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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is
dedicated to**
*Barbara Brower
*Dorothy Dill
*Paul Nagy
*Joseph "Joe" Rudy
*Eileen Ryan
*Anita Dexheimer
Semoneit



February 28, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 5

Citizen Of The Year



left to right is Molly Balseiro, Dan O'Connor, Ed O'Connor holding his granddaughter Lilly Jae O'Connor, Anna Mae O'Connor, Jack O'Connor, Luke O'Connor and Christine O'Connor. (Photo Submitted)

South Amboy Elks Announces Citizen of the Year

The South Amboy Elks is proud to announce Ed O'Connor as our Citizen of the Year. Ed has been a lifelong resident of South Amboy, born to Maureen and Alfred O'Connor. He attended Saint Mary's Grammar and High School before graduating from Middlesex County College and Montclair State College with a degree in Computer Science.

Ed's professional journey includes 22 years at AT&T, 3 years at IBM, and finally a position at NCS Technologies before his retirement. Among his many roles, his most cherished is being a husband to Anna Mae (Connolly) and a proud father to his three sons: Daniel, his wife Molly, Luke and his wife Christine, and Jack. He is also a loving grandfather to Lilly Jae.

Ed currently serves as the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) He has previously held positions as President, Vice President, Financial Secretary and Recording Secretary for the division.

Ed is deeply involved in our community, serving in various capacities such as Chairman of the Housing Authority, Vice President of the Friends of South Amboy, and a member of Saint Mary's Parish Council and Trustee. He has coached Saint Mary's CYO basketball, South Amboy Little League, and various other sports teams. Additionally, he volunteers at the Presbyterian Church food pantry.

Ed's dedication has been recognized through numerous honors, including the Pete Kenny Association Citizen of the Year, the first recipient of the AOH Patriot Award, the Freedom for All Ireland Award by the New Jersey State Ancient Order of Hibernians. Deputy Grand Marshal in the 2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade, and in 2015, he was honored as Irishman of the Year by the AOH.

His extensive resume and unwavering dedication to his city, family, faith, and heritage make it clear why Ed O'Connor was chosen as our Citizen of the Year. We look forward to following his exceptional journey.

Sayreville Boys White Division Champs

Sayreville defeated East Brunswick, 62-54 to capture the White Division title, as they finished (11-1) in their division. Chidi Chukwurah was the leading scorer with 24 points and also added 10 rebounds and 3 assists. He was followed by Keithan Shuler with 20 points, Sam Jones 10, and Christian Torres dished out 8 assists for the champs.

Bombers Coach John Wojcik, now in his 15th season at the helm, said that this is the team's fifth division crown, and first since 2018. They also took home the division

championship in 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Coach Wojcik has now coached four players who have entered the 1,000 point club: Corey Taite, Ryan O'Leary, Sam Jones, and Chidi Chukwurah.

Congratulations Coach Wojcik and his fantastic team consisting of: Chid Chukwurah, Keithan Shuler, Sam Jones, Christian Torres, Joe Santamaria, Ziyang Jones, Joseph Lewis, Andrew Provenza, Tyler Yar, Devin Aldridge, Julian Hall, Adrian Ciesla, Saba Tkemaladze, Osman Alishah, Bryce White.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 are hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage. Adults - \$18.00 Children under 12 - \$10.00, Sunday, March 16th 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Knights of Columbus Hall 308 Fourth St. South Amboy N.J 08879

Menu consists of a generous portion of Corned Beef & Cabbage, potatoes, mixed vegetables, rye bread, desserts and coffee. Hot dogs available for kids. No reservations needed. First come-first serve. Eat in or take out. Cash bar.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshals



The South Amboy St Patrick's Day Parade Committee held its annual Grand Marshals Dinner, on Friday, January 17, recognizing (l-r) Donna Williams, Honorary Grand Marshal, Mark Herdman, 2025 Grand Marshal and Father Stanley Gromadzki, Deputy Grand Marshal. (Photo Submitted)

South Amboy Public Schools' Bond Referendum Special Election March 11, 2025

There is a Bond referendum for \$35,657,670 on the ballot for a special election in South Amboy on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The school district has been approved to receive state aid to help cover the debt service, totaling more than \$9 million. South Amboy citizens are asked to vote yes or no on the referendum.

The "RENOVATE! REPAIR! REBUILD!" Bond Referendum is to complete vital repairs and renovations to our district's schools. The project includes replacing the roof and inoperable HVAC units at the Middle/High School in addition to floor replacements; updating the Science Labs; renovating the auditorium and repairing bleachers in the gymnasium. In addition to roof replacement and other

repairs, the funding will go for an expansion to the Elementary School which will give us additional classrooms and space to enroll more students for PreK and to create programs to educate more of our special needs students within the district. We currently cannot service all eligible students for PreK. This year, twenty nine (29) special needs students are being bused out of the district because we do not have the programs or the space. All South Amboy students deserve to be educated in their home schools with their peers and siblings. Creating the spaces to allow expansion of our programs will keep more tax dollars within the district. Our total operating budget is \$22 million. Out of \$22

Continued on page 3

Jones and Chukwurah Join 1000 PT Club



Pictured (l-r) are Sam Jones, Chidi Chukwurah and Assistant Coach Ryan O'Leary, following Chukwurah's 1,000th point. All three are members of the Sayreville Bombers 1,000 point scoring club. (Photo Submitted)

Next Issue March 29th -- Deadlines March 17th

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Easter

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Congratulations



South Amboy Police Captain Brian McCabe will be retiring at the end of February after many years of dedication and hard work for the city of South Amboy. The SA Times would like to thank him for his outstanding police work, and wish him a very happy retirement and success always! God bless, Brian!
(Photo/info courtesy of Surjit Singh)

Government Week

The City of South Amboy will be celebrating Government Week Wednesday, April 16. The following is a list of events.

- 4-7 pm Open house at Independence Fire house on Broadway. Police, Fire, First aid, OEM, Library and the YMCA representatives will be on hand to answer questions and perform demonstrations.
- 6 pm Mock council meeting by our 4th & 5th grade students from South Amboy Elementary school.
- 7 pm Recognizing city residents for their contributions to our town.
- 7 pm Recognizing the winners of the high school essay contest.

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard
Lagoda's Saloon Closes
Lagoda's Saloon closed its doors for the last time on Feb. 8, after 42 years of being one of the most popular bars/taverns in South Amboy. We would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to owners Ray & Anne, Trish, RaeAnne, and the rest of Lagoda's Saloon family & staff. Also, a very big and special thank you, for your many years of advertising with The SA Times. God Bless!

Chelle Martin Wins Writing Award
Chelle Martin of South Amboy recently won the 2024 Dog Writers Association of America Award in short fiction. She received a certificate and the Maxwell Medallion for her outstanding writing. Congratulations Chelle!

Rock My Universe Wins At Meadowlands
Rock My Universe, a new horse owned by former South Amboy/Sayreville resident Bill Masterson, recently rode to the winner's circle at the Meadowlands in the first two races he was entered in. Congrats and best of luck, Bill!

