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Thank You Veterans

# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is dedicated to
*Alvin Jolly
*Michael E. Noble
*Phyllis Richardson

VOTE Nov. 3

October 31, 2026 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 36 Issue 1

## SWMHS HOF Seeking Nominations

Sayreville War Memorial High School Hall of Fame Committee is seeking Nominations for the SWMHS Hall of Fame 2027 Induction Banquet Ceremony with the deadline set for November 17, 2026.

The SWMHS Hall of Fame Committee accepts nominations for alumni who have made significant contributions in their careers, community service, and other achievements. The nomination process is handled through an official form that includes: Candidate's name, graduation year, and contact information; Current occupation and education/training details; Military service (if applicable); Major accomplishments, awards, and charitable/ altruistic work; Honorary positions and organizations; Biographical sketch.

You can download the nomination form directly from the SWMHS website's Hall of Fame page and mail to the address below. SWMHS Hall of Fame Committee, 15 Cheyenne Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859.

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

## SOUTH AMBOY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF NEW FERRY TERMINAL

South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin with scissors cut the ribbon celebrating the completion of the new ferry terminal site surrounded by other dignitaries. See more photos on page 28.(Photo by Brian Stratton)

## New Ferry Terminal Ribbon Cutting

**(News Release)**

The City of South Amboy celebrated the completion of its new ferry terminal site on September 29th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 100 Radford Ferry Road. The approximately $32 million project transforms a formerly underused stretch of waterfront into a permanent home for ferry operations, with commuter parking, improved access roads and a pavilion. The celebration marks another chapter in South Amboy's long history as a transportation crossroads. Ferry operations at this site date back to the 17th century, and the waterfront later served as a rail and port hub. Today, the site connects a new generation of commuters and visitors with ferry service to Manhattan and nearby rail service at the NJ Transit South Amboy Station. "This is a proud day for South Amboy. For centuries, this waterfront has

*continued on page 24*

Mayor Fred Henry gave his final State of the City address on October 15, 2026 to a packed audience at the city's Senior Resource Center. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

## Mayor Henry's Final State of the City Address

Mayor Fred Henry, while speaking at his final State of the City Address, looked back on his more than three decades of public service and the changes that have shaped South Amboy.

Speaking at the South Amboy Senior Resource Center, Henry talked about his 34 years in elected office, highlighting the completion of the long-awaited South

*continued on page 24*

## Wildwood 2026

The South Amboy Fire Department proudly marched in the parade at the Firemen's weekend in Wildwood last month. See additional photo and info on page 6. (Photo by Caitlin Norek)

## SWMHS Athletic HOF Inductees

The Sayreville War Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026 pictured are 10 of the inductees and two of the coaches from the teams that were inducted. Three inductees are not pictured. Congratulations to all! Complete list of inductees: Alfred Draeger (1950) — Football; Vincent Abbatiello (1954) — Coach / Athletic Director; Jeff Osowski (1965) — Basketball / Track; Raymond Kreiger (1981) — Baseball / Football / Track / Basketball–Julie Brady (1982)-- Track; John Kiernan (1982) — Cross Country / Track (1981)/Gymnastics Team; Mike Bouchard (1985) — Football / Wrestling; Chuck Frobosilo (1986) — Baseball; DJ Cleary (1993) — Football; Leah Craig (2001) — Soccer; Emeka Eze (2012) — Track; Olisa Eze (2012) — Soccer 2012/ Football Team; Jason Ciszewski (2013) — Bowling. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Next Issue November 26th
Deadlines November 14th
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# Sayreville's Hit the Bricks 5k

**Overall Female**
1. Sophia Stanley (21:18)
2. Kim Anicito (24:50)
3. Alyssa Perez (26:37)

**Overall Male**
1. Kyle Rinfret (18:581
2. Stephen Lewicki (20:53)
3. Jacob Stanley (24:04)

Thank you to all 59 participants and to our sponsors Gillette Enterprises, Neptune Power Ventures, Amboy Bank, Artheon, Knights of Colombus, Main Street Theatre, B&W Construction, Sockler Realty for helping us raise over $5,000 to support the Sayreville BIC!

# 'The Poland Garage Lounge"

Cyn and Gary Poland pictured enjoying a long awaited summer,greeting neighbors and passerby's this past July!

The Polands enjoyed the warm summer breezes and friendly talk with the neighbors so much....they lost track of time,forgot to go back inside there home,eat,bathe,pay bills..just continue on with daily living...A Passing motorist took this Picture..Shocking!!were in the process of checking DNA,but were pretty sure...yes,it's Cyn and Gary and the faithful Pooch "Duke"...sitting where they were last seen in July!!Hey...I guess the "Diets"worked!!!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN TO ALL


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5. Protect Sayreville's Future

## COLUMN A

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ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION BY OCTOBER 13

**EARLY VOTING 10/24 TO 11/1**

**ELECTION DATE 11/3**

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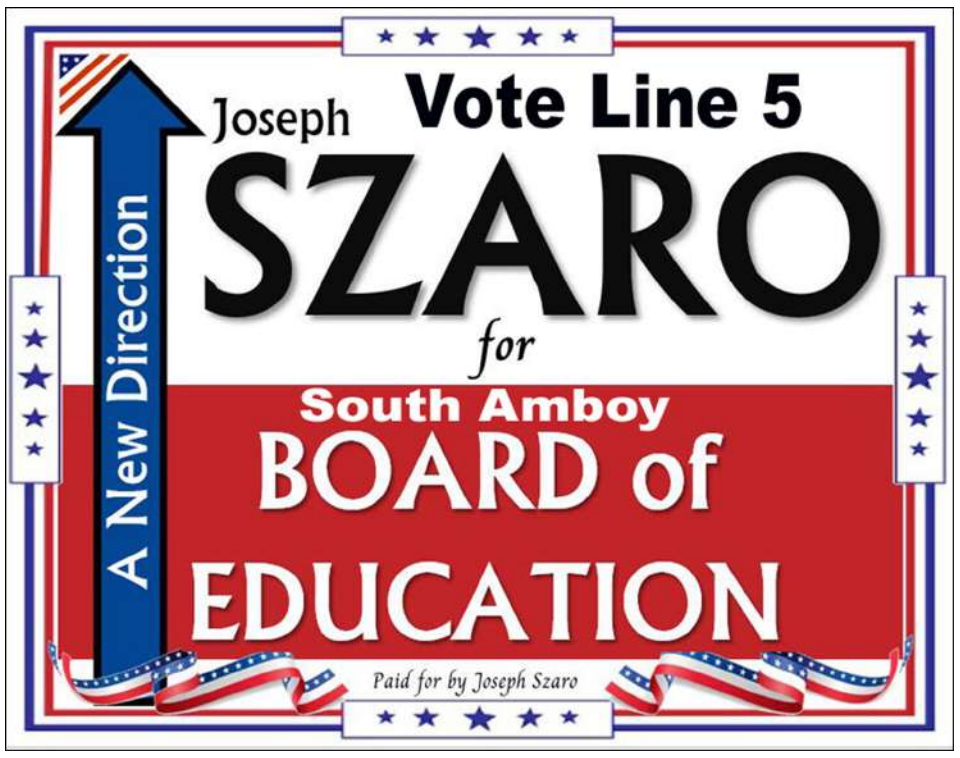

Work was done at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 grotto by members, Steven Tarr and Mike Wilday, also Jan Williams, who was not in the photo. (Photo Submitted)

## It's the Great Pumpkin!

Be sure to visit the beautiful Autumn and Halloween display at Dieker's Farm located at 801 Bordentown Ave. now open 7 days a week from 9am to 7pm. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

## South Amboy Mayor Fred A. Henry Jr. Final State of the City Address

**October 15, 2026**

**(Photos by Brian Stratton)**

NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin makes the opening remarks while City Business Administrator David Kales looks on.

Pictured (l-r) Councilman Thomas Reilly, Speaker Craig Coughlin, Mayor Fred Henry, Councilman-at-Large Anthony Conrad, Councilwoman Zusette Dato and Councilman-at-Large Mickey Gross.

Mayor Henry and his beautiful family.

Mayor Henry (l) and Speaker Coughlin.

Pictured (l-r) South Amboy Police Captains Michael Kelly and Daniel Holovacko, Mayor Henry, Police Chief Patricia Kanecke and Busniness Adminstrator David Kales. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## South Amboy Elementary Fun Run

South Amboy Elementary held its annual Fun Run on October 7, 2026. The weather was great and the students were excited. The Fun Run hopes to raise $20,000 to help provide trips and assemblies for the students this year. (Photo Submitted)

On Tuesday 9-29-26 Knights Of Columbus Msgr. John F.Brady Assembly 676 and St. Thomas Assembly 1619's Officers were installed by the 2nd District Master Joseph Charmello. Each representing Council 426, Council 4815 and Council 6424 were present. Congratulations to all for their commitment in accepting their respective positions in fulfilling their duties for this Fraternal year. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## 60th Anniversary

Kathy and Dennis O'Leary will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on November 25th, at a family gathering. Congratulations and God Bless, from Tom Burkard, Brian Stratton and the SA Times Staff!

Elect

BRIAN McLAUGHLIN

INDEPENDENT SOUTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

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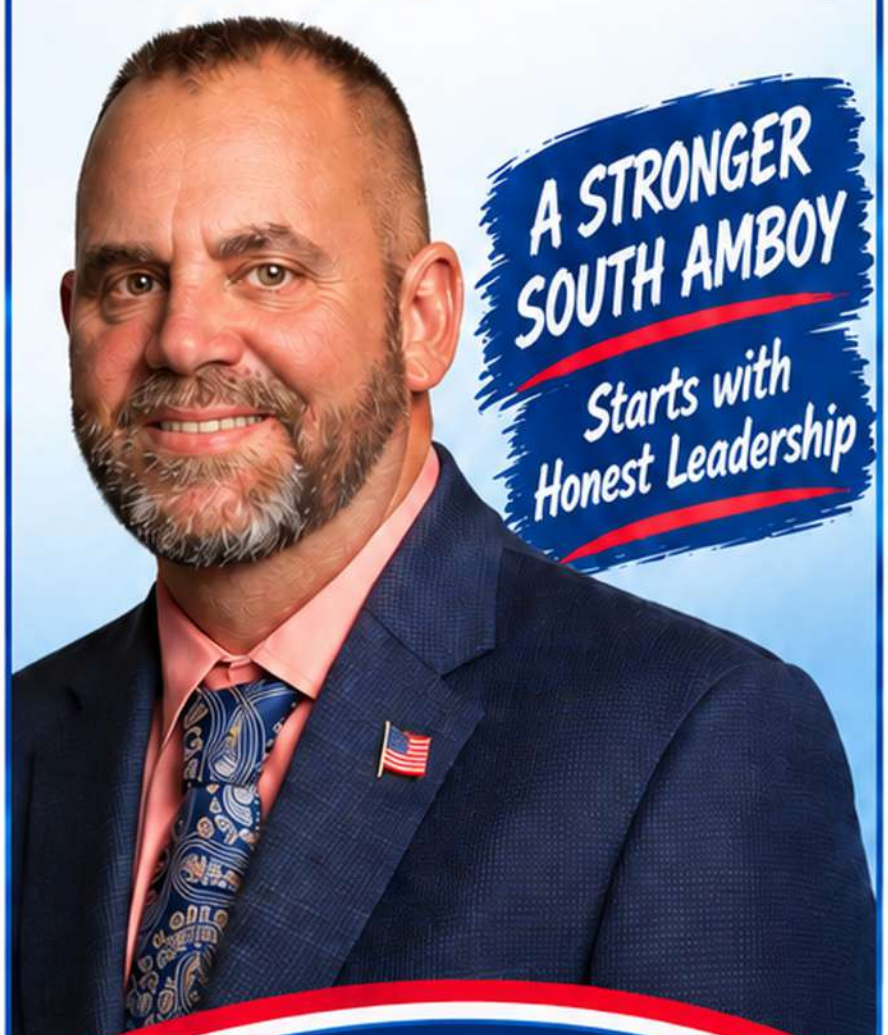


INDEPENDENT ★ SOUTH AMBOY ★ CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

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BRIAN McLAUGHLIN

INDEPENDENT SOUTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

*Truthful ★ Transparent ★ Leadership*

**LIFELONG RESIDENT**

- ★ Lifelong resident of South Amboy
- ★ Attended South Amboy Public Schools
- ★ Attended St. Mary's Regional High School
- ★ Married to Amy McLaughlin

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY**

- ★ Three children attended South Amboy Public School system
- ★ Stephen serves in the US Navy
- ★ Alison is a radiography tech in the Hackensack Meridian hospital system
- ★ Sarah attends Middlesex County College

**COMMUNITY & UNION SERVICE**

- ★ Life Member, South Amboy Fire Department
- ★ Former member, South Amboy First Aid Squad
- ★ 30-year member, Dockbuilders Pile Drivers Local 1456/1556
- ★ Union Representative / Recording Secretary, Local 1556
- ★ Delegate to the NYC District Council of Carpenters
- ★ Recipient of Middlesex County Central Labor Council "Labor Leader of the Year" award

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1.Who is the current President of the Sayreville Historical Society?
a.Art Rittenhouse b.Frank Terzino c.Heather Yannone
2.Grand Knight of South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 in 1996?
a.Marty Lampart b.Vic Grieco c.Gene Chodkiewicz
3.In '02, this deli/bagel business was located on Washington Rd., Parlin?
a.Pop's Delicious b.Sammi's c.Mom's
4.South Amboy's Fire Chief in 2006?
a.Tim Walczak b.Jim Larkin c.Paul Mundy
5.This diner was located on Rt. 35, Morgan in 2014?
a.By The Sea b.Hideaway c.Ocean Bay
6.South Amboy's Council President in '06?
a.Fred Henry b.Joseph Connors c.James Reick
7.Our Lady of Victories Pastor in 2019?
a.Father MacManus b.Father Ryan c.Father Simkiewicz
8.Captain of South Amboy First Aid Squad in '06?
a.Rob Sekerak b.Betty Leveille c.Chris Mader
9.Appointed Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Parlin in Dec. 2019?
a.Rev. McKillip b.Rev. Wong c.Rev. Harrington
10.President of the South Amboy Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary in 2008?
a.Angie Putnam b.Mary Coppolino c.Shaleen Wright

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


The South Amboy/ Sayreville Serving The Bayshore Area
TIMES
• The "Good News" Newspaper •
P.O. BOX 3027 • SOUTH AMBOY N.J. 08879
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So. Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 Grand Knight Ed Vassallo (l) received the prestigious "Star Council" award from District Deputy Gary Lattanzi (r) at a recent council meeting. Well deserved Ed! (Photo/info Submitted)

# Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

### Congratulations Sgt. Charmello

South Amboy Police Dept. Sgt. James Charmello has recently retired after an outstanding career. Congratulations Sgt. Charmello and Best of Luck and Success always! God Bless!

### Happy Birthday "Buddy"

Belated Happy Birthday wishes are extended to South Amboy's oldest military veteran "Buddy" Vanni, who celebrated his big 105th Birthday on Sept. 27th. Thank you "Buddy" for your service, and may God Bless you always!

### Local Man To Run In Boston Marathon

Ted Tympanick of South Amboy announced that he will be running in the Boston Marathon in April for charity. He said that, "I will be running on behalf of the Mass General Hospital Cancer Institute, and chose this charity for their efforts in cancer research and treatment, and also for their treatments of my own family members."

*See more information on Ted's very important race for a great cause, in upcoming editions of The SA Times.

