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# he South Amboy/Sayreville

This issue is dedicated to

\*June Stolte O'Leary



The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 33 Issue 10 July 27, 2024

#### **Congratulations!**



The South Amboy Police Department would like to congratulate and introduce their newest officer, Ptl. Joe Traina, who graduated from the Cape May Police Academy June 7, and is currently in field training!! (Photo/info submitted)



Rotary president Gregory Wyzykowski (1) presenting outgoing club treasurer William Demasi with an award for his service. (Photo/ info submitted)

#### **Duffett Honored** by the Knights of Columbus

Longtime Knight of Columbus Chris Duffett was honored on July 19th for his years of service to the Knights as Faithful Navigator of Assembly 676 of South Amboy, Parlin, and Lawrence Harbor. In addition to his 4th degree work, Chris has been the Aide to the State Deputy for the last couple of years as well as a Metuchen Chapter officer and has recently been elected chapter president. In the past, he also served as Grand Knight and District Deputy.

#### V.I.P. Interview-Michael "Mickey" Gross

By Tom Burkard

known and highly-respected for many years throughout Middlesex County, and especially in the City of South Amboy, where he has been a member of the City Council for over 12 years, and is currently serving as Council President, a post he has held for over 7 years

Affectionately known by almost everyone as "Mickey," he has made a positive impact on the countless people he has met and helped throughout his 43 ½ years career with the Middlesex County Public Health Dept. He certainly put his time and dedication in, working his way up from a trainee back in April 1981, to

Department Director, and his current position and was always spearheading ways groups as Division Head of Environmental Health & Waste Management.

Mickey's interesting life story began in Jamesburg, where he grew up. You might say he spent some time around Forsgate Country Club, where his father worked for over 40 years, and also became manager. Gross said that, "Growing up at the golf course was a lot of fun, and I met some major celebrities including Bob Hope, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays, Alex Webster, Frankie Avalon, Yogi Berra, Phil Rizzuto, and golf legends Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Chi-Chi Rodriguez, who I spent some time talking with, and was very interesting. His time around the golf course also inspired his lifetime love of the game, which he still enjoys today.

Mickey graduated from St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick, and was a valuable player on the school's powerhouse golf team. The team captured a county championship, and during his senior year went undefeated. Following graduation, he to meet only one President, Bill Clinton. is also priest in charge of Trinity Church continued his education at Middlesex County

Michael "Mickey" Gross has been well- College, and FDU, with a major in Business Administration. He later received his Masters Degree in Public Administration from FDU.

> His desire to volunteer and help others began during his high school days, when "They needed someone to play Santa Claus for the underprivileged children in New

> > Brunswick and Trenton, and I volunteered." This was only the beginning of Mickey's lifetime of helping others in need and being an "ultimate volunteer."

Jamesburg's loss was South Amboy's gain back in June 1985, when Gross moved to South Ambov. After arriving on the local scene, he became involved with many organizations,

could have successful fundraisers and other events. Most of the time, he was either chairman or co-chair of whatever was happening at the time, and still is totally involved with the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mickey said, "I love helping people, and it's an opportunity to give back to the community. It's an honor when people ask you for help."

When asked what inspired him to go into politics, he said, "My love for helping people. Dave Crabiel and George Otlowski were my all-time favorite politicians. Both taught me how to serve the public. They were Before her time in South Amboy, she served great men. They certainly loved their people. I worked for both of them and loved them."

Through the years, Mickey has met many politicians that included numerous governors such as Hughes, (his brother Bishop Hughes baptized Mickey), Cahill, Byrne, McGreevey, Murphy, and Christie Whitman, "who was on a bike ride for cancer for my nephew, who died with cancer." He said that he got geeky, especially Star Trek. Mother Ann

Continued on page 12



have elected their new officers for the 2024- airliner! Jan is ecstatic to be Grand Knight Council, Past Grand Knight Jordan served two community, years before becoming a trustee. Long time Knight and officer Jan Williams stepped up and was elected with no opposition. Jan is a retired airline pilot from Continental Airlines and, since his retirement, has kept himself busy helping with many local organizations. These organizations, in addition to the Knights, include the South Amboy Historical Society, the South Amboy Parade Committee, the Luke A. Lovely Post of the American Legion, and the Catholic War Veterans. A Sayreville resident, Jan resides there with his wife and his "other love" which is his 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air convertible. To that end, Jan is also very involved in the car show community. He also still can be found flying

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus above albeit in Piper Arrow as opposed to an 2025 year. As is tradition at South Amboy and looks forward to working with the local

> Grand Knight: Jan Williams Deputy Grand Knight: Ed Vassallo Chaplain: Rev. Stanley Gromadzki FS: John Mieczkowski Chancellor: Leslie Wilson Treasurer: Ken Smetana Advocate: Steve DiMeglio Recorder: Bruce Grzankowski Warden: Brian Bolla Inside Guard: Steven Szabo Outside Guard: Tom D'Amico Trustee 1: Jordan Drevelus Trustee 2: Gary Lattanzi Trustee 3: Jim Hoehman





Rev. Ann Urinoski Strazza

#### **Christ Church Priest Celebrates 8 Years as** a Priest!

The Rev. Ann Urinoski Strazza, a New Jersey native, grew up attending the Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield. Mother Ann discerned priesthood during her time in campus ministry and, after college, had a service opportunity in Cape Town, South Africa which strengthened her call. She later went to General Theological Seminary and was ordained for the Diocese of New Jersey. at Christ Church Christiana Hundred in Wilmington, Delaware from 2017 to 2020 as priest associate. In 2020, in the midst of the Covid Pandemic, Mother Ann was called to be priest in charge of Christ Church. Faced with many challenges due to the shutdown, she kept the parish afloat. On a personal level, she is known for her love of all things in Matawan. Please join Christ Church in celebrating Ann's yes! (Photo/article by Jordan Drevelus)

#### **Hoffman High School Multi-Year Reunion is** Back!

All alumni of Hoffman HS are invited to join us at our multi-year reunion. This nostalgic event will take place on Sunday, Oct 13th from 1-5pm at the Enterprise Snorkel Co. Fire Station, 107 George St, So. Amboy. The cost is \$60 per person in advance or \$75 at the door, (based on availability). Your ticket includes a delicious buffet, beer, wine, and sangria. Please send your check payable to Bill Croddick, 130 S Stevens Ave, So. Amboy. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sept 20th. Don't miss out on your chance to see old friends! Questions? Contact Helenmae Stader Bilder (hbilder 1@gmail.com) or stop one of the other committee members, Edward Szatkowski, Grace Hoffman Spencer, Kathy Koerner O'Leary, or Roy Dragotta.

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#### **Talk Of The Towns**

By Tom Burkard

#### Deacon Murtha Celebrates 30 Years

Former Sayreville resident and OLV parishioner Michael Murtha recently celebrated 30 years as an ordinated Deacon. He is currently serving in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Congratulations Deacon

#### St. Stan's Student Wins 2nd Place

Congratulations to Amora Marie Hawkins, a fourth grade student at St. Stan's, who won 2nd place in the 4th Grade Division in a contest titled "Beauty of Motherhood," sponsored by the Office of Human Life & Dignity, Respect Life Poster Contest.

