GMCT, and finished the year at (7-8-1).



19th Anniversary in Heaven

FRANK R. WOJTASZEK

NOVEMBER 29, 2005

GOD SAW YOU WERE GETTING TIRED
AND A CURE WAS NOT TO BE,
SO HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND YOU
AND WHISPERED, "COME TO ME."
WITH TEARFUL EYES WE WATCHED YOU,
AND SAW YOU PASS AWAY.
ALTHOUGH WE LOVED YOU DEARLY,
WE COULD NOT MAKE YOU STAY.
A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING,
HARD WORKING HANDS AT REST.
GOD BROKE OUR HEARTS TO PROVE TO US,
HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST.

SADLY MISSED BY, WIFE, CHILDREN
& GRANDCHILDREN

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1960-61-St. Mary's boys varsity basketball team pictured bottom row (l-r) Jay Derent, Bill Fallon, Ray Selover. Middle row (l-r) Frank Murray, Jack Kreiger, Tom Farrell, Vince Halleran. Top row (l-r) Jim Heffernan, Frank Kennedy, Bob Suminski, Joe Pohl, Bill Tibbitt, Joe Jankowski, Tom Fitzmorris. Missing from photo-Joe Chodkiewicz. This young Eagles team under Coach Luke Lenahan had a rough season, with a (2-17) mark, but showed constant improvement the next 3 seasons, as several of these players went on to receive All-County and All-State honors. Joe Jankowski was the top scorer for 1960-61.

Sayreville Bombers Football

Game 8-Sayreville 7 Montgomery 0-
Tyler Butka fired a first quarter touchdown strike to Joseph Curbelo for the only score of the game, in a real defensive struggle. Shaun Jackson rolled up 102 yards on 16 rushing attempts. The defense was paced by Nick Nunez who racked up 6 solo tackles, and 7 assisted tackles. Brian Zangrillo added 8 total tackles. Kishore Sadowski had an interception, and Chase Barnes recovered a fumble.

Game 9-St. Thomas 43 Sayreville 20
Jackson scored on a 1-yd. TD run, and finished the day with 164 yards rushing on 20 attempts. Devyn McCall contributed a 5-yd. Touchdown run, and totaled 167 yards rushing on 17 attempts. Daniel Jerez also scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. Kishore Sadowski had 6 total tackles.

Game 10-Sayreville 43 Monroe 42
The Bombers of Sayreville prevailed in their final game of the season which was billed as the Postseason Consolation Game. Sayreville's superstar Shaun Jackson closed out an amazing junior season by scoring 6 touchdowns, 4 rushing, and 2 on pass receptions. He also added two, 2 point conversions for a total of 40 of the Bombers 43 total points...WOW! Jackson rolled up 285 yards on 17 rushes. An incredible performance by a very gifted young athlete.

McCall rushed 9 times and piled up 120 yards, and Chase Barnes booted 3 extra points, as the Bombers under first-year Head Coach Mark Poore finished (4-6).

2024 Final Team Leaders

Offense
Passing Yards-Tyler Butka 301, Nick Nunez 300.
Touchdown Passes-Nunez 2, Butka 1.
Receiving Yards-Keshava Sadowski 113, Shaun Jackson 57.
Rushing Yards-Shaun Jackson 1,485, Devyn McCall 539, Dariel Jerez 280.
Kickoff/Punt Return Yards-Jackson 151, McCall 128.
Touchdowns-Jackson 16, Joseph Curbelo 3, Devin Krass 3.
Extra Points (Kicking)-Chase Barnes 11, Krass 5.
Two Point Conversions-Jackson 2.
Total Points-Jackson 100, Curbelo 18, Krass 11.
Defense
Solo Tackles-Chase Barnes 35, Kishore Sadowski 34, Bryce Bouchard 33, Jackson 30.
Total Tackles-Barnes 70, Bouchard 67, Brian Zangrillo 56, Kishore Sadowski 55, Jackson 50.
Interceptions-Sherwin Appiah 2.
Fumble Recoveries-Kishore Sadowski 2.