## Turkey Trot

"The 4th Annual REPLENISH Turkey Trot will be held at the Raritan Bay Waterfront Park on Thanksgiving morning, November 26th, at 8:30am. We welcome ALL runners/walkers/joggers/strollers and PETS! Last year, we raised OVER $11,000 and collected hundreds of pounds of food with the sole focus of feeding our neighbors.

With your $40 donation, you are making a direct impact in your community. Every dollar and each pound of food is donated to Feeding Middlesex County, a non-profit organization that relies heavily on the REPLENISH Food Bank. We are accepting any/all donations through the race website; https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/NJ/SouthAmboy/REPLENISHTurkeyTrot . Scan the QR code, register, and we hope to see you there!"

## Catholic War Veterans News

The Catholic War Veterans, Sacred Heart Memorial Post 578, South Amboy announced that on Wednesday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, 8 a.m. Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy. All Veterans are invited to attend.

Also on Nov. 11, at 11:00 a.m. a Veterans Day Service will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Johnson Lane, Parlin. The Public is invited to attend.

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

## Congratulations South Amboy Fire Dept

On September 19th the members of the South Amboy Fire Dept marched up New Jersey Ave in Wildwood lead by Fire Chiefs (l-r) Ken Kokoszka, Michael Kelly, Charles Honimar, and the Bonsal Blues marching band winning the following trophies and prizes:

**Best Appearing with marching**
**Best Appearing marchers 20 or less**
**Best Appearing Color Guard 2nd place**
**Best appearing marching band Bonsal Blues**
**Best Appearing Pumper 0-5 years old**
**1st place Engine 10 Mechanicsville**
**2nd place Engine 9 Progressive**
**Best Appearing Pumper 26-50 years old**
**2nd place Engine 6 Protection**
**Longest Traveled Award**
**Best Appearing Command Vehicle 2nd place**
**Individual award for 9/11 Memorial**
**Firefighter Andrew Fedorka**
**(Photo/info submitted)**

# FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

As the autumn leaves fall and the days grow shorter, it seems a good time to tell you a ghost story. Not a frightening one, of course, but a story about the ghosts of Middlesex County's past, and what they might tell us about our future.

Take a walk along South Amboy's waterfront, and you will find yourself near ground once occupied by the Camden and Amboy Railroad. In the 1830s, you might have heard the whistle of a locomotive from one of America's earliest railroads. Connecting with steamboat services, it helped move people and goods between New York and Philadelphia, two of the nation's most important cities. No one could have known it at the time, but here on our waterfront a new era of transportation was taking shape.

A few decades later, a trip to the otherwise unassuming town of Menlo Park might have brought you within earshot of something truly remarkable: a machine that could record and play back the human voice. In his laboratory, a young Thomas Edison and his team were developing inventions that would change how people lived and worked. The phonograph and advances in electric lighting helped turn this Middlesex County laboratory into a place known around the world.

Travel a little farther west to New Brunswick in 1886, and you might just have come across a young pharmaceutical apprentice named Robert Wood Johnson. He would have been working a modest job in an apothecary at the time, but he and his brothers would go on to found Johnson & Johnson, whose pharmaceutical and medical products would revolutionize life in America in the same way as Thomas Edison's electronics.

We know how these stories turned out. The people living them did not. Behind the familiar names were individuals taking risks, solving problems, and trying to build something that would last with the support of their community

I tell these stories because it is easy to overlook Middlesex County's long history as a center of commerce, and South Amboy's important place in it. They also remind us that the next important idea may begin close to home, in a modest workspace or behind an unfamiliar storefront.

With this history in mind, I attended the 10th Annual Middlesex County Business Summit at The Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. Joining state officials, business leaders, and local policymakers, I participated in discussions about economic opportunities and the challenges facing our communities. For South Amboy, understanding state priorities and potential funding opportunities can help us make informed decisions as we advance waterfront redevelopment and strengthen our transportation connections.

I was particularly interested in the discussions about entrepreneurs and family-owned businesses. Behind every new storefront is someone willing to take a chance, often investing personal savings, working long hours, and hoping neighbors will walk through the door. We can support that effort by exploring clearer permitting requirements, making information about assistance programs easier to find, and helping local businesses reach new customers.

Residents have a role to play, too. Over the past year, new businesses have chosen to call South Amboy home, including Pura Vida Baloons, Lumens Furniture Store, and The Italian Corner. I encourage you to visit them and continue supporting the longtime establishments that have invested in our community. Stop in, try something new, and recommend a favorite to a friend. You might just be encouraging the next great American innovator. At the very least, you will be helping a neighbor build a dream.

The ghosts of our past have a hopeful story to tell: remarkable things can begin right here. The next chapter belongs to those willing to take a chance and to the community willing to give them one.

With that rather cozy ghost story in mind, I wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween. ***Please also remember to make your voice heard by voting on November 3.***

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

# Amboy Bank's Community Shred Day A Huge Success

October 5, 2026 Amboy Bank once again brought the local community together for one of its most requested and highly attended free community events. Shred Day was held Saturday, October 3, at Amboy's Sayreville Branch, located at 412 Washington Road. From 9 a.m. to noon, a steady stream of residents drove through the Amboy parking lot to take advantage of the opportunity to securely dispose of sensitive and unwanted documents. By the end of the three-hour event, community members had collectively brought in and securely shredded more than two tons of paper. While Shred Day provides a practical service to local residents, it also represents a larger part of Amboy Bank's commitment to the communities it serves. Amboy regularly hosts free events, educational seminars and community programs designed to address the evolving needs of local residents, families and businesses, including the recent month of free Senior Seminars throughout September, held at their branches throughout the Monmouth and Middlesex counties. "Amboy's Shred Day promotes the secure disposal of sensitive documents, helping protect customer information and reduce the risk of identity theft through on-site shredding. It also gives us an opportunity to provide a service that meets a real need in the communities we serve," said Jennifer Fletcher, Vice President & Sales Manager of Amboy Bank. "We want to be a trusted resource for the people and businesses in our communities by offering relevant education, useful services and opportunities to connect around the issues that matter most to them today."


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# Yearbook-Hoffman 1986

**By Tom Burkard**

Pop songs such as “The Power of Love,” “St. Elmo’s Fire,” and “Money For Nothing” ruled the nation’s radio stations, when H.G. Hoffman H.S. Class of ’86 began its senior year in early September 1986. John Olexa was Superintendent of Schools, and Joseph DePasquale, Principal. Some of the fine educators were Joann Blackmore, Richard Bonner, Joan Folis, Doris Haley, Helene LaPoint, Howard Weinberg. Chris Olexa and Irene Maslowski were co-editors of the yearbook, which was dedicated to Roberta Rim. Many events and happenings took place on the Hoffman scene including SADD; the Battle of the Bands; Lip Sync; following and rooting for the school’s outstanding athletic teams; the prom. Other fond memories included “the corner,” The Bay, “Razz,” Hurricane Gloria, Lions Den, and the Raritan Diner. The Lip Sync was held on Nov. 26, 1985, and Bob Tooker’s band performed “I Wanna Be Somebody,” and captured 1st place. The boys soccer club won the GMC crown for the first time, while girls cross country copped the GMC title, state sectional championship, and runners-up in the Group I state tourney. The fabulous girls’ basketball team won the MCCT title, and also the Group I state championship. Lynn Ust scored her 1,000th point on Dec. 20, 1985. Some of the Class of ’86 included: Robert Collins, Betty Czopek, Karen Fear, Lisa Elyea, Gary Fulciniti, Jane Harmon, Rich Herdman, Marty Hudak, Harry Hum mell, Donna Johnson, Paul Kenny, Shanen Kozak, Russell Krauss, Pat Leonard, Joe Lijoi, Mike Lopez, Rosemarie Malinowski, Greg Mocarski, Jim Nemeth, Eric Picklo, Jill Rittenhouse, Mike Sharp, Joanne Spencer, Stephanie Wahler, Jesus Torres Jr., Agnes Was, Matt Witham, Jayne Welsh. The world was shocked in January 1986, when “The Challenger” exploded, killing all 7 astronauts including the first school teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe. Also in ’86, the Statue of Liberty was lighted again on its 100th birthday, after getting a facelift for $66 million. Clint Eastwood was elected Mayor of Carmel, CA. Roger Clemens set a MLB record by striking out 20 batters in a game. Vanna White and “The Wheel of Fortune,” were the TV hit of the year. While back at the John Street school… Kevin Ebersol was President of the Ski Club. Bill Holobowski rolled a 235 for the team’s highest game, and Greg Saggau had the top series with a 567. Hoffman’s talented senior athletes were: Cynthia DeFort, Michelle DeFort, Julio Fuentes, Kelly Gallagher, Tim Gay, Dawn Kaiser, (who was also co-captain of the cheerleaders), Mark Kelly, Brian Krenc, Christine Kwiatek, Kathy McNeil, Jeanne Mankowski, Andrew Moran, Kelly Reick, Kim Schuck, Tom Skarzynski. Whitney Houston’s “Greatest Love Of All” was the #1 hit in the nation, as Hoffman H.S. Class of 1986 graduated. The 48 grads were a fine group of teenagers with many talents and true school spirit.

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# Sayreville War Memorial HS 40th Reunion

**(Photo/story submitted)**

## SWMHS Class of 1986 Celebrates 40th Reunion with an Unforgettable Evening

More than four decades after graduating from Sayreville War Memorial High School, members of the Class of 1986 reunited on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, for a memorable evening of friendship, laughter, and reflection in the Victorian Hall at Knights of Columbus Council #2061 in Parlin.

The reunion drew alumni from near and far, including classmates who traveled from as far away as Colorado to attend the milestone celebration. With 103 tickets sold, the event was a testament to the enduring bonds formed during their incredible high school years.

The evening was organized by the Senior Class of 1986 student council Sue Howardson McGurr, Jeff Scott, Kim Strouse Vail, Michele D’Alessio Praet, and alumni Rich Praet, Colie Brice and Michelle Fecso DeMarco, whose months of planning ensured a seamless and successful, but way too short, event.

Jeff served as master of ceremonies, keeping the evening moving along, while DJ Colie provided music, disco lighting, and laser effects that transformed the hall into a lively venue. Old friends quickly picked up where they had left off decades earlier, sharing stories, laughs, and memories.

A touching memorial table featuring photographs of classmates who have passed away gave guests an opportunity to pause throughout the evening, reflect on cherished memories, and honor friends who remain an important part of the Class of 1986 story.

One of the night's highlights was a slide show featuring photos and memories spanning the past 40 years. The presentation sparked conversations throughout the evening and remained a focal point even after the festivities concluded.

A unique balloon arch photo area allowed alumni to gather according to their former elementary schools and recreate class photos taken over 5 decades earlier. The resulting group pictures became one of the most nostalgic moments of the reunion.

Adding to the excitement, organizers distributed 26 plush blankets during a spirited stand-up/sit-down game and gave away more than 75 wrapped mystery gifts. Among the evening's prize winners were Karen Campbell Peterson and John Metz, who purchased the first tickets, and Pat Pignataro and Ed Chin, who won NJ Lottery scratch-off bundles.

Beyond the food, entertainment, and prizes, the true highlight of the evening was the opportunity to reconnect. Phone numbers were exchanged, friendships were renewed, and new memories were created. The room was filled with hugs, handshakes, backslaps, and laughter as classmates reflected on their shared history and the paths their lives had taken over the years.

Organizers want to share a special message for classmates who could not attend: "Even if you couldn't be there, you were certainly there in spirit and were likely included in many of the stories and memories shared throughout the night."

As the evening came to a close, one thing became clear: the bonds forged as members of the SWMHS Class of 1986 remain as strong as ever. With the success of the 40th reunion now in the books, organizers have already begun discussing plans for the class's 45th reunion.

"Forty years may have passed, but for one unforgettable evening, it felt like the Class of 1986 was together again" remarked Fecso, who was crowned 'Queen of the Reunion' by the Student Council.

The reunion committee would like to extend its gratitude to the many individuals and businesses whose generosity helped make the evening possible: ColieBrice.com, Dave's Hot Dogs, Dad's Royal Bakery, Bubba’s 33, Camillo’s Pizza, Pizza Heaven, Carousel Hair Designs, Vinnie’s Pizza next to Kohl's, Gem’s Bagels in South Amboy, and Pink Pelican Soap Company. Also, friends Alice, Tony D, AJ, Krystina, Audrey, Lilly, Smiling Mike and Pete at the Knights, Eddie and Sarah for their culinary contributions, Louis for the spectacular cake and the anonymous alumni whose generous donation provided 10 complimentary tickets to the event.

The Reunion Committee:Jeff, Michele, Rich, Kim, Michelle, Sue and Colie.

# Sayreville War Memorial HS 50-Year Reunion

**By Pat Douglas**

The Sayreville War Memorial High School class of 1976 celebrated their 50 year anniversary at the Elks in Old Bridge on September 26th from 3pm-8pm. The committee team of Kathy Phillips Demko Reardon, Robin Ruczkowski Rozanski, Gina Ruggiano Davis, Jim Ashe and Pat Douglas put together an experience to remember. The hall was adorned with all sorts of celebratory signs, balloons, banners and beautiful floral arrangements from Jacqueline's Florist. Popular event DJ Mike Martino played great music from the era and helped direct the festivities. Contributing mightily to the music were band members from The Fog and The Expressway led by 76ers Midge Glinsky Painchaud and Bill Frank who volunteered their talents. The 170 plus attendees who weathered the Nor 'easter that slammed the area that evening had a wonderful time catching up and partying with their classmates. Retired faculty members, Susan Jaysnovitch, Jack and Janet Hefelfinger, Bob and Donna Piotrowski and Lynn and Sue Paul attended as guests of the class and each expressed their appreciation at being included in the class's milestone celebration.

Great Food, Great Music, Great Company and a 5 hour open bar made this class reunion one for the books! And the Elks staff (especially Cindy) did an amazing job hosting the event! Well done, Committee. Take a Bow! You did it again!!! And of course a big thank you to the class benefactors who made it all possible.

## Councilman John's Monthly Minute

For generations, Sayreville has been fortunate to have neighbors willing to answer the call when someone needs help. Our volunteer firefighters and EMS members give their time, leave their families and respond at all hours to serve our community.

It is a tradition that has served Sayreville extremely well, but one we cannot take for granted.

In 1999, Sayreville residents approved the creation of a Length of Service Award Program, commonly known as LOSAP, to recognize the commitment of qualified active members of the Sayreville Volunteer Fire Department, Sayreville Emergency Squad and Morgan First Aid Squad.

The annual base contribution was set at $750 for each volunteer who met the program's service requirements. More than 25 years later, that base amount remains unchanged.

This November, residents will be asked whether the annual base contribution should increase from $750 to $1,150, with future cost of living adjustments based upon the Consumer Price Index as permitted by state law. Because an increase to the voter approved base cannot be made solely by the Mayor and Council, the decision belongs to Sayreville's voters.

But for me, this discussion has always been about more than the dollar amount.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to see our first responders in action many times. I've watched them bring a professional and calm approach to difficult situations, whether fighting a fire, providing emergency medical care or helping someone through one of the worst moments of their life. Just as importantly, I've seen the compassion and empathy they show to people who are frightened, injured or simply need help. That combination of professionalism and compassion says a great deal about the people who volunteer to serve our community.

Maintaining that tradition means thinking about the future. Recruiting new volunteers and retaining experienced members continues to be a challenge. There is training to complete, certifications to maintain, drills to attend and emergency calls to respond to, all while balancing jobs and families.

