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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES




This issue is dedicated to
* John "Jack" Rowley Jr.
*Steve Scillitani
*Bruce Wood
*Donald Yetman

November 26, 2026 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 36 Issue 2

## Veterans Day Celebration



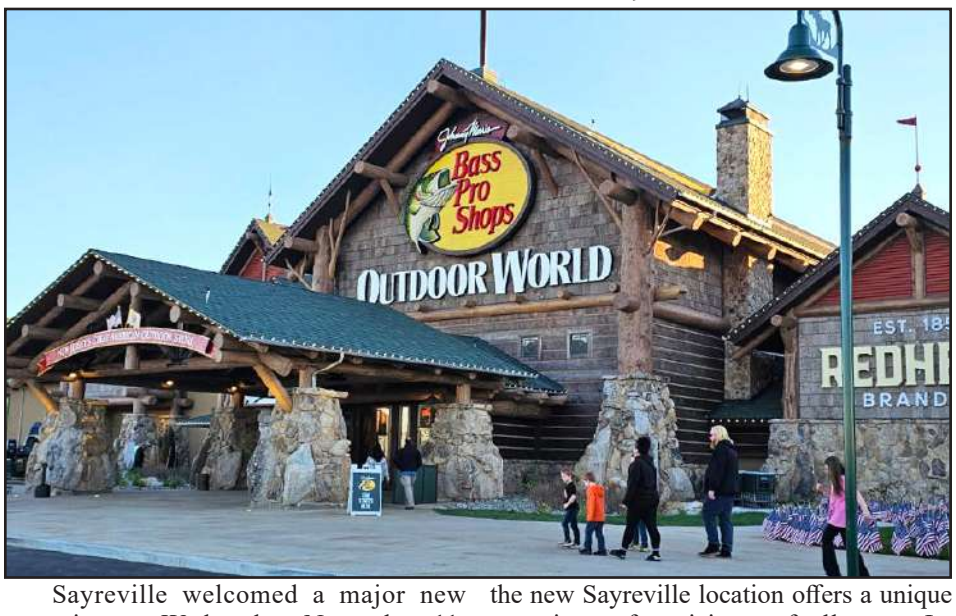

Local veterans are pictured on Veterans Day at the newly placed Veterans Memorial Plaza marker on Bordentown Ave. (Photo by Mary Szaro)

## Dems Sweep In South Amboy



In the South Amboy General Election, the Democrats swept seats for Mayor and two council spots. Anthony Conrad (c) defeated challenger Christopher J. Smiga, an Independent, 1,518-1,329. Michael "Mickey" Gross (l)won a Council-At-Large seat with 1,715 votes, the highest number in the election, and Judith Raskoshin (r) took the other seat with 1,484 votes. Independent candidates were Luis D. Cruz, who received 1,093, and Brian McLaughlin 1,045 votes. South Amboy's winning Democrat team of (l-r) Mickey Gross-Councilman-At-Large, Anthony Conrad-Mayor, Judith Raskoshin-Councilwoman-At-Large.

## Bass Pro Shops Celebrates Grand Opening On Veterans Day




Sayreville welcomed a major new attraction on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, as Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World officially opened its doors at the Riverton development. The 200,000-square-foot destination celebrated its grand opening with an Evening for Conservation, featuring live entertainment, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and appearances by several well-known sports and outdoor personalities. The celebration began at 5 p.m., with the official opening following the ceremony. In keeping with the company's commitment to conservation, 15 percent of sales on most merchandise during the opening celebration will benefit local conservation organizations.

More than just a sporting goods store, the new Sayreville location offers a unique experience for visitors of all ages. Its centerpiece is an impressive 80,000-gallon Shipwreck Aquarium featuring more than 280 fish, along with a stingray touch pool and live jellyfish exhibits. Visitors can also enjoy The Flemish Cap, an underwater-themed restaurant and entertainment area featuring bowling lanes and arcade games. The store also showcases President George H.W. Bush's personal fishing boat, Fidelity V. Located near the Garden State Parkway and the intersection of Interstates 95 and 287, the new Bass Pro Shops is expected to become a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts and families throughout New Jersey and the Tri-State area. (Photo Submitted)

## Bailey, Thomas Win In Sayreville




Sayreville Democrats Bernie Bailey (r) and Dexter Thomas (l) captured 2 Borough Council seats over Republicans John Zebrowski and Michael Colaci. Bailey garnered the most votes with 8,855, followed by Thomas 8,739, Zebrowski 5,094, and Colaci 4,777.

## Sayreville Board Of Ed Results

There were 3 seats available on the Sayreville Board of Education. The winners and their vote totals were: Eloy Fernandez 7,406, Alison Napolitano 7,362, Eileen Pabon 7,002. John Walsh was elected for an unexpired term and received 7,894 votes.

## South Amboy Board Of Ed Election Results

Joseph K. Szaro, Gabriella Grande-Perez, Sodeli Michelle all won seats of the South Amboy Board of Education. Szaro received the most votes with 1,207, and was followed by Grande-Perez 1,202, Michelle 1,070, Louis Kwiatek 836, Robert Inclan 601 votes.

## Pallone Re-Elected



Democrat Frank Pallone Jr. was re-elected once again to the House of Representatives, and won in both Sayreville and South Amboy over Republican challenger Hillary Herzig. In Sayreville the voting was 8,839-5,021, and in South Amboy Pallone notched 1,830 to Herzig's 1,169 votes.

## A Legend Celebrated




South Amboy Governors soccer coach Tony Gonsalves was honored with a huge celebration/dinner honoring him for his 50th season as head coach. See story and photos on page 8. (Photo Submitted)

**Next Issue December 24th - Deadlines December 12th**



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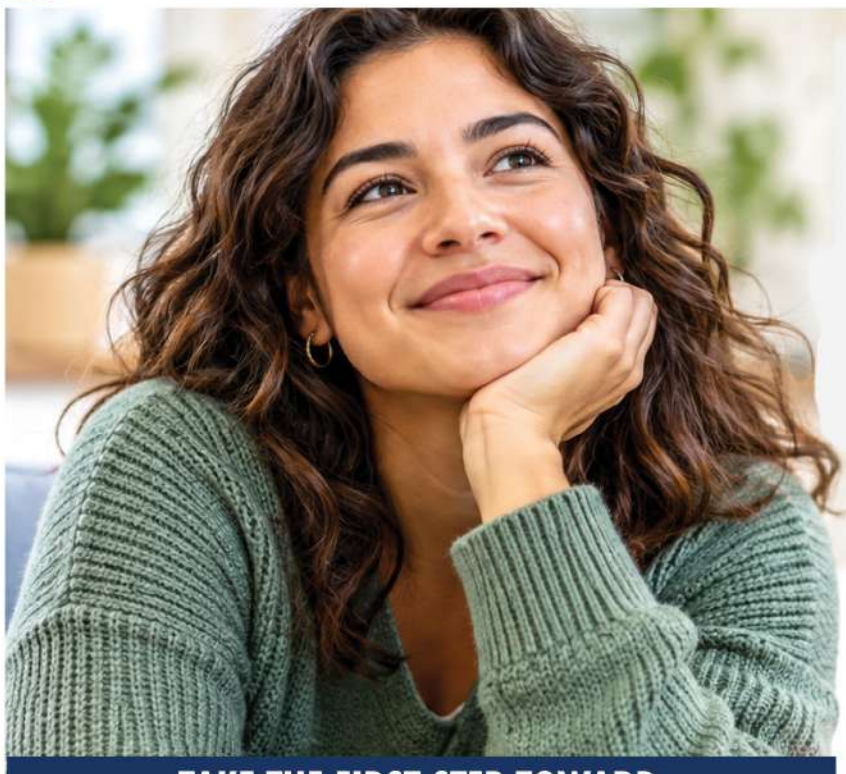


Bishop Saporito made a pastoral visit to St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, South Amboy on November 15th for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Bishop Saporito is pictured on the left with St. Mary Pastor Father Guy Selvester on the right. (Photo by Jessica Januzzi).

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# FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



Have you ever wondered why the holiday season – a season of hope and renewal – happens to fall during the coldest and darkest days of the year? The winter holiday celebrations we know today were not always so familiar. In early America, observance varied widely, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony even banned Christmas for a time.

General wariness of the season lasted well into the nineteenth century. In his 1845 poem The Raven, Edgar Allan Poe places a grieving man's haunting encounter with a (perhaps phantom) raven in the "bleak December." A few years later, in Herman Melville's novel Moby-Dick – in which a white whale symbolizes the cruel, capricious, and ultimately unknowable nature of the universe – the narrator, Ishmael, speaks of a "damp, drizzly November in my soul." Both capture how the season's darkness can become our own. So how did we go from ominous ravens and elusive white whales to Santa's reindeer?

We owe much of it to Victorian England, which helped popularize many familiar traditions, from Christmas cards to decorated trees, shaping a celebration centered on home, family, and generosity. Perhaps no writer gave that spirit a more enduring voice than Charles Dickens in his 1843 A Christmas Carol.

Like Poe's grieving narrator and Melville's voyagers, Ebenezer Scrooge confronts mysterious forces beyond his control or understanding. In both The Raven and A Christmas Carol, the narrator is confronted in his home on a cold December night by a ghostly specter representing a lost past. But Dickens gives his character a path forward: a change of heart and a renewed focus on benevolence and empathy. The lesson is both simple and powerful: kindness, generosity, and compassion for family and friends keep the winter phantoms away, and grant us reconciliation and renewed purpose for the new year ahead.

As December winds sweep across Raritan Bay, the lights along our streets offer their own welcome answer to the season's darkness. Here in South Amboy, that warmth takes familiar forms: a decorated porch, a gathering along Broadway, a volunteer's service, or a helping hand extended to a neighbor. Our holiday traditions offer many opportunities to share it.

The Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest begins November 30, with submissions due December 8. I encourage residents to share their creativity, and I hope everyone enjoys an evening admiring the lights throughout our neighborhoods. On Thursday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m., our Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration will bring neighbors together on Broadway, in front of City Hall and the Train Plaza. Music, seasonal crafts hosted by SA Arts, and a visit from Santa will accompany the beloved Emergency Vehicle Lights Parade, featuring police, fire, and first responders whose service brightens our community throughout the year.

The Christmas Trolley Tour follows on Friday, December 11, offering a festive ride past some of the city's finest holiday displays. Please check the city website for registration details. On Saturday, December 12, the Friends of South Amboy's 15th Annual Charity Games will turn community pride into assistance for neighbors in need. Games begin at noon at South Amboy Middle High School, with South Amboy High School girls facing New Brunswick, followed by our boys playing JFK at 2:00 p.m. The Family Walk to Bethlehem takes place Sunday, December 13, beginning at the Knights of Columbus at 2:00 p.m., continuing a cherished tradition of faith and fellowship.

If you find yourself carrying a damp, drizzly November in your own soul, I encourage you to step out into the glow of the season. Come see your friends and neighbors, share a warm word along Broadway, and let the holiday season remind you that none of us has to face the winter alone.

**Respectfully**
**Tom Reilly**
**2nd Ward Councilman**
**City of South Amboy**

# Talk Of The Towns

**By Tom Burkard**

### Retirement Congratulations

Larry Lenahan Sr., of South Amboy has retired after 33 years of hard work, dedication, and commitment with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority…Also announcing their retirements effective December 31st are Borough of Sayreville Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski, and Mayor's Chief of Staff, Kevin Kelly. Congratulations and Best Wishes for a happy retirement to all three gentlemen, who happen to be great guys, and really love their communities.

## Thanksgiving Facts

The Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was traditionally used for Thanksgiving… The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was aired on TV for the first time in 1948…The average number of guests for those hosting a Thanksgiving dinner is 11…Macy's first Thanksgiving Day Parade commemorated Christmas…Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving premiered in 1973…The first character balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was Felix the Cat.

### Popowski Inducted Into Softball Hall of Fame

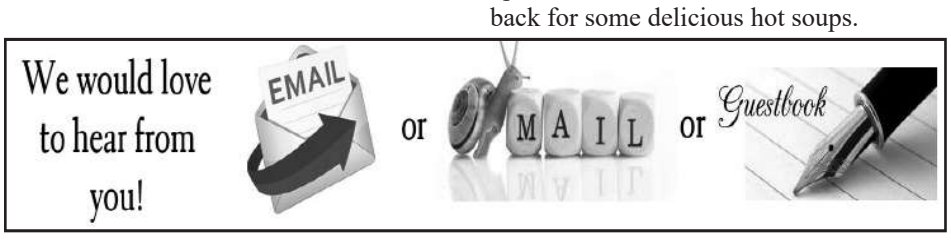
Tricia Popowski, who is a softball legend at Hoffman HS in South Amboy, and all-around outstanding athlete for the Lady Governors, was recently inducted in the National Softball Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 with the Raybestos Brakettes team, of which she played a huge part in their super success.

### Shayna Ran Marathon

Congratulations to Shayna O'Connor, who ran in the New York City Marathon at Manhattan, and finished the 26.2 mile race in 4 hours! Way to go Shayna!

## Advent "Family Walk to Bethlehem"

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 invites you to their 7th annual "Family Walk to Bethlehem" on Sunday December 13th 2026 at 2:00 pm. Beginning at the KofC hall on 308 4th Street the walk features visits to 4 local churches learning something at every stop. The walk finishes up back at the council hall with all invited back for some delicious hot soups.




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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.In 2003, where was Bello's Sports Pub located in Sayreville?
a.Washington Rd. b.Main St. c.Rt. 9 South
2.South Amboy Middle/High School's new Principal in '03?
a.Fred Alfonseco b.Margarita Mendes c.Jose Aviles
3.This deli was located on South Pine Ave. in Morgan back in 2003?
a.Juliet's b.All American c.Morgan
4.South Amboy Fire Chief in 2020?
a.Dave Szatkowski b.Bob O'Connor c.Andrew Bielak
5.Commander of Post 211 Auxiliary in 2021?
a.Suzanne Polochuk b.Janelle Jackson c.Carmen Delikat
6.Prinicipal of South Amboy Middle/High School in '21?
a.Dr. Patrick McCabe b.Dr. Sandra Locklear c.Dr. James O'Hurlihy
7.Top vote-getter in the Sayreville election for Borough Council in 2024?
a.Mary Novak b.Stanley Synarski c.Vincent Conti
8.This former South Amboy resident is the outstanding drummer/percussionist for The Weeklings rock band?
a.Joe Bellia b.Dennis Nardone c.Ronnie Luziemski
9.The Pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in '24?
a.Rev. Vincent Frunzi Jr. b.Rev. Meliss Wong c.Rev. Jamaal Winston
10.Grand Marshal of South Amboy's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2025?
a.Jan Williams b.Mickey Gross c.Mark Herdman

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


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email
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email: satimes@aol.com
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web site

Publisher
Tom Burkard

Associate Publisher
Brian Stratton

Feature Writers
Teo Weber
Richard Kosmoski
Clem Skarzynski

Layout Design
Phyllis Stratton

Photographer
Jamie Norek

Poet Laureate
Albert Gomolka Jr.