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, Oueen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted to you. Thank you. -M.M.

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#### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Shannon McCleery of South Amboy, who graduated in May from Antioch University of New England with a PSYD in Clinical Psychology. An alumnus of both Cardinal McCarrick High School and Rutgers University, she continued her graduate education at Antioch University in New Hampshire. She has accepted a 2-year post doctoral position at UMASS Worcester after a 1 year internship in Bradenton, FL. She is happily returning to the northeast. Congratulations from your family and friends on all of your accomplishments. (Photo/

#### Save the Dates SWMHS 'Class of 1975 '50th Reunion Celebration

On Friday, June 27, 2025, Sayreville War Memorial High School 'Class of 1975' will be celebrating their 50th reunion. It will be held at Forsgate Country Club, 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831. The event will be from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

There is a tour scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025 at Sayreville War Memorial High School, 820 Washington Road, Parlin, NJ 08859, for the class to revisit their Alma Mater and take a walk down memory lane. All are asked to meet in the parking lot no later than 5:15 PM and the tour will start promptly at 5:30 PM for approximately one-hour. After the tour a get-together will immediately follow (location to be determined).

All questions should be directed to the Committee at SWMHS1975@gmail.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 -M.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 -A.S.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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#### 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 -BS

#### Pleasant Little



By Tom Burkard

1. The final Valedictorian in Hoffman HS in 1996 was? a.Shane Mason b.Lisa Venezia c.Daniel Cleamons

2. Sayreville's Superintendent of Recreation in 2004? a.Mickey Sedlak b.John Storonski c.Jamaal Ubozzi

3. This St. Mary's '69 HS graduate was selected 1996 Alumnus of the Year at Middlesex County College? a.Jim Campbell b.Steve Honeycutt c.Al Gomolka

4.In '19, this pet parlor was located on Main St. in Sayreville?

a.The Dog's Den b.Kitty's Kave c.Mel's Pet Parlor

5.St. Mary's Church Pastor in 2021?

a.Rev. Dennis Weezorak b.Rev. McConnell c.Rev. William Leonard

6. Named new Pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Sayreville back in '21?

a.Hee Sop Choi b.Ming Wong c.YoungHak Lee

7. Selected Grand Knight of South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 for 2019-2020?

a.Jan Williams b.Les Wilson c.Mike DeJoy

8.Grand Marshal of the Savreville Memorial Day Parade in 2022?

a.Rich Kosmoski b.Daniel Marzynski c.John Hamilton 9. This South Amboy resident was promoted to Major in the NJ Air National Guard & US Air Force in '04?

a.Frederick Hood b.Jaleen J. Brown c.John F. O'Connell

10. Where is the Sayreville Historical Society located?

a. Washington Rd. b. Main St. c. Pulaski Ave.

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

#### FROM THE DESK OF **TOM REILLY**

I hope all of you have been enjoying the warm (and at times, too hot) summer weather. In addition to days at the beach and summer vacation, the last few months have offered us a window into what makes our country great. On Memorial Day we honored service and sacrifice. On July 4th we commemorated our freedom and independence. Now, as summer begins to wind down, and with Labor Day on the horizon, perhaps we can begin to think about the value of hard work. After all, the combined values of service, freedom, and a dedication to hard work are the secret ingredients that have powered our nation for over two and a half centuries.

With those values in mind, I want to share with you some of the great organizations that contribute to our community and are always looking for volunteers and new members. The Knights of Columbus recently celebrated 125 years in South Amboy. The Knights were founded on the principle of charity, unity, and fraternity. Their intent is to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled, and needy members of our community. The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Rotary is an international service organization with local chapters that work to unite and better all of the communities they serve. Both the First Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church have food pantries that distribute food to those in need. Both food pantries accept donations and, more importantly, volunteers.

Finally, I also would like to share with you the work of a new organization in our community that will undertake an



exceedingly worthy cause. The South Amboy Domestic Violence Response Team is looking for volunteers and new members to combat domestic violence in our community. The Team will partner with Woman Aware -- a national domestic violence organization -- and our police department to help those who suffer from the effects of domestic violence. Please apply at www.womenaware.net/volunteer

Organizations such as those I have described above make our city a better place to live. Moreover, they also enrich the lives of those who volunteer. Numerous studies across the country and across time have confirmed as such. The Mayo Clinic recently found that volunteering reduces stress and anxiety and increases self-esteem and sense of purpose. The Journal of Social Service Research found that active volunteer programs provide communities with a greater sense of safety and trust among residents. And for those of us preparing to apply to colleges or a job, volunteering is a great resume booster. Please consider joining! Respectfully

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

#### **South Amboy Recreation Summer Camp**



This year's counselors with Director Kristen Liberty (far right)



The happy campers and counselors.

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## Yearbook-Sayreville 1999 By Tom Burkard

Bauer was Superintendent of Schools. . SWMHS teachers were: Gregg Palmer, Eleanor Schneider, Lynne Steele, Matthew Pazinko, Angela Tomczyk, Lori Rosen, Patricia Feltz, Lee Vozza, James Craft, Susan Jaysnovitch, Donna Amato. The Student Council was comprised of President-John Jackson; VP-Shelby Poplowski; Sec.-Erin Kelly; Treas.-Kelli Cooper. . .The Senior Class Council: President-Karen Martin; VP Corresponding Sec.-Nicole Teleposky; Recording Sec. Tifanie Bender. . . Some of the seniors randomly selected include: Jean Anthony, Ryan Appleby, Candice Bauman, Jessica Barry, Anthony Blaszka, Bella Boateng, Jennifer Bell, Dana Brus, Troy Burke, You Chen, Christine Chrzan, Maria Chu, Sarah Cobb, Kelli Connors, Arthur Coward, Dominique DeSantis, Mary Ellis, Mary Fallon, Brian Feger, Robert Goscinski, Sandra Gieg, Tara Hahn, Randolph Hammond, Tina Marie Holmes, Thomas Hospidor, Vera Hunger, Sarah Jastrzebski, Barry Kaplan, Thomas Kapusta, Kimberly Keenan, Timothy Kenny, Jamel Killiebrew, Michelle Krainski, Jennifer Kukulski, So Min Lee, Eric Leonhardt, Christine Lesko, Teresa Lucadano, Ryan Masterson, Aalok

The yearbook was titled "From Start Mody, April Miller, Matthew McDonnell, To Finish," and what a year it was! William Jennifer Murphy, Judy Ng, Jesse O'Brien, Patrick O'Connor, Danielle Ogden, Walter .Arnold Oftedal was principal. . .Some Pytel, Dana Pasztornyicky, Gema Patel, David Pollando, Jonelle Quinto, Nadia Rucinski, Abdul Savage, Brenda Shaver, Nisha Shah, Scott Schlottfeld, Thomas Starace, Thomas Szcepanik, Matthew Steiner, Nicole Teleposky, Abdullah Wahab, Drew Warden, Evan Weinstein, Christine Whaley, Edward White, Toni Marie Zammit, Vanessa Zielinski, John Farinick, Ken Hays Jr., Russell Thomsen, Marcin Ziobron. . . Pat Doll and Kimberly Salaycik; Treas.-Charles Bowden; Andrew Golden were Co-Editors-In-Chief of Echo Lites, the school newspaper. . .Elizabeth Vassallo and Winifred Huang were Co-Editors-In-Chief of Images, the literary magazine. . . Nicole Fitzgerald and Shauna Lynch were Co-Editors-In-Chief of Quo Vadis, the yearbook. Amanda Vineyard was captain of the color guard. Mike Solovey and Sam Guine were the drum majors in the marching band. . . There were plenty of extracurricular activities ranging from clubs and organizations to many different sports teams. Popular school plays in '99 were "Romeo & Juliet," and "Fiddler on the Roof." The SWMHS Class of '99 was a very talented and diverse group of young adults who certainly made the school and Borough of Sayreville proud.