LOSAP recognizes that commitment but simply being a member does not qualify someone for the benefit. Volunteers must earn the required service points through active participation in emergency responses, training and other department activities.

I also want to recognize another important group of volunteers who are not included in this referendum, the members of our Sayreville Police Auxiliary. This is not because their service is any less valued. Under state law, volunteer auxiliary police officers are not currently eligible to participate in LOSAP. Our auxiliary members contribute greatly to public safety and our community, and we are working with our state legislators to explore a change in the law that would allow these dedicated volunteers to be included in the future.

The numbers also provide some perspective. When Sayreville's LOSAP was established, the program anticipated as many as 234 qualifying participants, representing a potential annual cost of $175,500 at the original $750 contribution. In 2024, only 55 volunteers qualified for an award.

On paper, fewer qualifying members means the Borough spends less on LOSAP. But I don't think we should look at declining volunteer participation as a savings. To me, it raises a more important question: Are we doing enough to recruit the next generation of volunteers and retain the experienced members we already have?

Any discussion about increasing a municipal benefit also has to include cost. Residents have every right to ask what an increase will mean to the Borough and whether it is financially responsible. That's why the participation numbers are important for residents to understand as they consider the question.

LOSAP alone won't solve the challenges of recruitment and retention, but it is one of the tools available to recognize those who continue to serve and the commitment they make year after year.

Earlier this year, the Mayor and Council considered whether a benefit established more than a quarter century ago should be revisited. Ultimately, the question was placed before the residents of Sayreville.

On November 3, voters will decide whether to establish the new annual base contribution at $1,150. A YES vote will authorize that increase and future cost of living adjustments as permitted by law. A NO vote will leave the base contribution at $750. All other LOSAP eligibility requirements will remain the same.

I've spent much of my adult life in public safety, so I've had a front row seat to the commitment required of those who serve. But you don't need a career in public safety to appreciate what our volunteers give up to be there when the rest of us need them.

Whatever decision you make on November 3, I hope you'll take a few minutes to understand the question and the people behind it.

And to all of Sayreville's volunteer firefighters, EMS members and Police Auxiliary members, thank you for your service. Your professionalism, compassion and commitment to our community are deeply appreciated.

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

## TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UPDATES

Our church is busy shifting seasons and getting ready for the holiday season. Thanksgiving is the time for helping others and family. Such a special time for our community. Christmas will be here before you know it. That's one of the most important seasons within our church and one we are all looking forward to. We will begin collecting gifts for families and this year we will be hosting a Movie Night - The Perfect Gift. More information on dates to be announced. Our services are Sunday 9:15 am and led by Pastor Vincent Frunzi. If you are looking for a calm, faithful and uplifting talk and some new faces - please stop in.

Our annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND VENDOR SALE will be Saturday, December 12 from 9 am to 2 pm. We have 30+ vendors already signed up and as always we have our kitchen open, a tricky tray, homemade cookies and a Christmas room. Our Thrift Shop will also be open.

Our Thrift Shop is a community favorite with awesome pricing and finds. Our hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 11:30 am. We have clothing, household goods, holiday items, toys, games, dishes, linens and more. Please note the drop off is open 24/7. We accept almost everything except large furniture, VHS tapes, and car seats. We also ask if you are donating to be respectful when placing in the shed so others can do the same.

We are blessed to be part of a great community and love our Church in the Woods. Hopefully we will see you soon!!!

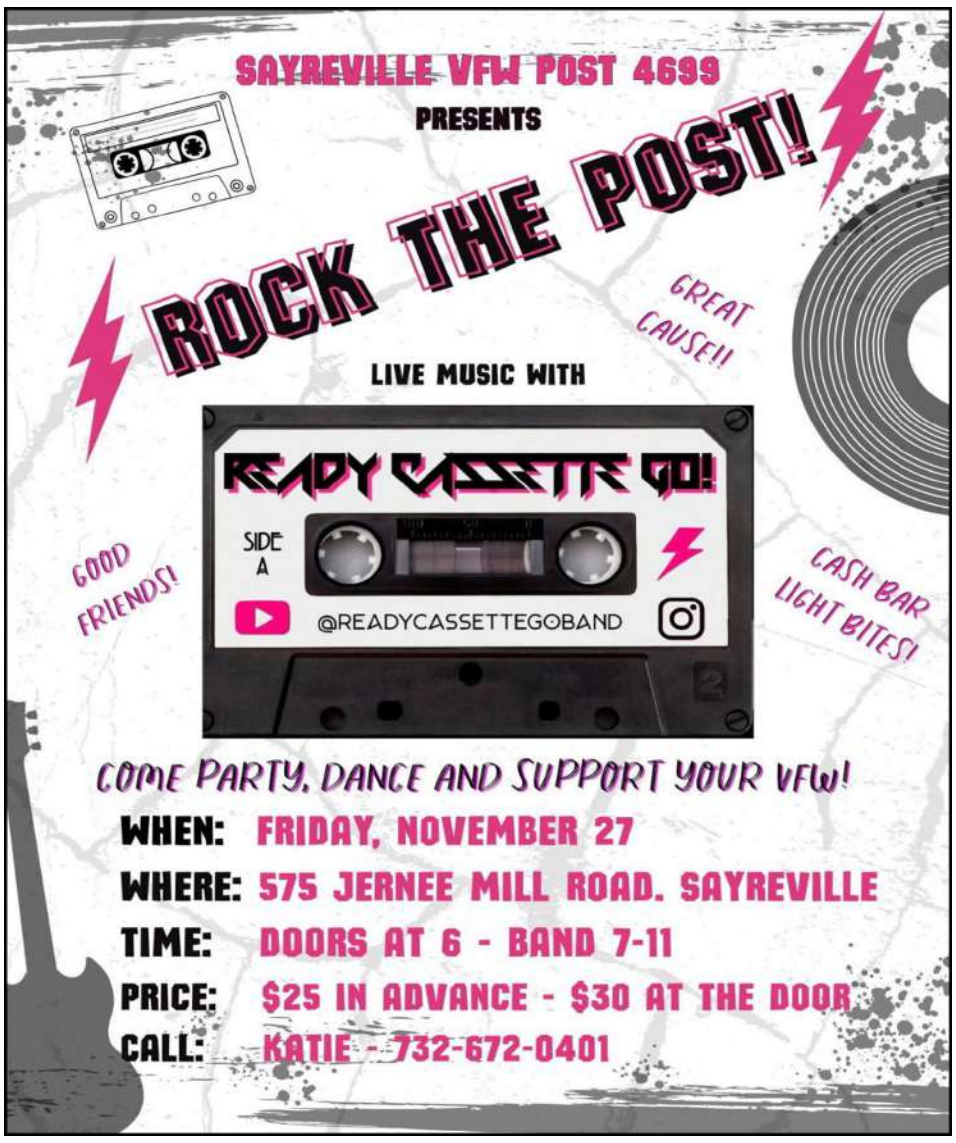
## Music Trivia

# Sweet

By Tom Burkard

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.Sweet Child O'Mine | a.Marvin Gaye |
| 2.Sweet Caroline | b.John Mellencamp |
| 3.Ain't She Sweet | c.Lynyrd Skynyrd |
| 4.Sweet Home Alabama | d.Neil Diamond |
| 5.Sweet Emotion | e.The Beatles |
| 6.Sweet Little Sixteen | f.The Eurythmics |
| 7.My Sweet Lord | g.Guns N' Roses |
| 8.Sweet Dreams | h.Chuck Berry |
| 9.How Sweet It Is | i.George Harrison |
| 10.My Sweet Love | j.Aerosmith |

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



# Acoustic Friday, November 20, 2026

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance is pleased to announce that Leah Thompson and Joe Kocher will perform in its November 20th showcase. This show will emphasize original music.

Leah Thompson is a singer-songwriter from the Jersey Shore area. Her songs focus on life's challenges while ultimately offering a hopeful message. Her original songs include Buried Deep, Fellow Traveler, and Love Like a Song.

Joe Kocher is a singer-songwriter from Brick, NJ. Joe got his start in music as an Army musician, performing in Europe and the U.S. His songs explore everyday struggles with the humor we need to survive. Joe has written First Stone, Coat of Paint, and the title song from his most recent album, Farewell.

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

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

# Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Well, Mother Nature had her say as the "Blast from the Past" Car Show and Sayreville Day 2026, were both canceled until next year! I've got to give Parks Supervisor Rich Popowski, his staff and Sayreville Rec Director Brian Van Dongen, and his staff, and especially Emerson and Amy Jones from Basement Audio and Sound, for their incredible efforts to do everything possible to get these two events a reality with rain dates, etc..but nature had the upper hand! They work so hard every year to have the park in terrific shape for the residents and guests who attend the events there! Many thanks to you from The Clem and Friends Band members and I'm certain the residents, visitors, vendors, and other performers over the years for making each event possible. We'll see you all next year!. Saturday October 24th will bring the Clem and Friends Band to Sayreville VFW Post 4699, for their "Monster Mash" Halloween Dinner Dance! 5pm to 11pm..open bar..delicious Dinner, and Live Music and dancing! $70 per ticket..Call Val 732-266-8102..Carmen..732-254-9425… Katie..732-672-0401 for tix, info! And coming in November, to the Post Home… Friday the 13th..Trivia Night, then Friday the 27th.."Rock the Post" Dance Party..call Katie,732-672-0401!..Switching to St.Stans 5th Annual Halloween Car Show..Sunday Oct. 25th, at the Church fairgrounds!! 11am to 3pm..food..hot rods, customs…cruisers… hosted by Richie "The Flash"and the "Just us Cruisers" Car Club!! Hope to see you there!!

## #1 Pop Hits-Oct. 31

**2025**-The Fate of Ophelia-Taylor Swift
**2016**-Closer-The Chainsmokers
**2004**-My Boo-Usher/Alicia Keys
**1995**-Fantasy-Mariah Carey
**1983**-Islands In The Stream
-K. Rogers/D.Parton
**1975**-Bad Blood-Neil Sedaka
**1966**-96 Tears-? And The Mysterians.

## #1 Country Hits Oct. 31

**2021**-If I Didn't Love You
-J. Aldean/C. Underwood
**2013**-That's My Kind Of Night-Luke Bryan
**2007**-Don't Blink-Kenny Chesney
**1999**-I Love You-Martina McBride
**1986**-Cry-Crystal Gayle
**1971**-You're Lookin' At Country
-Loretta Lynn
**1962**-Mama Sang A Song-Bill Anderson

## One Hit Wonders

**35 Years Ago**

**1991**-Walking In Memphis-Mark Cohn; More Than Words-Extreme; Unbelievable-EMF; Wicked Game-Chris Isaak.

## Elvis Lives!

Richie Santa of Sayreville, who is one of the top Elvis Tribute Artists (ETA) in the U.S. is pictured at a recent performance at Maietta's Restaurant in Englishtown. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

## Workin' 9 To 5

A Block Off Broadway Productions (ABOB) proudly celebrates the cast of its 2026 production of 9 to 5: The Musical, presented October 2–3 and 9–10 at South Amboy Middle/High School. Featuring a talented ensemble of local performers, the production brought Dolly Parton's beloved musical to life with plenty of laughter, heart, and unforgettable music. ABOB extends its heartfelt thanks to the cast, creative team, volunteers, and community for making this production a success and for their continued support of live community theater in South Amboy. Pictured: Back Row (L to R): Chelsea Russell, Taylor Woods, "Baby" Nico Iuliano, Francisco Vazquez, Travis Gaston, Liam Smith, Garry Woods Jr., Louis Mastro, Mikaela Lukowicz, Maisie Moran, Lorelei Elson, K. Stawasz, Tori Gasper. Front Row (L to R): Pete Trabucco, Alyssa Merckling, Billy Morris, David Siy, Dave Hoj, Amanda Haasz, Alexandra Nardone, Molly Neff, Alicia Cordero, Colin DeLucca, Anne Marie Trapp, Leah Rey, Colleen Fritzen, Frank DeLucca. Production Team (Not Pictured) Director Kyle DeLucca, Choreographer Laurie Guthrie, Music Directors Mark McGee & Marie Malara, Stage Manager Stephanie Elson. (Photo/Info Submitted)

**The Miraculous Prayer**

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

# The Smoke Column

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

Proposals are underway across the United States allowing single stairwells in multi-family residential structures. This type of construction would dramatically jeopardize escape routes for the residents and complicate firefighter responses. As families attempt to evacuate a smoke-filled apartment and/or hallway, they have to open a smoke/fire door to enter the exit stairwell. By doing this procedure, the smoke from the filled hallway will travel into the stairwell making it a hazardous and dangerous location for both the existing residents and the responding firefighters. Families slowly evacuate down smoke-filled stairwells as firefighters move upward to search for trapped residents, causing a bottleneck that delays everyone's progress. Why are contractors pushing for single-stairwell or single-exit residential buildings or apartment complexes designed with just one enclosed stairwell serving as the only way in or out? It is because these designs could lower construction costs and speed up new housing development. According to most fire organizations across the country, this type of design represents a step backward for residential safety. By eliminating a second exit means that there are fewer escape routes for the residents and fewer entry points for firefighters which will increase a life-safety risk for everyone inside the structure when a fire breaks out. Locally we have been seeing many new three and four-story medium rise apartment complexes being constructed. Many of these smaller medium-rise apartment complexes are being constructed on "postage-stamp" size lots. Anywhere there is available space, one of these structures may be positioned. When watching the construction from the initial stage, the exit/entrance stairwell(s) are usually built first. If you see more than one stairwell being built, then we can assume the building will have multiple entrances and exits. If you only see one stairwell being constructed, then that is all there is! It is easy to see this before the enclosed structure is built around the stairwell. Most everyone wants to see more affordable housing construction but not at the cost of safety and people's lives. Some contractors may say that single stairway exits can be made safe with additional building requirements like a sprinkler system, but it is not a reality. Stairwells can get compromised or unusable with the doors opening and closing many times as the residents exit the hazardous hallway areas and allow the dangerous smoke conditions to gain entry to the stairwell. Having more than one stairwell is not a redundancy or a luxury, it is a necessity. There are many nation-wide organizations opposed to single stairwell exit construction in multi-family residential structures, some of which are: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); International Association of Firefighters (IAFF); The IAFF-Metro Chiefs; Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association; and many other dedicated fire service professionals. Who else would know better about saving the lives of fire-trapped residents than those who risked their own lives to save them? If we can't get legislation passed on a national level to make it mandatory for two entry/exit stairwells in multi-family apartment complexes, then how about having legislation passed on a local or state level? If a single stairway code is enacted, it would be more important than ever to make sure that all responding fire departments are adequately equipped and staffed. Aerial ladders are essential for reaching residents trapped on upper floors who can't use the only stairway. Firefighters will also need aerial apparatus to gain entry and access any fire on the upper levels. This entire process may only have a few minutes to develop and will require a quick response. As a resident of your community, civilian or responding fire personnel, pay attention to what is being constructed in your response area BEFORE the incident occurs.

# Wreaths Across America

The Sayreville-Old Bridge Rotary Club, in partnership with local veterans' organizations, invites residents to attend the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2026. The ceremony will begin promptly at 12:00 p.m. EST at Sacred Heart Cemetery, located at 220 Johnson Lane, Parlin, NJ. Residents of all ages are welcome to take part in this community tribute to the men and women who served our country.