Pharmacist of the Year



Jacklyn Jaskowiak, daughter of former South Amboy resident Joe Jaskowiak gives her acceptance speech after being selected as Pharmacist of the Year in California. Congratulations Jackie! (Photo/info submitted)

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

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- In '97, succeeded Leo McCabe as Police Chief in South Amboy?
a. James Wallis b. James Holovacko c. Darren LaVigne
- In '07, was chosen as "Outstanding Volunteer" in Sayreville by Parlin DuPont Plant?
a. Anthony Pilch b. Jack Kelleher c. Fred Melvin
- South Amboy Board of Education President in 2018?
a. Tyler Simko b. John Dragotta c. Janet Kern
- Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 97, Sayreville in '97?
a. Steve Honeywell b. Marques Jackson c. Tom Tighe
- South Amboy School Superintendent in '18?
a. Arlene Denucci b. Horace Whitehouse c. Jorge Diaz
- President of OLV Columbiettes #2061, Sayreville in 2006?
a. Arlene Morey b. Patricia Muldowney c. Sarah Lee
- Grand Marshal of South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade in '03?
a. Geneva Kelly b. William O'Leary c. Charles Thompson
- Became Sayreville Fire Chief in 1997, replacing John Maher?
a. Rich Kosmoski b. Jack L. Barone c. Daniel Martin
- Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in '03?
a. Father Banach b. Father Gromadzki c. Father Romanoski
- In '97, what section of Sayreville was Bayside Garden Center located?
a. President Park b. Morgan c. Melrose

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

South Amboy Public Schools' Bond Referendum

-continued from page 1

million, \$3 million, excluding transportation and related service costs, are sent to out-of-district schools.

The Middle High School needs a roof replacement and a full HVAC replacement. Currently three HVAC Units are not working in the Middle High School. District staff are unable to turn off the one in the cafeteria and it goes from hot to cold and back, which is very uncomfortable. The lifespan of an HVAC unit is approximately 18 years. The existing HVAC units are well past that. Additionally, in the Middle High School, the science labs and art rooms are out of date and need to be renovated. The auditorium needs new seats (presently there are broken seats) and the space needs new stage lighting and audio. The gym is in need of new bleachers as the repair parts are obsolete. The Elementary School repairs include the roof, door replacements and bathroom replacements. In addition to repairs to the elementary school, if approved, plans include a two story expansion to create additional classroom space. Both schools will have PVC flooring replacements and new egress exterior doors. The doors at the MHS are the original units and replacement parts are no longer being manufactured. This causes additional delays on any necessary repairs while modern parts are retrofitted to the existing doors. Egress doors are a vital safety feature for schools. The replacement doors will be aligned to current safety standards to further ensure the safety and security of all students and staff.

The district has been consistently completing all necessary maintenance repairs. The Maintenance Team does an amazing job maintaining the buildings and whenever needed outside professionals are secured to complete the work. Yearly maintenance repairs are a major part of the district's budget. So far this year the district has spent nearly \$800,000 on repairs. Everything is old. Many things have exceeded their normal life and are beyond repair.

The Middle High School is 30 years old. The Elementary School was built in 1919 as the original Hoffman High School. There have been 3 different additions done to the building that are well over 50+ years old. The district has a history of needing to add learning space. The Elementary School is at its maximum and needs additional classrooms for PreK and special education students. Some Prek students are at Acelero Learning Center on Augusta Street and the Children's Center for Learning located on Broadway. Some of the PreK special needs students

are aging up and if appropriate programs and spacing remains unavailable within the district officials will, unfortunately, need to secure out of district placements. This is an additional cost that can truly be avoided if the voters pass the Referendum.

If approved, there are specific timelines that are to be followed with these types of projects. The district hopes to begin the major work in the summer of 2026. The district's architects will provide successful guidance throughout the process. The district is also working on a project labor agreement with local trades unions to ensure that the project is completed utilizing 100% union labor.

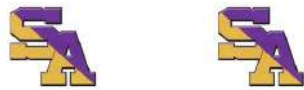
However, if the city votes no to the referendum, it will drastically drain the district's capital reserves. If there is an emergency, it would be disastrous.

If approved, the Board of Education would issue bonds for \$35,657,670 which would be paid back over 30 years. The total estimated annual cost to taxpayers would be \$474.48 for the average house with an assessment of \$274,817 in 2024. The school district has been approved to receive state aid to help cover the debt service, totaling more than \$9 million.

There will be a tour on March 5th for the Elementary and Middle High School from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You must make a reservation to go on the tour. Go to <https://www.sapublicschools.com/> to reserve your space. There are no walk-ins. There was a Special Board of Education Meeting held on February 18, 2025 it was solely dedicated to discussing the referendum.

The polls are open for in-person voting on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the South Amboy Middle High School and the South Amboy Senior Center. There is one question on the ballot. You must be registered to vote by February 18th, 2025, in order to be eligible to vote on the referendum. If you have requested a vote-by-mail ballot sent for all elections, then you should be sent one automatically. To receive a vote-by-mail, a request must arrive at the county clerk's office by March 4th, 2025. The vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked by March 11th, 2025.

For more information on the referendum, go to: <https://www.sapublicschools.com/> or go to South Amboy Board of Education's Facebook page or just Google South Amboy Special Election. (Article Submitted)



Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop

The Trinity Thrift Shop at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 am to 11 am weather permitting. We will be closed if the weather is below 30 degrees. Feel free to browse the four shops for clothing, household items, tools, glasses and so much more. The stores are filled with all new items, so stop by. We are blessed that

so many from the community have found our Treasure with both donations and shopping and we hope you join us soon.

There is a drop off shed that is open 24 hours and you can leave your items in there. We welcome anything except for large furniture and books. If you have any questions please call Lori at 732 763 6232.

Celebrating Black History Month with the Governor



South Amboy Councilman Anthony Conrad (c) attended the Black History Month celebration with Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy at Drumthwacket on February 10th 2025. (Photo/info Submitted)

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Yearbook-Hoffman 1975

By Tom Burkard

It's hard to believe, but 50 years have passed since Hoffman High's great class of '75 graduated. . . "I Shot The Sheriff" by Eric Clapton was closing in on the top of the pop charts in September 1974 as the John Street kids returned for their final go in high school. John Olexa was Superintendent of Schools, and Robert Bloodgood, principal. . . Talented faculty members included: Joanne Blackmore, Steven Chiger, Joseph Donnelly, Sonia Fedyk, Febronia Grener, Mary Ann Fortier, Andrew Kriss, Linda McCorkle, Carol McDonnell, Thomas Magielnicki, George Mahoney and Michael Poll. . . Kathy Kulcsar was yearbook editor and the book was dedicated to Patricia VanDyk. Linda Truelis was Senior Class President; Peggy Hulsart-Vice-President; Robin Johnston-Secretary; Grace Hoffman-Trea surer. . . Some of the seniors were: Joanne Andreski, Barb Argentino, Mary Barry, John Boganski, James Brady, Debra Booker, Deborah Cicala, Norine Croddick, James Miller, Gary Dean, Karen Dragotta, Michael Dubil, Richard Erickson, Michael Egan, Lawrence Farkas, Debra Galassini, Joseph Gonsalves, Stephen Gray, Carol Honimar, Michael Huguenin, Margaret Hulsart, Michelle Huryk, Michael Kelly, John Komosinski, Joseph LaVigne, Theresa Mann, Joseph Marinin, Jackie Montgom ery, Anne Mundy, Denise Murafsky, Donald Munn, Ellen O'Grady, Georgianna Pzolkka, David Pirk, Pauline Raczkowski, Ruth Read, Susan Revere, Ricky Scarfi, Eileen Sieber, Margaret Skrynka, Ferman Stratton, Carmel Tarallo, Joan Therkelsen, Shawn Switzer, Edward Wurth, Mary Verchick, Deborah Young. . .