Local Disaster Relief



Calvary Disaster Relief of Old Bridge partners with Samaritan's Purse on all of their deployments. This local disaster relief group, from Calvary Church in Old Bridge, were volunteers who went to the hurricane-ravaged town of Asheville, North Carolina to help all those in need. The Calvary group formed when Superstorm Sandy hit New Jersey in 2012. The Calvary Church of Old Bridge Disaster Response Ministry is a source of help and relief to those devastated by disasters or critical situations. Locals from all over, Sayreville, Old Bridge, Spotswood, and Freehold dedicated their time and energy to go south on this deployment and help their fellow Americans. There were also many volunteers from all over the U.S.A. Bobby Larsen (standing 2nd from left), from the Morgan section of Sayreville, and Steve Makwinski (standing in back 3rd from right) from the Melrose section of Sayreville were also a big part of the disaster relief team. Great job, everyone! (Photo/info submitted)

Glory Days In Local Sports

1962-St. Mary's boys basketball team blasted Perth Amboy St. Mary's, 87-63. Joe Jankowski paved the way with 22 points, Tom Fitzmorris added 18, Jay Derent 15, Jack Kreiger 13, and Bob Suminski 13...1970-71-St. Mary's girls basketball club finished at a fine (11-5), and was led by top scorers Terry Gulick with 172 points, and Ellen McCarthy 153...1984-The Hoffman Governors boys basketball contingent blasted Keyport, 65-52. Pete Smith poured in 25 points, ripped 12 rebounds, and blocked 6 shots. Joe Lewis contributed 10 points...1996-Pingry belted South Amboy girls soccer squad, 6-1, in CJ Group 1 Tournament play. Kim

Peterson netted the only goal for the Lady Guvs...2002-Sayreville girls soccer team bowed to Bridgewater, 3-1 in the 1st round of CJ Group 4 play. Kim Griffitch notched the only Bombers goal...2011-In the 1st round of CJ Group 4 football action, Sayreville jolted Jackson Memorial, 21-13. Delon Stephenson scored 2 touchdowns, and Alex Yanuzzelli rushed for another big TD for the Bombers...2021-The Bombers blasted Old Bridge, 32-7 in football play. Zaimer Wright broke loose for 4 touchdowns and a 2-point conversion, and quarterback Michael Colonnello scored a TD.

3 Years Ago

2021-The Sayreville football team, seeded #3 in North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 blasted #6 Middletown North, 18-0. Zaimer Wright racked up 2 touchdowns, Santana Fontana booted a field goal, and Claude Blagogle scored on a 2-point conversion.

10 Years Ago

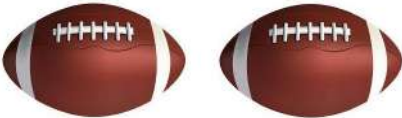
2014-Sayreville girls soccer star Kimberly Stratton was a 1st team All-Area choice by Home News Tribune, after her fine season when she scored 13 goals and had 21 assists.

15 Years Ago

The New Brunswick football team shocked the undefeated Sayreville Bombers, 28-13, to ruin their dreams of an undefeated season. The Bombers, who were (8-0), scored when Joe Geiger fired a TD pass to Nick Bodtmann, and also Basim Fain broke loose for a 66-yard punt return for a touchdown.

30 Years Ago

1994-Hoffman girls cross country team topped St. Mary's, 19-37. Cara Toscano captured 1st place in 24:41, and Kristen Henry came in 3rd place in the tri-meet which also included Spotswood.