#### Jay Elliot Receives Charles S. Edgar Award (Photo/information submitted)

is proud to have honored Jay Elliot at its Pandemic was paramount in ensuring that

Annual Dinner with the Charles S. Edgar Memorial Award.

Jay, a pillar in the South Amboy community, spent over 40 years serving Middlesex County. From 2010 - 2012, Jay was the Edison Director of Health and Human Services. Since his retirement, Jay works as a consultant providing food safety training, permit expediting, project and special event management. He also dedicates time to assist in planning and executing the Annual South Amboy St. Patrick's Day parade.

While Jay has been a YMCA of MEWSA looks forward to continuing this partnership!

The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Board Member since 2016, his support and Woodbridge, South Amboy and Piscataway impact on childcare during the COVID-19

> families with essential workers had access to quality care. He also serves on the Child Care, Fund Development and Human Resources committees.

> "Jay is an incredible partner to the YMCA of MEWSA," says President and CEO Rose Cushing. "His support and leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic was invaluable and his continued dedication to the Y and the communities we serve is beyond appreciated."

The YMCA of MEWSA is incredibly grateful for Jay's support and

#### Sayreville Public Library News

Chair Yoga with Sabah (Virtual)

evening of mindful, therapeutic movement. This chair yoga class is open to everyone and will help you decompress and relax using gentle stretching and breathing work.

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#### Mindful Yoga

yoga class is open to all levels of experience. This class is designed for stress relief. floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

**Movie Matinee** 

Monday, Aug. 5, @6PM Join us for an Tuesday, August 20 @1PM. This month: Ordinary Angels: Based on a true story. Starring Hilary Swank and Alan Ritchson Rated PG-1 hr 58 Mins. Refreshments provided. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

#### 12 things a professional organizer would toss, with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

Tuesday, Aug. 20,@6PM. Join best selling author and humorist, Jamie Novak, and learn the 12 things she says should go first. learn what to look for, what to do with it and make Tuesdays in August @6:30PM. Come join decluttering easier. This is a virtual session. us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

#### Adult Summer Reading Finale

Participants should be able to get down to the Thursday, Aug. 29, @5PM Join us for our end of summer party. The winners for the adult Summer Reading Book Bingo will be announced tonight. Refreshments will be

#### Letters

#### Thank You

On behalf of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 and the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy, we would like to thank all the supporters, donators, contributors and people who came to the picnic that helped make our 1st annual picnic a huge success. Without all of you, we would not have been able to be successful. Once again, the citizens and friends of this great little city showed why this city is so

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Szaro

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



## **South Amboy Recreation Tennis Clinics**(Photos Submitted)



Ages 7-11 21 students! Coach/Instructor Greg Wyzykowski. (far right)



Ages 12 & up. Coach/Instructor Greg Wyzykowski. (far left)















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#### The Smoke Column

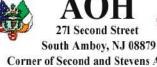
By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, B.A., M.S.

boys say that they want to be firefighters when they grow up? At one time or another I think that every little boy has said that after seeing the big red engine responding to an incident with lights flashing and sirens blaring. But too many times as he grows older these thoughts become a faded memory. Fortunately for some lucky boys, they do grow up and are able to fulfill their dreams of becoming a firefighter. There is a saying that was altered to describe a firefighter, it is that they must be a "Jack of All Trades and a Master of Most." This is true for most firefighters. Usually after a fire fighter has been fighting fires for some time, his next step up the ladder would be to drive the fire apparatus. Firefighters who drive the apparatus can be called by various names depending on the department and area of the country. Apparatus drivers can be called engineers, chauffeurs, and pump operators. When someone sees an apparatus responding to a call, they call it a fire truck but in the fire service there are differences. A "Fire Engine" carries water, hose, and has a pump to force water through the hoses and onto the fire. A "Fire Truck" may have the same items as the engine but it also has some type of ladder or aerial device mounted on the apparatus. Not everyone feels comfortable driving a fire apparatus! When a fire apparatus is responding to a call, the operator must pay strict attention to everything around him including the road conditions, speed, noise, radio transmissions, instructions, and one of the most difficult is to anticipate what the other drivers on the road plan to do. I have had drivers attempt to pass the fire apparatus, refuse to move over (Remember the MOVE

#### **Broken Time**

By All Gomlka Jr. Times Poet Laureate c.1984

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



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How many times have you heard little OVER LAW), try to race the fire engine, or some drivers who never hear the siren or see the oncoming flashing lights and carelessly pull out in front of the approaching apparatus. Arriving on the scene safely is only half the job because now the driver must operate the pump and supply water to the fire fighters as they attack the fire. The supply of water carried on the engine can be used up within 5 minutes. The driver must quickly secure a water source which will enable the crews to continue battling the fire. Without a supply of water, the crews must back out to a safe location as the fire continues to intensify. The pump operator must constantly monitor the water supply/pressure gauges and be able to make necessary adjustments as quickly as they arise.

> While enroute to the scene of a house fire, many thoughts go through the driver's mind as to the conditions he will find on arrival. Is it the middle of the day and are the occupants at work, school, or out shopping? Is it the middle of the night when the occupants are asleep and will a rescue attempt be necessary? The driver and/or officer of the responding apparatus have an enormous amount of stress and pressure on them because of the many decisions that must be made in microseconds and they must be the correct decisions otherwise the outcome can become disastrous. The driver has the responsibility of transporting the crew to the scene safely, providing them with the tools and water to do their job, and bringing them home safely after the fire is over. This can only be accomplished with training and experience which many firefighters have endured over the years.

#### **Slow Down**

By Robert W. Eginton

Slow down, ease up, Take your foot up off the gas. I'm going the speed limit So there is no need to pass. How important can that text message be, Then to put your life in jeopardy. Please put down All of the distractions, Because there are consequences For your thoughtless actions. So please, slow down Get off that phone, Because the life that you save May be your own!



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## South Amboy School News (Photos/Info Submitted)



South Amboy BOE recognized Vera Baskoka (1) for serving as the student representative to the Board for the 2023-2024 school year Vera is pictured with Superintendent of schools Dr. Frederick Williams (r). Great job Vera!