What was happenin' in the world in '75? There were two attempts in 17 days by two women to assassinate President Ford. . . Patty Hearst was captured, surrendering at gunpoint. . . Jimmy Hoffa disappeared. . . The U.S. was reeling under inflation. . . "Jaws" was the top movie of the year, grossing \$100,000,000 in six months to set a new all-time box-office record. . . A few of the most popular clubs at Hoffman High were the Pep Club; Ceramics Club; Future Teachers Club. . . Hoffman's baseball team under Coach Dave Inman turned in a fine (16-8-1) record. Superstars on the team included All-County, All-State players Joe "Moose" McCarthy (Legendary home run slugger), Rudy Neumann, and George Bongiorno. . . The boys basketball team finished with a tough (5-18). . . Grace Hoffman and Debbie Cicala were co-captains of the cheerleaders. Senior standout athletes included: Robert Besner, Gregg Bowlby, Joseph Conroy, Al Cox, Ralph Dante, Debra Damion, Grace Hoffman, Robin Johnston, Joan Keegan, Jerry Kotula, Michael McCabe, Joe "Moose" McCarthy, Carolyn Nelson, Neumann, Timothy O'Leary, Kevin Ostrander, Sal Richiusa, Bruce Richmond, Ed Slusarek, William Stratton, Tom Suau, Linda Truelis, Gregory Wyzykowski, Christina Zamorski, Richard Garsick. At graduation time, 1975, John Denver's "Thank God I'm A Country Boy" topped the charts. . . Hoffman High School's Class of '75 was truly a "very special" group. I've gotten to know many of the graduates over the years, and have found them to be most interesting, as well as highly successful individuals in the game of life.

SOUTH AMBOY ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR TRIMESTER 1 - 2024-2025

FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL: Jake Almazo-Delgado, Gianna Pierre, Xavier Santos-Ferreira and Ryder Stratton.
FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL: Josef Alfonso, Genesis Alvarado, AnaSophia Bodkin, Abel Diaz, Melody Kolbinskie, A'Lahna Moran, Andrew Rosario, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, Ryder Sepulveda, and Mikaela Sundquist.
FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL: Hussain Abbas, Charles DeLeon, Eliza DeSouza, Hudson Earl, Seraphina Fenton, Liam Green,

Antonella Mori-Ramirez, Fin Mulligan, Arien Pierce, and Saya Yung.
FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL: Avery Dumonseau, Colin Finton, Ronald Harvey, Yostin Suarez-Gil, Nikita Kolbinskie, Haley Lada-Behrens, Raymond Lamot, Jaxon Lawson, Elliott Lowe, Noah Padilla-Aleman, Divya Phillips, Sophia Santos, Troy Styler, Armin Suodoli, Matthew Tapia-Torres, Nazaret Vasquez-Diaz, and Jake Zambrowski.

Winter Sewing Series

Join us at the Dowdell Library for our Winter Sewing Series! This two-part series is for folks who are looking to buff up or begin their sewing journey. Our first session on Thursday, February 27, we will introduce the basics of sewing, getting the low down on everything from tools and terms to basic fabric cutting. We'll talk about two ways to approach home sewing, with a machine, and

by hand. Then, with some basics learned, we'll measure, cut and prepare for the second session on Thursday, March 20 where we will machine and hand sew your very own pocket-sized pouch complete with a button closure-perfect for little notions, knickknacks, and items. Join us to learn a lifelong skill, and take home your very own handmade item! Registration is required.

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.

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January 1, 2025 - February 28, 2025

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



Libraries are simultaneously one of our most valuable, and undervalued, resources. They are a repository of our shared public knowledge, wisdom, and thoughts. Increasingly, the internet has crowded them out. Indeed, many of you likely believe that public brick-and-mortar libraries are obsolete because we carry virtual access to knowledge with us in our pockets through our phones. I assure you this line of thinking is shortsighted.

Libraries satiate an intellectual curiosity that the internet, with its orientation towards soundbites and clickbait, cannot. Libraries are designed to expand your knowledge, the internet is designed to grab your attention. As a society, we increasingly and regrettably fail to appreciate the difference.

Moreover, libraries today are more than a collection of books. Our own Sadie Pope Dowdell Library has evolved in response to community needs and emerging technologies. The Library has gradually redefined its role to provide services for everyone from toddlers to seniors. It is an invaluable resource for those individuals who may not have access to a smartphone or home computer, or who may not know how to use them to their full potential. Libraries today provide a gateway to cultural experiences such as music, art exhibitions, pottery classes, and more. Our own Library now even has a life-size bronze sculpture on loan from The Seward Johnson Atelier – a collective of sculpture artists based in New Jersey. More than anything, libraries provide a path to experience (in person) cultural practices and enlightenment that the internet cannot. It also offers us a chance to meet new people in our community who share our common interests.

Beginning this year, the Library will offer museum passes for a variety

of museums. It also will host a variety of programs, including: the annual Veterans Day program, the Senior Book Club, Summer Clubs, NJ Makers Day (which offers STEM programming for all ages), free tax preparation, small business resources, culinary programs for all ages, the knitting circle, an after school fun club, teen drop-in programs, gaming, and more. The Library also offers downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, music, streaming video, as well as free school and career test prep software. Also new this year, the Library will now offer the “Freegal Music+ service,” which allows library cardholders to access a collection spanning over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels worldwide. The free service can be downloaded in the Apple® App and Google® Play store. All of this is free. If you don’t have a library card, now is a great time to get one!

As a final note, I hope to see everyone in green for our annual St. Patrick’s Day parade on March 16.

“May joy and peace surround you, contentment latch your door, and happiness be with you now and bless you evermore” – A traditional Irish blessing

Respectfully

Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy


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Sadie Pope Dowdell Library's 111th Year Of Service

Dowdell Library services have evolved in response to changing community needs, emerging technologies, and a growing focus on inclusion. Programming commemorating the Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Hispanic Heritage Month, Ramadan, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa includes the many members of the community.

The Library has redefined their role and created services for everyone from toddlers to seniors, for individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, to those with limited access to digital resources. Moreover, they provide a gateway to cultural experiences – such as music events, art exhibitions, pottery classes, as well as a life-size bronze sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier through May. Museum passes for a variety of museums will once again be available; starting March, free passes for the Intrepid Museum will be available to South Amboy residents with a library card in good standing.

The library aims to inform, engage, and inspire – and programming includes: the annual Veterans Day program, the Senior Book Club, Summer Clubs, NJ Makers Day (which offers STEM programming for all ages), free tax preparation, small business resources, culinary programs for all ages, the knitting circle, an after school fun club, teen drop-in programs, video gaming, and etc. Lifelong learning opportunities are unparalleled.

The library also offers downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, music, streaming video, as well as free school and career test prep software in addition to traditional print materials. New this year – the library will be offering the “Freegal Music+ service,” which allows library cardholders to access a collection spanning over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels worldwide. The free service can be downloaded in the Apple® App and Google® Play store.

The curated library archives are a treasure-trove of South Amboy memorabilia, which include print, digital and 3D objects – as well as the very popular high school yearbooks. Their web-based high school yearbooks and South Amboy Citizen newspaper from 1910 reaches a true global audience.

As part of their endless community support, the library now has a Social Work Intern from Adelphi University available through the summer. Ms. Earline is available to help the community connect to various resources and referrals for mental health issues, healthcare, substance use, housing, food assistance and more. All assistance is confidential and free of charge. The goal is to provide community resources, information and expand awareness for other opportunities. Community members can meet Earline at the library on Mondays 5pm – 8pm, Tuesdays 1pm – 8pm and Saturdays 1pm – 4pm. Please contact the library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org to verify availability.

