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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is
dedicated to**

*Joanne Corridon
*Michael Fabiszewski
*Thomas Pearson
*Thomas "Smitty" Smith



October 31, 2025

• The "Good News" Newspaper •

Vol. 35 Issue 1

PAPPAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER



On October 3rd, with the U.S. Marine Corps, at the monument in Arlington, Virginia, a special ceremony was held. U.S. Navy Corpsman Chief Petty Officer and South Amboy resident Michael Pappas was promoted to the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8), the second highest enlisted grade in the Navy. A time honored tradition and surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, Pappas was "pinned" and "capped" with the Senior Chief collar insignia and uniform hat by retired Chiefs that have served with Mike throughout his time of service. Also long time SAFA member and U.S. Air Force veteran James "Doc" Ryan did the invocation. See additional photo on page 2 (Photo/story by Jamie Norek)

Veterans Day Ceremony

A Veterans Day ceremony will take place at the Veterans Plaza on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy on Tuesday, November 11th at 11:00 am conducted by the American Legion.

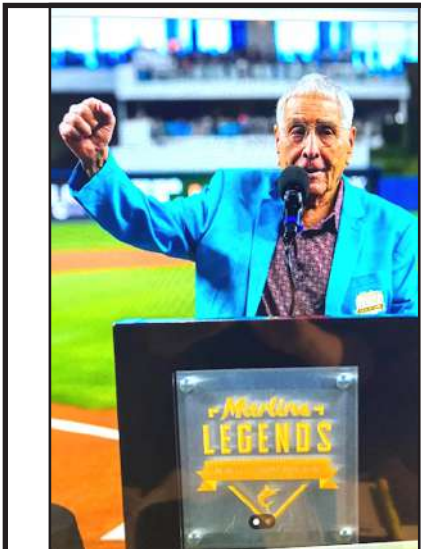


South Amboy's newest Police Officers are welcomed to the force by Chief Patricia Kanecke (r) and Capt. Daniel Holovacko (l) following their formal swearing in at a City Council meeting. They were surrounded by their supportive fellow officers and family. Pictured (l-r) Capt. Daniel Holovacko, Ptl. Raymond Perez, Ptl. Douglas Gumprecht, Ptl. Jose Arias and Chief Patricia Kanecke. Congratulations and best of luck! (Photo Submitted)

Sayreville Athletic HOF Induction



The Sayreville War Memorial HS recently held their Athletic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. The new Hall of Famers are: Cindy Allman, Christian Campbell, Reggie Carney, James DeMild, Jamie Garbowski, John Gutkowski, Charles Kolakowski, William Mandy, Heather Miara, Tom Michaels, David Milewski, Harry Nakielny, Jessica Nicola, John Wortley, Girls Varsity Basketball Team (2017). Congratulations to all! (Photo by Elleen Giovenco)



South Amboy native, Jack McKeon is pictured during his acceptance speech at the Marlins inaugural 2025 Legends Hall of Fame induction ceremony at Loan Depot Park in Miami. See interview on page 25.

**Next Issue November 22nd
Deadlines November 9th**

Thanksgiving Special

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60 Years Of Service



At the September monthly meeting at Protection Engine Co., they honored former Fire Chief Edward Szatkowski for 60 years of service to Protection Engine Co, South Amboy Fire Dept and to the City of South Amboy. Joining the fire company at age 18, Edward soon went through the ranks of company Secretary, Vice President, Lieutenant, Captain, Chief Driver, Assistant Fire Chief and in 1981 became Chief of the South Amboy Fire Department. Ed was then appointed city Fire Marshal and ran the Division of Fire Prevention. He was awarded State and County Fire Prevention Officer of the Year. Presenting Ed (l) with a plaque is his son David, company President and also former Fire Chief. Congratulations Chief! (Photo/story by Jamie Norek)



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A lifelong South Amboy resident and 2006 graduate of South Amboy High School, Michael Pappas (C) also a member of South Amboy First Aid Squad joined the Navy in 2008 following his brother Lt. Andrew Pappas. Pappas trained to become a Navy Corpsman. Pappas has served in Quantico Va, Camp Lejeune NC, Camp Pendleton California, Afghanistan, Okinawa, Japan and Washington DC in 17 years of service. Pappas is also involved in teaching EMS courses to service members and civilians. And he continues to ride the ambulance for SAFA when in town. Congratulations Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael Pappas. (Photo/Story by Jamie Norek)

Election Day Fish Dinner

The Camp Dill Foundation and the Old Timers of Troop 91 will be having their annual Election Day Fish Dinner on November 4, 2025 in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy. The event will be a totally “drive-by” take-out only dinner. The time of the event will be 5:00PM to 6:45PM and the cost is \$18.00 per dinner. All tickets must be purchased in advance. For ticket information, call Dan Sibol at 732-899-6074 or e-mail djsibol@aol.com. Ticket mail orders with payment can be sent to Dan Sibol, 90 Meridian Drive, Brick, NJ 08724. We thank you for your support as we continue to benefit the youth of the South Amboy / Sayreville area. For more information on the Camp Dill Foundation and its current activities, go to their web-site at <https://www.campdill.org>.

5K Race For Veterans' Housing

Old Bridge-Sayreville Rotary and Friends of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, South Amboy will be holding a 5K Race for Veterans' Housing on Sunday, Nov. 16th at the Sayreville Sports Complex, 4441 Bordentown Ave., Sayreville. The race is honoring all those who have served. Registration opens at 8am, and the 5K Race starts at 9:30am. Pre-Registration (Sept. 8-Nov. 7): Price \$30. Day of Event: Price \$35 (Cash Only).
*Proceeds to benefit Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy Project.
*Dog tags to all participants.
*Awards for the top 3 winners overall, men and women and age group winners.
*T-shirts for all pre-registered runners.
To register/donate for 5K online. Questions? Want to Sponsor the Race? Contact Curtis Mullins at 610-585-0429 or email: curtismullins500@icloud.com

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Cost : \$15 per Adult \$5. Children under 12
Veterans with DD214 Dinner is Complimentary

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Tip-A-Pint

The South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee To Sponsora “Tip-A-Pint” Fundraiser to Benefit the Stars and Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy. The Saint Patrick Day Parade Committee of the City of South Amboy invites you to join them for an evening of friends, food and drink at Teddy's Bar, 379 S. Pine Ave, South Amboy on November 6, 2025 from 7-10pm. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Stars and Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy. Led by the American Legion Post 62 in South Amboy, the building project includes 5 residential units for at-risk veterans and a new American Legion meeting hall. A \$20 per person entrance fee will be collected at the door and includes unlimited draft beer and wine, light fare plus a special performance by the D. B. Kelly Pipes & Drums.



THE TIMES

The South Amboy/ Sayreville Serving The Dayshore Area

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- Top vote-getter in the 2015 South Amboy Board of Education election?
a. John Dragotta b. Paula Taggart c. Lynn Kasics
- Received the most votes in the 2015 Sayreville Board of Education election?
a. Thomas Biesiada b. Kevin Ciak c. Frederick Mulligan
- Who had the most votes in the 2010 election for council?
a. Paula Siarkiewicz b. Barry Giotta c. Daniel Buchanan
- Principal of South Amboy Middle/High School in '10?
a. Carol Galley b. Patrick McCabe c. Rasheem Johnson
- In 2010, where was Rupp's Ace Hardware located in Sayreville?
a. Main St. b. Washington Rd. c. Rt. 32 North
- What year was the Victory Bridge/Victory Circle project on Rt. 35 in Sayreville/Perth Amboy completed?
a. 2005 b. 2010 c. 2015
- In the '05 election for Sayreville Council, who tallied the most votes?
a. Dennis Grobelny b. Frank Makransky c. Rory Zach
- Scoutmaster of the Sacred Heart Church Boy Scouts Troop 95 back in 2005?
a. Marty Ruszala b. Johnny Strombowski c. Stanley Kapica
- Where is the business known as Talkin' Heads located in South Amboy?
a. South Stevens Ave. b. North Feltus St. c. South Broadway
- What year was the 1st Annual South Amboy-Sayreville Times -South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 Christmas Dinner for the underprivileged?
a. 1990 b. 1995 c. 2000

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



Route 9 Cash For Gold Buyers LLC

Owner Maureen Herndon (r) and her husband Rob (l) are pictured in front of their popular Route 9 Cash For Gold Buyers LLC business, which is now celebrating 17 years of service to our local communities. (Photo submitted)



Route 9 Cash For Gold Buyers is one of the area's most popular GOLD store businesses, and is located at 960 Route 9 South, (Behind Burger King, and next to Farmer's Market) in Sayreville/South Amboy, NJ. Stop in and make some Ca\$h on the spot. Maureen Herndon, Owner of Rt 9 Cash For Gold, 960 Rt 9 South was born and raised in Sayreville and has lived here her entire life, which prompted her to open their store in town. When customers come to her store they bring all of their old, unwanted gold jewelry in exchange for CASH. Maureen & Rob greet their customers always with a friendly face. All their jewelry is tested and weighed with state certified scales right in front of them. They are then paid out in cash on the spot. Most of the pieces that are seen coming to the store are outdated, jewelry not worn anymore, single earrings, class rings, broken chains, dental gold, silver and platinum. People are VERY surprised when they come, and things they

thought were "junk," turn out to be actual gold. Maureen and Rob truly believe in HONESTY, LOYALTY & INTEGRITY, and that's what prompted them into opening their own store. Many people have reported feeling extremely comfortable and confident when coming to Rt 9 Cash for Gold, and dealing with Maureen "THE GOLD LADY." It puts a smiling face to a business that sometimes people are skeptical about entering. This is definitely the business you would feel comfortable sending your mother or grandmother to because Maureen truly has the "women's touch." Rt 9 Cash For Gold Buyers LLC is conveniently located BEHIND BURGER KING & MCDONALDS in the FARMERS MARKET PLAZA - easily accessible from Rt 9 South, or Bordentown Ave. with lots of parking. Stop by today and turn your OLD, UNWANTED jewelry into holiday gifts. Open late 7 days a week. Route 9 Cash For Gold Buyers, 960 Rt 9 South, Sayreville, NJ 732-727-GOLD (4653)

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

One of our city's most overlooked features is its prime location. Most of us probably never think about it, but South Amboy lies at a key juncture within New Jersey. It is a gateway to the shore, and yet just across the bay from New York City. It lies right near the intersection of New Jersey's two busiest roads: the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. Many of us see the Driscoll and Edison bridges every day, taking for granted that most other New Jerseyans view the bridges as a key crossing point between north and south Jersey. South Amboy thus sits in that unique sliver of land that we might refer to as "central jersey" – not quite north, and not quite south, but at the crossroads in between, where the Raritan Bay meets the Raritan River, and where the Jersey Shore and New York City stand within each other's line of sight. But South Amboy is more than just New Jersey's premier liminal space. We often ignore the practical convenience of our location. The Shore is less than an hour away via the Parkway. Manhattan is about 50 minutes away by train and by ferry. Newark Airport is less than a half hour away. Interstate 287 will take you to the mountains and lakes of northwestern New Jersey and beyond. The way to the rest of the world lies at our doorstep. It was therefore altogether fitting that in 1999 South Amboy earned the designation of a Transit Village from the State of New Jersey. This designation, which the State gives only to a select few municipalities, allows the city to secure funding for major infrastructure upgrades. These improvements include the train station plaza on Broadway, the redevelopment of Radford Ferry Road, and the expansion of several roads and railway bridges. Most recently, the funding allowed the city to facilitate an agreement which will provide ferry service to Manhattan. We expect the designation will continue to provide us with amenities and opportunities into the future. In addition to funding and technical support from the State and enhanced grant



eligibility for projects within a half mile radius of transit facilities, the Transit Village designation provides South Amboy with numerous tangible and intangible benefits. Most significantly, when combined with South Amboy's location, the designation invites economic growth by attracting new residents, commuters, businesses, and visitors. Funding from the state will serve to revitalize the areas around our transit stations, transforming them into walkable and accessible places where commuters and residents alike can congregate. This reinvestment also should foster a more environmentally conscious and sustainable travel model by encouraging mass transit and walkable pedestrian spaces. In sum, everybody wins. Speaking of sustainable transportation and community spaces, I also would like to share a few important safety reminders as we approach Halloween to ensure that everyone has a safe and happy experience. Please be sure to monitor children when they are out trick-or-treating. The best way to do so is to walk with them – you might even find that doing so will bring you into the Halloween spirit and foster nostalgic recollections of your own childhood Halloween experiences. I also encourage everyone to use reflective gear or carry flashlights for visibility, and to use sidewalks when walking through neighborhoods. Homeowners should also check that walkways are well-lit and free of obstacles. Happy Halloween!