South Amboy Elementary School Principal Sean Dunphy (c) is pictured with retirees Evelyn Gonzalez (l) and Mary Blumetti (r). Congratulations! (Photo Submitted)



Congratulations to SAMHS students, staff, business partners and Director of Special Services Meryl Gill, for their participation in the Community Based Learning Opportunities for the 2023-2024 School Year. (Photo/Info Submitted)



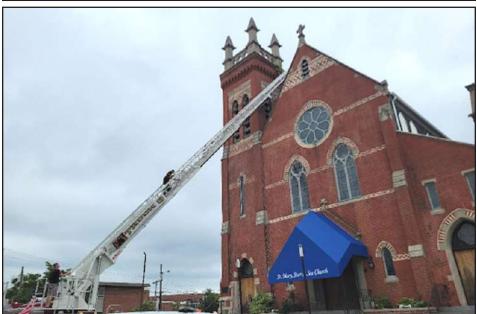
GMC Gold Division Boys Tennis Coach of the Year Tony Gonsalves (r) is pictured receiving his award From South Amboy High School Athletic DIrector Ja'mon Dunn (l). (Photo Submitted)



South Amboy High School's graduation of the Class of 2024 was held on June 25, 2024. Pictured are class Valedictorian Vera Bacsoka (r) and Salutatorian Maaz Farooq (l). Congratulations to the class of 2024







On July 12th members of South Amboy Fire Dept. did some extra community service of a "Higher Calling" at St. Mary's Star of the Sea church when asked to cut out a small tree that was growing between the brick wall and a downspout of the church steeple approximately 80 ft.up and at an awkward angle. (Photo/ story by Jamie Norek)

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#### **Sayreville Independence Day Celebration** (Photos by Tom Burkard)



Great music filled the air at Kennedy Park before the fireworks.



Sayreville Emergency Squad members were on duty for the event.



Kids had fun and games at the jam-packed celebration.



The Borough of Sayreville Police Dept. provided outstanding security for all who attended.



Sayreville Recreation Director Brian VanDongen (2nd from right) is pictured with his fine volunteers, who did an outstanding job throughout the celebration.



South Amboy First Aid Squad members were prepared to help anyone in need.



summer sky at Kennedy Park in Sayreville.

#### **Dowdell Library News**

swing at the Dowdell Library!

Drop in to meet Kody the Horse at the Dowdell library on Monday, August 5 at 5:00 pm sharp. Shortly after, there will be a Celebrity Story time with author Terri Abbatiello reading her book Kody's Capers with projected video at 5:30 pm. Then, at 6:30 pm we are having a Book Launch Party with refreshments and more. Kody's Capers books and stuffed animals will be available for purchase. Library hours on August 5 will be from 12-8 pm.

Also, be sure to stop by the library for the South Amboy National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm for fun within your community.

Night on Tuesday, August 13 from 6:30 to Madness basketball play-off.

Don't miss Satori Martial Arts on Thursday, August 22 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There will be door prizes and Sensei ice cream sundaes

Parents with Toddlers and Kids! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler/Kids Thursday Play Dates on Thursday August 1, 8, and 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at summer programs with Ms. Maryanne on Wednesday August 7 and 14 at 1:00 pm for a Frozen Excavation Activity and Kite Flying. Take note that supplies are limited for these

Also, don't miss out on Food Explorers with Ms. Maryanne on Monday, August 12 at 1:00 pm. This hands – on cooking program is for kids ages 5-12. Registration is required!

Visit the library for Pokémon Card Swap on Friday, August 16 from 1:00 to **2:30 pm.** All ages are welcome.

will receive a prize. The child, ages 6-12, scooter is recommended for kids age 3-12 August long at 1:00 pm.

The sun is shining and summer is in full with a maximum weight of 110 pounds. The drawing will take place during the Family Sports Night on Tuesday, August 13.

Win a back to school backpack! Ask us about details. Drawing will take place on Thursday, August 22.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for an Ice Cream Sundae Bash on Friday, August 9 and for Ultimate Survivor Challenge on Tuesday, August 20 both from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Also don't miss out on Teen Drop in Video Games on Friday, August 2, 23, and 30 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm and on Monday August 12 and 19 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and on Tuesday August 20 and 27 and Wednesday August 28 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Don't forget! The **Teen Summer Club** Visit the library for Family Sports is running from June 1 to August 15. The teen, ages 13-17, who visits the library the 8:00 pm to play fun games, enjoy stadium most between June 1 and August 15 will refreshments and to watch the March receive a bike! The drawing will take place on Thursday, August 15.

Also, drop in for Adult Murder Demonstration and Celebrity Storytime Mystery Board Game on Thursday, August 1 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

> Adults and Teens! Visit the library for DIY Pottery Part I on Thursday, August 8 and for DIY Pottery Part II on Thursday, August 15 both starting at 6:30 pm. You must register for both events.

> Adults! Come in for Adult Vacation Tile Coasters on Monday, August 19 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Stop by for **Mah Jong Mondays** from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 6:30 to

Adults! Make sure to enter the weekly raffle every time you check out library materials for an opportunity to win prizes!

The Senior Book Club will be on Monday, August 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Make sure to enter the weekly raffle every time you check out library materials for an opportunity to win prizes!

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Don't forget! The Children's Summer and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online Club is in full swing through August 14. virtual health programs. Please register by Each child ages 0-5 who reads 15 books emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on the 2nd who visits the library the most between June and 4th Tuesdays in August at 1:00 pm. 1 and August 13 will win a scooter! The Additionally, Stretch It Thursdays occurs all

#### Grand Marshal



Grand Marshal for the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade, Ed Strek of American Legion Post 211, waves to the crowd on Main Street. Sgt. Major Robert Bruce (not pictured) of VFW Post 4599, was also a



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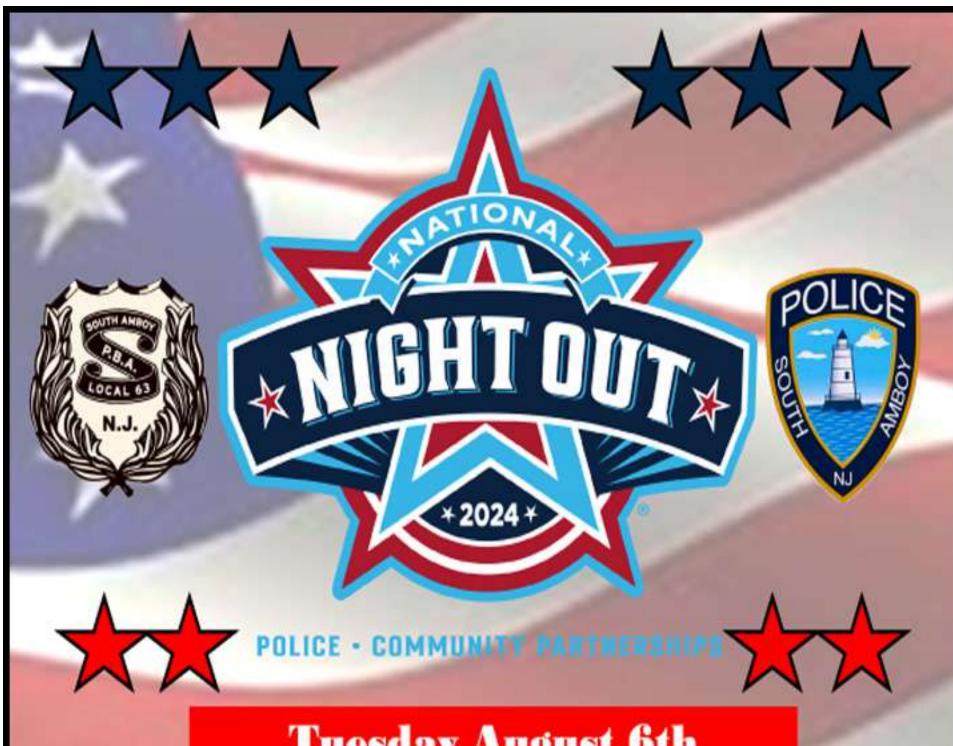
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By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water