Library Director Elaine Gaber commented that the magic of your library is awaiting. Drop in to get inspired! The library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School off O’Leary Blvd. For additional information, visit the library at www.dowdell.org



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Dowdell Library staff recently participated in a Spanish language workshop in order to better serve South Amboy’s growing Hispanic community. The workshop included key topics to enhance customer service communication and encourage visitors to get a library card as well as attend the many community programs and events. Training and reference materials were provided by Dr. Jorge and Rosario Gonzalez of Mid Jersey Medical Supplies & Fittings by Sheila Mastectomy Boutique. The staff development day was part of the annual educational initiatives set forth by Director Elaine Gaber. (left to right) Celestine Madsen, Rachel Tyler, Nancy Charmello, Melissa Mulcahy, Maryanne Candelora, Dr. Jorge and Rosario Gonzalez of Mid Jersey Medical Supplies & Fittings by Sheila Mastectomy Boutique, Director Elaine Gaber, Jenna Pressey, Dennis Kuhn. (Photo/info/names submitted)



Our Lady of Victory Knights of Columbus presented Sayreville’s Brain Injured Children’s Organization a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 at their annual Children’s Christmas Party in December 2024. The party was held at the Knights of Columbus. During 2024 Our Lady of Victory Knights donated in excess of \$7,500.00 to this wonderful organization. Present for the Knights, (l-r), were Mike Cooke - Warden, Pat Revel - PGN & Recording Secretary, Jim Poltritzky - PGN & Financial Secretary and Joe Campbell - Charity Chairman. (Photo/info submitted)

Sayreville High School Senior Rishi Shah Receives Lifetime Presidential Achievement Award



Rishi Shah, a senior at Sayreville High School, was honored with the Lifetime Presidential Achievement Award by Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and the Sayreville Borough Council. Signed by former President Joe Biden, the award recognizes Shah's outstanding dedication to community service, having contributed over 4,000 hours to various volunteer efforts. Shah's journey of service began during the pandemic, where he saw the struggles many were facing. Motivated to help, Shah took action. What started as small efforts quickly expanded into a larger mission. He founded the Small Business Supporter Initiative, a nonprofit organization that assists local businesses and nonprofits with marketing strategies and growth resources. Through this initiative, Shah has supported small businesses and nonprofits with over 672+ shoutouts, helping them navigate the digital world and enabling them to grow and succeed. Beyond his work with small businesses, Shah has been a passionate advocate for sustainability, mental health awareness, youth mentorship, and education. He has been deeply involved in environmental initiatives, using his platform to raise awareness about sustainability. Shah's advocacy extends to mental health, where he has supported programs promoting well-being and providing resources for those in need. He has also offered tutoring services to students, championing educational opportunities for those facing academic challenges. Shah's leadership abilities are evident in his numerous extracurricular roles. He is the co-president of his DECA chapter, which boasts over 200 members, and has represented the chapter at international competitions. Shah also leads as president of the Technology Student Association (TSA), Math Club, and Computer Club, and is the president of his Operation Smile Chapter. Shah is also deeply involved in journalism, serving as the editor-in-chief of the Echolites school news site and as a staff writer for Image magazine. He has helped lead the Young Innovators Society and previously served as a library council member. Shah actively participates in several honor societies, including the National Honor Society (NHS), National Business Honor Society, National English Honor Society (NEHS), and National Art Honor Society (NAHS). He is also the co-president of the

National Computer Science Honor Society (CSHS). In addition to his leadership roles, Shah is deeply committed to community service and social causes. He has served as a high school representative and former Secretary for the Sayreville Human Relations Commission, where he worked to promote inclusivity and equality. He also dedicates his time as a Summer Camp Counselor and Teacher at the Shree Dwarkadhish Temple, where he teaches Gujarati language and organizes activities for younger students. Shah is an active participant in the Step for a Better World Leo Club, where he has helped organize and support numerous initiatives. This includes the 2023 Back to School Drive and Book Drive, donating over 4,323 books to local shelters and schools. He has also participated in high-impact events, such as packaging 107,352 meals for Rise Against Hunger and contributing to the Guinness World Record for the Longest Chain of Eyeglasses, while helping raise over 1,000 toys for Toys for Tots. Additionally, Shah serves as a Google Maps Remote Local Guide, garnering over 29.8 million views through his contributions. His passion for social causes extends beyond business and education, with active involvement in these initiatives showcasing his dedication to making a lasting impact on both local and global communities. Throughout his high school career, Shah has earned three Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (Gold Level) and even the New Jersey Governor's Volunteer Service Award signed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy for his unwavering commitment to volunteerism and community outreach. Currently, Shah is focused on a Valentine's Day project, where he is creating heartfelt card

senior centers and local organizations. Looking toward the future, he plans to continue expanding his nonprofit to new heights and growing his mentorship programs for youth and small business/nonprofit owners. Shah expressed gratitude for the support he has received from his community and thanked Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and the Sayreville Borough Council for recognizing his contributions. With a passion for service and leadership, Shah is determined to continue making a positive impact for years to come.

Sayreville OLV Knights Fish Fry

Please join us for the Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes Fish Fry at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus at 775 Washington Road on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and every Friday night during Lent; starting March 14 through April 18, 2025. This is a takeout dinner only and there are no phone orders. As always, we will be serving Fried

Flounder Platters, Fried Shrimp Platters and Fried Combo Platters - all which include salad, vegetables, French Fries and desserts. There will also be Fish Sandwiches which include only French Fries.

This is a community favorite, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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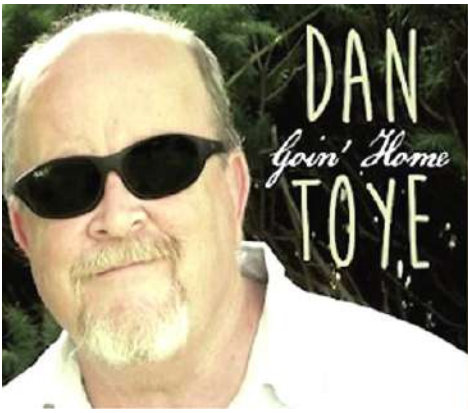
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Dan Toye's CD Goin' Home (left), Kevin McGowan's CD To My Younger Self (right).

Acoustic Friday, March 21: An Irish Celebration

By Jerry Smith

Musicians Dan Toye and Kevin McGowan have been great supporters of South Amboy Arts Alliance's Acoustic Friday program since its inception. Both singer/songwriters will return to the SA Arts gallery on March 21, 2025 for An Irish Celebration.

Dan Toye covers songs from Irish, folk, pop, rock and Americana genres. Dan's CD entitled Goin' Home features a collection of his original songs, including "Catechism Sky," "Like a Diamond," and the title track, "Goin' Home."

Kevin McGowan has a repertoire that includes Irish, pop, rock, country, Adult Contemporary, and original music. Two of Kevin's most notable CDs are Every Day is Monday and To My Younger Self.

Dylan Kyriacou, Kevin's twelve-year-old grandson, will make another Acoustic Friday appearance. Folks attending South Amboy Day at Waterfront Park back in October 2024 got a chance to see Dylan's talent, poise and stage presence on display in that outdoor setting.

Martin Kavanah will join us as well.

#1 Pop Hits-Feb. 28

- 2023-Flowers-Miley Cyrus
- 2018-God's Plan-Drake
- 2004-Yeah!-Usher
- 1996-One Sweet Day
- Mariah Carey/Boyz II Men
- 1987-Livin' On A Prayer-Bon Jovi
- 1978-Stayin' Alive-The Bee Gees

One Hit Wonders-1960

Teen Angel-Mark Dinning; Sixteen Reasons-Connie Stevens; Let The Little Girl Dance-Billy Bland; Barbara-The Temptations; Alley Oop-The Hollywood Argyles; Image Of A Girl-The Safaris; Hot Rod Lincoln-Johnny Bond; Yogi-The Ivy Three; A Million To One-Jimmy Charles; You Talk Too Much-Joe Jones; Stay-Maurice Williams/The Zodiacs; Money-Barrett Strong.