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
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Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!



(Images are for example and not the actual items)

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

All one has to do is to e-mail to: satimes@aol.com for the Gomolka's Collectables Give Away, and a winner will be selected via a random drawing to receive box fulls of Al's collectables for FREE! The winner will be notified via e-mail before the next newspaper comes out.

Al's Free Giveaways have been very successful, and the next issue (Nov. 2025) is going to be a goody with boxes of Comic Books from the Golden Age 1950's to the present. Also, very collectable non-sports cards, with all kinds of subject matter will be included. Get in on this fun, and good luck!

A Teaser for Dec. 2025's issue: "We all know what Santa brings."

Last Month's winner was:

Beverly Connors

The winner must pick up the winning prize in person at a certain location in South Amboy or Sayreville. *The winner must be available to pick up the prize at a predetermined location and time, or the prize will be forfeited. *No prizes will be mailed, and must be picked up in person.



Email your name to:
satimes@aol.com
Put Gomolka's Contest in the subject line
By November 5th
GOOD LUCK!
Must enter each month
Staff of The SA Times and their family members are not eligible to enter. One entry per household. Must be 18 years or older to enter.

Yearbook-Sayreville 2010

By Tom Burkard

Sayreville War Memorial HS seniors returned to school after Labor Day, and at that time, the #1 Pop Song in the nation was "I Gotta Feeling" by The Black Eyed Peas. On the Sayreville scene, Superintendent of Schools was Frank Alfano, and school principal was James Brown. Some members of the huge faculty were Mary Charmello, Nicholas Cifelli, Christine Bill, Jacqueline Benavides, Daniel Brack, Mary Fallon, Brittany Dusko, Christa DeLucia, James Craft, Shawn Currie, Tricia Jayson, Richard Gluchowski, Jennifer Pesci, John Wojcik, Marybeth Woolf. The yearbook was titled "Passport," and was dedicated to popular teacher Linda Jakubik-Tanchyk. Co-Editors-in-Chief were Dana Quinn and Erik Sherman. The Homecoming King was Daniel Bredenbeck and Queen Stephanie Reyes. Randomly chosen seniors from the Class of 2010 were: Lanie Andrews, Brandon Adelino, Kristen Batko, Allison Barney, Sameer Akhtar, Nicole Adamusik, Casey Beavers, Nicole Bright, Brittany Burkhardt, Megan Campbell, David Cunningham, Samantha Braine, Jose Campos, Alexa Cangelosi, James Comerford, Jacqueline Ciak, Anthony Consiglio, Charles Du, Andrea Duffy, Amber Danku, Sarah DeLucia, Basim Fain, Naishal Gandhi, Shakir Goodrich, Cheyenne Grant, Jason Greenberg, David Milewski, Michael Lefton, Amanda Caveney, Steven Buscar, Jaimie John, Kevin Hourahan, Danielle Hogan, Joseph Janela, Veronica Guido, Jeffrey Loftus, Jordanna Lembo, Michael Katz, Gregory Lombardo, Weston Kulick, Tyler Miara, Samuel Moko, Ross Masterson, James Midgley, Steven Mierzwiak, Woodrow McCarthy, Toni McFeeley, Taylor Miller, Melissa Murray, Matthew Monte, Brittany Nowicki, Kaitlyn Mulcahy, Jordan Newcombe, Kathryn Pentek, Christopher Pearson, Forum Patel, Diann Pierre, Kathy Pindych, Milady Ramos, Markin Samad, Marta Sanowska, Matthew Rifkin, Glenn Sauer, Beant Singh, Jacob Werb, Chelsea Wiley, Brian Truchan, Megan Toth, Jaime Unkel, Robert Zellman, Shannon McKenna. Sayreville War Memorial HS offered countless activities, clubs, organizations, and sports to its students. Some of the popular activities were Powderpuff Football, the Pep Rally, the Variety Show. A few of the school clubs included African History Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Peer Leadership, Red Cross Club, SADD, Chess, Book, Robotics, and many more. For the musically inclined there was the concert band/jazz band, marching band, and choir. Students into acting had their chance to shine in the Fall Drama, "Macbeth," and the Spring Musical, "Les Miserables." The Student Council consisted of President-Brianne Behr, VP-Michael Clark, Secretary-Sarah Buscar, Treas.-Kristen Wagner. The Senior Class Council was composed of President-Stephanie Reyes, VP-Dana Lefkowitz, Treas.-Elena Santiago, Corresponding Sec.-Mai Le, Recording Sec.-Alexes Correa. On the sports scene, the football team finished (9-2) under Coach George Najjar; the boys soccer team led by All-American Kene Eze turned in a (12-8) record. Eze finished his outstanding career with 106 goals. The girls' tennis team under coach Mike Provenza turned in the best record (20-2) in school history. The boys' bowling team was superb (18-1-1). Jessica Kitrys scored her 1,000 point in leading the girls' basketball club to a fine (16-9) season. At Graduation time, the top pop song in the nation was "Not Afraid" by Eminem, and the talented Class of 2010 certainly was brave as it entered the big, wide, world following their last day at SWMHS.

Speaker Craig J. Coughlin Statement on New Jersey Property Tax Relief Benefits

"As Assembly Speaker, I've made it a priority to make New Jersey more affordable, and that includes delivering on property tax relief for millions of residents. This week, seniors who filed for property tax relief using the new PAS-1 application are receiving a letter from the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, detailing which property tax relief benefits they qualify for and how much money they will receive from our property tax relief programs - Senior Freeze, ANCHOR, and Stay NJ, which is new this year.

"I am so pleased that Stay NJ is now a reality, and I was proud to sponsor the legislation creating the program. Through Stay NJ, seniors will receive a break on their property taxes, enabling them to stay in their homes, close to family and friends. Our property tax relief programs, helping both homeowners and renters, are returning more than \$4.3 billion in savings back into the pockets of families and seniors across our state."

Veteran's Roast Pork Dinner

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual "Veteran's Roast Pork Dinner" on Friday November 7th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the council hall at 308 4th St. South Amboy, N.J. The menu includes: Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, string beans "ala Lattanzi," coleslaw hand made by "Karen B." of Buddies Tavern, salad, desserts, coffee and tea. Cost: Adults \$15.00 / Children under 12yrs. \$5.00. NOTE: Veteran's meals are complimentary with their DD214.

Comedy Knight November 6th

The Edison Knights will be hosting a comedy Knight on November 6th. The event will feature comedian Randi Lupo and others. See Randi's website: <https://randilupo.com/home/>

Then hurry to the Knights of Columbus website and get your tickets, and tell a friend! https://kofc3272.weebly.com/store/p2/Comedy_Knight.html



Beverly Connors was the winner of the October contest for Gomolka's Collectables Giveaway. Al and Beverly are pictured after loading her car with boxes of record albums, 45's and 78 RPM records. Congratulations Beverly, and we hope you enjoy your prizes! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

We would love to hear from you!

 EMAIL or  MAIL or  Guestbook

25th Anniversary Friends of Sayreville Public Library

(Article submitted)

Our 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONheld on Saturday, September 20, was very well attended and a great success! Many thanks to all who participated and helped out. Special shout-outs to:

- *Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and Council President Donna Roberts who spoke honoring our organization for its commitment to the Library and Community.
- *Founding Members of Friends of Sayreville Public Library Teri Yetsko, Barbara Anderson and Elaine Kubacz, whose vision brought us here.
- *Library Director Leah Kloc who welcomed the attendees and explained the positive impact of the Friends and its relationship to the Library and Community.
- *George Giovenco, Jr. who discussed the inspiration of his book "The Headless Brickman" about the Sayre and Fisher Brick Company and was on hand to provide personalized autographs.
- *Friends President Sue Paul and Library Liaison Jennifer Larsen for their hard work organizing the Celebration.
- *Everyone who came out to make a huge success of our 25th Anniversary Celebration.



Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (r) and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (c) presented Friends of the Sayreville Public Library President Sue Paul with a Proclamation. (Photo/info submitted)

Winner!



Members of the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 South Amboy delivered the raffle prize from their annual dinner held on October 4th at the K of C to Mary Vanpraag. She lives at McCarthy Towers, and she has graciously donated the TV to the building's multi-purpose room for all to enjoy! The Legion also had door prizes from Costa Verde, Big Ed's BBQ, Sam's Club, Texas Roadhouse and Five Guys. In the picture standing behind the big, beautiful 75" screen TV (l-r) is Post Adjutant Bob Moglia, 1st Vice Commander Brian McQuade, raffle winner Mary Vanpraag, and Commander Joseph Szaro. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Happy Halloween!



Happy Halloween to our loyal readers and advertisers! (Photo by Debbie Carling)



Councilman John's Monthly Minute

A Hero Remembered: Sayreville Honors Trooper John Anderson

As we embrace the crisp days of fall here in New Jersey, it's a fitting time to honor those who have served our communities with courage and selflessness. This month, I would like to pay tribute to Trooper John Anderson, whose legacy of dedication and sacrifice continues to inspire us—seventy years after his passing.

John Anderson's story embodies honor, commitment, and quiet heroism, reminding us that service often demands more than we can ever repay. His life and untimely loss remain integral to Sayreville's shared history and spirit.

Born on March 19, 1919, in Dover, New Jersey, John grew up in Pennsylvania and graduated from Franklin High School in Carbondale. After high school, he responded to the call of duty during World War II, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant in the United States Army. His military experience instilled in him qualities of leadership, discipline, and devotion to duty. Traits that would later define his career in law enforcement.

After his military service, John settled in Sayreville, where he and his wife became active members of the community. He embraced the town's close-knit character, living by the same values that define so many of our residents—hard work, loyalty, and a commitment to helping others.

On August 1, 1953, he joined the New Jersey State Police, graduating as part of Class 43. Assigned to Troop E in Holmdel and quickly established a reputation for steadfast dedication, professionalism, and courage. In just two years, Trooper Anderson became known for his unwavering commitment to duty and the safety of others, always ready to take on the toughest assignments with integrity and pride.

Tragically, on the evening of November 1, 1955, while patrolling the Garden State Parkway in Middletown Township, Trooper Anderson encountered a 1955 Pontiac that had been reported stolen from Brooklyn. The vehicle was parked off the Parkway in a U-turn Lane near mile marker 112.5.

The events that followed remain partly uncertain, but during his investigation, Trooper Anderson was shot. Despite his grave injuries, he managed to crawl back to his patrol car and radio for help—a final act of bravery that speaks volumes about his character and commitment.

When fellow troopers arrived, they found him slumped in his seat, missing his service revolver and ammunition, with a torn holster, suggesting a struggle had occurred. He was transported to Riverview Hospital in Red Bank, where he was sadly pronounced dead on arrival at the age of just 36.

Some accounts indicate that the suspect fled to a nearby hotel, where he later took hostages before being confronted and neutralized by a hotel occupant—



underscoring the chaos and danger officers faced that tragic night. (Sources: New Jersey State Police "In Memoriam – 1950s"; Officer Down Memorial Page)

Trooper Anderson's name endures in the New Jersey State Police's "In Memoriam – 1950s" roll of honor and on the Officer Down Memorial Page, where colleagues and citizens share reflections of gratitude and remembrance. His story is one of courage, service, and sacrifice, a reminder that heroes walk among us every day, often quietly fulfilling their duty until the very end.

A special thank you goes to Retired Chief Ed Szkodny for encouraging this remembrance on the seventieth anniversary of Trooper Anderson's passing. Your suggestion ensures that stories like his remain alive in our collective memory.

As President of the 200 Club of Middlesex County, an organization dedicated to supporting the families of fallen first responders, and as a retired police chief, this tribute carries deep personal significance. The 200 Club's mission is not only to provide financial support to the families of those who make the ultimate sacrifice but also to ensure that their lives and legacies are never forgotten.