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# Yearbook - Sayreville 1986

By Tom Burkard

Huey Lewis & The News were topping the music charts with "The Power of Love" as the Sayreville seniors returned for their last year Rita Whitney was principal, and some of her fine faculty included: Joan Bodnar, Patricia Coleman, Anita Ecker, Dolores Grudziecka, Vija Hazners, Karen Joseph,Max Klitzke, Patrick Marotta, Janet Phillip, Ted Solomon. Sayreville WMHS was filled with activities and clubs such as Chorus & Jazz Band, Varsity Clubs, Improv Troupe, DECA, Math Club, ACT, NHS, Mythology Club, Images magazine, Echo Lites newspaper, which was edited by Margaret Bauer.The '85 Fall Drama was "Stage Door," and the Spring Musical was "Fiddler On The Roof." Sue Stevens was the Homecoming Queen for 1985. The Student Council consisted of Pres.-Sue Beers, VP-Gary Sabine, Sec.-Amy Gallagher, Treas.-Patty Hueng. The Senior Class officers were Pres. Sue Howardson, VP-Michelle D'Alessio, Treas.-KimStrouse. Drum Majors were Ann Marie Ferraro and Lisa Cupo. Sue Howardson was the Twirling Captain, and Amy Gallagher the co-captain. Some of the '86'ers selected randomly are: Fran Antonucci, Michael Anthony, Lori Bal, Cami Baranowski, Sue Bartkowicz, Debbie Bialoblocki, Susan Boehm, Ray Braine, Doreen Brown, Theresa Coffin, William Corrigan, Kelly Coyle, Sharon Downes, Melissa Eberle, Anita Fox, Joseph Gondek, Tom Hoover, Neil Jacobs, Carolyn Kiernan, Michelle Kane, Joan Knast, Amy Kulesa, Paul Laikowski, Lisa Lakomski, Mike Lynch, Kathleen Lovely, William Lytkowski, Steve Maldony, Debbie McKeon, Elisa McDonough, Alan Michalik, Joe Minnick, Patricia Nanco, Karen Nebus, Kelly Newsome, Noel Pascucci, Hitesh Patel, Tammy Pavlik, Cara Peterson, Ilana Rapp, Michael Reilly, Dianne Przybylko, Christine Poll, Shannon Scully, Meeta Shah, Gail Travisano, Marcy Treat, Joe Vitale, Kelli Vroom, William Wolf, Melanie Yanas, Tiffany Zalewski, Carol Zamorski. Major world events in '86 were: The Challenger exploding in space, killing Christa McAuliffe; Chicago Bears winning the Super Bowl; Van Halen broke up; Actors Rock Hudson and Yul Brynner died. Senior athletes selected randomly were: Dan Armetta, Mike Bouchard, Joann Chudkowski, John Clayton, Chris Cook, Patti Cumber, James Curotto, Christa DeLucia, Bryan Dzergoski, Anthony Evanego, Chuck Frobosilo , Christopher Garbowski, Kelly Griffith, Dan Kilcomons, Darren Lange, David Leitner, Edward Maciorowski, Shelly Mayernick, John Metz, Thomas Murtha, Christopher Tate, O'Connor, Chris O'Connor, Craig O'Connor, Scott Porpora, Thomas Viola, Elizabeth Wishnak, Gregory Zrebiec, Ray Zimmerman, Ron Zimmerman, Laurie Wedekind, James Van Wagenen. Sayreville War Memorial HS was a class with some very promising young adults ready to conquer the world.

# SAFD And SAFA Training





On November 15th members of SAFD and SAFA conducted a training drill involving extricating car crash victims from wrecks. This included use of hydraulic power tools, hand tools and victim movement devices. The training was conducted at the SA DPW yard. (Photos/Info by Jamie Norek)

# Knights "Breakfast with Santa"

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 invites everyone to enjoy our annual Breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 20th 20th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at the council hall at 308 4th Street. Come and enjoy breakfast with Santa and celebrate the most joyous time of year. Cost: Adults $14.00, Children 12yrs and under $6.00, 5yrs and under free. Breakfast menu will be served. Bring your camera SANTA will be there. To reserve tables of 8 or more, call 732 721-2025 and leave a message

# SAVE THE DATE:

**Friends of South Amboy Charity Event!**

**Date: Saturday, December 12, 2026**
**South Amboy Middle High School**
**12 noon**
**South Amboy girls vs New Brunswick**
**2 pm**
**South Amboy boys vs JFK**
**4 pm**
**Sayreville boys vs Monroe**
**6 pm**
**St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs Franklin**
**See more details on page 20**

# From St. Stan's To Times Square Taylor Englebert Remembers Where She Started




Taylor Englebert

As new basketball opportunities open for 12-year-old Taylor Englebert, one commitment remains constant: she returns to St. Stan's in Sayreville every year. The Sayreville sixth-grader, a member of the Class of 2033, began in the program's intramural league before advancing to CYM basketball. St. Stan's coaches Ian Ebbighausen and Ray Ebbighausen have each made a tremendous impact on her development, helping build her skills, confidence, and understanding of the game. Since fourth grade, Taylor has challenged herself against older players, playing up in older divisions each year. Her basketball journey has included St. Stan's, i9 Sports, Sayreville Spartans, Matawan Lady Huskies, The Stars of AMYAA, MSK Hawks, Shore Aces, Lady Bulldogs, NJ ShoreShots, and Jersey Shore Elite.

Taylor's accomplishments include multiple Central Jersey All-Star Game nominations and team selections representing St. Stan's, along with winning the Central Jersey three-point competition. She earned the Toughness Award and won the free-throw competition at Sayreville War Memorial High School's co-ed basketball camp, and captured the elbow-to-elbow shooting competition at Jersey Shore Elite's summer camp at St. John Vianney High School. She earned Rookie of the Year honors with the Shore Aces and helped the team win the Mid Monmouth league championship. She also earned a team championship with The Stars of AMYAA in Aberdeen, a championship with St. Stan's in the Diocesan CYM Basketball League, and a Shooting Award at Matawan High School's basketball camp. Her team success includes multiple AAU tournament wins with various teams, including the B-Ball Shootout with the Lady Bulldogs.

In September, Taylor proudly represented St. Stan's at the AAU Times Square Takeover three-on-three tournament in Manhattan, competing in the girls' seventh-grade division as an incoming sixth-grader. Her progress has drawn coverage from The Source, BreakingAC, and Prep Girls Hoops. Chimaechi "Chima" Ekekeugbor, Baruch College's all-time leading scorer, described her as a "Future WNBA All-Star." As her basketball world expands, Taylor remains faithful to the program that started her journey. Returning to St. Stan's each year reflects her gratitude to Ian, Ray, her teammates, and the community that helped her grow. Her personal motto captures her approach: "Discipline Today. Dominate Tomorrow." (Article/Photo Submitted)



Veterans were invited to the Bombers Beyond Cafe in Sayreville for light refreshments and discussions on their military service. After introductions, all veterans described what their duties were during their time in service. At the conclusion, American Legion Lenape Post 211, Past Commander Rich Kosmoski, presented a flag for the Veterans to fold. You will notice that the flag may be unique to many of our younger readers. The flag only has 48 stars in the blue field. This flag was proudly draped over a Veterans' casket as he went to his final resting place before July 4,1959 and was given to family members as a tribute of his service to our country. (Photo/Info Submitted)

# Clean Up Project




Dedicated members of Knights of Columbus OLV Council 2061 of Sayreville participated in a general clean-up project on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at the Council Home. Volunteers worked for hours to clean-up the dry summer debris and make preparations for the upcoming winter season. (Photo/Info Submitted)



# South Amboy Knight of Columbus Halloween Party

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



The happy winners (l-r) Ed, Debbie, Sandy, and Kim, show their prizes from the many great drawings.



(l-r) Donna Williams, PGK Gary Lattanzi, and Carol Wilson.



The Cellar Dwellers and Friends band played all kinds of great music, including many Halloween-themed songs.



Having a fun time are (l-r) PGK Les Wilson, Carol Wilson, and PGK Jan Williams.

# Turkey Time



On Thursday, November 10, 2026, Knights of Columbus, OLV Council 2061, volunteered their help in the packaging of donated food items to the "Turkey Time" organization. This organization will donate Thanksgiving food packages to those in need throughout the area, including Middlesex and Monmouth Counties as well as the local military bases. This entire operation is run strictly by volunteers. Whether someone wants to volunteer their time assembling baskets, or donate food items needed to fill the baskets to families and organizations coming together, everyone plays a part in making Thanksgiving a little brighter for those in need. It is estimated that over 1800 Thanksgiving food baskets, complete with turkeys, will be delivered this Thanksgiving. (Photo/Info Submitted)

# Veterans Day Mass

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2026, the Catholic War Veterans, Sacred Heart Post 578, participated in a Veteran's Mass at The Church of The Sacred Heart. Followed by Veteran's services at the church cemetery. (Photos/Info Submitted)

Right: Catholic War Veteran Rich Kosmoski discussed the importance of Veterans, during their time in the military and their contributions to society and their community following their military services.



Below: Catholic War Veterans of CWV Post 578 and guests participate in services at the Sacred Heart cemetery. Reverend Lukasz Blicharski conducted the Mass, then followed up with a memorial service at the cemetery.





Veterans, friends, and neighbors came together in South Amboy on November 7th for the "Ruck With a Buddy: No Veteran Walks Alone" Veterans Day 5K, hosted by AUSA Northern New Jersey Chapter in partnership with American Legion Post #62. Participants walked together to honor our veterans, remind them they are never alone, and support South Amboy's two local food pantries. From the American Legion site on lower David Street, they made their way along the waterfront to Veterans Memorial Plaza and across town to City Hall, carrying donations to help stock the shelves of St. Mary's and First Presbyterian food pantries. (Photo/story by Mary Szaro)

# Congratulations



Division Commander BJ Downing (l) issued the Oath of Office to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-2 Commander Ashleigh Layton (c) and Vice Commander Jamie Norek (r) congratulations. (Photo Submitted)

# Sikh Officers Association Celebration

(By Surjit Singh)






## Sikh Officers Association Celebrates a Decade of Service and Growth at 10th Anniversary Gala

On October 22, 2026, the Sikh Officers Association proudly hosted its landmark 10th Anniversary Awards Gala at the elegant Leonard's Palazzo, bringing together law enforcement leaders, community representatives, distinguished guests, and supporters to celebrate a decade of dedication, accomplishments, and meaningful community partnerships.

Among the distinguished attendees were Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto Center in South Amboy, New Jersey, accompanied by Hector Pena, a former police officer with the South Amboy Police Department, and Raj Chopra, a former Lieutenant with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

The evening was hosted by Sikh Officers Association leaders, including NYPD Lieutenant Gurvinder Singh and NYPD Sergeant Sahib Singh, who welcomed attendees and reflected on the organization's remarkable journey over the past decade.

During his address, Lieutenant Gurvinder Singh highlighted the achievements and contributions of Sikh law enforcement officers throughout the nation, emphasizing their dedication, commitment to public service, and positive impact on American society. Sergeant Sahib Singh also extended a heartfelt welcome to all guests and delivered remarks addressing the importance of community representation, inclusion, and the continued advancement of diversity within law enforcement.

During the evening, Surjit Singh had the opportunity to personally express his appreciation to Lieutenant Gurvinder Singh and Sergeant Sahib Singh for their leadership and the organization's continued commitment to serving the Sikh community and strengthening relationships with law enforcement.

"It is truly an honor to be here tonight and to witness the continued growth and impact of the Sikh community within the NYPD and broader law enforcement," said Surjit Singh. "We are immensely proud to stand alongside these dedicated officers as they celebrate a decade of extraordinary service."

The Sikh Officers Association's 10th Anniversary Gala represented a significant milestone in the organization's history, celebrating ten years of service, leadership, and progress. The occasion reaffirmed the Association's mission to promote diversity, strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, recognize the accomplishments of Sikh Americans in uniform, and inspire future generations to pursue careers in public service.

As the Sikh Officers Association looks toward the future, it remains committed to building on its legacy of unity, representation, and service while continuing to make a lasting impact within the NYPD, the broader law enforcement community, and society as a whole.

# St. Stanislaus Kostka School Announces Casino Night 2027

St. Stanislaus Kostka School is excited to announce its upcoming Casino Night on Saturday, January 9, 2027, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Join us for an exciting evening of casino games, food, refreshments, an open bar, raffles, and a silent auction! Guests are encouraged to Dress to Impress for a memorable night of fun and entertainment. Each ticket includes $50 in casino chips! Ticket pricing is $100 per person and $175 per couple. Location: St. Stanislaus Kostka School221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ Tickets are on sale now, and sponsorship opportunities are available! Local businesses and community members are encouraged to get involved through sponsorships and donations. All proceeds will support St. Stanislaus Kostka School and its students. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2003413189781?aff=oddtdtcreator) or at the church office, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm. For sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact the SSK HSA at hsapresident@sskschool.org. We look forward to seeing you for a fantastic night!


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## Coach Tony G. Honored..It's A Beautiful Thing!!

(Photos Submitted)




The team that started it all 50 years ago (l-r) Marty Veilleux, Tim Walczak, John Dragotta, John "Heada" Ziola, Greg Seres, Ed "Butchie" Dill, Ed Petrosky, Coach Tony G., Alex "Tucker" MacNeil, Mickey Facendo, Gerard Marrone, Bill Lewis. Seated Team Captain Pete Toth.



NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (l) shares a moment with Coach Tony G.



(l-r) Senator Joseph Vitale,Coach Tony G. and South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry.