Local bay fishing in Raritan Bay for Fluke has been good with the usual number of shorts and enough keepers to make it interesting. It's not that way with local beach fishing in our area. Bluefish have taken over from the Striped Bass and it's hit and miss. I saw one person lose a nice 4 pound Bluefish due to poor handling at Cliffwood. I checked Keansburg a few times but didn't see much action in the surf. Fluke and Bluefish are being caught along the coast. There was a 6 pound Fluke at Island Beach plus some Bluefish. At LBI there are steady bites from Bluefish. Junk fish such as Skates and Smooth DogFish are here too. CowNose Rays have made an appearance, so you must watch your rod or you may lose it! Blowfish and some Weakfish are in Barnegat Bay. Kingfish are being caught from the surf. Some of these Kingfish are all silver with no markings with a black tail. These are Gulf Kingfish previously unavailable here, but with high water temps, more semi tropical fish are now here. Party boats are catching good numbers of Bluefish, Chub Mackerel and Bonito plus a few Sea Bass of which you can only keep one at this time.

#### Fresh Water

Rain and hot weather have slowed things up. Largemouth Bass and various Panfish are the best bet as of now. Early morning and late afternoons are the best times. If you want Carp, lakes and large slow moving rivers are the best places to find them. Trout fishing is slow now due to the hot weather creating warm water. If you still want to try, a likely place is Mulhockaway Creek at the west side of Spruce Run Reservoir. After you park, it's a 3/4 mile walk to the mouth in a forest area, but that water is cold all year.

#### 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.

#### Calling All SWMHS Class of '75 Alumni

Be sure to update your current - email / phone number/mailing address so we are able to inform you about our upcoming 50th Year Reunion Celebration in 2025. Please send your current information to: SWMHS1975(a) gmail.com.

You can also join our Facebook page, 'Sayreville War Memorial High School Class of 1975', for up-to-date information as it becomes available.

#### **OLV Seniors Bus Trip** Scheduled

The OLV Seniors have scheduled a bus trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for the musical "Always...Patsy Cline." Based on a true story of Patsy's career as Country Music's Superb Songstress, the musical will feature all of her greatest hits, and a "down home good time." Cost is \$140.00 per person, which includes transportation, dinner, show, and gratuities. Show Date.. August 4th, 2024. Contact Carmen at 732-254-9425. Deadline for sign up is July 21st, 2024.



#### **SIGN UP NOW!**

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Visit our troop meeting and find out what joining our troop can offer you! Boys 11 years old – 17 years old welcome AIMS OF SCOUTING: \*CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT \*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT \*CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

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Emma Arleth Elementary School Cafeteria 3198 Washington Rd. Sayreville 7:30PM - 9:00PM

FOR MORE INFO Facebook: Troop 97, Sayreville Email: SAYREVILLETROOP97@

GMAIL.COM

#### **Congratulations** Dominik!



**Dominik Pawlus** 

The Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 sponsored Dominik Pawlus, a junior from South Amboy High School who attended The American Legion Jersey Boys State school. He graduated on June 21, 2024. It was a week-long session dealing with the following: it is a college-level," learnby-doing" practicum that provides New Jersey high school juniors experience in democracy, government, and leadership. Learning is gained through lectures, discussions, guest speakers, and career seminars. A college & career fair, career seminars, a sports program, and more are also provided. Our goal is to give our statesmen an appreciation for our form of government in hopes of making them more involved citizens in their communities. A special thank you goes out to Tony Gonsalves for his assistance in helping the Legion select Dominik.

Congratulations Dominik! A job well done!



A belated congratulations to John McCleery on his graduation from Rowan University, College of Engineering in May of 2023. John graduated Cum Laude with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. He has been employed since June, 2023 at GPI Engineering in Bridgewater, NJ. (Photo/info submitted)

## 24th Annual **Car Show**

Sunday, August 4, 2024 10:00am to 4:00pm

Rain date: Sunday, August 11, 2024



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Admission is FREE for the General Public

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Advanced Entry Fee \$5 per Vehicle / Day of Show Entry \$20 Pre-Registration Deadline: July 31, 2024

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\*(also mail registrations to)

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Wanted: Car vendors only! Early entry fee \$20.00 Day of show fee \$25.00

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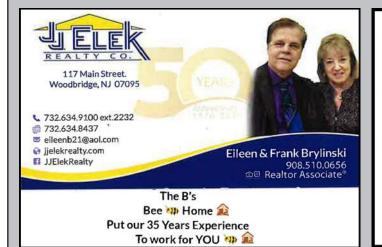
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#### He has either chaired or co-chaired the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade for 19 years; the Irish Festival; South Amboy Day which is scheduled for Oct. 12th. Mickey stated that "There is no greater city to live in than South Amboy. I consider it an honor to run events." He also praised the South Amboy firemen and police for their dedication to helping others during their time of need, and said, "South Amboy is the greatest."

"Mickey" Gross continued from page 1

"I was so proud to meet the President. It

was such an honor, and he knew my name.

Congressman Rush Holt introduced me to

countless events Mickey has totally been involved in, especially the fundraisers where

he has helped so many. When pressed for

some of his favorite and most worthwhile

ones, he said, "The WWF Wrestling at

St. Mary's Gym for St. Mary's Athletic

Association; running the Yankee Doodle

Circus for St. Mary's; Cardinal McCarrick

Carnival, which I chaired for a few years;

the 5-mile Frog Hollow Run."

We could probably write a book on the

President Clinton."

Gross is known for many great things, but is also the catalyst for running the popular St. Patrick's Day Parade, which is one of the largest and best in all of NJ. "I feel so much pride when I see everyone applauding those in the parade. St. Patrick's Day Parade is really special. It's also a homecoming for former residents who come back to town each year for the festivities. I promise that next year's parade will be bigger and better, and we already have the Mummers Band booked. Mark Herdman, the OEM Coordinator, will be the Grand Marshal."

Mickey was finally honored as Grand Marshal of this year's parade and said, "I was very proud that I was chosen, but don't think I deserved it. There were over 100 people who deserved it more."