In my years on the force, I have witnessed firsthand the toll that public service can take. Reflecting on Trooper Anderson's story reminds us of the importance of holding our officers, veterans, and their families close in our hearts. Let this anniversary encourage us to ask: How can we better support those who serve today?

Attending memorials, volunteering with organizations like the 200 Club, or simply sharing stories like Trooper Anderson's can make a meaningful difference. Remembering those who gave everything not only honors their sacrifice but also inspires the next generation to serve with that same courage and heart.

Trooper John Anderson, thank you for your service as a soldier, a trooper, and a proud member of our community. Your legacy endures in the lives you touched and the example you established.

If you're in the area, consider visiting a local memorial, sharing this story, or simply taking a moment for quiet reflection. Stay safe, take care of one another, and let's continue to honor our heroes—today and every day.

With gratitude and pride,
John Zebrowski
Sayreville Councilman



The Sacred Heart/St. Stan's Senior Group is pictured at Sacred Heart parking lot prior to leaving on their trip to Nashville, Tennessee, where they visited from Sept. 21-26. The group of 46 people had a great time. (Photo/information submitted)

The Smoke Column

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

In previous articles I have written about electric vehicles and the problems that occur with them where the Lithium-Ion (LI) batteries ignite under multiple circumstances. Similar fires can also occur in the variety of other mobility devices that also use the same type of power supply. Various fire departments and engineering firms have worked on ways to suppress the LI battery fires. Fortunately, some practices and tactics have been successful but many others have not. Every time a fire department responds to one of these fire calls, it is like playing a game of Russian roulette, not knowing for sure if the fire is out or will re-ignite at a later time. The fire service and the apparatus engineers have become very optimistic in the use of LI batteries, so much so that fire apparatus have been using the LI batteries as the power supply on many new apparatus. Many fire departments in the United States and Canada are using these vehicles as their first response units. Who would have anticipated this new technology 15-20 years ago?

Believe it or not, EV manufacturers have many more EV apparatus on the production lines-or coming up in new contracts than the older diesel-powered apparatus. One manufacturer, Rosenbauer, started to build EV fire apparatus projects in 2012 because the company wanted to build the "fire engine of the future." The EV fire apparatus is powered by two electric drive motors, one in the front and one in the rear with a total peak output of 360-KW providing 490 horsepower. The electric motors provide up to 37,000-foot pounds of torque for unprecedented longitudinal dynamics for a fire apparatus, enabling rapid acceleration. There is also a 300HP backup diesel engine that can be

used to recharge the batteries if necessary. This particular model, "Rosenbauer RTX" has a 1500 gallon per minute pump that can provide pump and roll capabilities and a 500-gallon booster tank. These EV vehicles are currently in service in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Saint Paul, Boulder, and in many other large fire departments. So how do they perform? Vancouver's RTX has been in service since May 2024, making 2663 calls, 993 for alarms, 465 for fire calls, 313 for medical, 112 overdoses, and various other calls. Re-charging times are minimal and it does not take long to top off the batteries. One benefit of the EV is the noise reduction which is a safety factor for all involved. No toxic exhaust fumes from a diesel engine and communications can be heard and understood. Most local fire departments purchase from the Manufacturer and they are also manufacturing EV fire apparatus with their "Volterra" line of apparatus. The old diesel engine compartment can now be used for a space to carry additional equipment. Since most fire calls are of a short duration, (CO alarms, false alarms, smell of gas), the EV will serve the purpose. But we can eliminate the need for a larger size diesel powered engine for long term pumping at major fires. Long duration major fires have declined over the years due to quick fire detection and suppression devices. Short term fire calls have increased exponentially and using an EV to respond would be beneficial. It's time that the "Old Dinosaurs" in the fire service step back and recognize what the future has in store for the fire service. Long gone is the roar of the diesel from the Big Red Mack fire engine and its billowing black toxic exhaust. Those were the days!

Hunger Hero Awards



South Amboy's Jared Gonsalves and his lifelong friend, Arvid Agosto Jr. were honored by Replenish for spearheading a fundraising event, the Turkey Trot at Waterfront Park in South Amboy last Thanksgiving. Through their fine efforts, they raised money and food donations for Replenish. Pictured (l-r) Tony Gonsalves, Tony Gonsalves Jr., Carol Richiusa, Jared Gonsalves, Arvid Agosto Jr., Santria Agosto, Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross, Councilwoman Zuzette Dato. (Photo/info submitted)



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Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

And once again, for our 18th year congrats, and many thanks to our Sayreville Rec. Dept. and super staff Brian VanDongen, Dir., Jeff Schnitzer, and Cheryl McQuade, and volunteers, Richie Popowski and his staff from the Boro’s Parks Dept, for this year’s super successful “Blast from the Past Car Show,” and our annual “Sayreville Day,” this past Sept. 20th and 21st...With special thanks to Brian from Richie Hart and the Just Us Cruisers Car Club, The Clem and Friends Rock and Roll Band, and its members for keeping our fantastic Car Show going strong..over 120 Vehicles on the grounds! Fantastic crowd turnout again....and it all spilled over to Sunday’s “Sayreville Day”..the weather on our side for both events brought out record crowds to both events, and as always, for the past 18 years, Emerson and Amy Jones from “Basement Audio” sound, made both events sound their best..the music, entertainment, keeping everyone informed of the events..thank you Em, Amy..18 years together doing the Car Show, and at least

22 years providing Sound for Sayreville Day! AND..by complete surprise, although hopefully expected, the crowds were treated to The Special “Tremendous Dance Trio” live onstage, of Riley Wisniewski, and the King twins, Maddie and Miley, with their specially choreographed dance moves to various Classic Rock tunes...their fave... gets em onstage every year.”Wooly Bully,” in fact Riley’s mom, Meghan said “they were at the other end of the Park, and they heard their song, and made it to the stage within seconds!!...and it was all their show from there! What crowd pleasers! Sooo many thanks ladies, your talent and hard work and your “FUN” onstage was contagious! Both the Car Show crowd and Sayreville Day.. standing ovations!! You ladies just make our show complete! You're the best! Mom, Meghan, and dad, Corey were all smiles, as were we and the entire crowd. Thanks to all who attended the events, making it the true success it's been all these years!

R.I.P. ACE FREHLEY

By Brian Stratton

On October 16, 2025 Paul Daniel “Ace” Frehley passed away at the age of 74. In 1972 he answered this classified ad posted by Paul Stanley of Kiss in the Voice in 1972.



Can you imagine being 22 years old? You answer a classified ad and show up for the audition wearing two different colored shoes, plug in your guitar and play a few songs and then you are in this new band called KISS? That is what happened to Ace and the rest as they say is history! He was a guitar player who was a major influence on many future players and he will be missed!



Ace the “Spaceman” from the cover of his solo album.



The Videls band members (l-r) Dennis Trautweiler, Clem Skarzynski, Tom “Smitty” Smith, Bob Wickley, Mike Fabiszewski.



The Final Chord...A Tribute to Two Talented Friends and Musicians: Mike Fabiszewski and Thomas “Smitty” Smith

By Clem Skarzynski

I’ve been trying to amass all the thoughts that have gone through my mind and memories to come up with the proper tribute for two persons, who, within the past three weeks have been called by God to receive their well earned rewards for their guidance and caring for others. September 11th, Michael Fabiszewski, and September 25th, Thomas J. Smith Jr. I lost two dear, close friends, and most important, band mates, who both had unknowingly played an important part in guiding me in my musical endeavors. Let’s start with Tom “Smitty” Smith. Our childhood friendship began around age 12, and I have to include Steve Bringhurst in this saga as the three of us were referred to as “The Three Musketeers,” and became the closest of true friends together! Smitty, Steve and myself because of our same likes. Yes, we had different likes, but our love of football drew Smitty and I to become teammates on the South Amboy Sabers Pop Warner Football team in 1962/63. Our ages allowed us to only be a part of the team for its first year but what memories they brought. Then Tom’s suggestion of the two of us to start playing a musical instrument. He wanted to be the drummer, as did I, but he convinced me to try the guitar. And so our musical careers began, yep, just around the time of the “Beatles” invasion. We needed to start a band so off we went around the corner to talk to Mike Fabiszewski who had been playing guitar for several years. He had a garage and a basement for us to jam. So we began our musical journey to become “Rock Stars”. “The Videls” were born. Mike on guitar, myself on a combo of bass and guitar, and Smitty on the drums. Oh, how I watched Mike as he played picking out his technique, etc. and he had no qualms about showing me anything I wanted to know. As time went on, I learned so much more because of Mike and Smitty’s persistence for me to better myself. We began to connect with other rising “Rock Stars” and brought them into our “family” to expand our band’s sound. Smitty’s vision of what we were meant to do and to just do it and Mike’s knowledge and guidance to show us the way to go about it. That turned out to be years of Smitty, Mike and I playing music together. When Smitty returned from his service in Nam, I immediately brought him into the band “People,” which I had been working with since 1969. We clicked like

we never stopped playing. Life steps in, and yes we went our separate ways, but I never stopped playing music and kept in touch with Mike and Smitty. Little did I know in 1963 where this would go, but as the years went on, yes, I began to realize the impact that Mike and Smitty had on my life and as life goes by, so does the lives of our friends. So, losing both Mike and Smitty is a hard pill to swallow. Both talented musicians, even though they didn’t realize it, were so influential to me. There is just so much more I could write, such true friendships for so many years, and within a few weeks, I no longer have them here to talk to, and sadly to really thank them for being there. The two most important members of the Videls. As a dear friend said “It's God’s plan from beginning to end.” Mike, Smitty, thank you both. Smitty, good choice for who played drums and who played guitar. Mike, thank you for your knowledge. Now get rockin’. Music kept us together then and now, I’ll keep it going here! Remembering both of you as I put my guitar over my shoulder and strum that “opening chord” in your memories my dear friends. Love you both and thank you!



(l-r) Tommy “Smitty” Smith.. #2 running back... Clem Skarzynski.. #3. Quarterback/running back...1963..1st year of the South Amboy Sabres Pop Warner Football team!



Midnight

By Tom Burkard



1.Midnight Special

2.Midnight Rambler

3.In The Midnight Hour

4.Midnight Train To Georgia

5.Midnight Rider

6.Midnight At The Oasis

7.Midnight Blue

8.Midnight Mary

9.Midnight Confessions

10.After Midnight

a.The Allman Brothers

b.Wilson Pickett

c.Lou Gramm

d.The Grass Roots

e.The Rolling Stones

f.Maria Muldaun

g.Creedence Clearwater Revival

h.Eric Clapton

i.Gladys Knight/The Pips

j.Joey Powers

Answers

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



World Wide Sasquatch Calling Contest

Michael O’Connor from Sayreville placed 2nd in the White Hall New York Sasquatch calling contest Saturday September 27, 2025. Many thought Michael was robbed and should have won first place. There were close to 50 contestants from all over the country. After they picked the top three, there was another chance for each to do another call. The judges then picked the best in order. (Photo by Bill Visconti, info submitted)



#1 Pop Hits October 31

- 2023-Cruel Summer-Taylor Swift
- 2016-Closer-Chainsmokers
- 2002-Baby Boy-Beyonce
- 1990-I Don’t Have The Heart-James Ingram
- 1987-Bad-Michael Jackson
- 1971-Gypsys, Tramps & Thieves-Cher
- 1963-I’m Leaving It Up To You-Dale & Grace

#1 Country Hits October 31

- 2021-Fancy Like-Walker Hayes
- 2012-Take A Little Ride-Jason Aldean
- 2006-I Loved Her First-Heartland
- 1994-Livin’ On Love-Alan Jackson
- 1988-Gonna Take A Lot Of River -The Oak Ridge Boys
- 1975-Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain -Willie Nelson
- 1965-Hello Vietnam-Johnnie Wright

One Hit Wonders

1980-Cars-Gary Nunan; Funkytown-Lipps, Inc.; Tired Of Toein’ The Line-Rocky Burnette; Romeo’s Theme-Steve Forbert; Into The Night-Benny Mardones; Whip It-Devo; I Don’t Like Mondays-The Boomtown Rats; Only A Lonely Heart Sees-Felix Cavaliere; With You I’m Born Again-Billy Preston/Syreeta; One In A Million-Larry Graham.