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide remembrance initiative that coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 5,500 locations across all 50 states, at sea and abroad on the same day. Attendees are invited to join volunteers in placing wreaths on veterans' graves and saying each veteran's name aloud in recognition of their service and sacrifice. The ceremony reflects Wreaths Across America's mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Those who wish to sponsor a veteran's wreath may do so for just $17 by visiting the Wreaths Across America website (www.wreathsacrossamerica.org) and entering sponsorship code NJSHCP.

For more information about the ceremony or volunteering, please contact Jeffrey Pawlowski at jeff@pridelandscapesupply.com

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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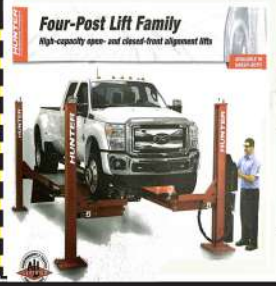

William K. Parsons, Ava Parsons, and Thomas Parsons following a department training drill October 17, 2026. (Photo credit to Sayreville FD)

# President Park Fire Company Welcomes Two New Cadets

Recently the President Park Fire Company in Parlin has welcomed two new members to the Cadet/Junior Firefighter program.

Mustafa Amjad, a Parlin resident and junior at Sayreville War Memorial HS joined the company in early September and has quickly become a very active member. Mustafa is also a member of the SWMHS Wrestling team and upon graduating high school he plans on attending college to pursue a career in either law enforcement or firefighting.

In early October the fire company welcomed Ava Parsons to the roster. Ava is currently a sophomore at Sayreville War Memorial HS where she is a second year letterman for the varsity cheerleading team. Ava starts her journey towards becoming a fourth generation firefighter. Her great grandfather, Anthony Charmello, Sr. served as South Amboy fire chief in 1966 and her great grand uncle John Cooney was a three time chief of President Park Independent Fire Company. Her grandfather William Parsons and her uncle Thomas Parsons are both ex-captains of Protection Engine Co. of SAFD and her father, William K. Parsons, is the incoming Captain of the President Park Fire Co. in 2027.

Upon completing high school, Ava intends to pursue a degree in nursing with a focus on pediatrics.

The Sayreville Fire Department continues to seek new members age 15 & up who are looking to serve their community. All training is both comprehensive and free of charge. Applications for membership are available at Sayreville Borough Hall, 167 Main St., or from any of the four fire stations.

We would love to hear from you! EMAIL or MAIL or Guestbook

# Our Town Hero: Fire Chief Rafael Albarran

**By Surjit Singh**

Rafael's story is one of dedication, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. Born in Puerto Rico, he moved to Union City at the age of seven, where his passion for helping people began to take shape at a very young age. While most kids were discovering their interests, Rafael had already found his calling, joining the Union City Volunteer Ambulance Corps at just 11 years old. By 16, he proudly became a certified EMT, already living a life centered around service.

He graduated from Emerson High School and continued his journey at William Paterson University, where he became a brother of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, building lifelong bonds rooted in culture, leadership, and community. He later earned his Bachelor of Science degree from New Jersey City University, further strengthening the foundation for a life devoted to public service.

At 22, Rafael answered the call to the fire service, joining the Union City Fire Department now North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue. Over the next three decades, he didn't just serve, he made an impact. Whether it was educating children about fire safety or ensuring seniors felt protected and cared for, Rafael's presence in the community has always gone far beyond the fireground.

In 2004, after starting a family, Rafael made South Amboy his home. It wasn't long before he became part of the Mechanicsville Hose Company, where his passion, leadership, and dedication quickly stood out. Rising through the ranks to Captain, he earned the respect of his brothers and sisters through hard work, integrity, and leading by example.

His commitment to service didn't stop there. In 2020, Rafael was elected to the South Amboy Board of Education, continuing his mission to give back this time helping shape the future of the community's children. His involvement across multiple committees reflects the same drive he has always had: to make a difference wherever he can.

**Rafael Albarran**

In 2023, he was elected Assistant Chief, and in 2025, he made history becoming the first Puerto Rican Chief of Department in South Amboy. It is a milestone not only for him, but for the entire community, symbolizing pride, perseverance, and the power of representation.

Above all else, Rafael is a devoted family man. Alongside his wife, Daysi, he has built a life centered on love, strength, and support. Together, they have raised three incredible sons Nicholas, Rafael, and Gabriel who are undoubtedly his greatest pride. Their family has also been filled with love from their loyal companions, remembering Tango and welcoming their newest addition, Nene.

Rafael's journey is not just about titles or years of service it's about heart, humility, and a lifelong commitment to others. It's about answering the call, every single time.

Congratulations South Amboy Sayreville Times On Your 35th Anniversary of Service to our Community!

Join The City Of South Amboy On Wednesday November 11th For A Veterans Day Memorial Service 11am At Veterans Plaza On Bordentown Ave.

VOTE Nov. 3rd
Use The Ballot Box Located At The South Amboy Train Station Plaza or The U.S. Mail
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

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**PATRICIA KANECKE**
Chief of Police
**AARON RAINONE**
Director of Law
**MARK RASIMOWICZ**
Engineer
**KATIE ROSE WALENTY**
City Clerk
**KENNETH KRASS**
Superintendent of Public Works

## A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing

This year, Dowdell Library has been commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as well as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America250 initiative is led by the U.S. Semi-quincentennial Commission to honor our nation's history and diversity. The Library will have history come alive once again with Carol Simon Levin, who is a professional storyteller and independent historian who specializes in telling the stories of "fascinating women history forgot" through first person portrayals.

In "A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing," Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing Women Airforce Service Pilots through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, test-flew experimental planes during the war, and became the first American woman to fly a jet airplane! During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. They endured terrible Texas weather, snakes, spiders and scorpions, as well as the hostility of some male instructors. Graduating WASPs piloted every kind of military aircraft, tested new and overhauled airplanes (some with defective parts or dangerous reputations), delivered more than 12,000 planes, and flew over 60,000,000 miles (sometimes towing targets that soldiers shot at with live ammunition!) Thirty-eight of them died serving their country. Then they were told that men needed their jobs and they were dismissed and forgotten.

Hear Carol Simon Levin bring their story back to life on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm.

The Dowdell Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School - off O'Leary Blvd. in South Amboy.

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

## Roast Pork Dinner

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Veteran's Day Roast Pork dinner Pork Dinner honoring the men and women that have served our nation. The date: Friday night November 6th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Place: K of C Columbian Club 308 4th Street. Cost: $18.00 for adults, $6.00 for children under 12 yrs old. Dinner includes a generous portion of Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, home made coleslaw, salad, tea and coffee and desserts. For veterans with DD214, dinner is complimentary.

## TRINITY CHURCH VENDOR SALE

The Trinity Methodist Church at 815 Bordentown Avenue is hosting a Christmas Vendor Sale on Saturday, December 12 at 9 am - 2 pm. There are 35+ vendors, a cafe, a tricky tray and a Christmas room. The Thrift Shop will be open during this time as well. Stop by for your Christmas shopping and to see your friends. Any questions, call Lori 732 763 6232.

## Paint & Sip Night

Sacred Heart Church will host a Paint & Sip Night on Friday, November 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sacred Heart Hall, 531 Washington Ave., South Amboy.

The evening of art, refreshments and fellowship will feature Father Roy of the Diocese of Metuchen, who will lead participants through a step-by-step painting activity. Light refreshments will be served, and attendees are welcome to bring their own alcoholic beverages and additional food.

The suggested donation is $45 per person, with all proceeds directly benefiting the Sacred Heart Church Repair Fund.

Registration is required, and the deadline to register is November 2, 2026. Participants are encouraged to submit their registration and donation by the deadline.

## South Amboy Fire Department to Benefit from Charity Cut Day

Community members are invited to support the South Amboy Fire Department during a special Charity Cut Day on Sunday, November 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The event will take place at The Shop Experience, located at 104 S. Broadway in South Amboy, where haircuts will be offered for $20. All proceeds will go directly to the South Amboy Fire Department.

Barbers Mike, Charles and Jamar will be providing haircuts in support of the local fire department and the important services it provides to the community.

Appointments are welcome but not required. Residents are encouraged to stop by, get a haircut and show their support for South Amboy's firefighters.

For more information, call 732-314-9038.

**Halloween**

Orange and black on
Halloween night
Monsters and ghosts
Such eerie sights
Trick or Treat
It's that time of
the year
Kids havin' fun
Such good times
So much cheer.

Sarah Blake

## Torn from the Headlines! Stories from Sayreville's Past

Chaos, mayhem, and strange happenings will be the topic as Sarah Blake of Hushed-Up History presents some zany news stories from Sayreville's past at the November 12 meeting of the Sayreville Historical Society.

Through Hushed-Up History, Blake uncovers stories that have been forgotten or hidden. Her investigation into Sayreville's past discovered claypit misadventures, a mayor questioned about bootlegging, a shark, a misbehaving police chief, and did we mention a shark?

The Sayreville Historical Society meeting will take place in the Active Adult Center at 423 Main Street. A general meeting will begin at 7:15 pm and the presentation will start at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

While Society meetings are free and open to the public, we collect non-perishable food items for the Sayreville Food Pantry.

For more information, please visit www.sayrevillehistory.com

Sayreville Historical Society

OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM - 7PM

DIEKER'S FARM

Est. 1903

Now Open 7 Days A Week

OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM - 7PM

801 Bordentown Ave South Amboy

732-721-9059

*NOW IN SEASON*

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-MUMS
-HAY BALES
-CORNSTALKS
-APPLES
-MARIGOLDS
(For All Saints Day)

Have Your Picture Taken At Our Halloween Display

Pictured (l-r) NJCCC Chair Linda Doherty, NJCCC Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden, Sayreville Recycling Coordinator Elyse Barone and DEP Deputy Commissioner Joseph J. Seebode. (Photo submitted)

# Borough Of Sayreville Wins "Municipal Program Award"

**(News Release submitted)**

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC), which runs the state's litter abatement program, has honored Sayreville's Clean Communities Program with the 2026 "Municipal Program Award."

Elyse Barone, the borough's recycling coordinator, accepted the statewide award at the 21st annual Litter Summit and Awards Ceremony, held Oct. 8 in Manahawkin, for the program's comprehensive, collaborative and creative approach to litter prevention.

"I'm really grateful to our volunteers, community partners and borough staff who support our efforts throughout the year," Barone said. "Whether through a cleanup, an educational program or everyday actions to prevent litter, everyone has a part in keeping Sayreville clean."

Barone runs a very active Clean Communities program, with clean-up events throughout the year.

NJCCC leaders pointed out an event on June 6, in which volunteers from South Amboy and Sayreville joined together for a cleanup of the communities' shared waterfront as part of the nationwide Greatest American Cleanup initiative.

Despite warm temperatures, residents, community leaders, environmental advocates and members of local organizations spent the morning removing litter and beautifying the waterfront, demonstrating the power of regional cooperation and civic pride.

"This award is a reflection of the strength of a constantly evolving program built on teamwork, collaboration and shared purpose," Barone said. "Our program is made up of many moving parts that work together to keep the Borough of Sayreville litter-free."

Much of the credit for this statewide award belongs to Barone, whose energy, creativity and dedication have made our Clean Communities program such a success in Sayreville, said Mayor Kennedy O'Brien.

"Elyse has a remarkable ability to bring people together, from residents and volunteers to community organizations and neighboring towns, all working toward a cleaner, more beautiful Sayreville," O'Brien said. "Keeping our borough clean is one of the most basic responsibilities of local government, and Elyse has helped turn that responsibility into a community-wide effort."

The mayor thanked everyone who takes the time to make Sayreville a better place to live.

"Sayreville's Clean Communities Program continually demonstrates an exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship, collaboration, and community engagement," NJCCC Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden added. "Through strategic partnerships and hands-on service, the program makes a significant positive impact throughout the Raritan Bay region."

Learn more at NJClean.org

# Join us for a Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

**Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy**

No one should spend the holiday alone. Come share a warm meal and great fellowship!!

Everyone is welcome—no questions asked!! The meal is completely free, though donations are gladly accepted. Walk-ins are welcome, though reservations help us to better prepare!! If you wish to let us know you're coming or make a donation – you may leave a message or send an email for Michelle at:

Phone: 732-721-4516 / Email: firstsouthamboy@optimum.net Where:First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy 150 N. Broadway South Amboy (located next to the South Amboy Police Station)

When:Thursday, November 26, 2026 Time: 3:00pm

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" Romans 12:13

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO OUR TABLE.**

## Inner Strength

**(Anonymous)**

If you can be cheerful,
ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining
and boring people with your
troubles,
If you can eat the same food
everyday and be grateful for
it,
If you can understand when
loved ones are too busy to give
you time,
If you can overlook when
people take things out on you
when,
through no fault of yours,
something goes wrong,
If you can take criticism
and blame without resentment,
If you can face the world
without lies and deceit,
If you can conquer tension
without medical help,
Then...
you are probably a cat or dog.

Pictured is South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 officer Ramon Sieira rehanging the first picture frame of our Past Grand Knights. Ramon has taken charge of refurbishing all of the original photos of each PGK starting with our first Grand Knight, "James H. Gordon" back in 1899. Each photo is painstakingly removed from its frame and meticulously restored to perfection. (Photo/Info Submitted)

# Dowdell Library News

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

To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, look for many library events this year! The next program will take place on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm, "A W.A.S.P. Takes Wing! The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II," presented by professional storyteller and independent historian Carol Simon Levin.

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

Explore 3D Printing! Learn how our new multi-colored 3D printer works and take home your own 3D printed object! Kids and teens, join us on Tuesday, November 10 and 17 at 3:00 pm. Adults, stop by on Monday 16 and 23 at 4:00 pm.

Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in November from 11:00 to 1:00 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in November from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Stop by on Wednesday, November 18 at 1:00 pm for a Route 66 Scavenger Hunt journeying through places that inspired the movie Cars!

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

Join the Super Smash Bros. Tournament! on Friday, November 14 at 2:30 pm. Winners will receive a prize! Ages 10+

Stop by to register for the November Test Kitchen on Monday, November 23 for ages 13+ and Tuesday, November 24 for ages 10 to 12 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks.

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, November 2 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic.

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

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Stretch It Thursdays which occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

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

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

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

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


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# Speaker Coughlin Unveils Proposal to Require Schools to Provide Free Breakfast to All Students

Legislation is a major step toward ending childhood hunger in New Jersey access to school meals, strengthened SNAP benefits, and secured historic investments in emergency food assistance, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin today announced his latest effort to combat childhood hunger – unveiling plans to introduce a bill that would require public school districts to provide free school breakfast for every enrolled student.

"Studies have shown that childhood hunger impedes learning and can cause lifelong health problems. While New Jersey schools have made great strides over the years in serving breakfast to more students to give them a strong start to the day, we know there are still thousands of eligible children who do not participate in free school breakfast programs," said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). "Sometimes there can be a stigma to receiving free meals or difficulties in filling out paperwork to participate, so we need to remove all of these barriers to make sure that no student goes hungry."

Speaker Coughlin's bill would establish universal free school breakfast in New Jersey, requiring every public school to provide breakfast to all enrolled students at no cost, regardless of household income or eligibility for federal meal assistance.

The proposal builds on years of school meal expansions championed by Speaker Coughlin, including extending free breakfast and lunch eligibility to families earning up to 225 percent of the federal poverty level. New Jersey has also eliminated reduced-price lunch costs, strengthened protections against meal shaming and punishment over unpaid balances, and pushed to connect eligible families with school meal programs. The legislation announced today would take that progress a step further by removing income eligibility restrictions on school breakfast altogether.