This year, Mickey received a prestigious honor from the NJEHA for meritorious service, as the Association's Man of the Year. During Covid, he coordinated vaccine and testing sites all over the county. He said, "I got credit, but the real credit should go to others, the young inspectors who put their lives on the line to help people and saved countless lives. When I retire, I will miss working with them. A couple of locals from South Amboy, Sean Moran and Lynn Ust did a really good job, and our city should be proud of them. Also volunteers Sue Gross, Jan and Donna Williams came out to help and did an outstanding job." Mickey was the Chairman of the State of New Jersey Health Council during Covid, and interacted with the Commissioner of Health.

During Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Mickey said, "I was part of the team at the Fire Academy, and worked night and day helping people all around the county."

When he gets a chance from his always hectic schedule, he enjoys playing golf and  $biking\,at\,the\,shore.\,\,Mickey\,said\,that\,he\,is\,most$ proud of his wife Sue, kids and grandkids, and that "The best thing in my life was marrying "Saint Sue," and moving to South Amboy."

Mickey's future plans are to "Keep on working hard, and keep on helping people." He also said that he hopes to be remembered someday as "Someone who loved South Amboy and loved people."

He is truly a modest guy who never seeks credit, reward, or accolades for his wonderful dedication and good deeds to anyone in need. This gentleman puts his heart and soul into every venture he pursues, and is always successful in helping groups and organizations with their fundraisers. The world today can use a lot more people like Michael "Mickey" Gross.

Mickey also had a message to the wonderful people of South Amboy, "South Amboy is the greatest city in the world. I want to stay healthy to continue helping people."

#### 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.

#### Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

"Friends"fired up for our annual shows. Upcoming Shows at Sayreville's Kennedy Park, back to back, Saturday Sept. 14th, "Blast from the Past"Car Show, 5pm to 8pm, Hosted by DJ Richie Hart

And the "Just us Cruisers" Car Club. Richie will spinning the "songs we all listened to while "cruising our favorite hangouts," in our "Rides"..and Central Jerseys #1 Car Show do-wop and rock n roll Band, The "Clem and Friends Band," will be bringing back all those memories, with songs from the 50s thru the 70s, with the most talented musicians in Central Jersey and New York!

With so many thanks going out to the Sayreville Rec.Dept.for having us for the last 15 plus years, starting with a "dream" I had when then Director, the late Jerry Ust, gave me the "ok, go for it" nod to put this show together..got in touch with Richie Hart, and with the continued blessings and go ahead from current Rec Director, Brian Van Dongen, here we are! The band and I extend our sincerest thanks! Doesn't end there...

The following day, Sunday, Sept.15th,we're back at Sayreville's Kennedy Park for the Boro's annual "Sayreville Day"gathering! The day starts around 11a.m. with local acts and shows onstage.."Friends"will close the day around 2pm to 4pm, with a set of "Classic Rock" from the 60s thru the 80s!

Rain Dates for both are the following

Hey Rock n Rollers..getting weekend, Sat.the 21st, and Sun.the 22nd. Forward to Sunday Oct. 27th, for St. Stans 4th Annual Car Show..with, yup, you guessed it.. DJ Richie, the "Cruisers Car Club", and "The Clem and Friends Band"..with Memorial "Best in Show"Trophies from Jerry Ust, and Tommy Samuel, and much, much more! Start Time..11 am...going till 3pm! We have a "Rockin Time at this one too! Rain Date, the following week..Sun.Nov.2nd..Be There.. and, well.. you know the rest!

> AND...most important..July is an important month in my life, July 21st, the lady who's been putting up with the music, rehearsals and endless guitars for over 42 years, Kathy my beautiful wife celebrates Her Birthday AND I'm NOT giving out the "Number!"

> BUT..It's also our 42nd Anniversary.. yup, this "cheapo' married her on her birthday! Two for One Deal! Then..on the 31st..Our wonderful daughter Jessica celebrates her 41st Birthday! Blessed? You Bet!

> I've gotta take time to sincerely thank all of you, friends, readers, and strangers, for the wonderful comments and words you've taken the time to give me concerning the Tribute Article I wrote for Carmen F.Spezzi SR. in the June Issue..I'm humbled by them, it was a painful article to write, but I could have filled the entire Issue with words and memories and love he spread throughout our community. Thank you all, from my heart... till next time...MUSIC It heals ALL!

#### **Acoustic Friday, August 16, 2024**

two new acts to its Acoustic Friday showcase on August 16. Drummond Place, a Red Bankbased duo, features Pearl Lee on vocals, rhythm guitar and ukulele and Jim Murphy on vocals, lead and rhythm guitar. Drummond Place covers many songs sure to be familiar Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open to the SA Arts audience.

Also based in Red Bank, the Sunken City is an indie pop folk trio with Andrea Lynn on vocals, accompanied by Mark Healey and Sean Meuerle on guitars. The Sunken City released their three track self-titled debut EP in 2022, with themes of hope, love and human connection at the center of their songwriting. The band's sound incorporates an interplay of acoustic guitar layered with Alliance Facebook page.

#### **#1 Pop Hits July 27**

2021-Butter-BTS 2018-In My Feeling-Drake 2009-I Gotta Feeling-Black Eyed Peas 1991-I Do It For You-Bryan Adams 1981-The One That You Love-Air Supply **1976**-Kiss And Say Goodbye-The Manhattans 1965-Satisfaction-The Rolling Stones

South Amboy Arts Alliance welcomes melodic electric guitar leads and ethereal female vocals. The Sunken City's repertoire consists largely of original songs with a few covers selected from 80's/90's alternative music. @thesunkencitymusic.

SA Arts Alliance is located at 141 N. at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is \$5.00 and complementary light refreshments will be offered.

The Alliance seeks interested acousticoriented 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 for updates on the South Amboy Arts

#### **#1 Country Hits July 27** 2021-Fancy Like-Walker Hayes

2018-Get Along-Kenny Chesney 2009-People Are Crazy-Billy Currington 1995-Any Man Of Mine-Shania Twain 1987-The Weekend-Steve Wariner 1974-You Can't Be A Beacon-Donna Fargo 1966-Think Of Me-Buck Owens

#### One Hit Wonders-20 Years Ago

1985-Bowling For Soup; Against All Ocean Avenue-Yellowcard; The Reason-Odds-Steve Brookstein; Charlene-Anthony Hoobastank; Tipsy-J-Kwon; Woo Hoo-Hamilton; Dreams-Diana DeGarmo; Gigolo-

2004-Heaven-Los Lonely Boys; Nick Cannon; No Problem-Lil Scrappy; 5.6.7.8's.





Bring back memories of Saturday mornings? Let us know who they are, send your answer to satimes@aol.com by August 19th. Last month's mystery man was Leonard Skinner. See the letter below from Walter Starzec Jr for details (thank you Walter), Thomas Harrigan, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr, Mark Moniello, Edna Pilch, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Dane Colburn, Mark Moniello,

> Gary Feret, Ed English. Incorrect answers that we received were: Lynard Skinner, Leonard Skinard and Jeff Healy.