LaVigne Promoted To Sergeant
(Story/Photos Submitted)

Former South Amboy resident Anthony LaVigne has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Los Angeles Police Department. Anthony holds the dual distinction of being the youngest Sergeant currently serving in the LAPD. In addition, he has achieved this distinction while having the least amount of seniority of any current Sergeant in the department. Congratulations Sgt. LaVigne!



(Above)Police Chief Jim McDonnell of the Los Angeles Police Department presents Anthony LaVigne with his Sergeant's badge at a departmental ceremony.

(Left)Former Chief LaVigne stated that he felt obligated to attend the ceremony because Anthony attended his Sergeant's promotion back in 1997. Look closely and you will see South Amboy Firefighter Victoria LaVigne age 4 with Dad, and little brother.



Former South Amboy Police Chief Darren LaVigne, Alissa Carroll, Proud Mom Joy LaVigne, Sergeant Anthony LaVigne and LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell at the promotion ceremony.

New Flags at Sacred Heart Cemetery
Veterans Memorial



It takes a special person to honor veterans not just with words, but with actions. Veterans row memorial walkway in Sacred Heart Cemetery serves as a tribute to those who have served and sacrificed to protect our freedom. Noticing the empty flagpoles near the walkway, Rocco Cuoco of Kurzawa Funeral Home took action to remedy the problem by purchasing new flags and connecting with American Legion Post #62 in South Amboy. The new flags were raised in honor of all of the veterans laid to rest in the cemetery, and as a tribute to their unwavering service to our country. May they all rest in peace beneath the flag they so proudly defended. (L-R) Ken Kokoszka, Bob Moglia, Commander Joseph Szaro, Gary Poland, Tom Noble, and Rocco Cuoco. (Photo/Info Submitted)

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

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



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

Prayer to 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.

South Amboy St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee 2026 Grand Marshal’s Dinner

The South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Committee will host its annual Grand Marshal’s Dinner on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 7p.m. Sayreville Knights of Columbus Hall, 775 Washington Rd, Parlin honoring its 2026 Grand Marshal John Dragotta, Honorary Grand Marshal Joe Britton and Deputy Grand Marshal Lee Steiner.

This year’s honorees share years of volunteer and career time in Emergency Management Services as part of Police, Firefighter and First Aid Squad members. All three of our nominees epitomize the definition of volunteerism: Volunteerism is the act of contributing free labor to conduct community service or support a nonprofit organization. Rather than receiving a financial reward, volunteers change the lives of their community members out of feelings of social responsibility and a desire to give back.

“We invite the public to attend this evening of celebration as we recognize and thank our honorees as well as all of the residents of South Amboy who volunteer their time and expertise on a daily basis proving once again that South Amboy is the little city with a big heart.” announced parade committee co-chair Mickey Gross.

Tickets are available at a cost of \$90.00 per person and will include a buffet dinner, beer, wine and soda, coffee/tea and dessert. Tickets will not be sold at the door but may be purchased in advance through January 4, 2026 by contacting Donna Williams at 732-423-7190 or jandonnaca@aol.com.

Born in Perth Amboy Hospital, our Grand Marshal, John Dragotta, grew up in South Amboy along with his brother and sister in the family home on Charmello Drive. John went through the South Amboy Public School system and is a graduate of H.G. Hoffman High School. He currently resides in South Amboy with his wife Diane and daughters Hannah and Jenna. John has been employed by the Borough of Sayreville for the past 20 years in the Water/Sewer Department as a Sewer II Repairman. But his true passion is firefighting. John started his volunteer firefighting career by joining Protection Engine Company No. 1 with his best friend, Steven “Shots” Szatkowski and has never looked back. He is currently a member of the Enterprise Hook & Ladder Co., where he went through the ranks of third, second, and first Lieutenant and then Captain. He has also served in the elected positions of 2nd Assistant Fire Chief, 1st Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Chief of the South Amboy Fire Department.

John has also been an active member of Morgan Fire Company No. 1 of the Sayreville Fire Department for over 23 years, where he attained the rank of Captain. In 2007 and 2010, he received the Firefighter of the Year

Award from Morgan Fire Company No. 1. John is a former member of the Madison Park Fire Company in Old Bridge, which he joined in 2006, and served as Fire Chief. He also holds associate memberships with the Washington Engine Company No. 1 of the Matawan Fire Department and the Wallington Engine Company No. 202 (The Hot Shots) of the Wallington Fire Department.

John donates his time to several volunteer organizations, including Firefighters Helping Firefighters, a foundation that helps firefighters and their families in times of need where he is founding member and director of the board. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Parlin DuPont Employees Federal Credit Union and is a member of the Central Jersey Fire Chiefs Association, the New Jersey Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association, the Bayshore Active Fire Chiefs Association, the South

Amboy Exempt Firemen’s Association, and the South Amboy Fire Department. Currently John sits on the South Amboy Board of Education where he has served for the past 17 years and is awaiting induction into the Colonel D.B. Kelly Division #1 Ancient Order of Hibernians of South Amboy.

When John saw the tragedy that unfolded on September 11th, 2001, he knew he could not just sit back and do nothing. Two days after the attacks, John was contacted by his close friend Owen Carlock, a member of FDNY Ladder 122, with a request to assist the members of Ladder 122 and Engine 220 in the search and rescue effort, which unfortunately turned into a recovery mission. John did not hesitate to respond and worked hand in hand with the members of FDNY until late November 2001. John is immensely proud of his contribution to the City of South Amboy during his time as Fire Chief. He was instrumental in designing and outfitting three brand new fire chief cars and working with the city’s grant writer to obtain one of the largest grants given to a fire department in Middlesex County, under the American Rescue Plan in 2022. This grant in the amount of \$61,000.00, allowed for the purchase of personal protective gear for South Amboy Firefighters. He was also able to obtain a second grant which was used to purchase fire equipment and water rescue gear.

When asked how it felt to be asked to serve as the 2026 Grand Marshal of South Amboy’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade he replied, “I was blown away. I am immensely proud to be part of this great city and hope that I can continue to give back to its residents in years to come. I would especially like to thank my family for putting up with my many activities and time away from home as well as my friends, and fellow firefighters for all of the support they have given me over the years.”

We are proud to announce that Joe Britton has been nominated as our 2026 Honorary Grand Marshal. Born and raised along with his six siblings in Fords, NJ he is part of a family who has a long history of careers in education and law enforcement. He currently resides in Maplewood with his loving wife of 30 years Rozalia but Joe has deep ties to the city South Amboy.

Joe Britton began his career in Law Enforcement as an Auxiliary Police Officer with the Perth Amboy Police Department in 1974.

During his 30-year career he worked in the Patrol, Traffic and Investigative Divisions. Professionally, Joe is most proud of the time he spent working in the department’s Juvenile Aid Bureau. Promoted to Detective Sergeant he became only the third Commander of the Bureau since it was established in 1954, ironically the year of Joe’s birth.

During his tenure in the Juvenile Bureau, he implemented many new and innovative programs that significantly reduced juvenile crime and empowered juvenile crime victims. During this tenure juvenile crime was reduced by 58% in the city.

Prior to his retirement in 2007, he was appointed by then Governor Whitman to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice (Establishing the Juvenile Justice Commission and revising juvenile laws), Governor’s Community Notification Advisory Council (Establishing Meagan’s Law) and Governor’s Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee (Administers all Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds in the state. By appointing Joe to these committees, the Governor gave a true voice for all the law enforcement members that look to protect our youth, our greatest resource.

Once retired, Joe dedicated much of his time to volunteering, including working with the Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation, the Ukrainian Assumption Church Holy Name Society (serving as President) and South Amboy St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

He is also a member of his beloved Colonel D.B. Kelly Division #1 Ancient Order of Hibernians, South Amboy (2-time Past President) and the Ancient Order of Hibernians County Board serving as President, as well as the Retired Policemen and Firemen’s Association Local #9 where he serves as Vice President. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #80, the San Salvatore Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Orders of Elks 21.

Joe has a long connection to the City of South Amboy. The city was always a place where he could go, relax and just be Joe as he spent time with schoolmate Bob Heiser and

buddies at the Landmark or at the Hibernians or enjoying pizza at Harbor Lights. Joe also finds time to play golf, bowl and travel to golf resorts with his wife, and spend time with his pride and joy; daughter Katie, son-in-law Mike (Both educators) and adorable grandchildren Kelsey and Ryan.

“It is such an unbelievable honor to be nominated as Deputy Grand Marshal by my brothers and sisters of the Parade Committee for the 2026 St. Patrick’s Day Parade! I cannot thank them enough for this great honor to represent them and the Irish! I may have worked in Perth Amboy, but my heart was always in South Amboy!”

Born in Bound Brook, our Deputy Grand Marshal Lee Steiner, grew up in South Amboy and attended St. Mary’s Kindergarten, Grammar and High Schools prior to attending Middlesex County College where he received an associate’s degree in civil construction technology. An alumnus of NJIT, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Civil Technology, he has worked for the N.J. Department of Transportation as a Traffic Engineer for the past 45 years with plans to retire in January 2026. One of his many projects was developing the plan to place barriers from the Route 9 bridge in Edison through to the ramp where Routes 9 and 35 split.

An avid builder of models including cars, planes, boats and ships, the model of the PT109 remains his favorite. He is currently a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary’s R.C. Church, a member of the South Amboy Historical Society and has been a member of the Sayreville Knights of Columbus since 2005, currently holding the title of Faithful Navigator 4th degree. Lee was also a certified scuba diver and a member of the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department Underwater Rescue team. Lee explained, “I am most proud of the fact that I have been a member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad since September of 1978 serving as Captain, President, Instructor and Advisor and currently hold the title of Trustee. Not only did I meet my late wife Veronica (Manhattan) at the First Aid Squad but found an extended family that has enriched our lives and allowed me to receive much more than I gave. I am proud to say that my greatest achievement in life is the fact that of the 1,065 calls received by the squad, I was able to answer 1,037 of them.”

“To be recognized for my commitment to the City of South Amboy and my volunteer time assisting the members of our community has been a humbling surprise,” he went on to say. “I am thankful for this nomination and will look back on my volunteer years and my role as Deputy Grand Marshal with pride.”

Sayreville War Memorial HS 40th Reunion



Sayreville War Memorial High School Class of 1985 are pictured having a great time at their 40th Reunion recently at The Holiday Inn on Rt. 35 in Hazlet. (Photo/info submitted)

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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.B..

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A Dream Come True

By Robert W. Eginton

Emma Grace, Emma Grace
Granddaughter number two.

From the moment
that our eyes met
I fell in love with you.
I love you so much
You precious little thing.
May the good Lord give you
All the love and happiness
That only He can bring.
Every moment that
I spend with you
Is like a moment in Heaven,
A dream come true!



Middlesex County Strengthens Security around 2025 Election

In coordination with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, County Clerk, and Board of Elections to ensure a secure, transparent, and fair process

With the 2025 General Elections scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, Middlesex County officials reaffirm their commitment to secure, transparent, and accessible elections in full compliance with state and federal regulations. Enhanced measures by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Office of the County Clerk, and the Board of Elections are in place to safeguard every step — from voting to tabulation and post-election review.

“Protecting the integrity of our elections remains our highest priority,” said Middlesex County Prosecutor Yolanda Ciccone. “This year, we are expanding our collaboration with county and municipal partners to monitor every phase of the election process and to ensure voters feel safe. Voters should feel confident that every voice is protected, every ballot safeguarded, and every result verifiable.”

NEW & CONTINUED SECURITY MEASURES FOR 2025

- Robust Physical & Cybersecurity Protections
- Expanded perimeter security, including surveillance cameras and controlled access.
- Continuous interior monitoring and managed personnel access.
- Poll workers receive hands-on, small-group training to ensure readiness.
- Every polling site is staffed by trained officials from both major political parties, all sworn to uphold state election laws, overseen by the bipartisan Board of Elections.
- Experienced poll masters in large municipalities coordinate with Municipal Clerks and the Board of Elections to immediately troubleshoot throughout the Early Voting period and on Election Day.
- IT professionals and election vendors are stationed throughout the County on Election Day to provide on-site technical support and ensure smooth operations at polling locations.