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Martin grew up during the culture of the Irish folk scene and the American folk and old-time country music revival. He sings Irish ballads and performs American bluegrass, country and folk music. Martin cites the Clancy Brothers, the Dubliners, Paddy Reilly, Johnny Cash, Steve Earle, Gillian Welsh, and John Prine among his musical influences.

Diane Doolittle (flute, Irish tin whistle, and saxophone) will also be on hand to add some musical accompaniment as needed throughout the evening.

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 complementary 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 for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.

#1 Country Hits Feb. 28

- 2022-Til' You Can't-Cody Johnson
- 2016-Die A Happy Man-Thomas Rhett
- 2006-When I Get Where I'm Going
- Brad Paisley/Dolly Parton
- 1998-What If I Said
- Anita Cochran/Steve Wariner
- 1989-I Still Believe In You
- The Desert Rose Band
- 1975-It's Time To Pay The Fiddler-Cal Smith

A History Of St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshals

Frank Connolly Association
 1976-William "Doc" O'Leary 1977-Tom O'Brien 1978-Robert Hackett. The South Amboy Irish-American Association
 1979-Frank Connolly 1980-James & Mary Lenahan 1981-Robert J. Hourahan 1982-Allie Clark 1983-David P. Kelly 1984-Alfie O'Connor 1985-Mary Powderly 1986-William Coman 1987-Joe Crowe 1988- John Pothoff 1989-Edward Wallace 1990- John P. Kenny 1991-Jim Harvey 1992-George Shuler 1993-Neil Hourahan 1994-Jim "Red" O'Connell 1995-Ginny Tierney-Inman 1996- Jack A McCarthy 1997-William J. McDonnell 1998-Edward Semoneit 1999-William J. Tierney 2000-Jack O'Leary Sr. 2001-Peter John Kenny 2002- Mayor John T. O'Leary 2003-Dick Cronin, Joe Noble, Russ Stillwagon 2004-Geneva Kelly 2005-Jim "Doc" Ryan 2006-Leo McCabe 2007-Walter "Pete" Casey 2008-Elizabeth "Betty" Leveille 2009 John Donnelly Sr. 2010-Thomas J. Noble 2011-Francis "Butch" Mulvey 2012- Rob McQuade 2013-James Downey 2014-Msgr. John Gordon 2015-Hugh Rone, 2016 Rich Moran, 2017-Mayor Fred A. Henry 2018-Brian J. Kelly 2019-Christine Noble 2020-Karen and Tim Walczak 2021-No Parade 2022-Tom Dempsey 2023-Mary Porcello 2024-Michael "Mickey" Gross, 2025-Mark Herdman.

Hangin' With The Stars

(Photos/info submitted)



Walter (r) also met with Marshall Crenshaw, well renowned singer/guitarist/songwriter, still touring with his band, and filling in admirably with The Smithereens in place of Pat Dinizio, who passed away in 2017.

Former Parlin resident Walter Krzyzkowski (r) is pictured with Robin Wilson, singer/guitarist/songwriter from The Gin Blossoms. Robin also fills in as singer/guitarist for The Smithereens and does an outstanding job in place of original singer/guitarist Pat Dinizio, who passed away in 2017.



Walter (r) also caught up with Jim Babjak, original member for 45 years, and guitarist/songwriter for The Smithereens, who now tour with fill-in singers for the original, incredible Pat Dinizio who was my very good friend. *All these pics were taken 'backstage' in December of '24 after The Smithereens "Hometown Return" show at the Carteret Performing Arts Center (CPAC).



St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

There will be a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main St., Sayreville, NJ on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. \$16.00 Corned Beef Dinner (Boiled Cabbage/Carrot/Potatoes, Roll, Beverages, Dessert). \$12.00 Spaghetti & Meatballs (Rolls, Beverage, Dessert). Take out available. For questions and reservations please contact Winsome (732)432-9072.

Fish And Chicken Dinner Fry

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 28, 2025 from 5pm-6:30PM. Tickets are \$17.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken is available by advance order only. We will once again be offering take-out only. Each meal comes with a 6oz. piece of cod or chicken, French fries, corn, coleslaw, roll and slice of fruit pie. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

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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.

MUSIC TRIVIA By Tom Burkard

Sun/Sunshine

- 1.Sunny
- 2.Sunshine On My Shoulders
- 3.Here Comes The Sun
- 4.Don't Let The Sun Catch You Crying
- 5.Sunshine Of Your Love
- 6.Ain't No Sunshine
- 7.Waiting For The Sun
- 8.The House Of The Rising Sun
- 9.I Live For The Sun
- 10.Walkin' On The Sun
- 11.Warmth Of The Sun
- 12.Sundown
- 13.Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me
- 14.California Sun

- a.Gordon Lightfoot
- b.Elton John
- c.The Beach Boys
- d.Smash Mouth
- e.The Sunrays
- f.The Doors
- g.The Animals
- h.Cream
- i.Gerry/The Pacemakers
- j.Bill Withers
- k.John Denver
- l.The Beatles
- m.Bobby Hebb
- n.The Rivieras

Answers
 1m 2k 3l 4i 5h 6j 7f 8g 9e 10d 11c 12a 13b 14n.

The Smoke Column

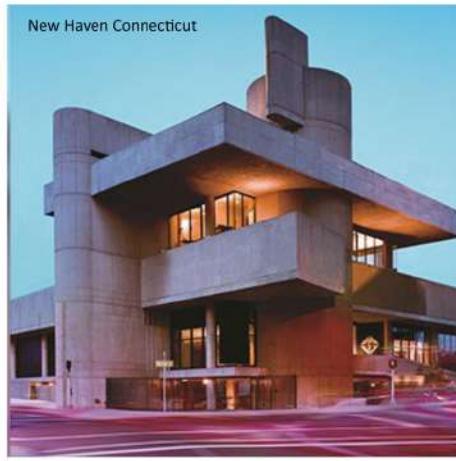
By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS.

Do you smell gas? During the winter season there is an increase in fire alarms related to the smell/odor of natural gas. These odors can emanate from inside the residence or anywhere where a natural gas pipeline grid occurs. Unfortunately, this problem is not just locally as it tends to occur where the daily temperatures increase and decrease rapidly. This occurrence causes the underground gas pipelines to move, even so slightly, which is enough to sever pipes and cause couplings to separate where natural gas will leak outward under pressure. You will also notice that the changes in these temperatures cause your concrete walkways to move and expand. Water pipelines are also affected by these changing temperatures. Water pipelines experience the same problems with temperature changes and can cause major devastating damage from the flooding and the amount of time it takes to repair the leaks. Why do you smell natural gas? It has NO odor and is not poisonous enough to kill you in its natural form? When it enters your body while breathing, it fills your lungs and prevents oxygen from entering. It is replacing the much-needed oxygen that your body requires to function. What is that obnoxious odor in the gas? An odorant called "Mercaptan" is added to the gas supply lines at the distribution sites. This came about as the result of a disastrous event on March 18th, 1937, at the New London School System in Texas. Oil was being refined in the minefields of the Parade Gasoline Company. The natural gas extracted with the oil was considered a waste product and was flared off/burned away. Since this was a waste product and worthless, it was offered to the school system at no cost to be used to heat their schools, which was a widespread occurrence in the area. The New London School System had multiple schools

located in the same complex and were heated by seventy-two heating units. Remember that natural gas was not odorized at this time and was unable to be detected or smelled no matter how large the leak was. At 3:17pm, an instructor of manual training turned on an electric sander. As the switch closed and made contact, it produced an electrical spark which in turn ignited leaking gas from a heating unit. An explosion occurred causing the walls of the school to bulge outward, the roof lifting up and crashing back down into the interior sections, and the main wing of the structure collapsed. Approximately five hundred students and forty teachers were in the complex at the time. The noise of the explosion was heard from miles away. Within minutes local residents, along with roughnecks from the oil fields, responded to the scene bringing with them cutting torches and heavy equipment to clear the collapsed concrete and steel. Many of the bodies recovered from the inside were unrecognizable following the intensity of the fires. There were in excess of 295 fatalities and over three hundred injuries as a result of this disaster. This deadly explosion became the reason an odorant "Mercaptan" has been added to natural gas to make it recognizable. Yes, it smells awful and is annoying and that is the purpose of the odorant. It is so strong that it is added at only one-part odorant to one million parts of air. If you smell gas, call 911 and your local emergency dispatcher will dispatch your local fire department to your location for an investigation. You may also call PSE&G for assistance but they in turn will call the local dispatcher for the fire department response because the fire department can get to the scene quicker than the PSE&G technician. If you smell gas, do not wait, Call 911.