> Who is it? - Mr. Leonard Skinner a gym teacher and basketball coach from Jacksonville, FL. He was the inspiration to name the Rock Band Lynyrd Skynyrd, the band members were his students. This was a Real Good One, and He may be the most influential Teacher of all time, next to Mrs Edna Mazur Pilch who was mine and Walter Krzyzkowski's Music Teacher back at St Stan's.

Walter Starzec Jr

June Who is it? **Leonard Skinner** 

#### WWW.?



Does this building look familiar? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by August

19th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

#### Last month's WWW.? was Sayreville's Dept. of Code Enforcement & Zoning, 49 Dolan St.

Winners: John & JoAnn French, Edna Pilch, Steve Laskiewicz, Sonia Iglesias, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pat Scully, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr, Barb Bockus, Lisa Grankowski, Paul Conlon, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Dermot Scales, Gary Feret, Ed English.

answer for the May contest, as well as the bar to collect every Saturday. The last Sorry Pete.

#### Ye Old Spye Inn Old Spye Road in Morgan

There were many rumors of secret tunnels but no proof was ever found. When it was being renovated my brother Tom was there trying to pick up some work, though he was too young to do real work, but they let him clean out different rooms. He found a few rolls of coins. He never found any evidence of secret rooms or trap doors and the building was gutted down to the studs. I delivered the Perth Last month we missed Pete McIntyre's Amboy Evening News and went into the following interesting info he provided. owner, Hila Owens, known as Candy, was friendly and always gave me a tip. The place had a musty odor from the cigarette smoke and spilled beer.

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



Sayreville's Dept. of Code Enforcement & Zoning, 49 Dolan St.

# By Tom Burkard



1.Lady Of My Heart 2.Lady 3.My Sweet Lady 4.Lay Lady Lay 5.Lady Madonna 6. Three Times A Lady 7.Lady In Red 8.She's A Lady 9. Foxey Lady 10.Sentimental Lady 11.Lady Willpower 12.Green-Eyed Lady 13.Lady Love

a. The Beatles b.Kenny Rogers c.Jimi Hendrix d.Bob Welch e.Gary Puckett/Union Gap f.Chris deBurgh g.Sugarloaf h.The Commodores i.Tom Jones j.Lou Rawls k.Jack Wagner **I.John Denver** m.Bob Dylan

Answers 1k 2b 3l 4m 5a 6h 7f 8i 9c 10d 11e 12g 13j.

## The Local Sports Memory Machine By Tom Burkard

#### From The Babe Ruth League Archives



1972-The talented Independence Fire Co. Babe Ruth League baseball team went to the league championship, but lost to a tough South Amboy Trust Co. team. Pictured top row (l-r) Coach Bob Carew, Ray Akerman, George Stader, Rich Servis, Joe Kolakowski, Bruce Richmond, Fred Beaudry. Bottom row (l-r) Greg Gasiewski, ?, John Connors, Bob Bulman, Ron Keegan, Tom Diem. (Photo courtesy of Joanne Katko. Players names courtesy of Fred Beaudry and Tom Diem)

#### T.H.E. Game

Year-2007 Sport-Baseball Teams-Cardinal McCarrick vs. East **Brunswick Tech** 

**Recap**-Eric Poltrictzky fired a brilliant 0-hitter and struck out 12 to lead the Eagles to a 7-1 victory over East Brunswick Tech. Paul Conlon went a perfect 3-for-3 with an RBI, Rick McCutcheon knocked in 2 runs, while Mike Harris and Chris Mortenson each added a double.

Player-of-the-Game-Eric Poltrictzky

#### Diamond Dust

1975 South Amboy Little Fellas League English Chevron 10 Parkway Fabricators 3-Chris Martin, Gary Vona and Eric Kurowsky led the way with 4 hits each. Tom Lewis stroked 3 hits for Parkway.

Jo-Tom's 4 Daylight Bakery 3-Winning pitcher Mike Carney fired a 2-hitter and struck out 9.

#### 1975 South Amboy Midget League

Cards 5 Mets 3-Ned Faircloth and Bob Dowty had 2 hits apiece.

Pirates 6 Yanks 5-Matt Green drilled 3 hits and had 2 RBI.

Orioles 6 Yanks 3-Glenn Vona laced 3 hits. 1975 South Amboy Girls Softball

Dodgers 13 Mets 0-Winning pitcher Grace Hoffman fired a brilliant 1-hitter.

Royals 8 Indians 5-Ann Noble ripped 3 hits to drive in 3 runs.

#### **40 Years Ago**

1989-The Sayreville girls softball team was led by Lea Berry, who topped the Bombers in batting avg., and most hits; Aimee Derent-most RBI, and was 2nd in batting avg., Stefanie Suminski, who set a team fielding record with a 1.000 perfect record for the season.

#### **65 Years Ago**

1959-St. Mary's senior pitcher Ray Cavanagh fired a fine 5-hit shutout over Red Bank Catholic, as the Saints nipped the Caseys, 1-0.

#### 85 Years Ago

1939-Hoffman defeated Atlantic Highlands, 7-5 in baseball action. Stan Kusic was the winning pitcher, and Art Pohl drilled 2 singles for the Governors.

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

South Amboy Arts & The City of South Amboy present: ARTSFEST'24!

Sharing Our Cultures through the Arts. September 8th (Rain Date 9/15). Interested Artists, Crafters, Performers, Non-Profits, Businesses, Food Vendors & Volunteers Call 732-727-4600x5971 or email SAarts141@gmail.com.



#### Flashback: 1971

On Opening Day of the baseball season, St. Mary's trounced St. Joe's of Toms River, 10-0. Soph, Jeff St. Amour, in his varsity debut on the mound, was the winning pitcher, and struck out 13, with no walks, and also stroked 2 hits. Dan MacKay drove in 4 runs, Bob Miller had 2 hits including a homer for the Eagles.

#### Flashback: 1960

Walt Lange fired a 3-hitter to lead St. Mary's to a 5-2 victory over St. Rose of Belmar. Jim Heffernan drilled 3 hits including a two-bagger, and had 2 RBI. Bob Graber and Charlie Schachel ripped 2 hits apiece for the Blue & Gold.

#### **30 Years Ago**

1994-Becky Moskowitz hit for the cycle including a 2-run homer, accounting for 6 RBI, as St. Mary's girls softball contingent destroyed Dunellen, 16-4. Tami Redd ripped a double, 2 singles and had 2 RBI. Bernadette McCreary and Robyn Palomo drilled 3 hits each to back winning pitcher Kristen Palomo.

#### Pro Baseball Report

Brandon Bielak is currently pitching for the Oakland Athletics AAA farm club, the Las Vegas Aviators. He has pitched in 7 games, all as a starter, and has a (1-2) record, 6.82 ERA. In 31.2 innings pitched, he has struck out 23 batters, while opposing hitters have a .280 avg. facing him.

Earlier this season, Bielak pitched in 10 games for the Houston Astros, had no decisions and a 5.71 ERA. He went to the Oakland Athletics and appeared in 3 games, and was (1-0) with a 3.18 ERA in relief, prior to being assigned to Las Vegas. Brandon grew up in Sayreville and starred for St. Joseph's High School.