Coach Tony G (far right) with the event organizing committee (l-r) Gerard Marrone, Bill Lewis, Paul Noble, John Dragotta, Brianne Smolenski, Jared Gonsalves and Janet Kern,



Coach Tony G's beautiful family.



It was a great turnout, CHEERS!

# A Night To Celebrate A Legendary Accomplishment

### A Scholarship to Ensure a Legacy

**By Gerard Marrone**

The evening of Saturday, October 24th, will be a night Tony Gonsalves will never forget. It was an emotional night for Tony, for me, and for everyone involved in putting it together—and it was spectacular. Here is how it all came together.

On July 11th, a simple idea was born at Bubba's in Old Bridge, Tony G's local spot. A small group of us were sitting at the bar, grabbing a drink, watching the World Cup, and talking about an unbelievable milestone: Coach Tony Gonsalves was entering his 50th season as head coach of the South Amboy High School boys' soccer team.

Naturally, our first thought was to throw a party. We agreed we would start planning a small get-together in my yard.

But driving home that night, something hit me. A party lasts for one evening. People laugh, reminisce, share a few hugs, and go home. But a legacy—especially one built over five decades—deserves to live on forever.

On Saturday evening, October 24, 2026, that dream came to life at Sacred Heart Memorial Hall. Over 225 people filled a completely sold-out room to celebrate Tony G. More than a party, the evening officially launched the Tony G Legacy Scholarship, an endowed fund created in partnership with New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS) that will support deserving student-athletes for generations to come.

When Tony looked out across the crowded hall, surrounded by former players, colleagues, family, and lifelong friends, the emotion of the night was unmistakable.

"I'm overwhelmed by the response," Coach Gonsalves shared, looking around at the sea of familiar faces spanning six decades. "It was an amazing night."

**High Honors & A Statewide Enshrinement**

The celebration featured three standout moments that highlighted the immense reach of Tony's 50-year coaching career:

● A Message from Trenton: The room was treated to a special video message from Governor Mikie Sherrill, who offered her heartfelt congratulations to Tony for his decades of service, mentorship, and leadership in youth athletics across New Jersey.

● New Jersey Hall of Fame Announcement: In a monumental surprise, it was officially announced that Tony G will be recognized by the New Jersey Hall of Fame at the American Dream Mall on February 7, 2027, where he will be honored as an Everyday Hero and permanently enshrined alongside New Jersey's greatest icons.

● The Scholarship Milestone: By the time dinner was served, our endowment had blown past our first goal of $25,000, shattered our second goal of $50,000, and today stands at over $72,000—and it continues to grow.

### From a Spark of an Idea to an Enduring Legacy

Having had the privilege of playing on Tony's very first soccer team back in the fall of 1977 at H.G. Hoffman High School, I can tell you firsthand that it is impossible to overstate his impact on my life. He introduced me to a sport that shaped my entire journey. But far beyond tactics and footwork, Tony taught us how to overcome adversity with resilience, optimism, and heart. His enthusiasm for life and genuine love for people are contagious.

To turn that spirit into a permanent foundation, we reached out to Evan Dabby, CEO of NJ Youth Soccer. He immediately got the vision. Together, we designed an endowed fund where the principal remains untouched forever, using the annual interest to award two scholarships every single year: one to a South Amboy High School student-athlete, and one statewide.

### A Night Built on Teammates and Community

Standing at the podium on Saturday, looking out at current South Amboy High School student-athletes from the boys' and girls' teams standing alongside state and local leaders—including Senator Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Mayor Fred Henry, Council Members Mickey Gross, Zusette Dato, Larry Lenahan, Anthony Conrad, and Police Chief Patty Kanecke—the room was electric with hometown pride.

An effort like this only happens when a team comes together, and I owe a deep personal debt to my organizing committee teammates: John Dragotta, Bill Lewis, Brianne Smolenski, Janet Kern, and Paul Noble. This was a true team effort and would never have happened without every one of them.

Among them, one member deserves special recognition: Bill Lewis. If you had told me back in 1980 that decades later I'd be standing at a podium praising Billy Lewis, I would have laughed out loud! Billy and I had a classic love-hate relationship in high school. We weren't enemies, but we were fierce competitors competing every single day for the center-midfield spot on the team. But time gives you the gift of perspective. Competing with Billy made me a better player and a better man.

When it came to this scholarship fund, we simply would not be standing here without him. Billy was our MVP—he personally brought in over 50% of our total sponsorship dollars, pouring his entire heart into honoring Tony.

That community spirit was mirrored everywhere in the room:

● Generous Community Support: A heartfelt thank you to our extensive list of local sponsors, whose complete directory can be found on our website at www.thetonyglegacy.org.

● Selfless Volunteer Professionals: DJ John Dunne donated his time and talent to keep the energy high, while Tony's own son, Jared Gonsalves, tended bar for the night.

● Student Volunteers: The night was made so much better by getting to know the members of Tony's current team who came out to volunteer—they are incredible young people.

### How to Apply, Donate, and What's Next

As Father Stan brought us together for a blessing, the feeling in Sacred Heart Hall wasn't just one of celebration—it was one of deep gratitude. Tony G spent 50 years shaping lives, building character, and teaching us how to compete both on the field and in life.

● Apply for the Scholarship: The Tony G Legacy Scholarship is open to both high school boys and girls. Eligible student-athletes can apply directly online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Tony_G_scholarship.

● Support the Scholarship: For those who wish to support the fund as it continues to grow for future generations, donations are still happily accepted at https://pro.gofundme.com/event/tony-g-scholarship-dinner/e831669.

● Looking Ahead: The Committee is already planning a Golf Outing for the Spring of 2027. If you would like to get on the priority list for this event—which is sure to sell out—please email thetonyglegacy@gmail.com.

Thanks to every ticket sold, every dollar donated, and every memory shared, Coach Tony Gonsalves' influence will continue to touch young lives in South Amboy for generations to come.

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.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

## Councilman John's Monthly Minute



Every once in a while, a project comes before us that is more personal than most. For me, the upcoming improvements to Fielek Park are one of those projects.

Fielek Park was my childhood park, and in many ways, it still is today. I grew up in this neighborhood. The pond, which we all knew as Sulpher's Pond, is where I learned to swim. The ballfield is where I spent countless hours playing baseball and softball. We explored the woods, walked the trails and spent summer days with friends. For those of us growing up around Forrest and Marsh Avenues, the park was simply part of our everyday lives.

I particularly remember Sulpher's Pond as a gathering place for neighborhood kids, where we spent so much of our summers swimming, playing and enjoying the outdoors. Fielek Park was really at the center of those summer days. Today, that same pond offers a much quieter, more peaceful setting, complementing the natural beauty of the arboretum that overlooks it. The arboretum, which includes a memorial honoring our late friend Carmen Spezzi, has become a wonderful place to sit, reflect and enjoy the surroundings. It's a nice reminder of how a familiar place can change over the years while continuing to hold a special place in the neighborhood.

The surrounding property also has ties to Sayreville's history of sand and clay excavation, activity that continues on nearby land today. While the origin of the name Sulphur's Pond remains uncertain, it's a name that many of us who grew up here remember well.

Fielek Park encompasses nearly 20 acres, offering recreational facilities, open space and wooded pathways that provide a natural separation between the Park Village townhomes and the neighborhoods around Forrest and Marsh Avenues.

Now, thanks to approximately $1.5 million in grant funding, Fielek Park is preparing for another chapter. The deteriorated basketball court will receive a much-needed renovation, the existing tennis court will be converted into a pickleball court, and the pathways will be better defined and improved.

Recreational interests change over time, and our parks need to keep pace. But that doesn't mean losing the things that make them special. At Fielek Park, we have an opportunity to improve facilities that have needed attention for some time while preserving the wooded surroundings and peaceful setting that residents have come to enjoy.

I've watched Fielek Park change quite a bit since I was a kid, and I'm glad we're giving it some much-needed attention. It's a great neighborhood park with a lot to offer, and these improvements will make it an even better place to spend time. Most importantly, they'll help ensure that today's kids have the same opportunity to look back fondly on their days at Fielek Park, just as I do.

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

## McQuade & Mulvey Honored



Congratulations to Legionnaires Butch Mulvey and Brian McQuade, honored and celebrated for their outstanding dedication and contributions to American Legion Post #62. Pictured left to right: Brian McQuade, Post Commander Joe Szaro, Post Commander Joe Szaro and Butch Mulvey. (Photos by Mary Szaro)





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# Acoustic Friday, December 18

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance will present its final showcase of the year, featuring performances by George Wirth, Sharon Goldman, and Jake Moska. George Wirth and Sharon Goldman will be making their SA Arts debut. The Alliance welcomes Jake Moska's return to the gallery.

Based in Brick, NJ, George Wirth is arguably one of New Jersey's finest songwriters. He received the Asbury Music Award (2010) in the Top Male Acoustic Category. His album, The Last Good Kiss, earned the Jersey Acoustic Music Award (2011). George also released an album called The Lights of Brigantine.

According to the Listening Room Network, Sharon Goldman is known for her "sophisticated songwriting, soulful vocals, and charming storytelling." Her songs span folk, country, bluegrass, and Americana, covering topics such as love, sorrow, and personal development. She has released multiple albums.

Jake Mosca is a singer/songwriter who splits his time in and out of Nashville with international experience in Ireland, England, Romania, Hungary, and across the United States. His music covers blues, R&B, rock, jazz, Western swing, and metal.

The performers will appear in the round.

SA Arts is located at 141 N. Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is $5.00, and complimentary light refreshments will be offered.

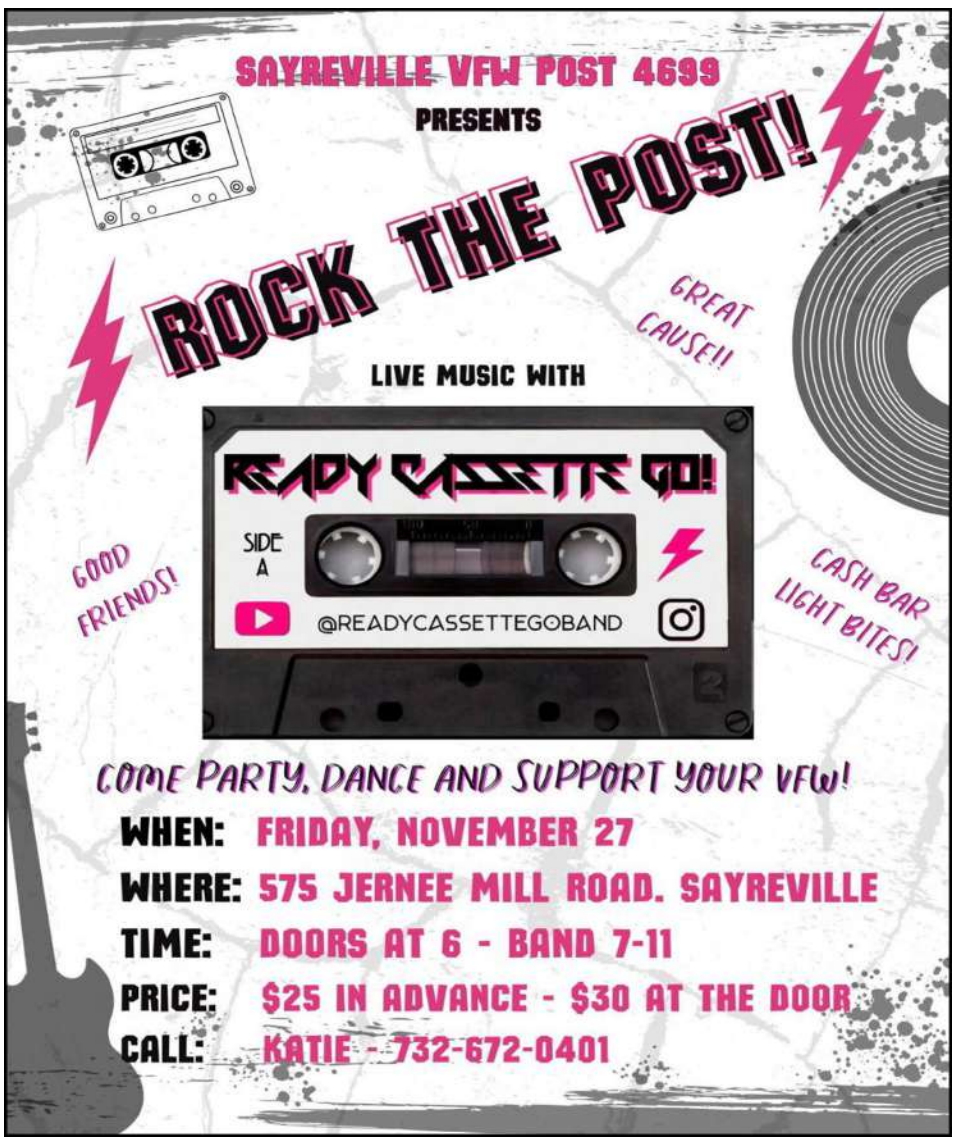
The Alliance seeks interested acoustic-oriented performers of any genre for future performances. For additional information, contact SA Arts at 732-727-4600, extension 5971, or by email at SAarts141@gmail.com. Watch the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page for updates.

## #1 Pop Hits On Nov. 26

**2021**-All Too Well-Taylor Swift
**2014**-Blank Space-Taylor Swift
**2003**-Baby Boy-Beyonce
**1997**-Candle In The Wind 1997-Elton John
**1988**-Bad Medicine-Bon Jovi
**1979**-No More Tears
-Barbara Streisand/Donna Summer
**1966**-You Keep Me Hangin'On
-The Supremes

## #1 Country Hits On Nov. 26

**2025**-I Got Better-Morgan Wallen
**2016**-Blue Ain't Your Color-Keith Urban
**2000**-Just Another Day In Paradise
-Phil Vassar
**1992**-I'm In A Hurry-Alabama
**1985**-I'll Never Stop Loving You
-Gary Morris
**1971**-Daddy Frank (The Guitar Man)
-Merle Haggard
**1963**-Love's Gonna Live Here-Buck Owens










The Weeklings recently rocked the house at the Avenel Performing Arts Center. John Merjave (Rocky Weekling), Bob Burger (Zeek Weekling), Joe Bellia (Smokestack Weekling) and Glen Burtnik (Lefty Weekling)/ (Photo by Ed English)




They Killed Kenny is a high-energy party rock cover band bringing the best of the '70s, '80s, '90s, and beyond to life! Based in Central New Jersey, the band delivers an electrifying mix of classic rock, alternative hits, and crowd favorites that keep audiences singing, dancing, and rocking all night long. With powerful vocals, driving guitars, and an infectious stage presence, They Killed Kenny turns every performance into a party. If you love great music, good times, and a little rock 'n' roll attitude, They Killed Kenny is a band you don't want to miss! Andy Slater: Bass/Vocals, Danny Fossani: Lead guitar, Liz Borg: Lead Vocals, Ray Suchcicki: Drums/Vocals, Jack Mitch: Lead Guitar/Vocals. They will be rocking Thanksgiving Eve November 25th 8-12 at The Munckee Bar in South Amboy.

# Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Endless thanks go out to Dan and Katie Vardalis, Val Ostrowski, and Carmen Delikat for their efforts in putting together a really fun time at their "Monster Mash" Halloween Dance this past Oct.24th at the Sayreville VFW Post 4699! And many thanks to all who attended, and in awesome Halloween Costumes, to make it such a success! And to such an appreciative dance crowd, we, the members of "The Clem and Friends Band" are forever thankful for your positive comments, and to the staff for having us there! The following day, Sunday the 25th, saw the "Band" once again onstage for St.Stans 5th Annual Halloween Car Show! Mother Nature gave us a beautiful day..and close to 400 Customs, Cruisers, Hot Rods lined up on the Fairgrounds! Congrats to Tony and Brian Jackowski and their incredible staff, DJ Richie "The Flash" and the "Just us Cruisers, and to Emmie and Amy Jones from Basement Audio and Sound for all their efforts to make this show the incredible success it's been since its inception 5 years ago! And this year's show had a new Sponsor, with Mike Pederson from Mike's Pit Stop in Parlin providing the Trophies for the show's numerous winning categories. Mike and his staff do outstanding automotive mechanical repairs, and have a large selection of tires for all cars, trucks and SUV's! Give 'em a call at 732-582-0055, right around the corner at 3143 Bordentown Ave., Bldg.1, in Parlin! Thank You Mike and staff..much appreciated. Helping make our show the success it has become! Welcome to the Family! Clem and Friends had a great time playing the music heard on all those "rides" radios back in the day, bringing back a lot of fond, fun memories from the 50s, 60s,70s and 80s! Super Crowd..Great food..Music, and friends..always makes for a perfect day! Most important, I can't forget to Sincerely thank my Dear Friend and Q104.3 DJ, Maria Milito, who for years has been there to do "Shout Outs" to the Q104.3 listening audience on countless events I've been involved in with my band, and local organizations to raise money for their various causes! Maria… Thank you, so, so much! Stay tuned..working on some Band Dates upcoming..The Holiday Season is just about upon us…So, From "The Clem and Friends Band"…we wish all our friends, and SA Times readers a wonderful Holiday !! Remember..Music…the universal language of mankind..with the harmonic connection between all living things… and…IT'S FUN!!! Oh yeah…Tony, Brian.. the band owes you a few Polkas…we'll get ya next time!!

# One Hit Wonders Of 1969

In The Year 2525-Zager & Evans; Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye-Steam; Sugar, Sugar-The Archies; Morning Girl-The Neon Philharmonic; Tracy-The Cuff Links; Gimme Gimme Good Lovin'-Crazy Elephant; Baby It's You-Smith; My Pledge of Love-Joe Jeffrey Group; Color Him Father-The Winstons; More Today Than Yesterday-The Spiral Staircase; The Worst That Could Happen-The Brooklyn Bridge; Black Pearl-Sonny Charles & The Checkmates, Ltd.; Polk Salad Annie-Tony Joe White; Smile A Little Smile For Me-The Flying Machine; Love (Can Make You Happy)-Mercy; Get Together-The Youngbloods.

# The Smoke Column

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



Most New Jersey communities have a major roadway—such as a state highway, the New Jersey Turnpike, or the Garden State Parkway—running through them. We recognize most vehicles traveling these routes and can prepare for many incidents. But are we ready for the less common emergencies that may arise? Typical highway emergencies include vehicle fires and crashes involving cars and trucks. But what strategies and tactics are needed when an RV or motor home catches fire? Should we approach it differently from a fire in a single-story home? In most cases, the answer is yes. Fires in single-story homes are common responses that generally present moderate to high risk, depending on construction type, staffing, location, and water supply. An RV or motor home fire can be viewed as a single-family dwelling fire on wheels. On arrival, however, we may not know who or what is inside. Key concerns include unknown contents, multiple occupants or families, heavy clutter or stored materials, and the types of fuel present. Inside a single-family dwelling, its contents must meet a fire code. Motorized RVs and motor homes, however, are not governed by a fire code and are subject only to recommended standards. Some are larger than a bus or tractor-trailer and may be built with thin aluminum panels fastened to studs with insulation between them. These lightweight materials can burn rapidly, trapping intense heat until it breaks through the aluminum exterior or, in some cases, fiberglass. NFPA 1192 was developed to address the unique size and safety concerns of some motor homes. It covers smoke detectors, means of egress, fire extinguisher types, and the installation of plumbing, fuel-burning, and electrical systems. However, once an RV is purchased, no inspections are required to ensure continued compliance with these safety standards. As a first responder, imagine arriving at a fully involved motor home resting on four to six wheels that could begin rolling at any moment. Can crews safely approach the vehicle to chock the wheels, or must they focus on extinguishment, life safety, and environmental protection? The incident could quickly escalate if the burning vehicle rolled toward a school, daycare center, or another protected area. Crews must also account for onboard hazards such as propane, batteries, and fuels used to operate appliances. If occupants are trapped, priorities must be coordinated: stabilize the vehicle, rescue occupants, control the fire, and determine whether entry is safe. These coordinated actions must form a unified strategy. During your size-up, consider the usage and storage of those Lithium-Ion batteries that may be located anywhere and for many purposes. Consider how to enter the motor home if the entrance doors are blocked or inaccessible? Where would you first cut with the power saw and has the saw been serviced so it does work when necessary? Unfortunately, we have access to motor vehicle extrication classes and have automobiles available to practice our skills on. At times, tractors and other types of trucks become available to cut-up and gain experience in vehicle extrication. In my years of experience, I have never seen any agency have a motor home available to practice our skills and training on. Earlier I mentioned that you may come across a RV/ motor home fire on the roadway but think of home many residents in our communities store these vehicles in their driveways or backyards. Think of the consequences of one of these vehicles catching fire in a congested/ cluttered backyard? Within a very short period of time you would have an expanding incident on your hands.

# South Amboy Buries Time Capsule to Honor America's 250th Birthday

The City of South Amboy marked a milestone in the nation's history on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, with the burial of a special time capsule commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence.

The ceremony, held in front of city hall, brought attention to the recent semiquincentennial of the United States, which celebrated the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry addressed those gathered for the occasion, sharing remarks about the significance of the anniversary and the importance of preserving the city's history for future generations. During the ceremony, Henry also presented a listing of the items placed inside the time capsule, documenting the contents that will offer a glimpse into South Amboy and the nation at this point in history. They included: two copies of The South Amboy/Sayreville Times both the issue covering the city's 250th celebration and also the issue covering the ribbon cutting of the new Ferry Terminal, in addition to The SA Times 35th Anniversary; a hat from the St/ Patrick's Day parade committee signed by all its members; a letter from Mayor Henry that mentioned some history of the city including three tragic events-the explosion in 1950, Super Storm Sandy and COVID-19. The letter did not just list these events but went into detail on each. Photos of South Amboy. A copy of the SAFD's 125th anniversary booklet. Information on the city's celebration of the country's 250th anniversary and the ribbon cutting of the ferry terminal. A grocery list so that future residents can see what the cost of items were. Coins from 2026 as well as a penny from 1926 and 1976. A shirt from the YMCA, library cards, a copy of Images of America. South Amboy signed by author George Francy, a letter from The Historical Society of South Amboy, a South Amboy baseball cap, a booklet from The Friends of South Amboy first benefit event, a booklet from the Dowdell Library's 75th anniversary, an American Legion vanity plate signed by their members as well as a letter to the Future from the Legion and various Items from the police department.

The time capsule will remain sealed for the next 50 years, serving as a historical record for generations yet to come. It is scheduled to be opened in 2076, when the United States celebrates its 300th birthday.

When that day arrives, residents of South Amboy and their descendants will have the opportunity to look back at the items preserved in 2026 and discover what life was like in their community during America's 250th anniversary.

The burial of the capsule represents more than a celebration of a national milestone. It is a lasting connection between the people of South Amboy today and the generations who will follow them. By preserving pieces of the present, the city has created a historical window into the past for those who will gather a half-century from now to celebrate America's tricentennial.

For the residents who witnessed the ceremony, October 27, 2026, will be remembered as the day South Amboy placed a piece of its present into the hands of its future.

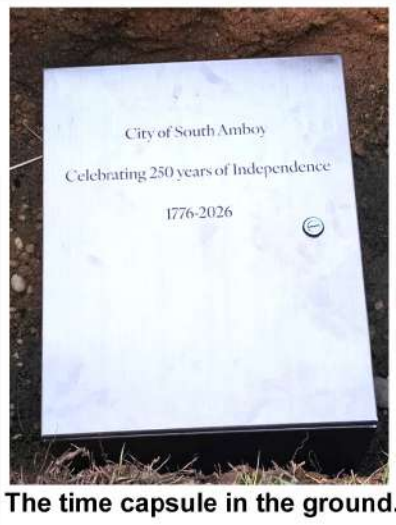



## South Amboy Time Capsule

(Photos by Brian & Phyllis Stratton)



Mayor Henry addresses the crowd and explains what items were placed inside the time capsule.










The time capsule in the ground.



Mayor Henry observes Matt Schnell (l) & Hunter Brown (r) from the South Amboy DPW place the capsule in the ground.



Mayor Henry places the first shovel of dirt on top of the time capsule.



Pictured (l-r) Councilman At-Large Anthony Conrad, Councilman At-Large Mickey Gross, Mayor Fred Henry and Business Admistrator David Kales.



Members of the Historical Society of South Amboy,

## 'The Poland Garage Lounge"



**Well, family and friends finally convinced Cyn and Gary Poland to come inside, resume eating, bathe,and to please pay their Optimum Bill!....**



**And finally after a beautifully prepared early Thanksgiving Dinner...the Polands are back to normal...**
**"A COUPLE OF TURKEYS"**
**" HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL"**

## Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!





*Al Gomolka*
*As seen on*
*American Pickers*

(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.**

**It's Christmas time and that means gifts and toys for the December issue's give-a-way. Boxes of toys both old and new, and stuff you may use as gifts, and also Christmas decoration collectables. Win a gift for yourself this Christmas season by entering this contest–Merry Christmas to all!**

**Enter to win these FREE goodies!**

**Last Month's winner was:**
**John Kociban**

**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 and Phone Number to: satimes@aol.com**
**Put Gomolka's Contest in the subject line**

**By December 5th**

**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.**



Mayor Fred Henry (l) congratulates Mayor-Elect Anthony Conrad following the election. (Photo Submitted)

## Sayreville Library News

**Mindful Yoga**
**Tuesdays in December @6:30PM**

Come join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. 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

**Fiber Friends Knitting and Crocheting**
**Dec 2 & 16 @6:30PM**

Interested in knitting, crocheting, or other forms of needlework? Want to make some new friends while working on your crafts? Then come out and join the fiber friends. Bring your own materials, and projects and meet some new people in the process.

This group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

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

**Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)**
**Dec 8 & 28 @ 6:30PM**

Join Barbara Brown for an evening of relaxing meditation. This is a virtual event. Please register 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

**Movie Matinee**
**Tuesday, Dec 15 @1PM**

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Christmas with the Kranks. Starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis. (Rated PG-1 hr 39 minutes). Refreshments provided. Registration required

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

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

**It's Never Too Late To Reinvent Yourself.**
**Saturday, Dec 19 @11AM**

Join life coach, Glenny Rosario for this uplifting, and interactive session about personal growth, starting a new chapter in life, and discovering new possibilities at any age. Registration required

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

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

**Red Cross Blood Drive**
**Monday, Dec 28 11:30AM-4:30PM**

Help us help others. Donate blood and help save a life.

Appointments recommended.

Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

Sponsored by the American Red Cross.

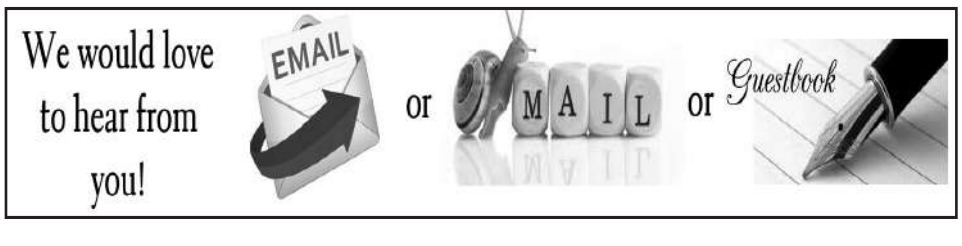
## Speaker Coughlin Welcomes New Lt. Governor

Statement from Speaker Coughlin on the Appointment of Shirley Emehelu as Lieutenant Governor

"I want to congratulate Shirley Emehelu on her appointment as New Jersey's new Lieutenant Governor and wish her success as she takes on this role. Lt. Governor Emehelu brings with her an impressive background as she moves down the State House halls, most recently serving as our Acting Secretary of State where she helped to oversee a smooth election in New Jersey just last week. I look forward to working with her alongside Governor Sherrill in the months and years ahead as we continue to fight for affordability, families and working people of our state."