The Speaker announced his intention to introduce the bill during his keynote speech at the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate's annual Garden State Conference on Food Security: Setting a Table for All, for Always.

Additionally, Speaker Coughlin also announced plans to introduce the Anti-Fraud Efficient Income Verification Act, which would modernize New Jersey's system for determining eligibility for programs like SNAP and Medicaid by requiring employers to report wages and hours worked after each pay period rather than quarterly.

The change is intended to streamline the administrative process while also eliminating redundant paperwork, cutting down on lag time and ensuring people aren't kicked off their programs in light of new, more stringent requirements under the federal law known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill."

"With the new federal requirements, the last thing we should be doing is making it harder for people who qualify for assistance to maintain access to the programs they need," added Speaker Coughlin.

Speaker Coughlin previously sponsored a bill that would make it easier for SNAP and Medicaid recipients to use volunteer hours to meet new, expanded work requirements. That bill was signed into law earlier this year.

# Wills, Estate Planning & Probate Seminar

**November 18, 2026 10am**
**Sayreville Senior Center, 423 Main Street, Sayreville NJ 08872.**
**Open to the public.**

Wills & Estate Administration-Protect Your Family and Make Planning Easy. Free program in person open to the public, you do not need to be a Township resident to attend.

Speaker: Kenneth Vercammen, Esq. Edison, NJ (Author-Wills and Estate Administration by the ABA)

Free to Register. Pre-registration is required. Call 732-390-7058 to reserve your spot!

**Main Topics:**

1.What's new in Wills & Estates
2. Dangers If You Have No Will or documents invalid
3.Getting your Estate Planning Documents done when you can't go into a law office
4. What goes into a Will
5. Power of Attorneys recommendations
6. Living Will & Advance Directive for Medical Care

**COMPLIMENTARY MATERIAL:**

Brochures on Wills, Probate & Administration of an Estate, Power of Attorney, Living Wills, and Trusts.

To register or information call Sayreville Senior Center 732-390-7059 Jen Krushinski jkrushinski@sayreville.com

You don't have to be a Sayreville resident to attend.

# St. Stanislaus Kostka School Announces November Open Houses

St. Stanislaus Kostka School (SSK), at 221 MacArthur Avenue in Sayreville, invites families to explore its Pre-K through 8th-grade programs during two November Open House events. Families can tour classrooms, meet teachers, and see learning in action at the following sessions: Monday, November 2: 8:30–11:00 a.m. and 12:30–1:45 p.m. Monday, November 9: 6:00–7:30 p.m. Guided by "Discover. Learn. Belong," SSK offers a faith-centered education focused on academics, character, and community. The school welcomes prospective families to learn about enrollment and experience its close-knit community. St. Stanislaus Kostka School 221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ 08872 (732) 254-5819.

# Faithful Wait

**By Al Gomolka Jr.**
**Times Poet Laureate**
**c. 1994**

Red, yellow, orange,
gold, and brown
Active autumn leaves fall gently
To the ground
To take their rest,
The trees recharge anew
Saying farewell to the summer
With drops of colored hues
Our bodies, our spirits
Sometimes feel this all
But if we were trees
Try to heed the call
To preserve thru cold
Less active, darker days
Withstand, and a spring
With warm and brighter ways
Will make you feel
As if when you lost your leaves,
That faithful wait
As do the autumn trees.

# Santa Breakfast and Marketplace

St. Stanislaus Kostka School invites the public to its Santa Breakfast and Marketplace on Sunday, December 13, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SSK gym at 221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ 08872. The event will feature a vendor fair, a tricky tray with baskets and other items, and traditional and continental breakfast available with ticket purchase. Tricky tray tickets are sold separately from breakfast tickets. Breakfast tickets are encouraged in advance and will also be available at the door. Santa and the Grinch will make special appearances. Come enjoy the winter fun at SSK! Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or at the St. Stan's Church office, Monday thru Friday 8am-3pm. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

# To Patricia, My Friend

**By Philip**

When you've found someone
Who really cares,
You've found a treasure
Beyond compare.
In everything
They'll love and guide you,
In all your troubles
They'll stay beside you.
Worth more than gold
And diamonds too,
Is the friend you found,
Who cares for you.

# Thanksgiving Dinner

American Legion Post 211, Sayreville, will bring the community together this Thanksgiving with a free Thanksgiving Dinner open to the public on Thursday, November 26, 2026.

The dinner will be held at American Legion Post 211, 240 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, with two seating times available. The first seating will take place from 2 to 4 p.m., followed by a second seating from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Thanksgiving meal will feature a traditional holiday menu including turkey, ham, baked ziti and all the fixings. The event is free to everyone, and organizers emphasize that all are welcome. Both dine-in and takeout options will be available. Reservations are required for both dine-in and takeout meals. Community members wishing to reserve a meal are asked to contact Chris Konopka at 908-510-7453.

# My Friend's Paper

**By Al Gomolka**
**Times Poet Laureate**
**C.2026**

Back in 1991
We were young and having fun
As best friends we shared our lives
When you hit me with a big surprise
"I want to start a paper," said you
"News of our towns
and its people too"
I'll back you for you
have the ambition
And you said,
"Only under one condition"
"I know you're a poet,
so give me one prose
For every edition,
and we'll see how it goes"
Well, it went and it's
going for 35 years
With your tireless work
and blood, sweat and tears
I had no doubt
you would be a success
You've won awards for your work
and the paper's the best
I hope you continue in health and God's speed
For the news of our towns are so welcomed indeed!

# The Loving Thing To Do

**By Al Gomolka Jr.**
**Times Poet Laureate**
**c.2001**

**Act, as if in all decisions.**
**What would be the**
**loving thing to do?**
**And you will be**
**Adored by some.**
**Admired by many,**
**And appreciated by all.**

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

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# FRANK PALLONE

## IS ON A MISSION TO MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

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NOW, HE'S WORKING TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION PRICES FOR EVERYONE!

AND FRANK'S FIGHTING TO REVERSE DONALD TRUMP'S CUTS TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.

**MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON ELECTION DAY, TUES, NOV 3.** PAID FOR BY PALLONE FOR CONGRESS.

# VOTE FRANK PALLONE FOR CONGRESS.

# FED UP, SAYREVILLE?

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

VOTE FOR THE COMMON SENSE TEAM:

## BERNIE BAILEY & DEXTER THOMAS

FOR SAYREVILLE COUNCIL

## IF ELECTED, BERNIE AND DEXTER WILL WORK FOR YOU:

- Implement a **PERMANENT ban on data centers** in Sayreville.
- Foster closer cooperation with the Board of Education, including **shared services,** to help **lower taxes.**
- Institute a ban on **PILOTS** until the Borough can establish sensible criteria for what uses should qualify for PILOTS. No PILOTS for warehouses or mini storage facilities.
- If any projects meet the new criteria for a PILOT, that money **should be shared with the Board of Education** to **reduce school taxes.**
- Ensure true cooperation with the **Historical Society,** particularly regarding preservation of the first Town Hall/Firehouse.
- Acquire and protect the **40 acres behind Kennedy Park.**
- Return to **caucus agenda meetings** where issues can be thoroughly discussed.
- Allow public participation at **Council meetings via Zoom.**
- Realign resources to expand the hours and days of operation at **Fort Grumpy.**

*Let's work together for a better Sayreville!*

BERNIE BAILEY & DEXTER THOMAS

FOR SAYREVILLE COUNCIL

Paid for by B. Bailey & D. Thomas for Council

# Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Can you identify this month's mystery person? I left a clue in the photo! Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by November 14th.

Last month's mystery man was none other thanTelevision Legend Lawrence Welk an American bandleader, accordionist, and television personality best known for hosting The Lawrence Welk Show, which entertained millions of viewers with music, dancing, and family-friendly entertainment. Born to German-speaking immigrant parents in Strasburg, North Dakota, Welk rose from humble beginnings to become one of America's most recognizable television stars. His signature musical style, known as "Champagne Music," featured lively polkas, big-band sounds, and popular songs. His television show debuted nationally on ABC in 1955 and continued in syndication after its cancellation in 1971. Welk's warm personality, distinctive accent, and cheerful introductions made him a beloved entertainer for generations.

His Three Most Famous Catchphrases were""Wunnerful, wunnerful!" — His trademark expression of delight after a musical performance.

"A-one and a-two and a-three!" — His familiar count-in to start a musical number.

"Thank you, thank you!" — His gracious way of acknowledging applause and thanking performers and audiences.

The following must have tuned in each week:Patti Tengelics, Jon Giaquinto, Joe Tortora, Matt Marciano, Prudence Zalewski, Donna Carver, John & JoAnn French, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Donald Chrzan, Sonia Iglesias, Kenneth Oleskin, John Meleski, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Edna Pilch, Ed English, Dennis & Kathy O'Leary, Dianne Nowicki, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Adele O'Hara, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre, Walter Starzec Jr, Bob & Dora Siebert, Betty Leveille.

Lawrence Welk

# WWW.?

Look familiar? You may have to put on your think caps for this one. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Nov. 14th.

WWW.? Winners

Last month's mystery location was Veteran's Memorial Plaza located on Bordentown Ave. In South Amboy.

Winners: Dennis Quinlan, John & JoAnn French, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Sonia Iglesias, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Steve Laskiewicz, Edna Pilch, Ed English, Lisa Grankowski, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Paul Conlon, Gary Feret, Barb Bockus, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre, Walter Starzec Jr, Bob & Dora Siebert, Betty Leveille.

Veteran's Memorial Plaza – Bordentown Avenue

On October 20, 2026, members of the Perth Amboy Police, city officials, family members and representatives of area police departments gathered at the Perth Amboy ferry dock for the dedication and blessing ceremony of two police boats. The vessels were named after two officers that died in the line of duty, Police Thomas Raji and Lieutenant David Formeza. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

Former Sayreville resident Joe Vona (r) was the winner of Gomolka's Collectables September contest. Al Gomolka is happy to help Joe load his car with the many boxes of great prizes. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

# New Jersey Man Wins 2026 Sasquatch Calling Championship

**(Photo/Story submitted)**

A New Jersey resident brought home the top prize from one of the most unusual competitions in the country this past Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Michael O'Connor of Sayreville, New Jersey, won first place in the adult division of the 2026 Sasquatch Calling Contest in Whitehall, New York.

The competition was part of a festival that attracted more than 5,000 people from around the world. The adult division featured 61 contestants, while another 68 contestants competed in the children's division.

After finishing second in last year's competition, O'Connor returned this year determined to take the championship. This time, his Sasquatch call was enough to earn him first place and the championship trophy.

O'Connor is now bringing the trophy back to New Jersey — along with a pretty unusual story to tell.

"I came back this year hoping I could win it," O'Connor said. "After placing second last year, I felt like I had unfinished business. I never expected to come home as the champion."

The Sasquatch calling contest has become a unique attraction at the Whitehall festival, drawing competitors and spectators interested in Bigfoot and the legendary creature's history and folklore.

# Bricks Made In Sayreville Again

## Sayreville Residents Make 150 Bricks to Commemorate Sayreville's 150th Anniversary

**(Photos/story submitted)**

On August 16th, Borough residents and friends took part in the Sayreville Historical Society's "Forging the Foundation – 150 Bricks for 150 Years" celebrating Sayreville's founding in1876.

Led by Dr. John Meyer of New Brunswick's Thinkery and Verse, participants learned about the history of clay, brickmaking, and their importance to Sayreville. During the event, they used local clay to make mini bricks, similar but smaller than those made in the Sayre & Fisher Brick Co.'s yards. In addition, those attending had a chance to make pinch pots and discover how Native Americans used our area's clay to make everyday tools and items.

Anyone getting their hands dirty to make a brick received a certificate naming them an "Honorary Brickmaker." Each certificate was "signed" by Sayre & Fisher founders, John R. Sayre, Jr. and Peter Fisher.

In September, Dr. Meyer returned to Sayreville to finish firing the bricks, marking the first time bricks were fired in Sayreville since the closing of the Sayre & Fisher Brick Company in the 1970s. Dr. Meyer will be using the bricks to create a mosaic marking the event.

# SAYREVILLE POLICE AUXILIARY

**Serving the Community with Honor, Integrity, and Professionalism**
**Sayreville Police Auxiliary Seeking New Volunteer Members**
**Attention Sayreville and South Amboy Residents:**

The Sayreville Police Auxiliary is currently seeking dedicated community members to join its volunteer force. Auxiliary officers play a vital role in supporting local law enforcement and keeping our neighborhoods safe.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check
- Must possess a valid New Jersey driver's license.

Join your neighbors in giving back to the community you call home. Interested applicants can apply online at:

**www.sayrevillepoliceaux.org**

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..

Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

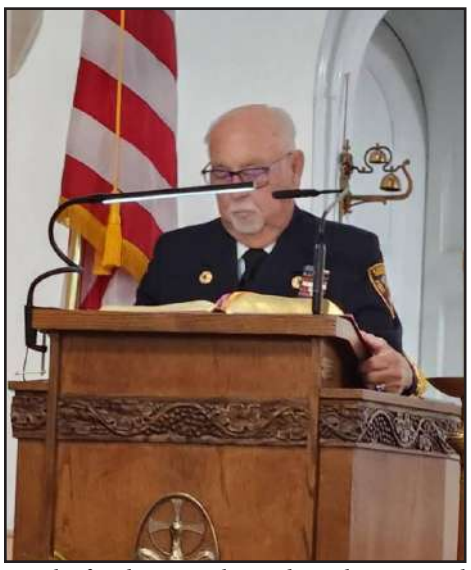
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to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

# Firefighters Mass

(Photos/info submitted)

Chaplain Fr. Stanley Gromadzki opens the Memorial Mass with prayers.

Firefighters turnout to fire gear is placed in honor of all firefighters.



Ex-Chief Rich Kosmoski conducts the memorial services.

Piper Cliff Delaney leads the firefighters into the Church of The Sacred Heart.

On Saturday, October 10, 2026, the Ninth Annual Firefighters Mass was held at the Church of the Sacred Heart in South Amboy. Members of the South Amboy and Sayreville fire departments gathered to honor firefighters who had answered their "Last Alarm" in the preceding year. Fire Department Chaplain Fr. Stanley Gromadzki celebrated the memorial Mass, with former chiefs Rich Kosmoski and Mark Herdman leading the firefighters in the ceremony. A bell tolled in remembrance of the deceased, followed by TAPS. A bagpiper performed several selections, including Danny Boy, Amazing Grace, and Going Home. (Article/Photos Submitted)

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Friends of South Amboy Charity Event!

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

### Event Details:

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

## Sayreville Feeds

Please join us on November 21, 2026 for our next Sayreville Feeds Dinner. We will be having a turkey dinner from 5 to 6:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville at 172 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872. We are directly across from the Sayreville Borough Hall. Everyone is invited; no bills will be given. If you are able to make a donation, we are grateful but it is not necessary. Come and enjoy a meal and some community fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there.