Voting Machines & Data Integrity

- Comprehensive testing of voting machines to prevent tampering.
- Voting machines certified by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to meet stringent security standards.
- Machines utilize unique encryption keys for each election, with only authorized USB drives programmed for the 2025 General Election.
- Election Day routers operate on an independent network provided by the State of New Jersey through AT&T's FirstNet Public Safety network.
- Voting systems use advanced cryptographic technologies, such as hash validation and digital signing, ensuring data integrity throughout the election process.
- Election Management System operates on hardened computers locked down for election use only — no internet access, no unauthorized devices, and restricted functions limited to running the election.
- A paper trail backs every vote, and post-election audits using statistical methods verify machine-tabulated results against a manual count.

South Amboy Arts Alliance News

Coming this Fall South Amboy Arts will begin our Adult and Children Activities

Adults: Painting: Seeing the fall colors of season, there will be a painting class for those who would like to dabble. You will mix the beautiful hues of the season's foliage.

Calligraphy: In time for the holiday season, whether you are just starting or revisiting the techniques needed, this opportunity will show the techniques and practice 'tips' for beautiful writing. The timing of this class will also give you enough time to practice for your holiday cards.

Drawing Circle: An important step in the art making process is drawing. Whether simple sketching for a design of creating a table, a dress out of fabric or a drawing created with pastels. The more you draw the more you see details of the lines and shapes you are observing in seeing your subject. There are so many materials to use but pencil is a

Investigations into Voter Fraud

- Close collaboration between the Prosecutor's Office and the Board of Elections to address any reports of voter fraud swiftly and thoroughly.
- Vote-by-mail is tightly secured: voters must apply using a paper form with a wet signature, and each signature is verified against the Statewide Voter Registration System. Discrepancies will be addressed promptly, and voters will have the opportunity to cure their ballot.
- Robust reconciliation procedures ensure all ballots — whether by mail, early voting, or on Election Day — are accurately counted and matched to the voter history.
- Open communication with residents for timely investigations into potential voter fraud.

“Protecting voters' confidence is as important as protecting their ballots,” said Middlesex County Clerk Nancy J. Pinkin. “That's why we work hand-in-hand with state and federal election authorities and law enforcement to guarantee that Middlesex County elections remain secure, efficient, and fair — regardless of how you choose to vote.”

HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

Middlesex County residents have several convenient and accessible ways to vote in the upcoming General Election, including:

Vote-By-Mail

Residents can mail their ballots via the USPS or drop them in one of over 30 secure drop boxes located throughout the County. The deadline to request a Mail-In Ballot by mail is October 28, 2025, and in-person requests must be made by November 3, 2025, by 3 pm.

If you have not received your Mail-In Ballot, please contact the Middlesex County Clerk's Office so a duplicate ballot may be mailed to you.

If you have already returned your Mail-In Ballot, you can track its status through the Track My Ballot Portal at www.vote.nj.gov or by contacting the Board of Elections or County Clerk's Office.

Voters are also encouraged to look out for confirmation postcards sent by the County Clerk once their Mail-In Ballot has been received by the Board of Elections.

In-Person Early Voting

Vote early from Saturday, October 25, through Sunday, November 2, at any of the 10 designated early voting locations. Please check the link below for locations and times.

In-Person on Election Day

Polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, November 4.

For full details — including early voting locations and drop box locations — visit middlesexcountynj.gov/vote.

If you have any questions about ballot security or the voting process, contact the Middlesex County Clerk's Office at 732-745-4202.

favorite. It is economical, forgiving and a good tool with easy access. Even if you are doodling on an old envelope you can listen to a presenter as you create lines and get lost in their direction and repetition of the lines you create, which becomes relaxing as you create intricacies in the outcomes!

A Halloween Trick or Treat will begin our fall season with a Treat to you! We will provide Face Painting on October 31st from 2:45pm - 4:30pm for your Halloween Adventure at the Arts Gallery at 141N Broadway. Let us know your Halloween character if we need to be prepared with some ideas. Email us at: SAarts141@.com or call 732-727-4600 x5971 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you creating and having fun!

Polish Heritage Month



October is Polish Heritage Month. In recognition of this, Rocco Cuoco of Kurzawa Funeral Home asked the members of American Legion Post #62 to assist in the Polish flag raising at Sacred Heart Cemetery. They were there to raise the American, POW/MIA and New Jersey State flags in honor of Veterans Row. Pictured left to right from Post #62 - Kenny Kokoszka, Bob Moglia, Gary Poland, Tom Noble, Joseph Szaro and Rocco Cuoco. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Dowdell Library News

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

South Amboy Residents! Get free tickets to the Intrepid Museum! Contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org for more information.

Join Dowdell's Craft Swap on Saturday November 22 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm. Do you collect craft supplies? Drop into our CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP! If you donate, you will get a PRIORITY entry ticket from 12:00 to 1:30pm. Open to all from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Bag will be supplied, one per person. Craft supply donations will be accepted from Saturday, November 15 through Wednesday, November 19.

Families! Come play Family Bingo on Saturday November 1 and 15 at 1:00 pm.

Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in November from 12:00 to 3:30 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in November from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss Drop in Club this November from 3:15 to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+.

Join the Super Smash Bros. Tournament! on Friday, November 14 at 2:30 pm. Winners will receive a prize! Ages 11+

Teens! Stop by to register for the Teen Test Kitchen on Tuesday, November 18 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks! Ages 13+ Also, use your detective skills and complete Edward's Scavenger Hunt! Drop by on Monday November 10 and Tuesday November 11 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm to get your clues and win a prize!

Adults! Are you an original boxed

stuffing fan, or a modern day stuffing fan? Enjoy at Edward's MIY Stuffing Bar kitchen on Tuesday, November 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Top yours with yummy toppings, or simply enjoy the original boxed version.

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

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

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday, November 11 and 25 at 1:00pm. Additionally, 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.

New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website which utilizes modern application practices to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store. Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Dowdell Library's hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12pm-4pm. Connect on social media!



St. Stan's Car Show (Photos by Tom Burkard)



This blue beauty 1957 Chevy Pickup truck with a pumpkin on the roof is ready for Halloween. ←



Owner of Pride Landscaping in Sayreville, Jeff Pawlowski and his wife Carol visited with South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 PGK Jan Williams of Sayreville. →



This family is looking over the engine on one of the countless fantastic cars that participated at the show. ←



It's hard to believe this pristine mint 1932 Buick is 93 years old! →



Mustang Sally was a great Wilson Pickett hit in the 60's. It sure doesn't look like Sally at the wheel. LOL ←



Jim and Joyce Abbatiello are pictured near their vintage 1934 Ford. →



Father John Paul Alvarado (l) and Art Rittenhouse of Sayreville are pictured at the Car Show, one of the largest in the county. ←

South Amboy Halloween Parade & Trunk or Treat



It was a beautiful fall day for the parade. (Photo by Brian Stratton) ←



A Ninja, Werewolf and Batman! (Photo by Brian Stratton) →



On hand to give out treats to the kids are (l-r) Linda Henry, Mayor Fred Henry, Council President Mickey Gross and Sue Gross. (Photo by Brian Stratton) ←



Handing out candy for the SAPD (l-r) Max Garcia, Ryan Shereyka and Tim Kales. (Photo by Brian Stratton) →



The winning trunk as selected by everyone attending was "Beetlejuice" by ABOB South Amboy's own Theatre Company "A Block Off Broadway." (Photo by Phyllis Stratton) ←



2nd place trunk "Riley's Touch A Truck" and also first place for best costumes "101 Dalmations" The Rone and Porter families. (Photo by Phyllis Stratton) →



K Pop Demon Hunters was a popular theme this year! (Photo by Brian Stratton)



(Photo by Samantha Pagan)



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50th High School Reunion



St. Mary’s High School class of 1975 “The Class With Class” celebrated their 50th class reunion at the Shore Club in Spring Lake, NJ. (Photo Submitted)

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Happy Halloween



These youngsters enjoyed the Great Pumpkin at a recent Trunk or Treat! (Photo by Brian Stratton)

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There’s only one issue in this year’s Sayreville Council campaign: Should we continue the O’Brien/Roberts policy of runaway overdevelopment?

Thousands of apartments are being built or are on the drawing board, and now they want to put 250 more affordable housing units behind Kennedy Park. Alberto Rios and Herve Blemur want the area preserved as open space and asked for a public referendum. The O’Brien Roberts Team said NO to letting the public vote.

The O’Brien/Roberts Team granted a 30-year PILOT (tax abatement) to the multi-billion-dollar corporation that tore down 7,500 trees to build three mega warehouses on Cheesequake Road. It will cost Sayreville taxpayers millions. And that’s only phase 1 of what they have planned!

Our schools are overcrowded, traffic is worse than ever, taxes keep going up, and our officials keep on building.

Isn't it time for a change?

Sayreville deserves better than what the O’Brien/Roberts Team has forced on us. Have you had enough?

Vote for a better Sayreville.

Vote for Alberto Rios and Herve Blemur for Sayreville Borough Council.

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 4

BY MAIL:

- Return your Vote-By-Mail Ballot to the drop box at
- Borough Hall (167 Main St)
 - Water Department (3751 Bordentown Ave)

EARLY:

Vote early, in person at the Sayreville Senior Center (423 Main St) between October 25 and November 2.

ON ELECTION DAY:

Vote at your assigned polling location on Tuesday, November 4 between 6 am and 8pm.

Scan here to learn more:



**Have questions about how to vote this year?
Call 732-906-3680**

5th Street Block Party



Our neighborhood came together in September to celebrate community and culture by getting together for an afternoon of fun, food, and flags. Pride in our community begins with coming together and getting to know each other a little better – and nothing brings people together better than an old-fashioned block party. Welcoming newcomers, sharing stories, and reminiscing made the day one to remember. Sending a special shout to Joseph Szaro for resurrecting and coordinating this great neighborhood tradition. (Photo/info Submitted)



Middlesex County’s GOP candidate for Sheriff, Peter “Pedro” Pizar (r) is pictured at Andy’s Farm in Cranbury with GOP candidate for Governor of New Jersey, Jack Ciattarelli. The candidates along with other state and local dignitaries were there to show support in keeping the farm, which is over 100 years old, from eminent domain. (Photo/info submitted)

Board Game Day
"Modern Board Games are accessible to all ages and incorporate a wide array of skills, such as bluffing, Strategic planning, resource management, and even role-play. Sayreville Public Library will be hosting a board game session on Saturday, November 1 beginning at 10AM. Come on out and learn how to play some new and exciting board games."

Trinity United Methodist Church Bazaar
It’s that time of year again!!! Our annual bazaar and Vendor sale will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 9 am to 2 pm. We will have vendors, crafts, a café, Tricky Tray, a Christmas Room and much more. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Lori at 732 763 6232. Tables are \$20.00.

Calling all Veterans
Please join us on Sunday, November 9 at the South Amboy Elks at 601 Washington Avenue from 1- 3:30 pm for alLuncheon to thank you for your service. There is no cost – just your time! We hope you are able to join us for the afternoon. Please RSVP Lori at 732 763 6232 by November 6.

LD19 Legislators Highlight \$5 Million for Local Parks and Playgrounds

Funds will create inclusive playgrounds in Middlesex County and cultural heritage.
State Senator Joseph F. Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (all D-Middlesex) announced that Carteret, Perth Amboy and Sayreville will receive more than \$5 million in State funding, which will be used in part to build new inclusive playgrounds, enabling children of all abilities to play together.
The State funding is provided through New Jersey’s Green Acres program, which works to meet New Jersey’s growing recreation and conservation needs while preserving the state’s rich natural, historic,

and cultural heritage.
“From our beautiful waterfronts to our vibrant neighborhood parks, communities in the 19th Legislative District have always taken pride in the places that bring people together,” said State Senator Vitale, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Lopez. “When we invest in our parks, we’re investing in the quality of life that makes Middlesex County such a great place to live, and I’m proud to see support from the Green Acres program for these projects that benefit all children, their families and neighbors.”
Continued on page 24

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Sayreville Library News

The Board Game Room
Saturday, Nov 1 @10AM

Sayreville Library is hosting a board game session. Come on out and learn how to play some new and fun board games. (for 18 and older)
Registration required.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Chair Yoga (Virtual)
Monday, Nov 3 @5PM

Join us for an evening of mindful, therapeutic movement. This chair yoga class is open to everyone and will help you decompress and relax using gentle stretching and breathing work.
Participants will need a chair, preferably one that allows their feet to be flat on the floor. Please wear comfortable clothing.
This is a virtual session. Registration is required to get the Zoom link.
register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112
Patrons must provide a valid email address.