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Honorary Grand Marshal
Donna Williams

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James Keegan - Irishman of the Year
Kelly Ann Reilly - Irishwoman of the Year
Tom P. Dempsey - Flag Raiser
Joe Britton - Patriot Award

Great Job Mickey & Parade Committee!

Best Regards, Bob Heiser






Way Back When



1942-Pictured standing at Charles J. Dailey's gas station on the corner of Main St. & Stevens Ave. in South Amboy are (l-r) "Red" Murphy, Fred Dunham, and Harry Christensen. (Photo courtesy of Michael Turlik).



Rock My Universe has won the first two races he's been in at the Meadowlands. The horse is owned by former South Amboy/Sayreville businessman Bill Masterson. (Photo/info submitted)

Sayreville Library News

Resumes and Cover Letters (Virtual)

Monday, March 3 @6:30PM
Learn how to create eye-catching resumes and cover letters in this interactive seminar. Learn how to use the right words and language to really catch the eye of potential employers. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Medicare 101

Monday, March 10 @5:30PM
Medicare can be daunting. Thankfully there is help. Join us for this informative seminar and learn the ins and outs of the program. Learn about selecting different plans, prescription coverage costs, the difference between Medicare Advantage and Medigap, and much more.
Registration required.
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, March 18 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee
This month: Three Wishes for Cinderella- Starring Astrid S, Bjorn Sundquist and Anne Marit Jacobsen
Not Rated- 1 hr 27 mins
Refreshments provided
Register online or call 732-727-021 Ext 112

Joyful Spring Cooking with Vanessa (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 19 @6PM
Let spring inspire you to make new dishes perfect for snacks, lunch, or dinner. Join Vanessa Young, Chef and founder of Thirsty Radish as we learn to incorporate plenty of produce into noodles, Vietnamese-inspired spring rolls, and more recipes that are not only tasty, but fun to make as well.
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.



Hoffman HS Class of '71 members got together recently at Java Dave's Coffee 110 N. Broadway in South Amboy. The old friends had a great time reminiscing about their good 'ol school days and much more. Pictured are Bob Huryk (l), Chuck Pawlowski (c) Pete Dobrzynski (r) and Dennis Yanoski (standing). (Photo by Tom Burkard)

The Time Of The Year

*It's the time of the year
For green beer
Lots of fun
And Irish cheer
Enjoy the parade
With lots of fire trucks
And First Aid
And so much more galore
It's Saint Patty's Day Again
The world is Irish
And everyone's a friend
Just look around
Everything is green
It's the St. Patrick's Day scene
It's wall to wall people
All over town
It's the time of the year
For green beer
Lots of fun
And Irish cheer*

Just Once A Year

The AOH runs the show
In "The Pleasant Little City"
The big day comes
Just once a year
St. Patrick's Day Parade
And everyone is here
People come from near and far
By bus, by train,
By plane and car
To enjoy the marching bands play
On this very special
St. Patrick's Day
That comes just once a year
After the parade everyone parties hearty
It's corned beef and cabbage
And of course green beer
St. Patrick's Day comes
just once a year
Sing an Irish song and raise a glass
To toast St. Patrick who
brought us here
On his very special day
just once a year

The Wearing Of The Green

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.1995

Green is my favorite color
But that's not why I wear
Parties and jollies on March 17th
But that's not why I care
Corned beef, cabbage,
potatoes and beer
Still not the reason why I
join the cheer
I'm not even Irish, nor pretend
to be,
Though there's a spirit alive,
Goodwill is the key
That a saint from one nation,
A hero he be, is honored by many,
and quite openly
With parades, shamrocks, and music
that smiles,
For one day forgetting
Ol' Ireland's trials to share these
festivities,
Come let it be seen,
Commemorate, celebrate,
By wearing the green.

On St. Patrick's Day

The town is rockin' In old SA
The crowd is huge
For the parade
On St. Patrick's Day
Firemen, First Aid,
Bands and more
Proudly march through town
And people cheer
As they pass by their front door
From Pine Avenue
to Bordentown
And across Stevens Avenue too
It's a proud day for the Irish
So much fun, and parties
Lots of things to do
The town is rockin' In old SA
It's time to party
Time to play
And wear the green
On St. Patrick's Day.



Everyone Is Irish

Everyone is Irish today
They're wearin' green
All over the U.S.A.
A joyous time
A happy scene
To party and play
Because everyone is Irish today.

St. Patrick's Day Trivia Quiz

By Tom Burkard

- Where was St. Patrick born?
a. Ireland b. Great Britain c. Germany
- What was St. Patrick's real name?
a. Patrick O'Callahan b. Jozef Buzhardt c. Maewyn Succrat
- What does Erin go bragh mean?
a. Ireland Forever b. Praise God c. Peace Always
- What U.S. river is dyed in green on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate the holiday?
a. Tennessee River b. Mississippi River c. Chicago River
- What do the 3 leaves on a shamrock represent?
a. The Holy Trinity b. Love, peace and prayer c. A united country
- The first U.S. President to attend a St. Patrick's Day parade?
a. John F. Kennedy b. John Q. Adams c. Harry Truman
- How many U.S. presidents claim Irish heritage?
a. 5 b. 14 c. 19
- Traditional food served on St. Patrick's Day?
a. Shepard's Pie b. Kielbasy c. Corned Beef & Cabbage
- According to legend, what did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland?
a. Satan b. Black Bears c. Snakes
- What was the original color associated with St. Patrick's Day?
a. green b. blue c. purple



Answers

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

The South Amboy Scene On St. Patrick's Day

The South Amboy scene
On St. Patrick's Day
The huge parade and kids at play
The AOH is the host with the most
As Irish music fills the air
People wearin' green
And happiness everywhere
At the South Amboy scene
On St. Patrick's Day.

South Amboy Elks In The Community

(Photos/story submitted)

As Elks one of our missions is to give back to the community. The South Amboy Elks is the Lodge for Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South River and South Amboy. That's a lot of ground to cover, but somehow, we get it done.



Recently we donated \$1,000.00 to the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 South Amboy for their Veterans housing project.



We also donated \$3,000 to the YMCA for their STEM Programs. In addition, the South Amboy Elks have given several student grants and sponsored 4 amazing young men to a weekend of the Elks Peer Leadership program.



Our exalted ruler John Leo awarded the Elks Eagle Scout Certificate and a boxed flag to Eagle Scout Charles McCrae of South Amboy Troop 91.