Pictured (l-r) Al Gomolka, John Kociban winner of Gomolka's Collectables October Give-A-Way contest and Jonathan Kociban. John received thousands of sports cards, some back as far as the 1950's, including rookies and superstars, special editions and complete sets. In addition, sports magazines and books with superstars on the cover of vintage Sports Illustrated magazines. Also included were baseball gloves, balls, unopened packs of cards and other collectables. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



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**ROSCATO DOLCE**
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750ML
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750ML
$9.99

**JAM JOR**
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750ML
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**CLOS DU BOIS**
ALL TYPES

750ML
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ALL TYPES

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$9.99

**COLUMBIA CREST**
ALL TYPES

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$7.99

**MIREY**
RED BLEND

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$8.79

## "Hundreds Of Wines Under $9.99"

## "Have A Safe & Happy Thanksgiving"

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**We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not responsible for typographical errors. In the case of an error the lowest price allowed by NJ State law will apply. Products are available while supplies last. Artwork does not necessarily represent items on sale. Prices subject to change.*

# St. Stan's Car Show

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien (l) visits with lead guitarist/singer, Clem Skarzynski of the Clem & Friends Band.



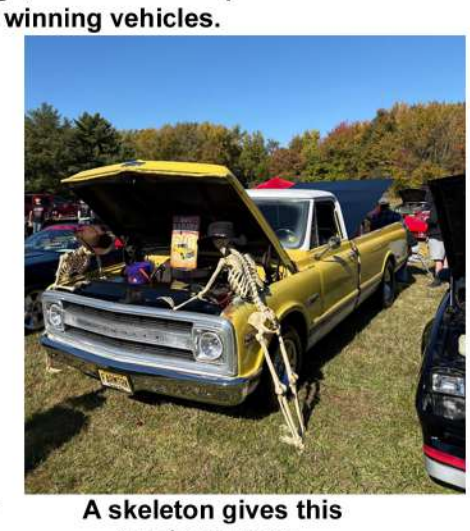
Sayreville's Kenny Kurczeski, leader of the band Kenny K & The Way really enjoyed the Car Show and this red Mustang classic.



The Clem & Friends Band onstage, and in front trophies that were presented to the winning vehicles.



Pictured (l-r) "DJ Richie The Flash" Hart, and Emerson Jones of Basement Audio Productions.



A skeleton gives this truck a tuneup.



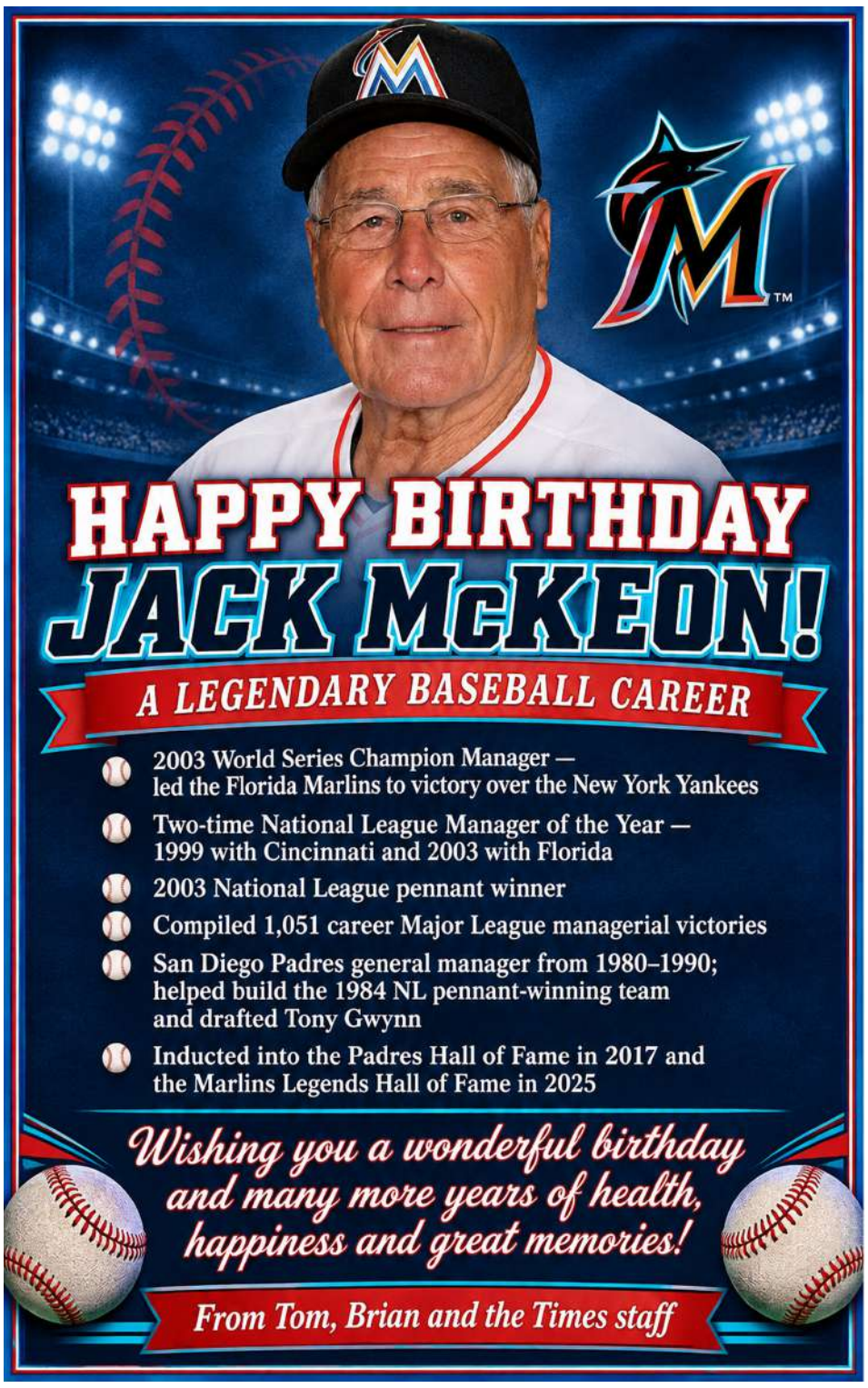
Jim Abbatiello & his wife Joyce stand by their beautiful vintage car.



Many car trunks were decorated for Halloween.



Lots of trophies were awarded to happy winners.






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(Pre 1964)

It Could Be Worth Up To
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# Our Best Wishes For A Safe & Healthy Thanksgiving

# Holiday Season Events

## Tree Lighting

**Friday, December 4, 2026 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 November 30, 2026**
**Deadline: December 9, 2026**
**To Enter Contest:email your address & phone number to polomenep@southamboynj.gov**
**CASH PRIZE TO FIRST PLACE WINNER**
**Winner will be announced on December 14, 2026**





## Holiday Lights Trolley Tour

**Friday, December 11, 2026**
**Tour times: 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM & 8:30PM**
**Seating reservations start Dec. 1st (limited seating - Open to South Amboy residents only)**
**To reserve seating email polomenep@southamboynj.gov**
**(Trolley tours are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather)**



**FRED A. HENRY**
Mayor

**MICHAEL GROSS**
Council President
**ANTHONY CONRAD**
Councilman-At-Large
**LARRY LENAHAN**
Councilman
**THOMAS REILLY**
Councilman
**ZUSETTE DATO**
Councilwoman
**ELAINE GABER**
Library Director
**KELLY WOLFF**
Court Administrator
**JOANNE KATKO**
Tax Collector

**MICHAEL KELLY**
Fire Chief

**DAVID KALES**
Business Administrator
**DAN BALKA**
CFO
**PATRICIA KANECKE**
Chief of Police
**AARON RAINONE**
Director of Law
**MARK RASIMOWICZ**
Engineer
**KATIE ROSE WALENTY**
Acting City Clerk
**KENNETH KRASS**
Acting Superintendent of Public Works



Students at the St. Stan's Car Show had a great time. There were over 300 cars on display, many decorated for Halloween. (l-r) Mason Dalina, Jackson Norek, Cora Norek and Dylan Dalina. (Photo Submitted)






## American Legion Auxiliary Unit #62 Food Collection



American Legion Auxiliary Unit #62 kicked off the holiday season early with a Reverse Advent Calendar food collection for our two local food pantries. (Photo Submitted)






## Dowdell Library News

Join Dowdell Library for the Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 17 from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Be merry and festive! Enjoy light refreshments, enjoy holiday music, and meet your neighbors! Door Prizes!

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.

"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 December from 11:00 to 1:00 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in December from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Stop by on Wednesday, December 16 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for the Christmas Holiday Workshop and make some gifts for family and friends!

Join the Food Explorers on Wednesday, December 30 at 1:00pm. Registration is required! Call, email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 5-10

Tweens and Teens! Don't miss Drop in Club this December from 3:00 to 4:30 pm on Mondays for Board Games, Tuesdays for STEM, and trivia, and Fridays for Video Games from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Ages 10+. !

Stop by to register for the December Test Kitchen on Monday, December 21 for ages 13+ and Tuesday, December 22 for ages 10 to 12 at 3:00pm! Decorate some cookies and drink some hot cocoa.

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, December 7 at 10:30am. Come learn about digital ebooks and magazines.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, December 28 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 hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12pm-4pm. Connect on social media!

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

SADIE POPE DOWDELL LIBRARY
INFORM, ENGAGE, INSPIRE!
South Amboy, New Jersey

## South Amboy Fire Department Visits South Amboy Elementary School

(Photos Submitted)











# Who is it?

**By Brian and Phyllis Stratton**



The end of the year is coming so this one is a bit harder! Can you identify these four men? Send your answer to satimes@aol.comm by Dec. 12th. We need all four names. Good luck!

Last month's mystery person was Alison Steele, The Nightbird on 102.7 WNEW-FM.

There was a time when turning on the radio late at night meant hearing more than just music. It meant listening to a familiar voice that could make you feel as though someone was speaking directly to you. For generations of New York-area radio listeners, that voice belonged to Alison Steele, famously known as "The Nightbird."

Steele became one of the most recognizable personalities on legendary New York radio station WNEW-FM 102.7 during the late 1960s and 1970s. Her soothing voice, poetic introductions and deep appreciation for rock music made her overnight program special. She wasn't simply playing records; she was creating an atmosphere that kept listeners company through the late-night hours.

In 1976, she became the first woman to receive Billboard magazine's FM Personality of the Year award, an important milestone for women in broadcasting. Although Alison Steele passed away in 1995, her legacy lives on among longtime radio fans who remember the magic of 102.7 and the woman whose voice became part of their lives.

The following readers knew Where Rock Lived:Patti Tengelics, Jim Pearson, Wendy Erickson, Ed English, John Giaquinto, Matt Marciano, Dennis Quinlan, John Gelsinon, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Sonia Iglesias, Pawl Borgen, John & JoAnn French, Jim Malkiewicz, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Michael & Irene Logan, Tommy & Debbie Myers, Pete McIntyre, Bruce Grankowski, Walter Starzec Jr , Laurie & Gary Loftus, Pam and Mark DePazza, Bill Popko, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch.




**Alison Steele, The Nightbird on 102.7 WNEW-FM.**

# WWW.?



Do you recognize this building? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Dec. 12th.

**WWW.? Winners**

WWW.? Last month's mystery location was the interior of Peterpank Diner.

Winners:Patti Tengelics, Ed English, Clem Skarzynski, Dennis Quinlan, Lisa Grankowski, John Gelsinon, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Chelle Martin, Sonia Iglesias, Mary Agnes Morris, John & JoAnn French, Jim Malkiewicz Ralph Jurkiewicz, Tommy & Debbie Myers, Pete McIntyre, Steve Laskiewicz, Walter Starzec Jr , Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Barb Bockus, Dane Colburn, Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch.



**Interior of Peterpank DIner-Rt 9**

# Letters

***Letter***

The answer for the "Who Is It?" picture on page 18 of the October issue is Alison Steele, who was also known as "The Nightbird."

Congratulations on your 35th anniversary as I always enjoy reading your paper each month.

**Best,**
**Matt Marciano**

***Letter***

**Editor,**

I loved Albert's poem, "My Friend's Paper." It reminded me that back in 1991 I ran into my friend Joan who was working at Greater Media Newspaper, which also did private printing jobs. She was excited to tell me that some guy came into the office with a cardboard box full of stories and ads. He was starting a paper in South Amboy, and needed some help with the layout and printing. She also noted that it was a very tough time to start a paper. The previous week the Red Bank Register had stopped publishing after 100 years. Without hesitation I asked is his name Tom Burkard? "Yes, that's his name." I could not think of anyone else who would try such an adventure.

So 35 years later many papers have folded, including The Star Ledger, and Greater Media, yet the South Amboy-Sayreville Times is still going strong with legions of dedicated followers. My friend Joan is now my wife, Albert is still writing poetry and I look forward to each issue. Congratulations for daring to do something different and make it work and thrive.

**Pete McIntyre**
**(Formerly of Morgan)**

***Letter***

**Dear Friend and Supporter,**

On behalf of Coach Tony Gonsalves, our organizing committee, and the entire South Amboy community, I want to extend my deepest, most heartfelt gratitude for your generous support of the Tony G Legacy Scholarship.

When a small group of us sat down just a few months ago to plan a celebration for Tony's 50th season coaching soccer at South Amboy High School, we knew we wanted to do something special. But what transpired on Saturday, October 24th at Sacred Heart Memorial Hall far exceeded anything we could have imagined.

Thanks to your kindness and belief in this vision, we didn't just celebrate a legendary 50-year coaching career—we built something that will endure forever.

Because of your contribution, our endowed scholarship fund has officially blown past our original goals and crossed $72,000, and it continues to grow. Because this is a permanent endowment, the principal will remain untouched, allowing the annual interest to fund two annual scholarships—one for a South Amboy High School student-athlete and one for a student-athlete statewide—for generations to come. Tony was truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from across six decades of players, colleagues, and community members. Seeing current student-athletes standing in a room supported by hundreds of alumni and friends was a powerful reminder of what makes our community so special.

As Coach Tony G said looking around the room that night: "I'm overwhelmed by the response. It was an amazing night."

Your generosity directly ensures that Tony's values—resilience, optimism, sportsmanship, and heart—will continue to guide and support young men and women as they pursue their education and their dreams.

Thank you once again for your incredible spirit, your belief in our coach, and your investment in the future of our youth. We look forward to keeping you updated as we award our very first scholarship recipients!

**With deep appreciation and gratitude,**

**Gerard Marrone**

On behalf of the Tony G Legacy Scholarship Committee www.thetonyglegacy.org The legacy plays on! Apply: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Tony_G_scholarship. Donate: https://pro.gofundme.com/event/tony-g-scholarship-dinner/e831669. Spring 2027 Golf Outing Info: Email thetonyglegacy@gmail.com to get on the list!