Three Hoffman HS alumni Class of '71 were happy to get the October issue of The SA Times which was our 33rd Anniversary Special. Pictured at Java Dave's Coffee in South Amboy are (l-r) Pete Dobrzynski, Dennis Yanoski, and Bob Huryk. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



The Sacred Heart, South Amboy Religious Education students created THANK YOU cards for our local veterans. God bless them and God bless America. (Photo submitted)

One Hit Wonders
30 Years Ago-1994
Dreams-Gabrielle; Cannonball-The Breeders; Box of Miracles-Barefoot Servants; I'll Take You There-General Public; Losin' Your Mind-Pride & Glory; Back In The Day-Ahmad; Far Behind-Candlebox; Never Lie-Immature; I Miss You-Aaron Hall.

Sayreville Feeds Sayreville
Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville and the Sayreville Police Department.
ALL ARE WELCOME WE HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU! All food will be donated There will be no bills given, local restaurants. but any donations are greatly appreciated. All donations collected will be going towards a new fire suppression system, and other kitchen renovations, so that we are better able to serve the community. Saturday December 7th 5:30pm-8:00pm, at First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville 172 Main Street Sayreville, NJ 08872.

OLV Christmas Spectacular 3.0
On Saturday, December 7 from 10-4pm, Our Lady of Victories will be hosting its annual Christmas Shoppe Vendor Event. This year's event brings two floors of over 60 unique vendors, live Christmas music starting at 10:30, complimentary crafts and games for children, free hot cocoa bar for all shoppers, door prizes, raffles, food, and so much more! In addition to supporting our vendors, the Shoppe is most excited to welcome Bombers Beyond Cafe to keep us caffeinated during the day while supporting their amazing crew and mission. We also welcome Chick-Fil-A

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..

#1 Country Hits Nov. 23
2022-Half Of Me-Thomas Rhett/Riley Green
2015-Tennessee Whiskey-Chris Stapleton
2008-Love Story-Taylor Swift
1992-I'm In A Hurry-Alabama
1985-I'll Never Stop Loving You -Gary Morris
1976-Good Woman Blues-Mel Tillis
1961-Big Bad John-Jimmy Dean

#1 Pop Hits-Nov. 23
2023-Cruel Summer-Taylor Swift
2014-Blank Space-Taylor Swift
2007-Kiss Kiss-Chris Brown
1995-Exhale (Shoop Shoop) -Whitney Houston
1988-Bad Medicine-Bon Jovi
1971-Theme From Shaft-Isaac Hayes
1963-I'm Leaving It Up To You-Dale & Grace



MUSIC TRIVIA **Town/Hometown/Downtown**
By Tom Burkard

1.Life In A Northern Town	a.Gene Pitney
2.My Hometown	b.Thin Lizzy
3.Little Town Flirt	c.The Dream Academy
4.The Boys Are Back In Town	d.The Eagles
5.Funky Town	e.James Taylor
6.Her Town Too	f.Lipps Inc.
7.Downtown	g.Bruce Springsteen
8.Town Without Pity	h.Del Shannon
9.New Kid In Town	i.Simon & Garfunkel
10.Sugar Town	k.John Mellencamp
11.My Little Town	l.Nancy Sinatra
12.Small Town	m.Petula Clark

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

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Obituaries

Baranowski, Thomas, 83, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 29.

Brady, Christopher A., 62, of South Amboy died on Nov. 6.

English, Myron G. Jr., 48, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 17.

Johannemann, John “Jack,” 66, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 5.

Kilpatrick, William Sr., 68, of Sayreville died on Oct. 14.

Mahoney, Eleanor K. RN, 93, of Morgan died on Oct. 24.

Miller, Donna, 74, of Parlin died on Oct. 16.

Miller, Nancy, 54, formerly of Sayreville died on May 5.

Rodis, Roderic C., 72, of Sayreville died on Nov. 6.

Sheehan, Rita, 75, formerly of South Amboy died on May 5.

Simon, Ruth Roberts. 89, of South Amboy died on Oct. 19.

Suchcicki, Raymond, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 26.

Tooker, Camille, 72, of South Amboy died on Oct. 22.