An Evening with "Dolly Parton"
presented by Michele Marzano
Monday, Nov 10 @5:30PM

Come on out and join Michele Marzano, professional celebrity impersonator, as she performs as Dolly Parton. She will be performing some of Dolly's biggest hits, complete with photo ops, autographs, and more.
Registration required
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

NJ Department of Education
Presents-NJCAN 360

Tuesday, Nov 18 @4PM
Join the New Jersey Department of Education for this informative seminar on the New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator-NJCAN 360, the state's free career information system for middle/high school students and adults. Registration required.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Holiday Chocolate Recipes with
Vanessa (Virtual)

Who doesn't love a sweet chocolate treat during the holidays? Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish, and learn a variety of new chocolate recipes. From cookies to homemade candies to hot cocoa, you'll be more than ready to indulge your sweet tooth this season.
This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.
Patrons must provide a valid email address.

Movie Matinee
Tuesday Nov 25 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: The Lake House: Starring Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves
Rated PG 1 hr 38 Mins
Refreshments provided
Registration required
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who helped get TORTILLA back home safely after 10 long days. Brianne Rodgers, Jeannie Miller, Monica Barnes, Doreen Dawn Skebeck, Kristy who came from Alabama to help, and many more I'm sure.
My neighbor Sam, who ran up and down Henry Street until she couldn't breathe any more. Karly & Amelia and Mrs. Kathy Randall. SouthAmboy Sayreville, Old Bridge Police Department and the State Police. Everyone who called in sightings and picking up the food bowls.
These people have worked endlessly for days and nights setting bait traps knocking on doors and so much more until the job was done.
We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Murphy Family

Judith Lizzette (Biczis) Raskoshin: A
Dedicated Educator and Community Leader

By Surjit Singh

Judith Lizzette (Biczis) Raskoshin was born and raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. From a young age, she was surrounded by community-minded role models—both her mother and father were actively involved in local politics as committee members, and her father also served as a Perth Amboy police officer.
Judith later moved to Old Bridge, NJ, where she attended Old Bridge High School. There, she balanced academics with athletics, participating in both basketball and softball. She continued her education at Monmouth University, earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Special Education, graduating with high honors.
For the past 15 years, Judith has worked full-time as a dedicated Special Education teacher, committed to supporting and empowering students with diverse learning needs.

In 2013, Judith and her husband Stanislav, a New Jersey State Trooper, became proud residents of South Amboy when they purchased their first home. They were drawn to the city's unique "small-town charm," and over the past thirteen years, their family has grown to include three beautiful children: ages 7, 3, and 4 months.
Judith's involvement in the community deepened when her eldest child began school. Wanting to play a more active role as both a parent and civic contributor, she pursued a position on the South Amboy Board of Education. Over the past three years, she has served on the Board with distinction—first as Vice President, and currently as Board President.
In her role, Judith volunteers her time to help shape the future of education in South Amboy. She collaborates with fellow board members to establish a shared vision for student achievement, develop strategic partnerships, maintain strong and ethical governance, and ensure that district policies



reflect the needs of all learners. Her unique perspective as both an educator and parent of two elementary school students allows her to bring valuable insight and empathy to the board.
Judith also serves on the board of the Sadie Pope Dowdell Public Library. There, she continues her commitment to civic service by representing the community, supporting the library's mission, upholding fiduciary responsibilities, and promoting ethical leadership.
As a working mother of three, Judith exemplifies the power of dedication, service, and community spirit. She is passionate about improving South Amboy through collaborative leadership, always with the goal of ensuring that every child receives the highest quality education possible.
Judith is excited about the future of South Amboy and is proud to be part of its continued growth. She truly loves the city and is honored to serve the people who call it home.



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Sayreville's Blast From The Past

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Clem & Friends classic rock band brought back many happy memories from years gone by, with their great song set list, and outstanding musicianship. Congratulations to Clem Skarzynski (r) and Fran Fee (l) who performed with the band at the Car Show for their 18th consecutive year, and also Emmy Jones, who played with the band for many years, and then supplied the group with the sound through his Basement Audio business, ← which includes his wife Amy, and also totals 18 consecutive years.



Joe Gatti, owner of Central Jersey Starter & Alternator, Inc. of Morgan was at the show with his beautiful SS.



Who sang the 60's song, "Little GTO?" ...Ronnie & The Daytonas.



Very creative vehicle!



Wow! Cool VW!



A real beauty!



Plymouth Road Runner.



Pictured (l-r) Council candidate Anthony Esposito, Council President/Council candidate Donna Roberts, Recreation Director Brian Van Dongen, Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Councilman John Zebrowski, Councilman Stanley "Stash" Synarski.



There were plenty of fun things for the youngsters to do.



Sayreville Fire Dept.



The Sayreville Bombers Football tent was a popular stop for those at Sayreville Day.

Sayreville Day

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Patsy Palma was outstanding as always with his amazing vocals. Congratulations Patsy on your 21st singing appearance at Sayreville Day!



Ryan Yuhas of Sayreville turned in a fine performance with excellent vocals.



Sayreville Public Library



NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (r) is pictured with Sayreville Council candidates and other prominent Democrats by their tent.



NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (l) is pictured with Democratic Party Chairman Bill Henry (c), and Recreation Director Brian Van Dongen.



This little girl has her face painted as her mother and baby brother approvingly look on.

Middlesex County Leads Beach Sweep Clean-up at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park

Over a hundred local volunteers joined Clean Ocean Action's statewide effort to preserve New Jersey's shoreline and protect coastal habitats

Middlesex County welcomed residents and volunteers from across New Jersey to the Clean Ocean Action Fall Beach Sweeps on Saturday, October 18, at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in South Amboy. New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, participated in the event, underscoring the importance of protecting New Jersey's shoreline and preserving the health of its coastal ecosystems.

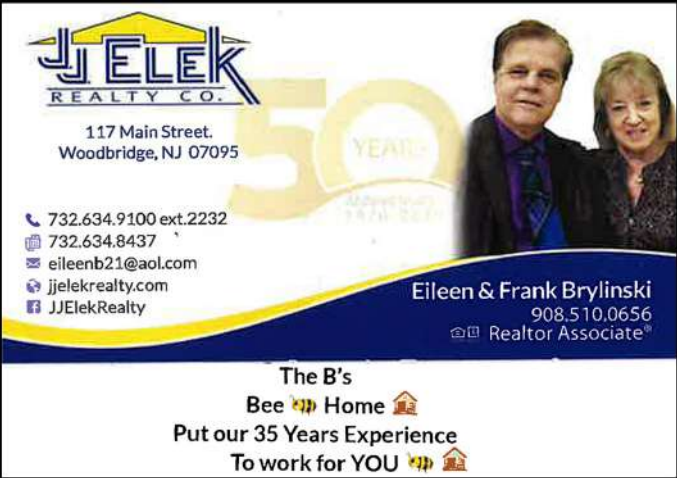
Volunteers spread out across the entire beach to collect and catalog litter as part of a statewide cleanup organized by Clean Ocean Action. There were over 80 beach sweep sites across the state. Now in its 40th year, Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps program — the longest-running coastal cleanups in the world — has removed 8.7 million pieces of debris from New Jersey's shores while gathering valuable data that supports long-term coastal protection policies and environmental stewardship efforts.

At Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, Middlesex County's Office of Parks and Recreation coordinated the local effort, which drew volunteers from across the County and surrounding region. Members of the Middlesex County Youth Conservation Corps and the Open Space team coordinated the event and were on-site to assist and guide participants throughout the morning.

In addition to the beach sweep, Middlesex County will host a Fall Trails Day on Saturday, November 15, at Davidson's Mill Pond Park in South Brunswick, inviting volunteers to assist with trail maintenance and habitat improvement projects. For more information on upcoming environmental volunteer opportunities in Middlesex County, visit middlesexcountynj.gov.



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Chief of Police
FRANCIS WOMACK
Director of Law
MARK RASIMOWICZ
Engineer
KATIE ROSE WALENTY
Acting City Clerk
KENNETH KRASS
Acting Superintendent of Public Works

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives

St. Mary's Cross Country Finishes 8-8



St. Mary's Cross Country 2000: Back Row: Coach Ed Twomey, Tom Kemble, Ed Fulham, Jason Meszaros, Casey Woods, Brian Weiler, James Pizzillo, Kevin Dubois; Front Row: Sean Sobin, Nick Whyte, Tom Pizzillo, Kevin Woods, Jim Bueno, Chris Doukas.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1973

Sport-Boys Soccer

Teams-Hoffman (0-3) vs. Sayreville (1-2)

Recap-Bob Zoorzynski scored the first goal of the game in the opening period, but the Governors, led by Mike Downs, who scored in the second period on an assist from Henry Wortley, tied the score. Once again, it was Downs, who blasted in the game winner on an assist by Tom Suau, with only 0:52 left, as Hoffman won it, 2-1 in a real thriller.

Player of the Game-Mike Downs, Hoffman.

40 Years Ago

1985-Sayreville Wins Field Hockey Title

Sayreville girls Field Hockey team captured the GMC title with a (9-1) record under Coach Judy Sunski. Soph Kerry Garbowski and senior Laurie Wedekind scored almost half of the teams record 24 goals for the season, and were selected All-County.

15 Years Ago

2010-Sayreville Bombers football club hammered Monroe,51-7. Quarterback Joe Geiger fired 2 TD passes of 61 and 25 yards to Syd Holt, who finished the game with 3 receptions for 138 yards. Alex Yanuzzelli blasted through the Monroe defense for 2 TD runs of 1 and 3 yards. Zeke Perkinson added a 19-yard TD...

Cardinal McCarrick opened their season with a 12-0 shutout over Mater Dei. Jose Cruz had a touchdown run of 4 yards, and Calvin Peeples broke loose for a 12 yard TD jaunt. John Appiah excelled on defense as he racked up 12 unassisted tackles, 2 sacks, and a fumble recovery.

South Amboy Sabres Football

1962-The South Amboy Sabres Pop Warner Football team dropped a 14-0 contest to St. Peter's of New Brunswick. Fullback John Somogyi (remember him?) scored on touchdown runs of 9 and 15 yards, while adding an extra point. Somogyi later went on to schoolboy fame with his prolific scoring in basketball, and at the time of his high school graduation, was the state of New Jersey's All-Time leading scorer.

25 Years Ago

2000-A very young St. Mary's boys cross country team finished the season with an 8-8 record. Only a one point defeat to Colonia at the final meet prevented the runners from producing a 9lh consecutive winning season. The team did have impressive victories over Woodbridge, South River, and Mon roe. Casey Woods was the only senior on the squad. After playing soccer for three years, he decided to run cross country this year, and became the un disputed number one runner. The rest of the top 5 runners included soph Ed Fulham, junior James Pizzillo, freshman Chris Doukas, and Jim Bueno, a sophomore.



MLB Report

By Tom Burkard

St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Riley O'Brien just finished his best season in the majors. The 6-4 right-hander pitched in 42 games, and finished (3-1) with 6 saves, a 2.06 ERA, and had 45 strikeouts in 48 innings.

Riley is the grandson of former Major Leaguer, the late and great John O'Brien who along with his twin brother the late Ed O'Brien starred at St. Mary's HS in both baseball and basketball, and graduated in '48. They went on to Seattle University, where they literally put the school on the national sports map, making it one of the most respected colleges in the country.

The O'Brien Twins continued their outstanding play in both sports on the collegiate level, and John rewrote the college record book in basketball by becoming the first player to score over 1,000 points in a single season. Following their college days, the brothers were drafted by the NBA, but opted to become "Bonus Babies" and signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates MLB team.

John, who died on June 13, 2025 is undoubtedly very proud, as he looks down on his grandson Riley, and sees how far he has come, and the success he is now having in the big leagues.