# 35th Anniversary Congratulations

We received the following 35th Anniversary congratulations from several of our dedicated and loyal readers:

Joe Jaskowiak (California) "I just wanted to say "Congratulations!" on your 35th Anniversary of The South Amboy-Sayreville Times! That's quite an accomplishment! You created the entire newspaper on your own and the local people who get it, love what you've done, and continue to do, and they look forward to reading it. It's really cool when you think about it. I wish you continued success in the future and good health to keep it going."

"Pistol" Pete McIntyre (formerly of Morgan) "Congrats on another anniversary of the SA Times. It's all your own creation. I look forward to every new issue. It's my favorite paper."

Mary Snover (Parlin) "Happy 35th Anniversary to you all! And thank you for your hard work in continuing to publish a hometown paper. South Amboy and Sayreville may have been changed, but the hearts of those who have gone on before us and the memories old and new live on in the people and The SA Times!"

Elizabeth "Betty" Leveille "Happy 35th Anniversary to you and your staff. Thank you for all the years of publishing this hometown paper, which never disappoints! Job well done!

Susan Coakley "Happy Anniversary 35 great years! Thank you and staff for all your hard work. We couldn't live without The SA Times!"

Cathy Keays "Thanks Tom and staff for all your hard and dedicated work. Congratulations on 35 years and hope for many more years of reading enjoyment."

# 25 Years Ago

**Business Leaders Of The Year**

**2001**-The Old Bridge-Sayreville-South Amboy Chamber of Commerce held their annual Business Leaders of the Year Awards Dinner at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. The gala event was sold out, and the awards were presented to; John J. Hauser-Browntown Bus Service, Old Bridge; Greg Camerato-Camerato Landscape, Sayreville; Tom Burkard-The South Amboy-Sayreville Times, South Amboy. The honorees were recognized for "their contributions towards the growth, and support for business in their towns," according to the Chamber of Commerce.

# Felony Melody

**By Al Gomolka, Jr.**
**SA Times Poet Laureate**
**C. 2026**

The falling leaves
are like a melody
A comedy of autumn's song
But falling leaves
are like a felony
Until spring time
comes along...
In my old age
is like a melody
A comedy of
life's sweet song
But my old age
is like a felony
Until in Heaven,
I belong.

## Local Veteran Honored



Senator Carmen Amato Jr. (left in each photo) with George Giovenco Sr. (l) and Ismael C. Gonzales (r). (Photo Submitted)

Two local Veterans were honored recently, at the NJ State Service Medal Ceremony hosted by the NJ Department of Military Affairs and the NJ Department of Veterans Affairs. Ismael C. Gonzales, of Main Street, Sayreville and George Giovenco, Sr., of Bordentown Ave., Sayreville were recently awarded NJ Service Medals during a ceremony and luncheon held on October 6, 2026 in Toms River, NJ, organized by the 9th Legislative District Offices.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ismael C. Gonzales, age 75, was awarded the NJ Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class George Giovenco Sr., age 93, was awarded the NJ Distinguished Service Medal and the Korean Service medal, in recognition of their past, dedicated service to our country.

The New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to those veterans who were a resident upon entry into service or if the veteran has been a resident of this State for at least five years in the aggregate, honorably discharged and served in the organized militia, or the Armed Forces of the US or a Reserve component.

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to any resident or former resident of the State of NJ who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service or who has been a resident of this State for at least 20 years in the aggregate, honorably discharged, and served in the organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in a combat theater of operations during a time of war.

The NJ Korean Service Medal is Awarded to all residents of the State who were honorably discharged and served on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the US in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955.



## New Book

Local author George Giovenco, Jr. has officially released his highly anticipated second book, The Ghost of Captain Crabface, a thrilling new seafaring tale set right along the Jersey Shore. Following the success of his debut book, The Headless Brickman, the Sayreville resident returns with a spooky maritime adventure that hits close to home for New Jersey residents. The new release is now available for purchase on Amazon.com.

Giovenco's latest story brings readers straight to the beaches and boardwalks of Seaside Park, New Jersey, and its surrounding coastal towns. Rooted in local geography, The Ghost of Captain Crabface blends the familiar charm of the Jersey Shore with a mysterious nautical legend, making it a perfect read for local residents and fans of coastal mysteries alike.

George Giovenco, Jr. is quickly carving out a niche for himself in local literature. After capturing readers' imaginations with the eerie and creative world of The Headless Brickman, his pivot to a coastal, pirate-infused ghost story showcases his versatility as a storyteller. As a Sayreville native, Giovenco continues to bring pride to his hometown by expanding his published works and drawing inspiration from the Garden State's rich landscape.




The Ghost of Captain Crabface is available in paperback and digital formats. You can grab your copy today by searching for the title directly on Amazon.com.

## SSK Santa Breakfast & Marketplace Set for December 13th

St. Stanislaus Kostka School invites the community to its Santa Breakfast & Marketplace on Sunday, December 13, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM! Join us for a festive day featuring over 30 local vendors, a large tricky tray, breakfast, holiday shopping, and a Winter Wonderland for the kids, complete with a toy wheel, snow globe kits, letters to Santa, and reindeer feed. Families can also enjoy special photo opportunities with Santa and the Grinch, with a complimentary photo with Santa included with the purchase of a breakfast ticket! Polish favorites and additional lunch items will also be available for separate purchase. The event will take place at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, located at 221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ 08872. Bring the whole family and join us for a day of holiday shopping, festive fun, and Christmas cheer! We look forward to seeing you there!





## South Amboy Knights Honor Veterans




The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 honored our veterans with a "Roast Pork" Dinner at the council Columbian Club. All veterans were treated to a delicious roast pork dinner with all the fixings. Pictured (l-r) Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post 62 Chaplain Jan Williams, Post Commander Joe Szaro and K of C Grand Knight Ed Vassallo. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## Welcome To South Amboy!




RTB building owner Bob Heiser had a vision for a mural reminiscent of old postcards that depicted local scenes with the language "Greetings from…". Local artist, Jenny Ma (pictured under the mural), drew from South Amboy's history to incorporate the John Bull steam engine, baseball greats from South Amboy, the first Air-Mail Postal flight from South Amboy to Perth Amboy, the Great Beds lighthouse, our waterfront, walkway, the ferry and local churches, etc. Kudos to Bob Heiser and Grace Szuba for the inspiration and means to create the mural and to Jenny Ma for her research and beautiful creation, and to the RTB owners for providing an evening lighting of the mural. (Photo/Info by Zusette Dato)

## Saying Goodbye



Nov. 10, 2026-Another long standing landmark along our Raritan River continues to be demolished piece by piece...Say Goodbye to JCP&L's Coal Power Plant. (Photo by Walter Starzec Jr)

## Trinity Methodist Church Vendor Sale & Thrift Shop

Trinity Methodist Church Vendor Sale is being held Saturday, December 12 from 9 am to 2 pm at 815 Bordentown Avenue. We have 35+ vendors, a café, and a tricky tray. The Boy Scouts will be selling Christmas wreaths. Come out and do your holiday shopping!! Additionally, our Thrift Shop will be open during the day and we have a HOLIDAY SHED full with great Christmas decorations and items for very reasonable prices. The other sheds, clothing, housewares, and toys will also be open during the day. Come out and find something you are looking for!!

The sheds are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning from 9 am to 11:30 am. We have great sales going on in the sheds – so stop by!!! Our winter break this year will be December 20 to January 11. We will reopen Tuesday, January 11. Our hours in the winter months are based on the weather. As always, our drop off is open 24/7. Thank you for your continued support.




## Sacred Heart Church to Host "A Merry Family Christmas" Featuring Jerry Spathis

Get into the holiday spirit at Sacred Heart Church's "A Merry Family Christmas," featuring entertainer Jerry Spathis on Sunday, December 6, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Memorial Hall, 531 Washington Avenue, South Amboy.

The festive family event will include a delicious spaghetti dinner with sausage or meatballs, salad, Italian bread, dessert and soft drinks, along with live entertainment featuring the voice of Jerry Spathis. Children can also enjoy face painting, crafts and gifts.

Suggested donations are $15 for adults, $5 for children ages 5–12, and free for children under 5.

Tickets must be purchased by November 30 and are available through the Sacred Heart Church office, the weekend Mass collection basket, or by check payable to Love Life. Zelle payments are also accepted at 732-910-8397.

For additional information, contact Karen Bebert at 732-910-8397. Proceeds will benefit Love Life at Sacred Heart in South Amboy.



Jerry Spathis

## Veteran's Day Tribute



On Friday, November 13, 2026, the Truman School of Sayreville presented a Veteran's Day Tribute to the Veterans of American Legion Lenape Post 211 of Sayreville. The ceremony was also opened to relatives of the students at the school. All Veterans were recognized for their military service and encouraged to speak to the students and staff about their duties while serving in the military. Each Veteran spoke on the length of time they spent in the military, their branch of service, and when and where they were deployed. On behalf of all the Veterans in attendance, I would like to thank the Truman School staff and especially the patriotic committee. Submitted by: American Legion, Lenape Post 211, Past Commander Rich Kosmoski. Pictured are Veterans from American Legion, Lenape Post 211 of Sayreville.

## South Amboy Elks Upcoming Events

The South Amboy Elks are busy filling the calendar with holiday events, and you are invited to join us. Stop by at 601 Washington Avenue South Amboy or call 732 727 7170 and ask questions or reserve your spot. Additionally, if you are looking to rent a hall for any size event, please call us and we will work with you to create a great event.

Thursday, December 17 – Christmas Crafts & Cocktails 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm $20 includes supplies to make two crafts and appetizers. The Bar will be open. RSVP so we have enough supplies.

Sunday, December 20 – Breakfast with Santa 9:00 am to 11:30 am $7 children and $13 Adults Call and Reserve your spot.

Friday, January 8 – Steak Night 5:30 to 8:30 Advance tickets $30; $40 at the door. Includes 14 oz NY Strip Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Sunday, January 17 – Breakfast Buffet 9:00 am to 11:30 am $7 children and $13 Adults. No reservation required

If you are interested in joining the South Amboy/Sayreville ELKS, please leave a message at the Lodge and we will get in touch with you.

## Old Sayreville Fire Dept. Building




The old Sayreville Fire Dept. building and their award-winning fire engine was pictured in this undated photo. Does anyone know what year? Please let us know.




WONDERAMA: When WNEW-TV Channel 5 Made Sunday Mornings Special

For generations of children growing up in New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area, Sunday mornings meant one thing: Wonderama! Long before video games, streaming services and smartphones, families gathered around their television sets to enjoy one of the most memorable children's programs in local television history.

First appearing in 1955 on WNEW-TV Channel 5 in New York City, Wonderama became a weekend television institution. The program featured an entertaining mixture of comedy, music, cartoons, magic tricks, contests, games, celebrity appearances and plenty of audience participation. For many youngsters, being selected to sit in the studio audience was an unforgettable experience.

Over the years, the program welcomed several popular hosts, including Sandy Becker, Sonny Fox and Bob McAllister. Sonny Fox became particularly popular during his 1959–1967 run, bringing a combination of education, humor and entertainment to the program. Bob McAllister took over in 1967 and continued hosting until 1977, becoming the face of Wonderama for another generation of young viewers.

The show attracted an impressive lineup of celebrity guests over the years, including the Jackson 5, ABBA, Muhammad Ali, Jodie Foster and many others. There were singing and dancing contests, prizes, unusual demonstrations and games that kept children watching for hours. At its height, the Sunday program ran for three hours, making it a major part of the weekend television schedule.

Although primarily produced for the New York market, Wonderama also reached viewers in surrounding communities, including countless families throughout New Jersey. The program eventually expanded to other Metromedia-owned television stations around the country.

The original run came to an end in 1977, although the Wonderama name returned in a different format during the early 1980s. Its legacy, however, remained firmly planted in the memories of those who grew up watching it.

For many former Jersey kids, seeing the familiar WNEW-TV Channel 5 logo brings back memories of Sunday mornings, cereal bowls, living room television sets and the excitement of wondering what surprises the next hour would bring.

Wonderama wasn't just another television show. It was a childhood tradition — a time when Channel 5 kept Jersey kids glued to the TV!

## Local Wildlife

(Photo by Tom Burkard)



This beautiful Blue Heron was recently spotted at a nearby lake.

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## Thanksgiving 1909




This vintage Thanksgiving postcard was popular in 1909. Wow, 117 years ago!

## Thanksgiving

By Philip

T -Truth that Jesus spoke
H-Home and family
A-Angels
N-Newness of life in Him
K-Kindness, knowledge
S-Spirit
G-God and country
I-Ideals that He taught us
V-Victory over sin and death
I-Inexhaustible love
N-No one is excluded
G-Glorious Resurrection

These are a few of the things that we should be thankful for. But, the best is yet to come,
When He takes us home
Forever more.

## 50th Year Farewell-The Final Halloween

(Photos by Yvonne D'Ercole Foust





The above Halloween photos were taken at a home on Yale Rd. in Parlin. Halloween '26 marked the 50th and final year the house would be decorated for this fun day. The Halloween display will be missed by countless people who would drive by each year to see the great and spooky house on Yale Rd.




Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.
Over the river, and through the wood—
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose
As over the ground we go.
Over the river, and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring
"Ting-a-ling-ding",
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!
Over the river, and through the wood
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting-hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day.
Over the river, and through the wood,
And straight through the barn-yard gate.
We seem to go
Extremely slow,—
It is so hard to wait!
Over the river and through the wood—
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!

## Remember When?



This is a vintage photo from the Borough of Sayreville historical archives, and was probably taken in the 1940's. Does anyone have more information on this photo or can identify the lady and "Uncle Sam"? Please let us know.



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## The Holidays At Dowdell

'Tis the Season! Meet Santa! Join us for some holiday cheer!

The Dowdell Library of South Amboy will host the community's annual Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 17th from 6:30 – 8 pm. Take a break from seasonal demands while savoring refreshments and enjoying festive music. Meet your neighbors - bring your children to get a gift from Santa! You don't need a library card to attend. However, if you'd like to sign-up for a card, it's free for South Amboy residents. Door prizes will be awarded at 8 pm; entrants must be present to win.

So, log onto www.dowdell.org to hear what's happening this holiday season @ the library!