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# School Sports

(As of Oct. 16)

By Tom Burkard

## Sayreville Football Update

### Game #4

The Bombers destroyed Franklin, 40-6. Trailing 6-0 after one quarter, the locals went to work with the defense jelling, and the offense on fire, to outscore Franklin 40-0 over the rest of the game. Sherwin Appiah broke loose for 4 touchdown runs of 28, 5, 8 and 6 yards totaling 133 yards rushing, while Gabriel Manson ran for a 50-yard TD run, and Olisa Attah 22-yard TD jaunt. Grady Walsh registered 10 total tackles, and Philip Sayouwoh kicked 4 extra points. Sayreville (3-1)

### Game #5

Sayreville stopped St. Thomas Aquinas, 37-21, as Appiah continued his touchdown streak by racking up another 4 scores, along with 285 yards in 25 rushes, a phenomenal offensive performance! Dion Osae scored a TD, and Sayouwoh booted a 22-yard field goal and 4 extra points. On defense Christian Woodard had 8 total tackles, and Reinaldo Zapata 7. Sayreville (4-1)

### Game #6

Old Bridge nipped the Bombers, 14-12 in a real battle. Appiah gained 121 yards and scored on a 52-yard touchdown run, Sayouwoh booted 2 field goals from 20 and 42 yards for Sayreville. Woodard notched 8 total tackles for the "Big D." Sayreville (4-2)

### Game #7

Sayreville bounced back to defeat Somerville, 23-16, as Appiah rushed for 130 yards including 3 more TD's from 25, 38, and 13 yards to pave the way. Woodard once again excelled on defense by registering 17 total tackles and Andrew Provenza got through the Somerville line for 2 sacks.

## Boys Soccer

**South Amboy (8-4), (5-0 in Silver League) Coach Tony Gonsalves (50th season as Head Coach)**

**Team Leaders**

No stats available.

**Sayreville (4-6-2)**
**Coach Tom Womaszek**

**Team Leaders**

Points-Eugene Zebrowski 12, Bobby Pervan 12, Jude Wilkins 12; Goals-Zebrowski 5, Pervan 4, Wilkins 4; Assists-Pervan 4.

## Girls Soccer

**Sayreville (6-8-1)**
**Coach Alison Riccio**

**Team Leaders**

Points-Emma Halmo 25, Leah Eskolsky 13; Goals-Halmo 12, Eskolsky 5, Amy Iskander 4.

**South Amboy (2-10)**
**Coach Gina Martinez**

**Team Leaders**

No stats available.

## Field Hockey

**Sayreville (8-6)**
**Coach Mary Charmello**

**Team Leaders**

Points-Lucy Logan 35, Savannah Parse 33, Cayley Pinto 29; Goals-Logan 15, Pinto 14; Assists-Parse 19, Gabrielle Jones 9, Logan 5.

## Sayreville Romps

The Sayreville Bombers girls soccer team blasted Woodbridge, 6-0. Emma Halmo and Amy Iskander had 2 goals apiece, Leah Eskolsky 1 goal and an assist, and Sofia Torres Losada 1 goal for the Bombers. Goalie Laura Onochee recorded the 6 saves shutout.

## Bombers Tie Middlesex

The Sayreville boys soccer team, competing in the In-season Tournament tied Middlesex, 2-2. Bobby Pervan connected for a goal from 22-feet out and also a long boot of 77 feet. He was assisted on the first score by Eugene Zebrowski, and the second by Vadym Bortnyk.

## Sayreville Tops Matawan

Sayreville girls field hockey club topped Matawan, 3-1. Lucy Logan netted 2 goals, while Cayley Pinto also scored, and Savannah Parse contributed 2 assists.

## SWMHS 1000 Club!

Congratulations to Sherwin Appiah on reaching an incredible milestone of 1,000 rushing yards for the SWMHS Bombers! (Photo Submitted)

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## Sayreville Junior Bombers Cheer

Sayreville Junior Bombers Flag (top photo) and D8 (bottom photo) teams participated in the NJAYC Flag Expo held at Brick Memorial HS. The girls did a fantastic job and look forward to their next competition. Flag and D8 Cheer are for ages 5 to 8 years old.

## Blue Bombers Wear Pink!

Sayreville Junior Bombers Flag Football (ages 4-6) decked out in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness this October. (Photo Submitted)

# Middlesex County Strengthens Security Ahead of the 2026 General Election

Collaborative efforts between the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, County Clerk, and the Board of Elections ensure a secure and transparent voting process

As the 2026 General Election on Tuesday, November 3, approaches, Middlesex County officials remain committed to a secure, fair, and transparent voting process in compliance with state and federal regulations. Building on established, robust procedures, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Office of the County Clerk, and the Board of Elections carefully consider every aspect of the voting process, from disseminating voting information to residents to ensuring that troubleshooting measures are in place at every step.

"Middlesex County takes the security and integrity of every election seriously," said Middlesex County Prosecutor Linda Estremera. "From early voting through Election Day, established security measures and coordinated efforts are in place to help ensure voters can cast their ballots safely and without intimidation or interference. No matter whom a voter chooses to support, every eligible voter should feel confident that they can participate in our elections safely and free from interference."

## NEW AND CONTINUED SECURITY MEASURES

1. Comprehensive Physical and Cybersecurity Protections

- Expanded perimeter security, including surveillance cameras and controlled access.
- Continuous interior monitoring and managed personnel access.
- Ballots are collected regularly and are monitored by video surveillance at Middlesex County drop boxes.
- 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 staff are 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.

2. Secure Voting Machines and Data Integrity Comprehensive testing of voting machines to prevent tampering.

- The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certifies each voting machine to meet stringent security standards.
- Machines utilize unique encryption keys for each election, with only authorized USB drives programmed for the 2026 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.

3. Prompt and Thorough 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 may apply online or by paper application. Signatures on mail-in ballot certificates are verified against the voter's registration record in the Statewide Voter Registration System. Voters whose ballot certificates have missing or discrepant signatures are notified and given the opportunity to "cure" the issue.
- Robust reconciliation procedures ensure all ballots — whether by mail, early voting, or on Election Day — are accurately counted and matched to the voter history.
- Identification is required to drop off completed Mail-In Ballots at the Middlesex County Board of Elections.
- Open communication with residents for timely investigations into potential voter fraud.

"Voters deserve to have confidence that their ballots are handled securely from the moment they cast their ballot through the certification of election results," said Middlesex County Clerk Nancy J. Pinkin. "Our office works closely with the Board of Elections, law enforcement, and our state and federal partners to provide a voting process that is accurate, transparent, and accessible. We want every Middlesex County voter to know that their voice matters and that we are committed to protecting their right to participate in our democracy."

## HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

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

### Return a Mail-In Ballot

Voters who receive a Mail-In Ballot have three ways to return it:

- Secure Ballot Drop Box – Voters may deposit their completed and sealed Mail-In Ballot in any designated Middlesex County Board of Elections drop box by 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3.
- Board of Elections – Completed Mail-In Ballots may be delivered directly to the Middlesex County Board of Elections at 26 Kennedy Boulevard, Suite B, East Brunswick, by 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3.
- USPS – Ballots returned through USPS must be postmarked on or before 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3.
- It is recommended to mail ballots at least one week before Election Day to ensure timely arrival.

### In-person Early Voting

- Voters may cast their ballot at any of the 10 Early Voting Locations during the Early Voting Period, from Saturday, October 24, through Sunday, November 1.
- Early Voting locations will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 am–8 pm, and Sunday, 10 am–6 pm.
- Voters who receive a Mail-In Ballot but do not return their ballot may still vote in person by provisional ballot at an early voting location.

### In-person Voting on Election Day

- Voters may vote in person at their assigned polling place from 6 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.
- Voters who receive a Mail-In Ballot but do not return their ballot may still vote in person by provisional ballot at their assigned polling place.

Voters who have questions or concerns about their eligibility to vote are encouraged to contact the Middlesex County Board of Elections at 732-745-3471 for assistance. For any questions or concerns related to voting, call the Middlesex County Clerk's Office at 732-745-4202.

For more information about voting in Middlesex County, including Mail-In Ballot applications, Early Voting locations, Election Day polling locations, secure ballot drop box locations, and election deadlines, visit middlesexcountynj.gov/vote.

# Moen, Coughlin Bill to Offer Discounted NJ Transit Fares Clears Committee

Legislation aims to lower transportation costs for commuters while increasing access to jobs and education opportunities

Seeking to address financial barriers that far too many New Jersey commuters face on a regular basis, the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee today advanced Bill A2329. Sponsored by Assemblyman Bill Moen and Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, the legislation would establish two programs designed to provide discounted fares and make transit more accessible to riders.

"For many New Jersey residents, the cost of public transportation creates barriers to accessing employment, education, and workforce training opportunities. Traditional transit pricing models can leave riders paying more per trip when they cannot afford the upfront costs of a weekly or monthly pass," said Assemblyman Moen (D-Camden, Gloucester). "That's why Bill A2329 seeks to expand access to discounted fares and introduces fare capping, helping residents save on transportation costs and get where they need to go without having to pay in advance."

This legislation would create a two-pronged approach through the "NJpass Program" and the "GO NJ Transit Card Program." By authorizing NJ Transit to partner directly with workforce development programs, higher education institutions, social service providers, and employers, the NJpass Program would enable bulk fare discounting specifically tailored to commuters in training and career placement pipelines.

"For hundreds of thousands of riders, the services provided by NJ Transit are not optional. We've made a commitment to making New Jersey more affordable, and few expenses have a more direct impact on people's daily lives than the cost of getting around," said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). "In the most densely populated state in the nation, we have to do more than simply provide a service that gets people from one place to another. We have to ensure our transit system works for the people who depend on it every day and doing so in a way that meets riders where they are."

Additionally, the GO NJ Transit Card Program would establish a modern fare-capping system to ensure individuals who use a transit card are paying the lowest authorized fare of any travel period, without having to pay the full cost upfront. Together, these provisions aim to expand public transportation access and lower cost barriers for New Jersey residents.

Under this bill, NJ Transit would be required to submit reports to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of each of the programs.

# Middlesex County Offers Tips to Stay Healthy and Safe During Flu Season

Office of Health Services provides free flu shots and shares guidance to help residents prevent the spread of the flu

As October marks the beginning of flu season, Middlesex County is encouraging residents to take steps to protect themselves and their community. To support this effort, the Middlesex County Office of Health Services is offering free flu clinics countywide from October through December for eligible residents aged 6 months and older.

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness that can affect the lungs, nose, and throat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), common symptoms may include cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and sometimes fever or chills. Children may also experience vomiting and diarrhea more often than adults.

Individuals at higher risk of developing serious complications include people 65 years and older, those with chronic medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, pregnant women, and children younger than 5 years, especially those younger than 2.

"As we enter flu season, it is crucial that we each do our part to keep our community healthy by taking simple precautions," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "Getting your flu shot, washing hands, and staying home when you're sick can help us prevent spreading germs. The fall and winter seasons bring many joyous occasions for us to come together as a community; by taking these steps, we can participate safely."

"Middlesex County's top priority is the health and wellbeing of our residents, especially during flu season," said Middlesex County Commissioner Deputy Director Shanti Narra, Chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee. "Since early October, the Middlesex County Office of Health Services has worked to ensure that all eligible residents can access free flu shots at convenient locations across the County. It is vital that everyone who chooses to get vaccinated knows they have a no-cost, accessible option."

"Getting the flu shot is one of the best measures to protect yourself and those around you," said Middlesex County Director of Health Services Lester Jones. "It helps lower the risk of flu-related illness, hospitalization, and death, as well as reduce the spread of the virus in our community. Because flu strains change over time, the vaccine is updated each year to provide protection, so I encourage everyone to get their flu shot this season."

## FREE FLU CLINICS SCHEDULE

The Middlesex County Office of Health Services will offer free flu shots at the following locations:

- Wednesday, November 4: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm
- Monday, November 9: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 18: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm
- Monday, November 30: Public Health Center | 4–7 pm
- Wednesday, December 2: Public Health Center | 4–7 pm
- Wednesday, December 9: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 16: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm
- Monday, December 28: Public Health Center | 1:30–3:30 pm

## FLU PREVENTION GUIDELINES

To help keep residents healthy, the Middlesex County Office of Health Services recommends the following preventative measures:

- Get your annual flu vaccine – it is the most effective way to prevent serious illness.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water and use hand sanitizer if not available.
- Always cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow to reduce spreading germs.
- Stay at home if you're feeling sick to limit exposure to others.
- Keep frequently touched surfaces clean, such as doorknobs and phones.
- Make healthy lifestyle choices, including eating well, exercising, staying hydrated, and getting enough sleep, to support your immune system against potential illnesses.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, as germs can spread if you touch something contaminated.

All flu shots provided by Middlesex County Health Services are free for eligible Middlesex County residents; proof of residency is required. For more information about the flu clinics, visit middlesexcountynj.gov/flu or contact the Middlesex County Office of Health Services directly at 732-745-3100.

# Letters

## Sayreville: A Town We're Proud to Call Home

As election season comes to a close, we want to thank Sayreville residents for your involvement, your questions, and your commitment to our community. We may not agree on every issue, but we share something important: we all want Sayreville to remain a safe, strong community we're proud to call home.

Serving on the Borough Council is a responsibility we take seriously. The decisions we make affect our neighborhoods, families, and future. They aren't always easy, and disagreements are part of the process. What matters is listening, examining the facts, and doing what's right for Sayreville.

Our town has changed, but the values that define it haven't.

Today, Sayreville is home to more than 47,000 residents, far different from the small town many of us remember. We grew up with neighborhood parades, family-owned businesses, familiar gathering places, and generations of families who helped build this town. Those memories remind us of what matters: strong neighborhoods, lasting friendships, and people who look out for one another.

Take a drive through Sayreville, and you'll see how much has changed. Established neighborhoods now stand alongside newer homes, condominiums, and apartments. Growth brings opportunities, but also challenges. How we manage those challenges matters.

Sayreville has much to celebrate. Our youth sports programs, senior activities, community events, parks, and dedicated volunteers bring people together. Our waterfront adds to the character of our town, while investments like Bass Pro Shops bring new economic opportunities.

But growth must make sense for Sayreville. Development must be judged by its impact on traffic, infrastructure, public services, the environment, and our neighborhoods. Just because something can be built doesn't mean it should be.

For generations, industry provided jobs and supported Sayreville families. But when many of those industries closed or moved away, they left behind more than vacant properties. They left brownfields, environmentally impacted land, and difficult questions about what comes next. Reclaiming these properties presents opportunities, but it also requires careful planning, environmental protections, and decisions that serve Sayreville's long-term interests.

Over the past two and a half years, we've worked to turn priorities into action.

We've advanced major park investments, including plans to transform Bailey Park with an inclusive playground, improved walking paths, and recreational spaces for residents of all ages. We've also supported improvements to Fielek Park, including basketball facilities, pickleball courts, and better pathways.

On traffic safety, we've reduced the speed limit on Main Street to 25 mph, supported roadway and intersection improvements, and worked with county officials to address troublesome intersections. We know traffic remains a serious concern. Years of growth have created challenges that require both immediate improvements and long-term planning.

We've also established an 18-month moratorium on data centers. Our position is clear: Sayreville needs strong, enforceable protections against development that places unreasonable demands on our infrastructure, threatens our environment, or harms our quality of life.

And there's more work to do.

We're committed to better budget planning, stronger financial oversight, controlling costs, and making local government more transparent so residents can better understand how decisions are made and their tax dollars are spent.

We understand residents' concerns about taxes, traffic, development, and the future of our town. These issues deserve more than broad statements and promises. They deserve clear plans, practical solutions, and the determination to follow through.

Residents aren't looking for grand promises or sweeping changes to Sayreville. They want safe neighborhoods, well-maintained roads and parks, responsible spending, and a local government that listens and gets things done. Leadership should be measured by results, not promises, and by a commitment to protecting the community we're proud to call home.

As election season ends, we're proud of the progress made and recognize the work ahead. We respect Sayreville's history, understand the challenges of a changing community, and remain focused on protecting our neighborhoods, supporting our families, and preserving the town we're proud to call home.