It is the Legacy of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks to Give. On our 157 anniversary the 1,857 Elks Lodges and approximately 800,00 members have contributed 12 billion in charitable donations, making a tangible difference in countless lives. The Elks stand as a Beacon of Charity and Goodwill to their communities. To Join the Legacy, you must be an American Citizen, 21 and older, believe in a God and be dedicated to service and community. You can learn more at www.elks.org or visit our Lodge located at 601 Washington Ave. South Amboy, NJ 732-727-7170

Used Clothing Drive

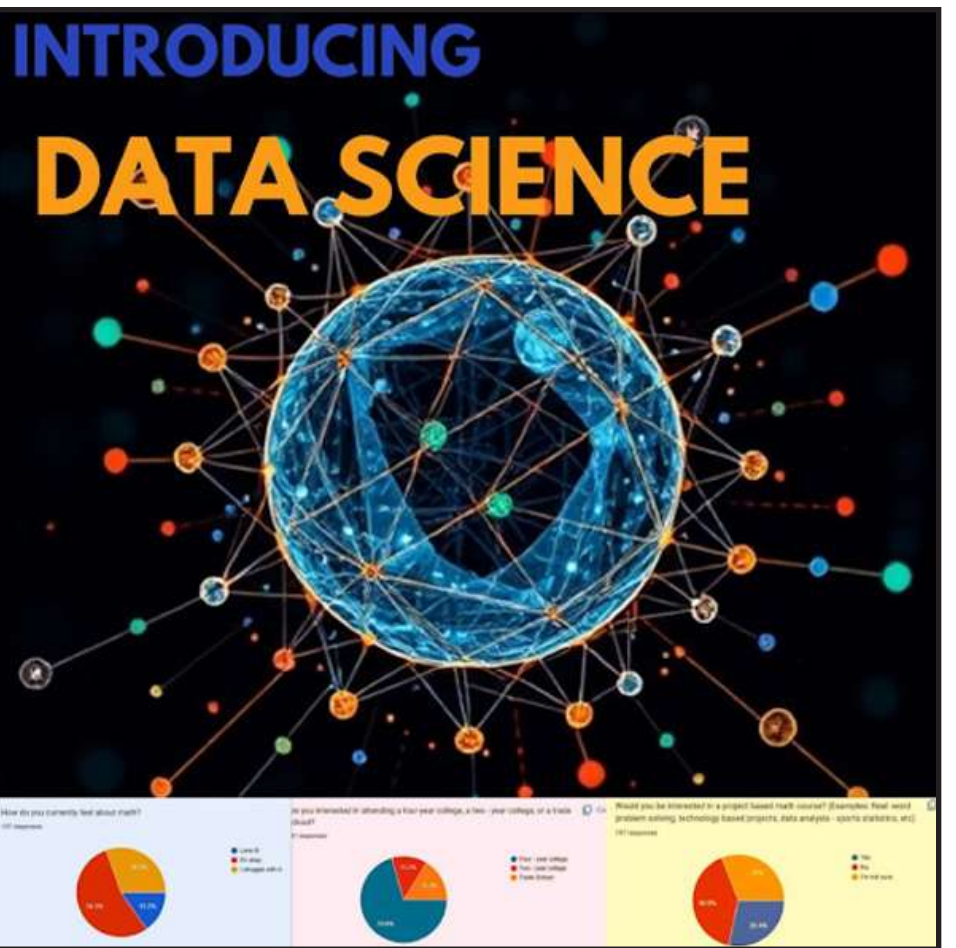
The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a used clothing drive on April 5 and 6.

Your donations will be distributed by the Market Street Mission in Asbury Park, NJ to those in need, or sold in their Thrift Store where proceeds from clothing sales provide funding for meals, shelter and essential items to those in need.

Please drop off your coats and clothing on Saturday, April 5, from 9AM – 5PM and Sunday, April 6, from 6:30AM – 3PM. Place your bagged donation in front of Memorial Hall, 529 Washington Avenue, South Amboy.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

We would love to hear from you!



Newly Approved Proposal: Sayreville School District's Data Science Program

By Rishi Shah

The Sayreville School District is introducing a new Data Science program, a significant addition to its curriculum. Co-led by Dr. Mala Maharana, head of the Math, Computer Science, and Business Departments, and senior Rishi Shah, this program is designed to prepare students for careers in fields such as data analysis, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

This initiative represents a major shift from the traditional Algebra 2 curriculum to one that aligns with updated math standards set by the New Jersey Department of Education. It aims to equip students with the practical skills required in today's technology-driven job market. In the future, the district may offer the Data Science program as a supplemental or alternative option to Algebra 2, providing students interested in technology-related fields with a practical, hands-on approach to learning mathematical concepts while preparing them for high-demand careers.

The program employs a Project-Based Learning (PBL) approach, allowing students to engage in hands-on learning while developing critical thinking, teamwork,

and technical skills. Research highlights a significant gap between theoretical education and practical application, which this program seeks to address.

Additionally, the Data Science program addresses specific challenges within the district, such as the 29% failure rate in Algebra 2. By offering an engaging and relevant alternative, it provides students with meaningful opportunities for success. This initiative offers a practical and stimulating learning experience, catering to those who may find traditional math courses less engaging.

The development of the program involved extensive research and collaboration. Dr. Maharana and Rishi Shah surveyed students, assessed their needs, and worked closely with educators to design a curriculum aligned with the goals of the school community.

"This is not just a curriculum but a vision for the future," stated Dr. Maharana. The program empowers students to explore high-wage opportunities in Data Science and STEM fields while equipping them with the tools needed to navigate future challenges.



This year's annual I Heart Horror Day charity event was held on February 1st, Groundhog Day Eve. The Event's third show, named GroundhogZilla, was to represent the fact that it would be bigger than ever, this year being held at the Sayreville Senior Center, and not the VFW. This time being able to offer independent films being shown, talks including Film companies, Special FX artists, and Paranormalists. The show would also be in honor of the creators, The Brothers Cuneo's dad Joe, who celebrates his birthday on Groundhog's Day. Thanks to their team, bands, vendors, a slew of guests including cult film idol The Toxic Avenger, and The Food Network Halloween Baking Championship, Sayreville's very own Megan Aucone, and a Zombie Wedding officiated by horror convention favorite Father Evil, I Heart Horror Day Co. raised proceeds of \$13,000 toward helping their charity of choice, The Deborah Heart and Lung Center. (Photo/story submitted)

Thank You Novena

Lord God, we do not always remember to thank you as we ought for all you have done for us and given us. We praise you for your goodness and offer our prayers of thanksgiving to you today for all you have done for us and given us. You did not have to create man or any of creation. Out of your goodness, you chose to create the world and to make man in your own image. You have given each of us life in order that we might know, love, and serve you. We thank you for all of your blessings, and we particularly thank you today for giving us life! Help us to grow in gratitude each day, in every circumstance. Help us to grow closer to you each day of our lives. And I especially pray in this novena (mention your intentions here). Lord, hear our prayers! Amen

Winter Memories-Long Ago

(From Ken Rogers Archives)



Remember when the South Amboy Water Works pond was frozen, and provided ice skating fun for the locals.



1960's-Kids sleigh riding down Main Street in South Amboy. Can't imagine that happening today, can you?

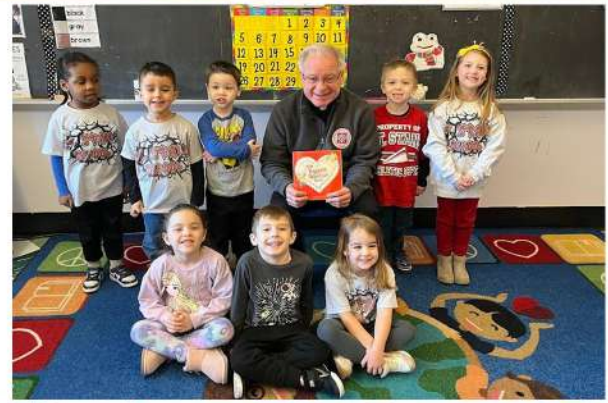


Believe it or not, other youngsters were ice skating down the Main St. in South Amboy!