The library is located on O'Leary Boulevard adjacent to the South Amboy High School. For more information, contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

## Thanksgiving 100 Years Ago

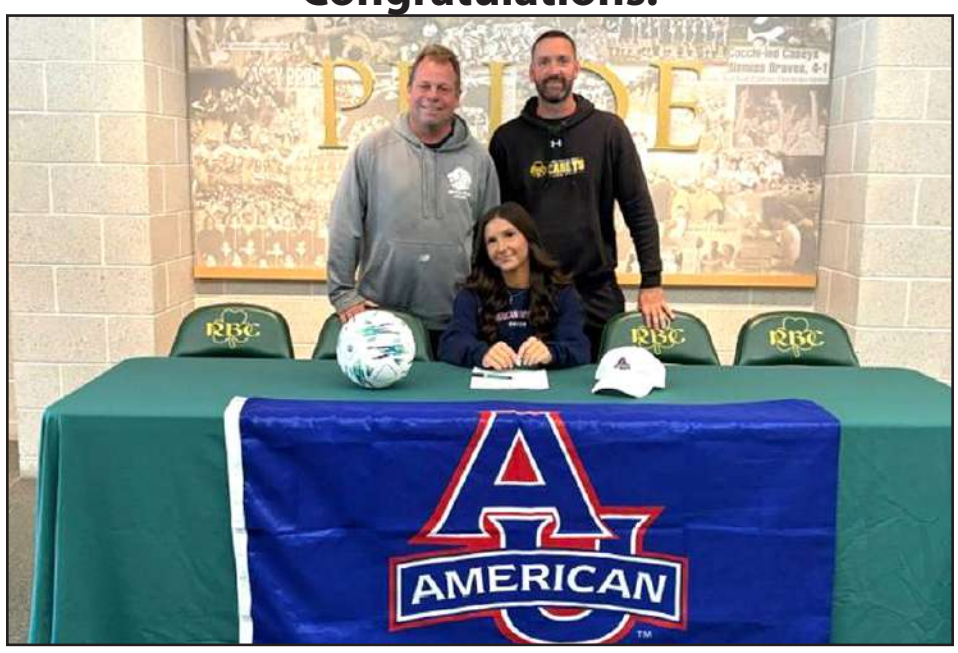
**1926**-President Calvin Coolidge received a live raccoon which was shipped in by mail in a wooden crate. A person from Mississippi sent it to the White House for dinner instead of a turkey. They suggested it should be roasted for the Thanksgiving feast. President Coolidge who was known as "Silent Cal" was an animal lover, and kept it as a pet with his many other favorites. He named the raccoon Rebecca…

In New York City, children traditionally wore costumes on Thanksgiving instead of Halloween…

There were roughly 22 million vehicles registered in the U.S…

Government clerks and office workers were often dismissed early on Wednesday afternoon to catch trains home early to prepare for the Thanksgiving celebration.

## Congratulations!




Samantha Mierzwiak from South Amboy/Sayreville has officially signed to play her collegiate soccer at American University D.C. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## Metuchen Tops Bombers

In a battle to the finish in the GMC quarterfinals, Metuchen beat Sayreville, 3-1 in Field Hockey. Gabrielle Jones scored a goal for our locals in the shootout.

## Bomber Girls Bow In Group 4

Sayreville girls soccer club dropped a heartbreaking 2-1 CJ Group 4 tournament game to Hillsborough. Emma Halmo scored the Bombers final goal of the season.




## Lady Guvs Fall In GMC

South Amboy Lady Guvs girls soccer squad was eliminated in the 1st round of the GMC Invitational by Perth Amboy Magnet, 3-0.

## Sayreville Beats Carteret

In a Halloween boys soccer contest, Sayreville prevailed over Carteret, 5-4. Eugene Zebrowski led the scoring attack with 2 goals, Jude Wilkins added a goal and assist, Brandon Cardosa and George Barbosa had a goal apiece, and Jaden Feijo notched 2 assists.



# School Sports

**(As of Oct. 16)**

**By Tom Burkard**

## Sayreville Football Update

### Game #8

The Bombers trounced North Brunswick, 44-8. They took a 37-0 lead at the half, and breezed all the rest of the way. Shawn Appiah and Grady Walsh led the way with 2 touchdowns apiece, while Grady Walsh, Dion Osae, and Olisa Attah each added a TD. Osae rushed for 83 yards on 8 attempts. Kellan Bowers had 4 sacks and 8 total tackles to top the defense,while Athus Rocha kicked a perfect 5-for-5 extra points.

### Game #9

Sayreville beat an always tough Piscataway, 16-7. Quarterback Marcus Butka was 8-for-12 and passed for 115 yards, in addition to running for a 1-yard TD. Philip Sayouwoh booted a 25-yard field goal and an extra point. Appiah raced for a 34-yard touchdown, and notched 153 yards rushing on 22 attempts. Osae rushed 15 times for 77 yards. Andrew Provenza had 2 receptions for 58 yards, one which was a 53-yarder. Christian Woodard paced the defense with 11 total tackles.

### Game #10
### CJ Group 5 Quarterfinals

Vineland proved a tough opponent, but the Bombers prevailed, 29-27. Osae tore up the turf with 190 yards in 13 attempts, and scored 2 TD's. Appiah also rushed 13 times for 60 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Woodard notched 20 total tackles, and Bowers 19.

### Game #11
### CJ Group 5 Semifinals

Undefeated state powerhouse Rancocas Valley blasted the Bombers, 42-0 to capture their 11th straight win. Attah had 5 total tackles for the Bombers, who ended a fine (8-3) record under Coach Mark Poore.

### 2026 Final Football Leaders

**Passing**-Marcus Butka- 40-73, 663 yards 2 TD's, 6 interceptions.

**Rushing**-Sherwin Appiah- 1,224 yards; Dion Osae 648, Gabriel Manson 206.

**Receiving**

**Receptions**-Andrew Provenza 13; Olisa Attah 7.

**Receiving Yards**-Andrew Provenza 157 yards; Appiah 152; Attah 123.

**Touchdowns**-Appiah 21; Osae 4; Manson 3; Attah 3.

**Returns**-Appiah 174 yards; Attah 102.

**Punting**-Sayouwoh 978 yards, 26.96 avg., longest 60 yards.

**Kicking**-Sayouwoh 6-6 field goals; 21-28 extra points.

## Girls Soccer

**Sayreville (12-9)**
**Coach Alison Riccio**
**Final Team Leaders**

**Points**-Emma Halmo 34, Jayda Roque 18, Isabelle Deoliveira 18; **Goals**-Halmo 15, Deoliveira 8, Roque 6. **Assists**-Karina Cardoso 5, Halmo 4, Roque 4.

**South Amboy (2-11)**
**Coach Gina Martinez**

*No statistics available.

## Boys Soccer

**South Amboy (8-7), (5-0) in GMC Silver Division**
**Coach Tony Gonsalves**

No statistics available

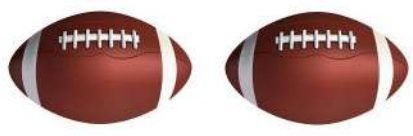
**Sayreville (6-11-2)**
**Coach Tom Womaszek**
**Final Team Leaders**

**Points**-Bobby Pervan 32, Eugene Zebrowski 26, Jaden Feijo 11; **Goals**-Pervan 12, Zebrowski 10; **Assists**-Pervan 8, Zebrowski 6, Feijo 5.

## Field Hockey

**Sayreville (8-8), (6-0) in the GMC White Division**
**Final Team Leaders**

**Points**-Lucy Logan 35 (She's only a freshman), Savannah Parse 33, Cayley Pinto 29; **Goals**-Logan 15, Pinto 14; **Assists**-Parse 19, Gabrielle Jones 9, Logan 5.



# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



**1970**-St. Mary's first girls spring track team competed under the leadership of Coach Steve Nestinger. Team members are bottom row (l-r) Lynn Henry, Kathy Markovic, Kathy Fee, Cathy Phillips, Kathy Wilson, Debbie Frankenbush, Rose Kaczorowski, Ann Durski. Middle row (l-r) Mary Camire, Cassandra Hulihan, Donna Piechocinski, Patricia McGuire, Margaret Malin, Susan Hanlon, Kathy Moore, Virginia Zrebiec, Kathy Farley. Top row (l-r) Kathy Grabko, Patricia Bassett, Kathy Birmingham, Lynn Nebus, Paula Grabko, Beverly Simons, Colleen O'Leary, Mary O'Neill, Mary Nebus, Rosemary Lasher.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

2024-Sayreville girls soccer won their final game of the season over Woodbridge, 3-2. Karina Cardoso scored the winning goal in the second period. Leah Eskolsky had a goal and assist, and Isabella Deoliveira added a goal…2010-Cardinal McCarrick girls soccer club captured the Mayor's Cup over South Amboy, 4-0. Amanda Murray had the hat trick and an assist. Rebecca Beshada also scored a goal, while Sarah Balon added an assist. Kristina Poetsch turned in an excellent 10 saves shutout…2002-Ed Mount blasted in the game-winner off an assist from Mike Ratajczak with 0:42 seconds left in the 2nd overtime, to give Sayreville an exciting 2-1 opening day victory over Woodbridge…1999-The Bombers football team nipped North Brunswick, 28-27, as Yazid Jackson rushed for 4 touchdowns, while racing for 122 yards in 26 attempts. Brandon Hoyte racked up 135 rushing yards in 16 tries. Jimi Miller booted 4 extra points including the game-winner…1981-Hoffman boys soccer edged East Brunswick Tech, 3-2, as Frank Wahler and Ron Brown provided the scoring…1970-Cedar Ridge defeated St. Mary's boys soccer squad, 3-1. Greg Sciora scored for the Eagles…1966-Hoffman shocked St. Mary's 34-22 in the Annual Columbus Day Football Classic (Unofficial) game. Billy Clayton, Curt Wood, and Bob Keegan starred for the Guvs. Clayton scored 3 touchdowns and added 2 extra point conversions for 22 points to equal the Saints total team output, Wood fired 4 TD passes, and Keegan caught 2 TD passes.



**1970's**-Back in the 1970's, the South Amboy Recreation Dept. ran a very successful Fall Basketball League at the 6th Street Park. Recreation Director Jack Hulsart (left in bottom row), George Krzyzanowski (next to Jack), Assistant Director Mike Charmello (far right, bottom row), Mayor J. Thomas Cross, (next to Mike), and some of the many who participated in the program. (Photo/info submitted). If anyone has a special memory or photo from this league, please send it over to: satimes@aol.com. (Photo courtesy of Andy Hulsart)

## 55 Years Ago
## 1971-South Amboy Little League Basketball

There are a lot of familiar names on the rosters of the South Amboy Little League Basketball teams of '71. So, how many of these do you recall?

Yale-Capt. George Bongiorno; J. McAndrew, Gene Clark, Joe Matarangolo, R. Szaro, A. Brown, Tom Brown, Pete Toth, Paul Richiusa, M. Fell. Penn State-Capt. Steve Rossi; Frank Richiusa, R. Stillwagon, H. Lawson, Billy Croddick, M. DeFillipo, R. Bruno, J. Abbatiello, S. Brown, T. Loftus. USC-Capt. Steve Kaboski; John Pyonteck, E. Sharo, Glenn Smith, Dennis Clark, Phil Green, Alex MacNeil, D. Jonason, M. Bernhardt, Paul Bergin. Michigan-Capt. D. Brown; Jim Bright, Ron Keegan, Mike Cox, Mike Diem, Tom Donnelly, John Wurth, Kevin Pillar, J. Szraga, M. Nota. U.C.L.A.-Capt. Kevin Homan; John Miller, John Hayden, Craig Coughlin, J. Zambrowski, J. Creed, Mike Attardi, D. Kelly, J. Hall, R. Margaretta. Notre Dame-Capt. Ron Stillwagon; Ray Akerman, Ray Stockton, Ed Flynn, John Donnelly, Billy Lewis, Vince DeFillipo, M. Costanzo, Nicky Allen, D. Nagy. Princeton-Capt. Mike Grimley; Bob Clayton, Curt Jankowski, T. Mulcahy, Tim Connors, Andy Hulsart, T. Tice, Art Reich, D. Sibol, Tom O'Connor. Seton Hall-Capt. Mel Kaboski; Danny Lewis, R. Wistuba, Bob Kenny, Keith Switzer, R. Pillar, Tom O'Leary, E. Petrosky, Mike Connors, Wilbur Schmidt.

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.E.

TO ST. JUDE

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

## 100 Years Ago

**1926**-On Thanksgiving Day, Perth Amboy St. Mary's shutout winless South Amboy St. Mary's 12-0, before 2,000 fans at Cutters Field in Perth Amboy. The players for the Saints were: V. Abbatiello, F. Monaghan, Grimley, Gene Francey, A. Abbatiello, Frank Farrell, Zamorski, Lenahan, Builder, Dahlmeyer, D. Francey, Egan.

## T.H.E. Game

**Year-2010**
**Sport-Football**
**Teams-Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's vs. Metuchen**
**Recap-**The Eagles came from behind to win 27-21 in overtime, when Jose Ruiz broke loose for his third TD of the day, a 6-yarder to win it. He finished with 200 yards on 29 carries. Quarterback David Whitfield fired a 39-yard TD strike to Casey Fennessey. John Appiah added a 2-point conversion to tie the game, and also excelled on defense with 15 tackles. This was the first time the Eagles defeated a GMC foe in over 10 years.
**Co-Players of the Game**-Jose Ruiz, and John Appiah.

## 30 Years Ago

**1996**-St. Mary's girls soccer team shutout Spotswood, 3-0. Melissa Furey had 2 goals and Jacquie DuBois scored 1.

## 25 Years Ago

**2001**-Sayreville beat Monroe, 3-2 in field hockey. Jamie Jarusiewicz, Laura Lasko, and Katelynn Crosby all scored for the Bombers.

## 55 Years Ago

**1971**-The St. Mary's golf team was in their second year, and featured the following members-Guy Carulli, Dan Ballance, Jim Riehl, Larry Cox, Don Volosin, Bob Bodak, Jim Fitzmorris, Rich Komando, Tom Kane, Jim Frenier.

## Bomber Greats




Vintage Bombers softball Coach Pat Douglas (l) and standout player, Bill D'Amico are pictured at Java Dave's Coffee shop in South Amboy recently. Both players starred for Sayreville War Memorial HS in the 1970's, and have been teammates for many years on the highly-successful Vintage Bombers team. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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..