We're proud of Sayreville, proud of its history, and committed to keeping it a place we're all proud to call home.

**John Zebrowski and Michael Colaci**
**Sayreville Borough Council**

# 90+ Year-Old Cousins from South Amboy Share Memories During a Long Overdue Reunion

**(Story/Photos Submitted)**

Growing up in South Amboy eighty years ago, Rita Ferenci and Mary Gomolka weren't just cousins, they were good friends.

During the 1940s, the young cousins roller skated together. They attended Sacred Heart elementary school and St. Mary's High School, just a grade apart. And they walked between their families' houses, both located within sight of Sacred Heart Church, which played a key role in the religious faith that has guided them throughout their lives for more than nine decades.

After graduation, their lives took different paths. Mary took a vow to God and service by joining the Sisters of Mercy, while Rita worked at J&J before marrying her Sayreville beau Lou and becoming the mother of six children.

Over the decades, they stayed in touch with Christmas cards or notes, and saw each other at occasional family events. However, those family gatherings became less and less frequent, and they didn't see each other for more years than they can recall.

But recently, the two cousins finally reunited.

Sister Mary Gomolka (nicknamed "Dolly" by her family because her older sister thought she looked like a little doll when she was a baby) was one of six children raised by a mother and father who instilled in Mary not only her love of music, but also the faith that fostered her calling to join the Sisters of Mercy. She recently celebrated 75 years as a sister.

Rita Ferenci was the youngest of ten children born to Adam and Catherine Marczak, proprietors of Adam's Café, a tavern and store on the corner of South Amboy's Feltus and Augusta Streets, later known as the Brave Bull and Freddie's SA Pub. Now age 94, Rita continues to live in the Sayreville home that she and her late husband built in the early 1950s. She is a fixture at local senior meetings, church BINGOs and Atlantic City.

In September, Rita visited her cousin at Mount St. Mary's Academy in Watchung, where Sister Mary was head of the music department for 36 years and where she has lived in retirement since 2013. Along with touring the beautiful school for girls, Sister Mary and Rita reminisced and laughed about their days growing up in South Amboy.

They also enjoyed photos from Sister Mary's sabbaticals in the Holy Land. There was also a photo taken of the cousins in 1951 when they visited a town that has never been confused with the Holy Land – Seaside Heights. Three-quarters of a century after that photo was taken, Sister Mary and Rita sat next to each other and recreated the pose for posterity.

Sister Mary surprised Rita by giving her a special photo – one that Rita had never seen. The black-and-white image shows Mary on the day she became a sister, wearing Rita's bridal gown and veil! (During the 1950s, prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was common for nuns to wear traditional white wedding dresses during their final profession or vow ceremonies as a symbol that they were spiritually married to Jesus.)

Rita had originally worn the gown on November 3, 1951, the day she married Louis Ferenci at Sacred Heart Church. Rita still has her veil packed away, but the gown was sent to a relative in Poland for a wedding there – just one more example of how family ties can span not just decades but also continents.

South Amboy cousins Mary Gomolka (l) and Rita (Marczak) Ferenci (r) taken during a visit to Seaside Heights in 1951.

After many years without seeing each other, the cousins were reunited in September 2026, and they recreated their pose from 75 years ago.

# SA Times Front Page News

**By Tom Burkard**

### 1-Year Ago
### October 2025

South Amboy resident Michael Pappas was promoted to the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy…South Amboy native Jack McKeon was inducted into the Marlins (Florida MLB team), inaugural 2025 Legends Hall of Fame…Protection Engine Co. honored former Fire Chief Edward Szatkowski for 60 years of service to the company and City of South Amboy… South Amboy's newest Police Officers were welcomed to the force by Chief Patricia Kanecke and Capt. Daniel Holovacko. The new officers were Ptl. Douglas Gumprecht, Ptl. Raymond Perez, Ptl. Jose Arias…

### 5 Years Ago
### October 2021

Mayor Fred Henry and the South Amboy City Council honored 3 South Amboy residents with resolutions at a council meeting. Edward Szatkowski, Surjit Singh, and Kimberly Seber were honored…The Borough of Sayreville held their Centennial Celebration at Kennedy Park…South Amboy held their inaugural Irish Festival at Waterfront Park…

### 10 Years Ago
### October 2016

The South Amboy-Sayreville Times celebrated their monumental 25th Anniversary. Poet Laureate Al Gomolka's special and heartfelt poem titled "My Pal's Dream" was featured on the front page… South Amboy boys varsity soccer team wore shirts to honor the memory of teammate Riley Rone, with his name imprinted on their sleeve…Sayreville resident John Garbowski waited 60 years, but finally received 5 medals for his service in World War II…Gerald "Bear" Celecki, South Amboy firefighter, who died in the line of duty, was honored at a national memorial service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland…. Two very popular and highly-respected City of South Amboy workers retired, Patricia Spangenberg and Antoinette Manion, who were both honored with a beautiful feature story and photo by Jerry Pizzillo…

### 25 Years Ago
### October 2001

Sayreville resident/St. Mary's HS graduate Tom Kelly retired from managing the Minnesota Twins MLB team. He led the team to 2 World Series championships, and finished with a career record of (1,140-1,244)...Local services honored those killed in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania… SeaStreak USA received approval from NJDEP for operation of a commuter fast ferry service out of South Amboy.

# Sayreville Library News

### Diwali Celebration: Adult Arts & Crafts Event
### Tuesday, Nov 10 @5PM

Join us for an evening of fun crafts as we celebrate Diwali
Registration Required
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

### Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)
### Nov 17 & 30 @6PM

Join Barbara Brown for an evening of relaxing meditation.
Please be sure to be in a quiet room where you will not be disturbed, and be seated in a chair with your feet flat on the floor.
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 17 @1PM

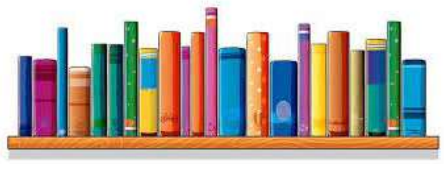
Join us for our monthly movie matinee.
This month: Julie & Julia-Starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams
Rated PG-13 2 hrs 3 mins
Refreshments provided
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.
*NOTE* Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.

### Holiday baking with Vanessa (Virtual)
### Wednesday, Nov 18 @ 3PM

Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish for some joyful holiday baking as we learn new recipes, explore how to present our treats beautifully, and refresh our baking skills. Share in your love of holiday sweets as we gather together for a spirited evening leading up to the holidays.
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.

### Trivia with Dan
### Monday, Nov 30 @6:30PM

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



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# FERRY TERMINAL

– continued from page 1

connected people and places. With this new terminal, we are honoring that history while investing in a more connected future for our residents, commuters and businesses. I am grateful to everyone who helped bring this vision to life," said Mayor Fred A. Henry. Since NY Waterway began service from South Amboy in October 2023, the ferry has offered travelers another way to reach Manhattan. The new permanent site supports that existing service with 545 free commuter parking spaces. Its improvements span approximately 12 acres and include environmental remediation, bulkheads and a seawall, utilities, lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, accessible connections and a pavilion. Together, these features make the waterfront easier to reach and use by ferry passengers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. "Ridership has grown significantly since we launched service from South Amboy in 2023," said Armand Pohan, NY Waterway President & CEO. "We believe these important improvements to the South Amboy Ferry Terminal will further enhance the customer experience and encourage even more commuters to choose the comfort, convenience, and reliability of ferry travel. We're grateful to Mayor Henry, the City of South Amboy and all the officials whose support made these upgrades possible." "The opening of the new South Amboy Ferry Terminal is a major milestone for the city and the culmination of years of hard work to strengthen South Amboy's waterfront and transportation network. I fought to bring home the federal funding to help make this project a reality, and I'm proud to see that investment delivering for the community. This new terminal will create more opportunities for the city by making it easier for residents and commuters to connect with New York and the broader region, while supporting South Amboy's continued growth for years to come," said Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06). The City of South Amboy extends its sincere appreciation to all the officials, project partners, professionals, City employees and community members whose support, expertise and dedication helped bring this project to completion, and to everyone who joined us in celebrating this important milestone. The City will continue pursuing funding and partnerships for a future terminal building as it develops the waterfront as a transportation, recreation and economic asset.

# State of the City

–continued from page 1

Amboy Ferry Terminal, continued downtown redevelopment, investments in public safety and the city's financial progress.

Henry became involved in local politics back in 1992, when he was appointed to fill a City Council seat which was held by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. After serving 18 years on the council, he became mayor, a position he has held for the past 16 years.

"I'm very proud of what we have accomplished together, and I leave this office knowing that South Amboy is a better place physically and financially," Henry said.

One of the central themes of Henry's address was the completion of the first phase of the South Amboy Ferry Terminal, a project nearly 30 years in the making.

The city celebrated the milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 29 for the permanent ferry dock. The waterfront development also features a public plaza, pavilion and historical displays.

The project has received additional recognition, with the American Society of Civil Engineers selecting it for its 2026 Large Project Award.

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin attended the address and praised Henry's commitment to South Amboy, particularly his determination to see the ferry terminal become a reality.

"Thank you very much for the work you have done," Coughlin said. "You've been a true success story."

Mayor Henry also pointed to improvements throughout the downtown business district, including Broadway repaving, new sidewalks, replacement trees and the acquisition of property for a municipal parking lot offering free parking. Electric vehicle charging stations are expected to be installed at the lot.

He said that several businesses opened during the year, including Papa John's, Pura Vita, Lumen Furniture, New Horizons and Italian Corner.

The mayor also discussed redevelopment projects transforming previously contaminated or underutilized properties, including Bay Shore Cove, Venetian Healthcare, the YMCA on Lower Broadway, warehouses on Lower Main Street and the waterfront surrounding the ferry terminal.

Another significant project, known as the Manhattan Project, was revised from an original proposal for 436 rental units to 196 for-sale townhomes. Under the redevelopment agreement, 15% of the payment in lieu of taxes will benefit the school district.

Henry noted that developers have also spent tens of millions of dollars on environmental remediation, expenses that otherwise could have placed a burden on taxpayers.

Public safety remained another priority highlighted in the mayor's address. Henry proudly reported that South Amboy's crime rate was 33% below the national average, crediting the Police Department and its leadership, including Chief Patricia Kanecke, the department's first female chief, and Captains Daniel Holovacko and Michael Kelly.

The city has added patrol officers, police vehicles and security cameras. Henry also recognized Officers Max Garcia and Ryan Shereyka for performing a life-saving procedure on a 3-year-old child.

Additional investments included more than $100,000 for Fire Department equipment and a new ambulance for the First Aid Squad, along with a $100,000 stretcher-lift system.

The Department of Public Works added three laborers and new equipment, while street and sidewalk improvements continue. Additional paving is planned for 2027.

The city also contributed $300,000 toward school building repairs and safety improvements and continued funding a student resource officer.

Senior services expanded transportation and programming with a new bus, while the Recreation Department continued offering free youth sports clinics in partnership with the South Amboy Youth Athletic Association and swimming programs with Frog Hollow. Plans are also underway to redesign the Fifth Street basketball court to accommodate pickleball.

A former history teacher, Henry spoke about his pride in helping reestablish the Historical Society of South Amboy and preserving the community's heritage.

He also highlighted Memorial Plaza, which honors local residents who died in military service, and the city's support for the American Legion's plans to rebuild its center and provide housing for veterans in need.

South Amboy is contributing land and funding from its Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support the veterans' housing initiative.

Perhaps one of the most significant points in Henry's address was the city's financial position. He reported that South Amboy had reduced municipal taxes for two consecutive years while building a $5.8 million surplus.

Henry credited the City Council, Planning Board, Redevelopment Agency and municipal employees for helping the city achieve its financial and development goals.

"To reduce it in one year is a feat in itself," Henry said of the municipal tax reductions. "To accomplish it two years in a row is almost unheard of."

Mayor Henry, in his final State of The City Address had an opportunity to thank the people who supported him throughout his career.

He expressed appreciation to city employees, voters and his family, particularly his wife, Linda, for her support throughout his years in public service.

Looking ahead, Henry said he hoped his legacy would reflect a commitment to preparing South Amboy for the future while protecting the character of the community where he grew up and spent most of his adult life.

"I would like to be remembered for helping South Amboy to get on the right path for the future," Henry said.

He concluded his remarks with a message of gratitude and faith, offering his hopes for the continued success of South Amboy and the nation.

"May God bless everyone. May God continue to bless America."

# Trunk Or Treat!

Samsel Upper Elementary PTO held a very successful Trunk or Treat on October 16. Food trucks, blow ups and of course candy were enjoyed by these costumed kids and adults. (Photos Submitted)

# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives 65 Years Ago

**1961**-The South Amboy Sabres Coach Russ Hahn (far right) and an assistant coach teach local youngsters and future Sabres football players, fundamentals of the game, during an organizational clinic. How many of those young faces look familiar to you? Drop us an e-mail and let us know if you recognize anyone in the picture. Send to: satimes@aol.com. Be sure to write your name.

## From The Youth League Archives

**1970's**-The Cards team from the Morgan A.A. (Bottom row): Tom Byrnes (far left), Joe Clune (3rd from left, different color shirt), Tom Foley (no emblem on hat), Don Clune (2nd from right), Ron Oldenburg (far right, #4?). 2nd row: Kevin "Kelly" Byrnes (far left), Lance Letti (3rd from left), Greg Anthony (4th from left), Ed English (2nd from right, #7?). Row 3: Mark Ryan (2nd from left), Doug Ryan (2nd from right). Row 4 (Top row): Coaches Mr. Ryan and Mr. Byrnes. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## Glory Days In Local Sports

2025-South Amboy girls soccer nipped East Brunswick Magnet, 2-1, as Ashley Moreira Burgos scored both goals…2017-The Bombers mauled Monroe, 47-7 in football. Connor Holmes and Zuriel Wright rushed for 2 TD's apiece, Savon Kirksey and Griffin Anthony added a touchdown each. Mark Whitford connected on a 10-yard scoring aerial to Jacari Carter. Tristan Behr excelled on defense with 10 tackles, 2 sacks, and 1 hit for a loss…2008-In a battle of unbeatens, South Brunswick shocked #1 rated Sayreville, 13-9 to snap the Bombers (5-0) start. Matt Guytch scored on a 5-yard touchdown run, and Daryl Stephenson booted a 23-yard field goal…1996-Sayreville beat East Brunswick, 13-12 in football action. Dustin Kemple fired a 31-yard TD strike to Ryan DePaul for the game winner with only 0:12 remaining. Omar Joseph scored earlier on a 75-yard touchdown run…1983-The Eagles of St. Mary's boys soccer team pounded Piscataway Tech, 5-1. Ken Mayers had 2 goals, Tom Keevins, and Tom Repsha each added a goal and assist, and Pat Slattery connected a goal on a corner kick…

1970-St. Mary's boys cross country team defeated crosstown rival Hoffman, 24-32. The Saints finished as follows: 1-Alan Neidermeyer, 2-Rich Therkelsen, 5-Dave St. Amour, 7-Don Ebinger, 9-John Avigliano…1969-Hoffman stopped South River in baseball, 3-1 behind Jim Tingle's brilliant 11 strikeouts, 1-hitter. Jim Lyons was 3-for-3 with 2 stolen bases and 2 RBI. Jack Bloodgood ripped an RBI single for the Guvs.