Wolf, Ronald E., 83, of Sayreville died on July 10.

In Memoriam

William Kilpatrick Sr., 68 of Sayreville died on Oct. 14. He was a longtime bartender at Gerity’s and also at the Keyport K of C. Myron English Jr., 48, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 17. He was a musician/singer/songwriter who recorded several full length albums, and also toured overseas. Raymond Suchcicki, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 26. He was a dedicated Sayreville Police Officer for 27 years, and retired as a Sergeant. In addition, he served in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Tom Baranowski, 83, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 29. He was he owner/operator of Baranowski’s Market in South Amboy for many years and highly-respected throughout the local communities. Roderic Rodis, 72, of Sayreville died on Nov. 6. He was an official for United States Swimming for 25 years, and also an officer for Special Olympics Swimming New Jersey.

Nancy Miller

Nancy Miller, 54, unexpectedly passed away on May 5, 2024. She was born in New Brunswick, N.J. on May 18, 1969, and resided in Matawan for over 20 years, and was formerly of Sayreville, N.J. Nancy attended Sayreville High School, and was employed by the New Jersey Turnpike for 30 years. She is survived by her husband James Miller, her son Joseph Kanca, her parents Ruth and Michael Applegate, her sister Susan Marchuck and her husband Greg, and her nephews Steven and Matthew Poltrictzky. Nancy was an animal lover, especially her dog Hunter (AKA Stink). She enjoyed watching football, going on motorcycle rides, cruises, listening to The Rolling Stones, and especially Kid Rock. You thought of Nancy when you passed a Dunkin Donuts. No one loved coffee more than Nancy.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to ASPCA, Gift Processing Center, Box 96929, Washington, D.C. 20090-6929

Rita Sheehan

Rita Sheehan, age 75, of Calabash, NC passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2024 after a hard fought battle to overcome injuries from a car accident. Born in South Amboy, New Jersey on June 7, 1948 to Thomas and Mary Adamecs. Rita graduated from Sacred Heart Grammar, St. Mary’s High School, class of 1966 and West Virginia State College. She lived much of her life in New Jersey prior to relocating to Hurricane, West Virginia with her husband Joe, and then ultimately deciding that Calabash, North Carolina was the place that they loved and wanted to retire. She was a member of St. Brendan’s Catholic Church, the Elks Club, P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) as well as loved spending time with her friends and family.

She is survived by her husband Joe; her three stepchildren Craig Sheehan, Eric Sheehan, and Tracy Machusak; her brother Richard Adamecs and his wife Emily; a niece Ann Marie Adamecs, a nephew Thomas Adamecs, four grandchildren, two great-nieces and nephews, as well as numerous friends in the Brunswick Plantation and North Myrtle Beach area. She is also survived by her loving dog, Lucy, that was always by her side. Rita is predeceased by her brother, Raymond Adamecs, and her parents Thomas and Mary Adamecs.

A memorial service will be held at St Bernards Church, Dec.14,2024, Bridgewater, NJ

Ruth Roberts Simon

Ruth Roberts Simon, 89, of South Amboy died on Saturday October 19, 2024 at home. She was born in St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada.

Daughter of the late Charles and Shelia Powers Roberts she is also predeceased by her husband Louis G. Simon in 1992 and her siblings Junior, Judy and Gerald. She is survived by her son Gerald Simon; her daughter and son-in-law Gail and Paul Mundy; her siblings Ralph, Jean, Joan, Shirley and Norman; her grandchildren Emily Simon, Lauren Bradley (the late Rory) and Jennifer Nesi and her husband Bryan and her great-grandchildren Owen and Amelia Bradley and Olivia Nesi.

Funeral services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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**WARD 1 COUNCILMAN ELECT
LARRY LENAHAN**



**WARD 2 COUNCILMAN
THOMAS REILLY**



**WARD 3 COUNCILWOMAN
ZUSETTE DATO**