2022-In the GMCT Boys Soccer Play-In round, South Amboy tied Woodbridge Magnet, 3-3. Angel Barrilas hammered in 2 goals and had an assist, while Dominick Pawlis added a goal and assist for the Guvs...2011-South Amboy and Cardinal McCarrick girls soccer teams battled to a 3-3 tie. Megan Kosa blasted in all 3 goals for the Lady Eagles, while Paulina Musialek had 2, and Stephanie Gay a goal that sent the game into overtime...2006-Sayreville nipped East Brunswick, 7-6 in football action. With 3:29 remaining in the game, quarterback Mark Marges connected with Reinaldo Rodriguez for an 8-yard TD, and Billy Woods booted the game-winning extra point. Rodriguez caught 9 passes for 98 yards, and Michael Knight racked up 111 yards on 21 rushes...1993-Sayreville jolted JP Stevens, 49-0 in the

75 Years Ago

1950-The Hoffman Governors baseball team under Coach Eugene "Jimmy" Dobrzynski finished (6-8), and featured 2 future pro baseball players John Kovalski and John "Skeets" Skarzynski, as well as future pro basketball player John Ciol.

The team leaders for the year were Bill Bouchard, who topped the Guvs with a lofty .417 batting avg., runs-15, hits-20, doubles-7, and was also the top pitcher with a (4-2) mark. Skarzynski, who went on to play for the Giants organization, led the club with 23 RBI, 3 home runs, and 2 triples, while batting .325. Kovalski, who went on to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates farm team, was injured most of the season, but managed to hit .304 with 3 doubles in only 23 at-bats.



2017-Sayreville HS Seniors (l-r) Kate Esposito, Ryane Brush, Moanike Axinregon, Sabrina Waryah, Coach Janet Ust, Isi Enahoro, Patrice Harding. (Photo submitted)



The SWMHS 2017 Girls Varsity Basketball Team was recently inducted into the school's Athletic HOF. Pictured (l-r) Coach Caleigh Giovenco Fazzini, Jenna DeMild, Jaclyn Jurkiewicz, Jasmine VanNote, Ryane Brush, Morenike Akinrefon, Patrice Harding, Isi Enahoro, Kaitlyn Esposito, Jackie Ventricelli, Megan Furbush, Coach Janet Ust Cook. Congrats ladies, well done, long overdue! (Photo/story by Eileen Giovenco)

Glory Days In Local Sports

season opener. Quarterback Dennis Coyle passed for a touchdown to Mike Clark and also ran for a 15-yd. TD. Clark had 2 touchdowns on the day. Bilal King scored 2 TD's, while Mike Lordi and Pat Walsh scored a touchdown apiece. Chris Sola kicked 2 extra points, and Matt Lefurge 1...

1981-Sayreville won their only game of the season, 17-14, when Paul D'Arpa scored the game-winning touchdown with only 0:04 left in the game...1979-Hoffman boys soccer squad nipped Montgomery 1-0 on a huge goal by Marty Veilleux. Greg Seres turned in a stellar 15-save shutout...1961-St. Mary's defeated St. Peter's 12-6 in baseball play. Ray Riddell was the winning pitcher. Frank Ruszala blasted a 3-run double, and Jack Seaman smashed a single and triple.

Flashback: 1993 Eagles Fly By Guvs

St. Mary's undefeated Boys Cross Country team breezed to their fourth consecutive victory, romping over arch-rival, Hoffman, 16-43. John Kugel and Andy Ahem tied for 1st place in 18:51. Rob Neuhooff was next in 19:05, followed by Ben Zmigrodski in 19:15. Hoffman's Lenny Smith came in at 19:16. Other finishers in order were; Joe Demeraski (SM) 19:53, Jeff Zmigrodski (SM) 20:17, Mike Picharillo (H) 20:50, Roy Labue (SM) 20:50, Joe Majkowski (SM) 21:21.

30 Years Ago

1995-Sayreville shocked J.P. Stevens 25-20. Soph tailback Omar Joseph scored 3 touchdowns on runs of 9, 4, and 42 yards. Trailing 20-19, with 2:31 left, quarterback Matt LeFurge bulldozed in for the game winning TD.

Then...

Now..

South Amboy Day



The National Anthem is played as veterans and others stand at attention to salute the flag at the beginning of South Amboy Day. (Photo by Mary Szaro)



In photo (l-r) Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Mayor Fred Henry, and Mayor's wife Linda Henry. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Jerry Smith sings his tribute to The Pleasant Little City "South Amboy U.S.A.". (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Pictured (l-r) Gabriella Grande Perez, NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, South Amboy Councilman At Large Anthony Conrad and former SA BOE member Laurie Guthrie. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



American Legion Post #62 members pictured (l-r) Tom Noble, Bob Moglia, Brian McQuade, Gary Poland, Ryan Wilde, and Commander Joseph Szaro. (Photo by Mary Szaro)



This artist was painting portraits of young attendees onto a painting of The Great Beds Lighthouse. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 were kept busy throughout the day. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Pictured (l-r) Jan Williams, Council President Mickey Gross, Congressman Frank Pallone. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



The South Amboy Arts Alliance. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Talented musicians rocked the crowd. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



These young and talented artists are busy creating some new and beautiful items. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



The crew from A Block Off Broadway. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club members. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



South Amboy YMCA. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Longtime Hoffman/South Amboy Soccer Coach Tony Gonsalves (r) is pictured with Glenn Smith, who played for Coach Gonsalves on his first Governors varsity soccer team 48 years ago. The photo was taken prior to the annual alumni soccer game. (Photo by Annamae O'Connor)



South Amboy Councilman Anthony Conrad, Congressman Frank Pallone, American Legion Commander Joe Szaro are pictured (l-r). (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Staff from The Dowdell Library. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Eighth Annual Firefighters Mass and Memorial Service

(Story by Rich Kosmoski, Photos by Jamie Norek)

On Saturday, October 11, 2025, The Church of the Sacred Heart held their Eighth Annual Firefighters Mass and Memorial Service. This event honored the bravery and dedication of firefighters, paying tribute to those who have served and remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Mass was attended by firefighters from The Sayreville and South Amboy Fire Departments.



Pictured (l-r) Ex-Chief Rich Kosmoski MC of the Memorial Service, Chief George Gawron of the Sayreville Fire Department, Church of The Sacred Heart, Pastor Stanley Gromadzki, Ex-Chief Mark Herdman of the South Amboy Fire Department, and First Assistant Chief Richard Masterson of the Sayreville Fire Department.



Picture of the Memorial Service left to right: Pictured (l-r) Ex-Chief Rich Kosmoski and Altar Server Adrian watch as Chief George Gawron tolls the bell of the last alarm for our fallen firefighters.



Firefighters Personal Protective Equipment and the Final Alarm Bell placed at the altar of the church in memory of our fallen firefighters.

How to Achieve Success

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 1994

- Begin with a dream
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Hard work, hard work, work hard
- Steadfast in the face of setbacks & adversity
- Make failures but steps towards the goal
- Realize and never forget that
- God is part of your support team.



Any idea who these two are? Send your answers we need both names to satimes@aol.com by Nov. 9th.

??



Top Cat-voice by Arnold Stang

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Last month's mystery guest was Top Cat and his voice was provided by Arnold Stang.

Top Cat was an American animated sitcom produced by Hanna-Barbera that aired for a single season but left a lasting impression. The show followed Top Cat, or "T.C." to his pals, the smooth-talking leader of a gang of alley cats in Manhattan. Set in a cartoon city modeled after New York, the series featured Officer Dibble trying to keep the mischievous cats in line. The cast included Arnold Stang as Top Cat, with voice actors like Allen Jenkins and Marvin Kaplan contributing to the memorable ensemble. Though only 30 episodes were produced, Top Cat gained popularity in syndication and internationally. Its clever dialogue, jazzy music, and streetwise tone made it distinct among 1960s cartoons. The show's cultural legacy includes spin-offs, comic books, and even Latin American adaptations. T.C.'s charm and hustle still resonate with fans decades later.

The following got it right: Renee P. Parsons, Dee Ostrowski, Edna Pilch, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Roy Dragotta, Bruce Grankowski, JoAnn & John French, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Betty Leveille, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Walter Starzec Jr , Pete McIntyre, Dane Colburn.

WWW.?



Do you recognize this local business? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Nov. 9th.

WWW.? Winners

Last month's WWW.? was Morgan Little League Concession Stand. Winners: Dennis Quinlan, Edna Pilch, Paul Conlon, Steve Laskiewicz, Lisa Grankowski, Barb Bockus, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Betty Leveille, Ed English, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Walter Starzec Jr , Ed English, Pete McIntyre.



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Fishing Flashes
By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water
Party boats were doing well with Bonito and Bluefish but that fishing is ending. With Fluke season closed, they are now concentrating on Sea Bass and Porgies. That fishing is very good with many anglers getting their limits of both species. With rough surf conditions, I returned back to 2nd St dock and fished the bay in back of Beach Haven on LBI. I got a few small Sea Bass and a Silver Perch plus one Blowfish which I released. Some Striped Bass have been caught in this area but most are still to the north. Local beach fishing at Cliffwood and South Amboy remained slow although I did see one angler hook a large cow Nose Ray which gave him quite a battle until he beached it and returned it at Cliffwood Beach. I also saw 2 small Croakers off the harbor pier in Perth Amboy but not much else. Coastal storms will disrupt things at times.

Fresh Water
By the time you read this, Fall Trout socking will have come to the end of the second week in October with mostly larger fish in upstate streams and lakes normally stocked. Bass, Pickerel and Pan Fish will go on a feeding frenzy as the cold weather is coming. Fishing the Delaware River for mostly Small Mouth Bass will be very good. The biggest problem is low water from lack of rain statewide.

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.

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Playgrounds
-continued from page 16

Sayreville will receive a total of \$1,725,000 to fund a new inclusive, fenced playground at Bailey Park, along with a new comfort station, picnic area, ADA-compliant parking, walkways, signage, and landscaping to make the park more inviting.

In Carteret, \$750,000 will support the creation of a completely inclusive playground at Carteret Park, featuring accessible equipment, a shade structure, perimeter fencing, and an accessible restroom.

Perth Amboy will also receive \$750,000 for a new playground at Truxton Park, with accessible equipment, new benches, and shade trees to create a comfortable space for families and children.

Additionally, Perth Amboy will receive \$2 million for improvements to the Veterans Memorial Youth League Complex. With this funding, the city will convert four grass baseball fields into synthetic turf multi-purpose fields suitable for baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse, while also adding an expanded patio and picnic area, new dugouts, scoreboards, landscaping, storm water management upgrades, and a walking trail connecting the complex to Willow Pond Park.

Funding for the projects was secured through the Green Acres appropriations bill (A5860/S4567), passed by the Legislature on June 30, 2025, and signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy over the summer. This bill appropriates constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection for projects around the state.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

The Jack McKeon Interview

By Tom Burkard

South Amboy native and Major League Baseball legendary manager, Jack McKeon was enshrined in the Marlins Inaugural 2025 Legends Hall of Fame on August 3rd prior to the Marlins-Yankees game at Loan Depot Park in Miami, Florida. Ironically, the Yankees were the team Jack’s Florida Marlins upset to defeat and win the World Series Championship in 2003. Also inducted into the Hall of Fame along with McKeon were two of his former players Luis Castillo and Jeff Conine. Jim Leyland, who managed the Marlins to the World Series title in ‘97, was also an inductee.

In 2003, Jack came out of retirement at 72 years old and took over a team that was 6 games under .500, and went on to lead them to a 75-49 record the rest of the year, and as a Wild Card, went on to playoff wins over the San Francisco Giants and Chicago Cubs. The Marlins then captured a thrilling World Series Championship victory over the heavily-favored New York Yankees.

The following interview was conducted recently by telephone with South Amboy’s favorite son, Jack McKeon.

Jack said that “The induction ceremony was very exciting. It was a first class operation, and there were 35,000 fans in attendance.” Five players from the Marlins ‘03 champions showed up in addition to Castillo and Conine, who were also inducted.

The event was another great accomplishment in McKeon’s illustrious baseball career. He has won numerous awards and honors throughout his 72 stellar years of being active in pro baseball. In addition, Jack has been inducted in several Hall of Fames, and many believe his greatest honor will be one day, when he gets into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY.