## St. Mary's First Score

**1998**-The Blue & Gold of St. Mary's scored for the first time since 1932, when John Matousek booted a 32-yard field goal in the second game of the season, as the Eagles were plastered by Metuchen, 47-3.

## Pop Warner Football Flashback:

**1967**-In the most fierce defensive struggle of the year, the South Amboy Sabres edged the Morgan Panthers, 6-0. With 0:50 seconds remaining in the game, Gene Berardo fired an 18-yard touchdown pass to Joe Belmonte for the game winner.

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..

## Back In Those College Days

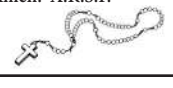
Mike Klimchak (St. Mary's HS) played golf for the Rutgers University-Newark team.

## Pro Baseball Report

Pitcher Riley O'Brien, had a fine season as the closer for the St. Louis Cardinals MLB team. Grandson of the late South Amboy sports legend, John O'Brien, he pitched in 66 games, totaling 64 innings, with 64 strikeouts, and an ERA of 4.08. He was (3-9) on the season, but his 38 saves tied for the #1 spot in the National League with Mason Miller of San Diego.

**Prayer to One's Guardian Angel**

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



The 1981 SWMHS Boys Gymnastics team was inducted into the school's Athletic HOF recently. Team members were: Artie Almeida, Shaun Cochran, Tim Coman, Jeff Cutrona, Joe During, Mark Loniewski, Kevin McFeely, Bill Polochak, Chris Rickadone, Mike Saltzman, Mike Wasko, Tim Wiamer, Managers:Bernadette Fitzpatrick and Kelly Scully. (Photo/Info Submitted)

## T.H.E. Game

**Year-2006**
**Sport-Girls Soccer**
**Teams-South Amboy vs. Cardinal McCarrick, Game 2 of the City Series**
**Recap**-In a really exciting contest, the Lady Guvs battled the Lady Eagles into overtime, until Lynn Bloodgood blasted in a game-winning goal from 35-yards out for a 1-0 South Amboy victory, and giving the Lady Guvs a split for the season with their crosstown rivals. Katey Charmello notched her fourth shutout of the season by stopping 17 Blue & Gold shots. Emma Murray had 18 saves for McCarrick.
**Co-Players of the Game**-Lynn Bloodgood and Katey Charmello.

## 20 Years Ago

**2006**-South Amboy Guvs blasted the Cardinal McCarrick boys soccer team, 6-0, to win the Mayor's Cup for Coach Tony Gonsalves. Oscar Cuello paced the Guvs with 4 goals and an assist, while Dave Tucka and freshman Sean Gardner had a goal apiece. Tim Adams recorded the 6-save shutout…

The South Amboy boys cross country team topped Cardinal McCarrick 22-33, marking their first win over their local rivals since 1989. Matt Wiater captured 1st place for the Eagles, and Coach Fred Henry's Guvs copped 2nd-5 finishes. Finishing 2nd was Kyle Septor, 3-Mark Parisen, 4-Matt Richmond, 5-John Winkler.

## Remember When? Sayreville Wins GMCT

The Sayreville Bombers girls field hockey team knocked South Plainfield from the ranks of the unbeaten, by defeating them, 1-0 in the Greater Middlesex Conference Field Hockey Tournament championship. The contest was an unbelievable battle, pitting Sayreville (14-2-2) against the top-seeded Tigers (15-0-1). The Bombers lost 2-1 in overtime earlier in the season. In the championship showdown, Coach Lynn Taylor's charges fought through regulation, two OT's, and an 11-round shootout, won by the Bombers (4-3). The shootout got underway with goals by Jen Latz and Megan Mazur. Lori Anne Miklaszewski scored in the ninth round, which set the stage for Latz' game winner in the 11th. Following Latz' goal, Jenny Savarese made the final pressure-packed save to give Sayreville its first GMCT crown since 1992. Savarese excelled in goal by stopping 14 shots.

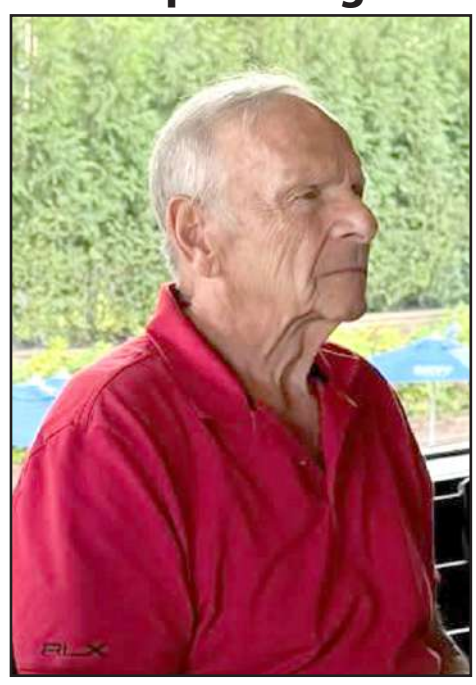
## Eagles First Football Game

St. Mary's fielded their first varsity football team in 1998 under Coach Jim Kazanjian. In their first game in 66 years, the Eagles bowed to a powerful Monroe squad, 41-0.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

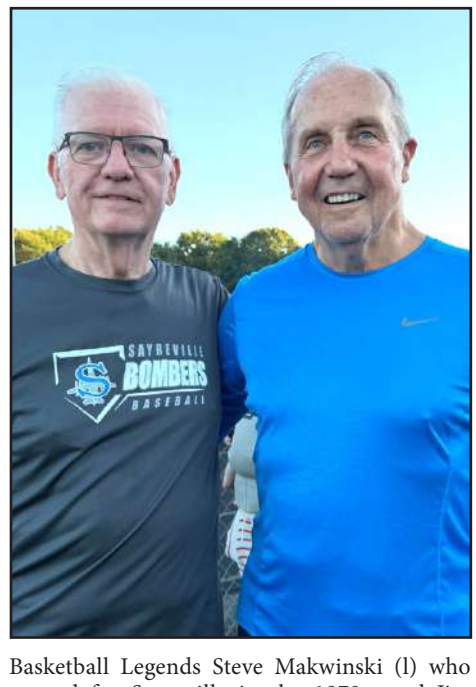
Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to 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.

## Local Sports Legends



One of the greatest all-around athletes in St. Mary's HS history, Jay Derent, is pictured recently at a popular area restaurant. (Photo submitted by Steve Makwinski)

Two of the All-Time greatest pitchers in Sayreville HS baseball history, Steve Makwinski (l) and Hank Zaleski shared fond memories at the recent 1976 class reunion. (Photo submitted)




Basketball Legends Steve Makwinski (l) who starred for Sayreville in the 1970s, and Jim McCloud, standout performer for St. Mary's in the late 60's, are pictured at a recent Sayreville Bombers football game. (Photo submitted)

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# Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber

## Salt Water

The recent big Nor'easter Storm changed everything. I checked Cliffwood Beach and other nearby area beaches. I saw a lot of debris but didn't see anything caught. Surf fishing to our south is recovering. A few Striped Bass and some small Bluefish especially at LBI and Island Beach. There have been some King fish at the south end of LBI but with water temperatures dropping down to the 60s, more changes will take place. Party boats that fish far offshore still catch some Tuna, big Bluefish, Benito plus False Albacore. Party boats that catch bottom fish are catching their limits of Sea Bass, some Ling and a few late staying Triggerfish. There have been Blackfish with some keepers off the rocks at Barnegat Inlet. Fluke season is now closed.

## Fresh Water

The big news is that Fall Trout stocking has taken place in most upstate streams and ponds normally stocked in the spring. The Pequest River alone has received over 1200 fish. Spring Lake too has received their share of fish. Otherwise, fishing for Bass, Pickerel and other freshwater fish will be good if the Fall weather continues to remain steady. Due to heavy rain from the Nor'easter storm some high water conditions exist in different areas.

## 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.

**Prayer to St. Jude**

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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..

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 -K.B,

# Obituaries

Barone, Kimberly A., 63, of Sayreville died on Aug. 17.

Beninati, Mary Ann E., 74, of Parlin died on Oct. 6.

Bodnar, Ronald, 84, of Parlin died on Oct. 5.

Brennan, Kelly A., 54, of Parlin died on Oct. 6.

DeLucia, Gladys L., 97, formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville died on Sept. 26.

Farkas, Kristen, 51, of Sayreville died on Oct. 11.

Ferrieri, Susan M., 81, of Sayreville died on Sept. 9.

Francik, Edward J., 78, of Parlin died on Sept. 28.

Garbowski, Julia B. "Julie" Drwal, 95, of Sayreville died on Oct. 4.

Gross, Lillie Mae Gamble, 79, of South Amboy died on Oct. 4.

Harrigan, Kelly A., 61, of Parlin died on Oct. 12.

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

Ikan, Edgardo, 74, of South Amboy died on Sept.17.

Jolly, Alvin, 92, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 9.

Landers, Rev. Paulina Simmone, 87, of South Amboy died on Sept. 24.

Lynch, Lori A., 63, formerly of Parlin died on Oct. 14.

Noble, Michael E., 64, of South Amboy, died on Oct. 16.

Peschler, Roberta H., 91, of Sayreville died on Oct. 6.

Richardson, Phyllis A. Rainone, 79, of Sayreville died on Oct. 5.

Rosenvinge, Gloria, 96, of Morgan died on Oct. 2.

Samuel, Rosemarie, 98, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 7.

Stasiak, Bruce F., 73, of Sayreville died on Sept. 23.

# In Memoriam

Bruce Stasiak, 73, of Sayreville died on Sept. 23. He worked for 35 years with the MCUA as a Field Inspector. Phyllis Rainone Richardson, 79, of Sayreville died on Oct. 5. She was a kind-hearted lady who was respected by all who knew her and will be missed. Ronald Bodnar, 84, of Parlin died on Oct. 5. He was a US Navy veteran, who taught Machine Shop and Math at Middlesex County Vocational schools, in addition was a life member of Morgan First Aid Squad.

## Michael E. Noble

MichaelE.Noble,64, of South Amboy died on Friday October 16, 2026 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. He worked on the tugboats and was employed by Middlesex County before retiring from the South Amboy Housing Authority. An avid fisherman, he was a fan of Notre Dame, the Miami Dolphins and the Cincinnati Reds.

Son of the late Joseph T. and Audrey Dill Noble he is also predeceased by his niece Jessica Vinsko. He is survived by his wife Lisa Karmazin Noble; his siblings Joseph Noble and his wife Mary Kay, Noreen Besner and Mark Noble and his wife Alice; his sister-in-law Andrea Henry; his brother-in-law John Karmazin and his wife Lori; his nieces and nephews Joseph, Jr. and Billy Noble, Bobby and Jessie Besner and Katie Rose Walenty and many great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and family.

Services are private to the family under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sammy's Hope.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

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..

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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

**CYNTHIA FORERO**

Wishing our brightest star in Heaven a Happy 57th Birthday on October 23, 2026.

Love you always,
Mom, Sons Mario & Giovanni & Sister Vicki

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## Alvin W. Jolly

Alvin W. Jolly, 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 9, 2026.

He was born and raised in Spotswood, NJ and graduated from Middlesex County Technical High School with a degree in Electrical Construction & Theory.

Al was a member of Our Lady of Victories Church and a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus. As an electrician by trade, for over 26 years, he was a proud member of IBEW Local 456 for 74 years. Upon leaving his trade he took a position as Director Superintendent of Water Utilities for the Borough of Sayreville. He was also honored to serve as a Borough councilman in Sayreville for many years. Upon retiring Al, and his wife Flo, moved to the Jersey shore area where he served as VP and Board Trustee of the Four Seasons at Wall community. He was also a devout member of Saint Denis Church in Manasquan.

Al enjoyed traveling with his wife Flo and took many trips throughout Europe and the US and would often visit their favorite spots in Florida and Cancun. He loved animals and formed strong bonds with the many pets his children had through the years. Al very much cherished time spent with all of his grandchildren attending their school functions and watching his grandson play high school football. He had a fondness for horses and was a proud co-owner of two racehorses. He was always thrilled to attend thoroughbred racing with his in-laws. Al enjoyed playing golf and playing bocce and exercising at the gym with his friends. He took great pleasure every day sitting on his front porch swing chatting with neighbors and giving "cookies" to his four-legged friends. He was especially fond of Cooper who kept a watchful eye through the window waiting patiently for his treat. Al, and his family are forever grateful to dear friends Janice Morgan, Frank and Paula Ortner and Rich and Diane Paul for their tremendous help and compassionate support.

Al is predeceased by his wife of 68 years Florence as well as his granddaughter Tara Jolly. He is survived by his two daughters, Donna (Bill) Masson and Doreen Ryan and his 2 sons, Douglas (Dee) Jolly and David (Sarah) Jolly as well as his grandchildren Colleen, David, Kayla, Sierra, Ava and great-grandson Aiden.

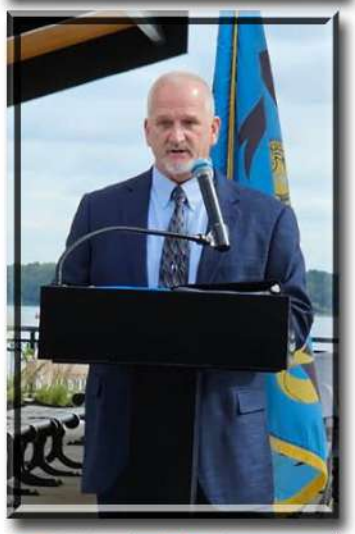
Al is also survived by his sister-in-law Julie (Al) Novak and brother-in-law Larry (Denise) Rybicki and many loving nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were under the direction of Orender Family Home for Funerals 2643 Old Bridge Road Manasquan, NJ 08736. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on October 14, 2026, at Saint Denis Church 90 Union Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736. Interment followed at St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery Sayreville, NJ. To send condolences to the family please visit www.orenderfamilyhome.net.

# South Amboy Ferry Terminal Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## September 29, 2026

(Photos by Brian & Phyllis Stratton)



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# VOTE COLUMN B

## BUILDING A STRONGER SOUTH AMBOY TOGETHER

**Investing in Public Safety**
strengthening fire department recruitment and retention, expanding community policing, and upgrading technology to better support residents, businesses, and local organizations.

**Opening an Office of Community Affairs**
support residents, improve access to essential services, and strengthen community engagement.

**Investing in Recreation, Facilities & Open Spaces**
Invest in parks, playgrounds, and ball fields, transform the ferry terminal into a vibrant destination, and enhance citywide beautification and code enforcement.

**Revitalize Downtown South Amboy**
increasing parking, creating a more business-friendly environment, and expanding year-round events and activities that bring residents together, and support local businesses.

## ANTHONY CONRAD FOR MAYOR

## MICKEY GROSS AND JUDITH RASKOSHIN FOR COUNCIL AT-LARGE

southamboydems.org TeamSouthAmboy TeamSouthAmboy

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

# VOTE COLUMN B

# TEAM SOUTH AMBOY

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### BY MAIL

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**Nearest Dropbox:**
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### EARLY

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**Nearest Early Voting Location:**
Sayreville Senior Center,
423 Main St, Sayreville

### ON ELECTION DAY

Your last chance to vote is on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd. Polls are open from **6am to 8pm.** Find your voting location by visiting middlesexcountynj.org/vote

## ANTHONY CONRAD FOR MAYOR

## MICKEY GROSS AND JUDITH RASKOSHIN FOR COUNCIL AT-LARGE

southamboydems.org TeamSouthAmboy TeamSouthAmboy

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