**Brandon Bielak** 

#### **Glory Days In Local Sports**

Bill Subjack combined on a 3-hitter to lead a double and drove in 3 runs. Kim Peterson the South Saints to a 6-3 win over Perth added a double and 2 RBI...2007-South Amboy St. Mary's. Riddell had a perfect Amboy nipped Woodbridge, 6-5 in the first day at the plate going 3-for-3 with a double and 2 RBI...1972-The Eagles swept a doubleheader over CBA, 4-0, and 9-1. Jeff St. Amour was the winning pitcher in Game 1, and fanned 4. Jim Shannon notched the "W" in Game 2 while notching 8 k's. John D. O'Toole went 5-for-8 in the 2 games, Dave Keenan and Frank "Skip" Minnick both went 4-for-7...1984-Derek Haley blasted 2 home runs to lead Sayreville to a 6-2 win over Madison Central...1998-South Amboy girls softball squad plastered Piscataway Tech, 19-

1962-Winning pitcher Ray Riddell and 3-hitter and struck out 8. Sue Rowley ripped round of the GMCT. Mike DeJoy had a huge game going 3-4 with a long solo home run. Kyle Blum also went 3-for-4, and Brian Seres hit a triple. Joe Bongiorno was the winning pitcher...2011-Sayreville annihilated St. Joe's, 14-1 in 5 innings. Christian Campbell was the winning pitcher. Blake Cuomo had a perfect 4-for-4 game with 4 RBI...2022-South Amboy girls softball team nipped Piscataway, 16-15 in the quarterfinals of the GMCT. Winning pitcher Evalise Perez ripped 2 doubles, had 2 RBI, and scored 4 1. Winning pitcher Nicole Magnifico tossed a runs. Sarah McLaughlin added a 2-run single.

#### Champions



Congratulations to the Sure-Hit Home Improvements men's softball team from South Amboy for winning the Greater Middlesex County Spring/Summer Weekday Championship. This Sure-Hit team went undefeated with a (22-0) record to win the title. The championship games were played at the Warren Park Complex in Woodbridge on June 25th. The champs are pictured as follows: Top row (l-r) Matt Ryan with son Matty, Shawn Johnson, Tom Crohan, Connor Johnson, Jake Fasano, Dave Matthews, Ryan Shereyka, Christian Geant. Bottom row (l-r) Josh Sheehy, Matt Diaz, John Scafidi, Joel Rodriguez. (Photo/info submitted)



Congratulations to the SAYAA Sure-Hit Home Improvements Boys 12U Little League team on winning the Spring League Championship. This is the 3rd season in a row that the team accomplished this feat. The team went undefeated with a (14-0) record. The championship game was played in Morgan against Sayreville AA on June 23rd. South Amboy won the game 11-1 on an outstanding pitching performance by Matthew Serrano, who tossed a no-hitter. Matty Ryan led the offensive charge by collecting 3 hits and 3 RBI. The champs are pictured as follows: Top Row (l-r) Coaching staff-Dan Astarita, Bill Hauser, Mario Contreras, Matt Ryan. Middle Row (l-r) Jormani Cedeno, Billy Hauser, Andres Acevedo, Matthew Serrano, Mario Contreras, Matty Ryan. Bottom Row (l-r) Daniel Astarita, Colin Clark, Kelian D. Jalial Davis, Jax Josue, Anthony Vasquez. (Photo/info submitted)

#### **Meet Kody The Horse At Dowdell Library**

Don't hold your horses. Gallop to the for purchase. Dowdell library to meet Kody!

Don't miss out on this family event! Meet Kody the horse on Monday, August 5 at 5:00 pm sharp at the Dowdell Library.

Shortly after, there will be a Celebrity Story time with author Terri Abbatiello reading her book Kody's Capers with projected video at 5:30 pm.

Then, at 6:30 pm the Dowdell Library will be holding a Book Launch Party with refreshments and more! Kody's Capers books and stuffed animals will be available

Due to the event the library's hours will be 12-8.

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

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

#### **Obituaries**

Attanasio, Francis "Frank," 74, of Parlin died on July 5.

Giglio, Patricia, 74, of South Amboy died on June 29.

Hajducsek, Ann E., 79, of Morgan died on June 24.

Harding, Jennifer L. "Jennie," 50, formerly of Sayreville died on June 25.

Jadwinski, Irene, 83, of South Amboy died on June 27.

O'Leary, June M. Stolte, 86, formerly of South Amboy died on July 6.

Rizzuto, Alfred "Chip," 76, of Sayreville died on June 28.

Simone, Nicholas M. Sr., 74, of Parlin died on July 3.

Smithers, Richard W., 83, of Parlin died on June 23.

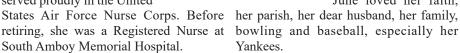
Sommers, Margaret "Peggy," 70, formerly of Sayreville died on July 10.

Tafuni, Anthony, 81, formerly of Sayreville died on June 21.

Zammit, John A., 73, of Morgan died on July 14.

#### June Margaret Stolte O'Leary

June Margaret Stolte O'Leary, 86, died Saturday, July 6, 2024 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in South Amboy, New Jersey, where she lived all her life until moving to Virginia in 2022. She was a member of St. Mary Church in South Amboy. She was a graduate of St. Mary High School in South Amboy and St. Joseph's Nursing School in Paterson, New Jersey. June served proudly in the United



Daughter of the late John and Florence Dey Stolte, she was predeceased by her July 13, 2024 at 10:15am from The beloved husband, William E. "Doc" O'Leary, in 1997 and her brothers, Vernon, John, Michael and Armand Stolte. She is survived by her loving children, Thomas M. O'Leary and Karen Bush, Flossie O'Leary and Scott Smith, William G. O'Leary and Brenda Geer and June Marie and Kevin Moran; her 5 grandchildren, Deirdre Augusta Street, South Amboy.



(Tyler) Wiggins, Mary and Brian O'Leary, Maggie and William Moran; her great grandson, Jude Wiggins; her sister, Florence McCarthy; and many loving nieces and nephews.

June served as first ward Democratic committeewoman and as secretary of the South Amboy women's bowling league, each for approximately 40

June loved her faith,

Funeral services were held on Saturday Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by an 11am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Interment will be in Christ Church Cemetery, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Mary's Food Pantry, 256

The SA Times offers complete obituaries with or without a photo), of your loved ones provided by you or the funeral parlor to The SA Times.



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For pricing contact the above e-mail or phone.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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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 You 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...

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#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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#### There is truly only one thing that can be done once.....your loved one deserves the best!





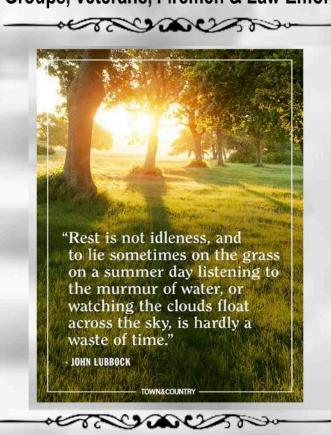
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ΑII



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