Jack McKeon was born and raised in South Amboy, and was an All-County catcher on St. Mary’s 1948 baseball team that also featured future big leaguers, the O’Brien Twins, Ed and John. When he was growing up, his idol was Yankees catcher Bill Dickey. McKeon went on to play minor league baseball, and got his first chance at managing in the pros in 1955 when he was only 24 years old.

During his superb career, he was a scout, manager, general manager and so much more. Jack managed 12 players who went on to Hall of Fame careers.

When asked to pick a starting team of all the players he ever managed in the minors or MLB, he said, “Pudge Rodriguez-catcher, Sean Casey-first base, Roberto Alomar-second base, Gary Templeton-shortstop, George Brett-third base, Tony Gwynn-right field, Ken Griffey Jr.-center field, Tony Oliva-left field, Harmon Killebrew-DH, Jim Kaat-pitcher, Josh Beckett-pitcher.”

Jack went on to say that his secret to success was “Persistence.” What would he tell a kid today who dreams of being a Major League Baseball player? “You have to work hard, eat, sleep, and drink baseball.”

Jack, who was almost always featured with his signature cigar, had a triple bypass operation 12 years ago, and has had to give

up the cigars. He still keeps active and goes to church everyday, also works out in his own gym in the garage.

McKeon was selected National League Manager of the Year in 1999 while guiding the Cincinnati Reds, and of course with the World Champion Florida Marlins in ‘03. In 4 years with the Marlins, the team won 281 games, and lost 257, for a .522 pct. He is the only manager in pro baseball history to have won over 1,000 games in the minors (1,146-1,123, .505), and also in MLB (1,051-990, .515)... Yet another incredible accomplishment! He was the only manager in baseball history born in New Jersey to lead his team to the World Series title. The City of South Amboy honored Jack by renaming Veterans Field to Veterans Park Home of Jack McKeon Field.

His greatest memory of growing up in South Amboy was “Joe Charmello, the City Council, Chet Meinzer and Mayor John Leonard. These men always looked out for the youngsters and were conscious to make athletics always available. And of course the great Allie Clark who was in the big leagues, and a huge inspiration, who we followed all along.”

Jack had so many great memories of his 72 years in pro ball, but without a doubt his greatest memory and biggest thrill was defeating the New York Yankees in 2003 to capture the World Series Championship. He said “My biggest disappointment was when I was fired from the Kansas City Royals in ‘75, after guiding them to two 2nd place finishes in 3 years, and turning in an overall winning record.”

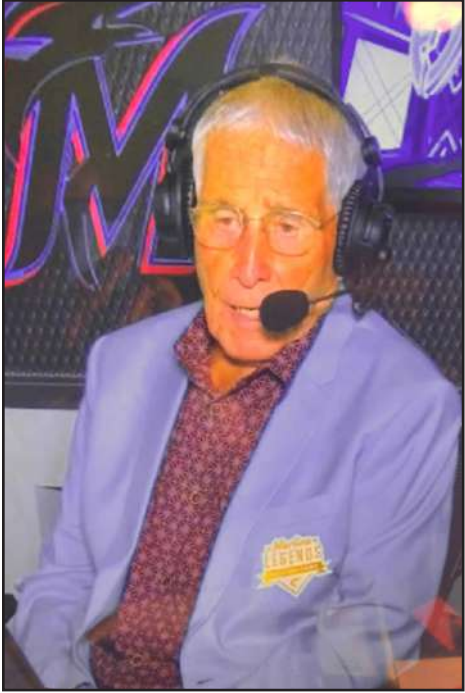
When he was with Kansas City, he proposed 2 big trades that didn’t go through. One was with the Yankees, “I proposed a deal consisting of Amos Otis and Freddie Patek for Bobby Murcer, Tippy Martinez, Scott McGregor and Thurman Munson, and Chris Chambliss. Another potential trade that did not come through was when I tried to get Steve Carlton for Otis and Fitzmorris.”

Notebook: In his career, he met or crossed paths with almost every superstar including “Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron. “I met Mantle at a banquet, and would see Aaron all the time in Atlanta. Bob Uecker and I were good friends. I also got to meet Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, Bob Feller and many more.” Jack’s son Kasey McKeon signed Sean Casey and Joey Votto. When asked how he would like to be remembered, Jack said that “I did it my way.”

*Congratulations and a special thank you to Jack McKeon for taking the time for this exclusive interview, and may God Bless you always for all you have done for baseball, and also your dedication to the City of South Amboy!



Jack’s wife Carol (l) along with other family members and friends are all very proud of Jack following his Hall of Fame induction.



Jack was a special guest in the play-by-play booth with the Miami Marlins announcers during the Marlins-Yankees game.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

ST STAN'S HSA

Christmas BAZAAR

St. Stanislaus Kostka School
221 MacArthur Avenue
Sayreville, NJ 08872

Sunday, December 7th, 2025
from 11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

- 50/50
- Tricky Trays
- Raffles

- Children’s Games
- Wheel of chance
- Pictures with Santa

Spread the Joy!

Play games, win prizes,
enjoy home cooked foods
and have family fun!!!

School Gym and Kitchen

South Amboy

Town Wide YARD SALE

(Photos by Tom Burkard)

This great yard sale on Connors Drive featured many unique and collectible items. ←

Yard Sale enthusiasts had a great weekend in South Amboy with so much to choose from. ←

South Pine Avenue was also very active with sales. →

Kurzawa Funeral Home
338 Main Street
South Amboy, NJ 08879
732-721-0475 www.kurzawafh.com
Rocco M. Cuoco, Manager
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Dear Families And Friends of the Community

*I am inviting those wishing to join us for our annual "Remembrance Service"
to be held on Wednesday, December 10th, 2025*

*During this time of year we reflect on the wonderful people whom we loved so much.
We invite family and friends to come together to celebrate a special night where our
family here at Kurzawa Funeral Home remembers your loved ones
who are missed during this holiday season. This past year has been challenging, as we
are aware, to learn how to live without those who are special to us.*

*Please join us in celebration and prayer in honor and memory of your loved ones, along
with a special tribute to our Nation's Veterans, Law Enforcement and Firemen, who have
selflessly sacrificed and served our community. A solemn holiday setting is being planned which
includes our Tree of Remembrance decorated with Angel Ornaments, each one in honor of those
who cannot be with us this holiday season.*

*We will be recognizing those who have gone ahead, accompanied by inspirational
music along with light refreshments that will be offered at the conclusion of the memorial tree
lighting, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. However, you can join us when it is most convenient
for you from 6pm through 8pm at The Kurzawa Funeral Home,
located at 338 Main Street, South Amboy NJ 08879*

*We are hoping you can join us, please RSVP by calling before
Friday, December 1st, 2025 or if there are any questions 732-721-0475.*

*With Our Sincere Best Wishes Rocco M. Cuoco
& The Kurzawa Funeral Home Family*

Obituaries

Albin, Loretta,77, of Sayreville died on Oct. 10.
Boll, Eileen M. Gallagher, 64, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 11.
Brennan, Mary A. Quinlan, 84, of South Amboy died on Sept. 17.
Burkshot, Margaret Surman, 89, of South Amboy died on Sept. 22.
Corcillo, Janet, 98, of Sayreville died on Oct. 1.
Corridon, Joanne Wojciechowski, 74, of South Amboy died on Sept. 20.
Gryczynska, Iwona T., 75, of Sayreville died on Sept. 16.
Jacobus, Cheryl, 55, of Laurence Harbor died on Sept. 5.
Joule, Dorothy E., 78, of Parlin died on Sept. 16.
Kaczmarek, Edward, 79, of Sayreville died on Oct.13.
Mascarello, Bonita "Bonnie" Valosin, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on Sept. 19.
McArdle, Jason, 47, of Sayreville died on Sept. 6.
Pearson, Thomas, 71, of South Amboy died on Sept. 29.
Petner, Patricia E., 83, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 8.
Prysak, Margaret A. "Peggy" Jankowski, 84, of Morgan died on Oct. 7.
Puccio, Regina, 88, of South Amboy died on Oct. 21.
Ramilo, John, 77, of Sayreville died on Oct. 13.
Ramilo, Maria O., 98, of Sayreville died on Sept. 28.
Simnor, Kathleen T., 96, formerly of Parlin died on Oct. 18.
Smith, William J. "Billy," 65, of Sayreville died on Oct. 10.
Tanko, William Sr., 86, of Parlin died on Oct. 18.
Wrobel, Robert T. "Bob," 71, of Sayreville died on Oct. 3.



In Memoriam

Father Louis Stingel, 91, died on Aug. 21. He served as Pastor of St. James the Less Church, Jamesburg from 1977-2009 when he retired. Following his retirement, he assisted at weekend Masses and provided pastoral service at St. Mary Church South Amboy, where he was highly-respected and well-liked by the St. Mary's parishioners. Thomas Pearson, 71, of South Amboy died on Sept. 29. Tom was really one of the good guys, and liked by anyone whoever met him. He served as Grand Knight at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 in 2003. He was currently a member of the Keyport Knights of Columbus. Loretta Albin, 77, of Sayreville died on Oct. 10. Before retirement, she was the Director for Sayreville Office Of Aging.

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

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
Oholy 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.

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.

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.

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.

Joanne Corridon



Joanne Corridon (Nee: Wojciechowski) 74, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 20, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

A lifelong resident of South Amboy, Joanne was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and attended both Sacred Heart School and St. Mary's High School. She went on to earn a degree in English from Saint Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, MD, where she met the love of her life, Fran. After graduation, Joanne taught Music and English at St. Ambrose School in Old Bridge before joining the family business, Raritan Printing Company/Raritan Flag & Banner. There, she took great pride in publishing the "South Amboy Citizen" newspaper and providing printed materials and flags that honored and supported local police and fire departments, rescue squads, schools, and townships throughout the community.

Joanne's greatest joy came from her family. She cherished her children and grandchildren, showing up to every game, performance, or milestone to cheer them on. She was the cornerstone of the family, known for her warmth and generosity. She poured her love into her garden, cooking, and baking, and her meals and treats were the heart of family gatherings. Her hugs were full of love and her laughter would fill a room. Everyone was family in her home.

Some of her happiest days were spent at the Jersey Shore, reading, playing games, and relaxing by the lagoon at the family beach house in Ocean Beach.

She is predeceased by her parents, Joseph R. Wojciechowski and Frances Klimkiewicz Wojciechowski, and sisters, Maryann Wojciechowski and Barbara Meyers.

Joanne leaves behind her beloved husband of 52 years, Francis; her children, Michael Corridon and his wife, Jennifer, of Lakewood, CO; Marianne Ferrer and her husband, Steven, of Scotch Plains; Christine Demarest and her husband, Chuck, of South Plainfield; and Jennifer Penn and her husband, James, of Morganville. She was "Babcia" to her cherished grandchildren, Nina, Genevieve, Delia, Griffen, Andrew, Charlotte, and Grace, who brought her endless joy. She is also survived by her brother, Frank Wojciechowski, and his fiancée, Janet, of Manchester.

Joanne will be deeply missed by her loving in-laws, including Margaret and Stephen Murphy, Patricia Corridon, Mary and William Perkins, and Thomas and Lisa Corridon, affectionately known as the "Travel Club." She is also survived by a large extended family of cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends, all of whom will carry her memory in their hearts.

Friends paid their respects to the family on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at the Kurzawa Funeral Home, 338 Main Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879. A 10 am funeral mass was held on Friday, September 26, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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.

RE-ELECT SPEAKER CRAIG J. COUGHLIN & ASSEMBLYWOMAN YVONNE LOPEZ

..... **VOTE**
COLUMN A BY
NOVEMBER 4TH
.....

PROUDLY REPRESENTING:
Carteret, Perth Amboy,
Sayreville, South Amboy,
and Woodbridge



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October 28th

In-Person Early Voting:
October 25th – November 2nd

Election Day:
November 4th



For more information on how to vote, visit: mcdonj.org/campaigns



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- 1 Commitment: Preserve 300 More Acres by 2030**
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- 3 OPPOSE the Democrats' Plan for High-Density Housing**

VOTE on Tuesday,
November 4, 2025



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Saturday, Oct 25, 2025
to Sunday, Nov 2, 2025



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to learn where
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Begins Sept 20, 2025

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