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..

## 85 Years Ago

**1941**-In boys basketball action, Sayreville topped Hoffman, 23-15 in the season opener. Bombers' John Kotarski, Walt Kwiatkowski, and Archie Prusakowski led all scorers with 5 points each, while Walt Rogers and Leroy Kurtz paced the Guvs with 4 and 3 points respectively.

## 45 Years Ago

**1981**-In an unbelievable CJ Group 1 first round soccer game, between Hoffman and Point Pleasant Beach, which ended with a 0-0 tie after regulation time, Point Pleasant outshot the Guvs 3-2 in penalty kicks, to finally win after (4) 20 minute, and (2) 5 minute overtimes. Ken Krasowski and Tim Moskal scored for Hoffman. Coach Tony Gonsalves' team finished the season with a (7-8-2) record.

## Scillitani Remembered

Former Sayreville resident and Sayreville Bombers wrestling/football legend, Steve Scillitani died on Sept. 6. In 1976, the Bombers standout finished with a perfect (16-0) record, while winning the county and district championships in the (170 lbs.) class. He went on to Clarion State U. in Pennsylvania, where he was captain of the football team, and was selected 1st Team D2 All-American at middle guard in 1980.

## Back In Those College Days

Larry Lenahan Jr. (South Amboy) Played 4 years of varsity basketball at Centenary University from 2008-2012. In his senior year, he averaged 11.8 ppg., and 7.8 rebounds. During his high school career, he scored 960 points, was a 1st team All-Division twice, and 3rd team All-County.

His grandfather was the late and beloved great, Luke Lenahan who starred at St. Mary's HS in basketball, and went on to Belmont Abbey College, where he was a standout. Luke is a member of the St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick HS Athletic Hall of Fame…John "Skeets" Skarzynski (Hoffman), and Joe Brand (Sayreville) were the top pitchers for Middlesex County College in 1985.

## Miller's Topped St. Mary's

John "Bing" Miller was the leading scorer for St. Mary's basketball team in 1941. 35 years later in 1976, his son John Miller topped the Eagles in scoring.

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Friends of South Amboy Charity Event!**

The Friends of South Amboy annual charity basketball games are returning on Saturday, December 12, 2026. This beloved community tradition brings together local athletes, families, and basketball fans for an action-packed day of hoops, all while raising vital funds to support local families in need and community initiatives. For years, our mission has been to provide crucial support to local families, individuals, and community programs facing hardships. This December, your presence and generosity will help us keep that tradition alive.

**Event Details:**

**Date: Saturday, December 12, 2026**
**Location:**
**South Amboy Middle High School**
**Time:**
**12 noon.**
**South Amboy girls vs New Brunswick**
**2 pm**
**South Amboy boys vs JFK**
**4 pm**
**Sayreville boys vs Monroe**
**6 pm**
**St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs Franklin**

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# Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber

## Salt Water

Checking local beaches and SA beaches it's an in-between time of seasonal change. It's too cold for Bluefish, which are about gone, but not cold enough for Striped Bass to move into the bay. I have checked these fishing spots at different times. All the people I spoke to did not get any bites or have any fish. Where the Bass are, is in the surf at Island Beach and LBI. Some nice keeper Bass are coming out on lures and cut bunker. There are many fish that are too big, over 31 inches and must be returned. The boats are also doing very well. Some party boats are catching some good sized fish, Porgies, Ling and limits of Sea Bass. Now that the season is open for them, Blackfish can also be found at Barnegat Inlet and Point Pleasant Canal.

## Fresh Water

Fall Trout stocking has taken place in rivers and lakes statewide. My wife and I tried the lower Pequest River in mid-October. I caught my limit of two nice Rainbows over 16 inches despite low water conditions in fast water with lures. Statewide, cold weather will slow up fishing conditions we had but Pickerel, Bass and panfish might still be caught. Lots of little Small Mouth Bass are in the Delaware River. Aeroflex and Tilcon lakes will be stocked with Landlocked Salmon.

## 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.





SA Times feature writer/fishing expert Teo "Weebles" Weber proudly shows his two 16-inch plus Rainbow Trout he caught at the lower Pequest River near Belvidere. The Trout were from the fall stocking in mid-October. Congratulations, Weebles! (Photo submitted)

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

# Obituaries

Alcasid, Donna C. Lehman, 81, of Sayreville died on Nov. 9.

Dinardo, Mary Ann, 90, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8.

Donnelly, Margaret A., 94, of Parlin died on Oct. 31.

Evaldi, Frank, 70, formerly of Morgan, died on Nov. 7.

George, Anita, 99, of Sayreville died on Oct. 24.

Gomez, Anthony, 54, of Parlin died on Nov. 2.

Haydukiewicz, David M., 70, of Parlin died on Nov. 1.

Hills, Christopher, 65, of Parlin died on Oct. 19.

Kelly, Anna, 92, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 4.

McCracken, James, 82, of Sayreville/ South Amboy died on Oct. 24.

McEvoy, Gerard "Jerry"Jr.,69, of Sayreville died on Nov. 12.

O'Leary, Thomas "Tom," 93, of Parlin died on Nov. 3.

Oleniak, Joseph J., 82, of Sayreville died on Oct. 24.

Rebmann, Marina M., 57, of Parlin died on Oct. 21.

Rowley, John E. "Jack," Jr., 77, of South Amboy died on Nov. 3.

Scillitani, Steve, formerly of Sayreville died on Sept. 6.

Wood, Bruce, 74, formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville died on Aug. 19, 2023.

Woodbury, Linda R., 67, of Parlin died on Oct. 22.

Yetman, Donald, 98, of Sayreville died on Oct. 31.

# In Memoriam

We just found out the sad news that Bruce Wood passed away over 3 years ago on Aug. 19, 2023. He was a fixture in South Amboy back in the 60's and 70's, and a great guy. His brothers were the late Curt Wood and Dennis Wood, and his sister is Sharon Wood. Donald Yetman, 98, of Sayreville died on Oct. 31. He was a member/honor guard with the American Legion Post 211, Sayreville, and also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. In addition, Donald was a Korean War veteran. David Haydukiewicz, 70, of Parlin died on Nov. 1. He was a dedicated firefighter for 30 years with the South River Fire Dept. Mary Ann Dinardo, 90, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8. She had worked for 10 years with the Middlesex County Office of the Aging. Donna Alcasid, 81, of Sayreville died on Nov. 9. She was a 1959 graduate of Our Lady of Victories School, and St. Mary's HS in 1963.



**21st 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

**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.

**A PRAYER FOR HEALING**

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

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

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

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**The Miraculous Prayer**

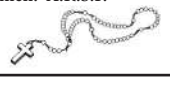
**Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this my special one intention favor. Take it, Dear Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. (Say this prayer for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

**A PRAYER FOR HEALING**

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**Prayer to One's Guardian Angel**

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



**Prayer to St. Jude**

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

**A PRAYER FOR HEALING**

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# Veteran's Day At SAES



Mrs Mercado's Class at South Amboy Elementary celebrated Veteran's Day by having a veteran read to her class. Thank you Mr. Mercado for your service!

# Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation Launches Series of Themed Skate Sessions

**Sessions will take place from November 2026 through March 2027**

**WHAT**: Join the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation for its first-ever series of themed Skate Sessions at the Roosevelt Park Family Ice Skating Rink in Edison. From November 2026 through March 2027, residents are invited to explore the scenic outdoor rink through a series of events that put an exciting spin on the ice-skating season.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to wear helmets. Please note that the rink does not sell or rent helmets.

## ADMISSION FEES AND SKATE RENTALS

Only participating skaters must pay for admission. Acceptable forms of payment are cash, credit cards, debit cards, and contactless payment.

Admission is $8 per adult, $7 per senior citizen (60 and over), and $7 for children 17 and under. Sales tax is included in all fees.

Skate rentals are available for $7 per person. The rink offers skate rentals from toddler size 8 to adult size 15.

**WHEN**: Sessions will take place from November 2026 through March 2027:

## 2026 Themed Sessions

**Skate with a Turkey**
Friday, November 27 - Sunday, November 29 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**"Ugly Holiday Sweater" Skate**
Saturday, December 12 - Sunday, December 13 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm, 6:30–8:30 pm

**Skate with an Elf**
Saturday, December 26 - Sunday, December 27 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm
Wednesday, December 30 l 5:30–8:30 pm

## 2027 Themed Sessions

**Winter Wonderland Skate**
Friday, January 1 - Sunday, January 3 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**Skate with a Snowman**
Saturday, January 9 - Sunday, January 9 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**Skate with a Clown**
Saturday, January 30 - Sunday, January 31 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**Skate with a Heart**
Saturday, February 13 - Sunday, February 14 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**Skate with a Shamrock**
Saturday, March 13 - Sunday, March 14 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**Skate with a Bunny**
Friday, March 26 l 5:30–8:30 pm
Saturday, March 27 l 12–2 pm, 3–5 pm

**WHERE:** Roosevelt Park Family Ice Skating Rink
151 Parsonage Road | Edison, NJ 08837

**WHO:** Please call the daily weather hotline before coming to the rink to confirm the rink's operating hours at 732-745-4484.

To learn more about programs and services provided by the Office of Parks and Recreation, please visit middlesexcountynj.gov/parksandrec.

# Middlesex County Kicks Off 2026 Holiday Season with Seasonal Traditions at East Jersey Old Town Village

**Saturday, December 5, 2026**

Middlesex County invites residents and visitors to celebrate the holiday season at Seasonal Traditions, the County's annual holiday celebration, on Saturday, December 5, from 10 am to 4 pm at East Jersey Old Town Village. This free, family-friendly event is open to media and the public.

Presented by the Division of History and Historic Preservation and the Arts Institute of Middlesex County, the Village transforms into a winter wonderland for visitors to enjoy a day filled with festive music, storytelling, crafts, tasty treats, and more!

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Storytelling, including a special reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and Christmas Short Stories

A radio play version of the beloved classic It's a Wonderful Life

Festive music performances by the East Brunswick Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet and the Hub City Opera, Carols led by the Piscataway Girl Scouts, Victorian-era holiday music, Wagon rides, Children's crafts, Refreshments, including food from Beastro.

Attendees are also encouraged to explore the Cornelius Low House Museum's latest exhibit, Caught in the Crossfire: Divided Loyalties in Middlesex County, which highlights Middlesex County's role in the American Revolution. The County's shuttle service, RIDE, will provide FREE, accessible, on-demand transportation between East Jersey Old Town Village and the Cornelius Low House Museum.

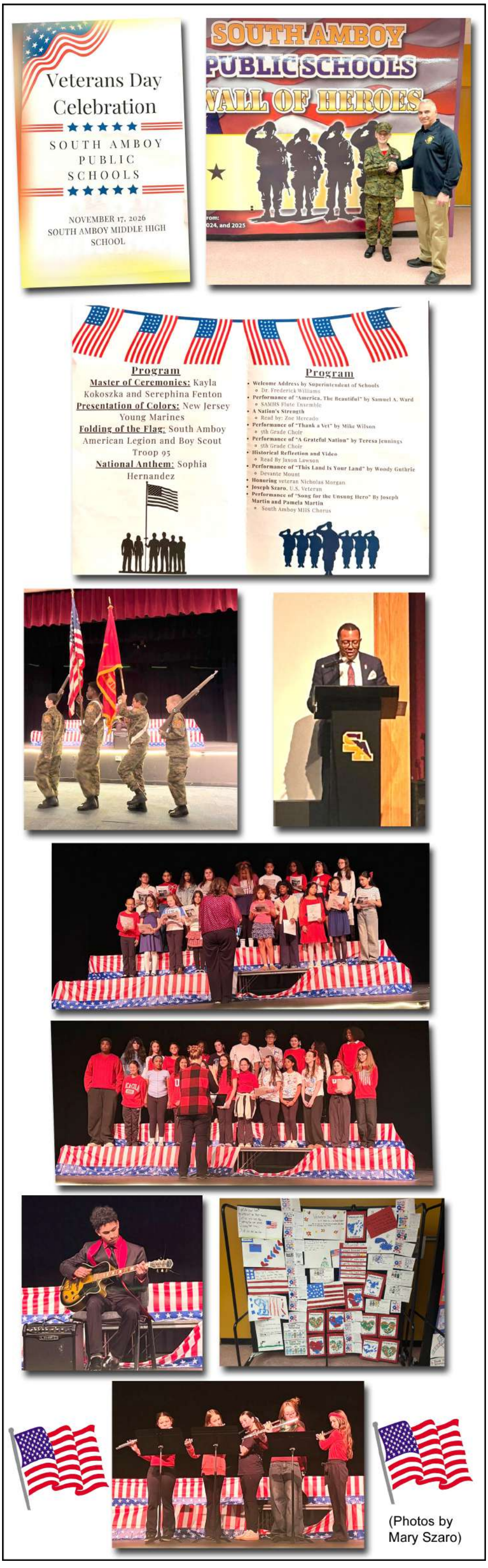
## PARKING INFORMATION

Free on-site parking, including accessible parking spaces, will be available at East Jersey Old Town Village. Additional parking will be available at the Cornelius Low House Museum.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 5, 10 am–4 pm

**WHERE:** East Jersey Old Town Village, 1050 River Road | Piscataway, NJ 08854

To learn more about arts, history, and cultural events in Middlesex County, please visit MiddlesexCountyCulture.com.



## South Amboy Events



Pre-Parade Pose!



Marching down Bordentown Ave.



## The Trunk Or Treat Winners




1st place - SAYAA Parent Volunteer Dino Land Trunk




2nd Place - Riley's Touch A Truck




3rd Place - The YMCA



South Amboy FIrst Aid was on hand to make sure everyone was safe.






South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and his wife Linda at South Amboy's Trunk or Treat.





## Eisenhower School Trunk Or Treat














## St. Stan's School Trunk Or Treat















# THANK YOU, SOUTH AMBOY!

From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you** to the residents of South Amboy for your support, trust, and confidence in Team South Amboy.

This victory would not have been possible without the countless volunteers, supporters, friends, and neighbors who stood with us every step of the way. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and continue working toward a brighter future for South Amboy.

The work continues, and we look forward to moving our city forward together.

**With gratitude,**

Team South Amboy
Anthony Conrad, Mickey Gross & Judith Raskoshin

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