St. Stan's School

(Photos/Info Submitted)

St. Stan's was booming with school spirit during Catholic Schools Week! Students enjoyed friendly competition on Sports Day, and loved when our 8th Graders took over classrooms on Teacher Appreciation Day. Father John Alvarado also surprised preschoolers with a story as their "Mystery Reader". The week was filled with faith, fun, and school community.



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It's the Gold Store you can feel safe to bring Mom and Grandma to

Easy Access Parking Handicapped Accessible

South Amboy's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Step-Off at 2 PM

2025

Grand Marshal - Mark Herdman

Deputy Grand Marshal - Rev. Stanley Gromadzki

Honorary Grand Marshal - Donna Williams

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day so bundle up the family and sit along the parade route as South Amboy presents its Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Family friendly, free and multicultural, the parade will include 20 marching bands, floats, local community and civic organizations as well as Fire, Police and EMS vehicles from surrounding communities.

Participant registration information and parade updates can be found at www.southamboyparade.com

This project is supported in part by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

South Amboy Preschool Registration

Preschool registration for the 2025-2026 School Year for South Amboy Public Schools is now open. South Amboy Public Schools will continue with our partnership with Acelero Learning of Monmouth and Middlesex County as well as the Children's Learning Center of South Amboy to expand our class offering to seven preschool classrooms.

Our preschool program is a full day program which is free to all residents in the City of South Amboy. Students work with the Tools of the Mind curriculum to develop

crucial literacy skills, but also engage in thematic play to grow their social, emotional, and developmental needs.

To be eligible for our program students must turn 3 or 4 on or before October 1, 2025. For more information about registration please call Anna Mae O'Connor (732) 525-2100 extension 2221 or email aconnor@sapublicschools.com. To learn more about the program or to download registration items, please go to the Early Childhood Page on the South Amboy Public Schools website (<https://www.sapublicschools.com/>)



EDUCATE . EMPOWER . LEAD

25-26 PRE-K REGISTRATION

- FULL DAY 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD PROGRAM
- SMALL CLASS SIZES
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- SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- SCHOOL TRIPS AND ASSEMBLIES

For More Information
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<http://es.sapublicschools.com/>

ENROLL NOW!



Pictured are the 4 Bouchard boys who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Pictured (l-r) Cody, Ryan, Bryce and Blake Bouchard. (Photo/story submitted)

Four Bouchard Boys Earn the Rank of Eagle Scout

Since 1910, thousands of boys have joined Boy Scouts of America, to enjoy the outdoors, make new friends, learn new skills, and grow as individuals. Many start at Cub Scouts (5-10), go onto Boy Scouts (11-18), earning several ranks as they ascend leadership positions. The highest rank - Eagle Scout - is an internationally-recognized achievement that holds great weight. It takes deep commitment and many years to earn. Only 4% of Boy Scouts reach this rank. Eagle Scout alumni include Nobel Prize laureate, NASA astronauts, statesmen, Pulitzer Prize winners, professional athletes and businessmen. Neil Armstrong, Sam Walton, Michael Bloomberg, President Gerald Ford, and Mike Rowe are among them.

Locally, there are many who made Eagle Scout through South Amboy and Sayreville Troops. Within Troop 97 of Sayreville, there are now 82 Eagles. Four of these Eagles belong to one family. Not only is the rank extraordinary, but it is rare to have so many in the same family. Brothers Cody, Ryan and Bryce, and their cousin Blake Bouchard have reached this distinction. Earning the rank between 2021-2024, they completed numerous requirements, demonstrated many skills, held several leadership positions, and performed community services. With the support of Superintendent Dr. Richard Labbe, and under guidance from Scoutmaster Rich Perkins, the boys all built projects that

benefited the Sayreville Public Schools. Cody built a 5' square handicap-accessible Scrabble Board table for the Special Education students. Ryan built four 4' benches to provide a safe place for High School student athletes to wait for rides home. Bryce built a 20' diameter Gaga Ball Pit for the Middle School students, introducing a Scout game that will help with physical fitness. Blake built a rebound ladder for the High School Lacrosse club - then a new sport with no equipment, giving the athletes a means to improve their skills, leading the club to become a varsity team. These projects gave something back to the schools, and will benefit many students for years to come.

The boys honorably represented their community and Troop 97. Bryce was the latest Eagle, honored at the Court of Honor on January 19, 2025. In attendance were over a dozen Eagle alumni and leaders, including special dignitaries - Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Commandant Mel Meszaros of the Marine Corp League John Basilone Detachment, Commander Joel Bloom of the American Legion, Ray Skarzynski of VFW Post 4699, and Sayreville Councilpersons Michael Coaci, Donna Roberts, John Zebrowski. Bryce also received commendations from President Joe Biden, NJ Governor Murphy, and Congressman Frank Pallone.

CJMC Encourages Healthy Living

The CJMC recognizes that maintaining a healthy weight and lifestyle can feel like an uphill battle. With our busy schedules, too many food options, and the influence of technology on our daily routines, finding balance often doesn't get the attention it needs. Adopting a healthy lifestyle doesn't have to mean drastic changes or depriving yourself of the foods you love. It's about making sustainable choices that work for you and your body.

The Central Jersey Medical Center's Weight Management Services team is comprised of adult medicine, endocrinology, and mental health practitioners who are here to help you and your family to get on track and stay there.

Why Healthy Living Matters

Healthy living isn't just about looking good—it's about feeling good. Maintaining a balanced weight and lifestyle can: Reduce your risk of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. Boost your energy levels and improve sleep quality. Enhance your mental health by reducing stress and anxiety. Increase your confidence and overall quality of life.

Central Jersey Medical Center Suggests These Simple Tips for Weight Management. Start with a Physical Exam and Assessment at Central Jersey Medical Center. We Will Help You to Set Realistic Goals. Our staff aims for gradual progress rather than fad diets. Losing 1-2 pounds per week is a safe and achievable target. We will help you to focus on building habits you can maintain long-term rather than chasing temporary results.

We Will Teach You to Eat Mindfully.

Choosing whole, nutrient-dense foods like fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Watching portion sizes, and listening to your body's hunger and fullness cues. Limiting processed foods and sugary beverages, which are often high in empty calories.

We Will Encourage You to Stay Active Physical activity is essential for maintaining a healthy weight and overall well-being. Once you complete your physical exam and assessment at CJMC our staff will suggest the best routine for your individual needs.

Manage Stress. Chronic stress can lead to emotional eating and weight gain. Practice stress management techniques like meditation, yoga, or deep breathing exercises to keep your mind and body balanced. The CJMC's Weight Management Services promotes that health is a journey, not a destination.

What works for one person might not work for another. When you join Central Jersey Medical Center's Weight Management Services our staff will work with you to create a routine that fits your lifestyle, preferences, and needs. Consult with our healthcare providers today and discover that our Healthy living isn't about perfection—it's about consistency. Stay with the CJMC's Weight Management Services and over time you will develop healthy habits that will become second nature.

Are you ready to begin your journey to healthy living? For more information, please visit www.cjmc.us and let today be the day you take that first step toward a happier, healthier future!

HOSTED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AMBOY

LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING OPEN OR CLOSED?



WANTED
INFORMATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF

CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.
OF HOPEWELL, N. J.
SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH
World-Famous Aviator

This child was kidnaped from his home in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m. on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.

DESCRIPTION:
Age, 20 months
Weight, 27 to 30 lbs.
Height, 29 inches
Deep dimple in center of chin
Dressed in one-piece coverall night suit

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
COL. H. N. SCHWARZKOPF, TRENTON, N. J., or
COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, HOPEWELL, N. J.

March 11, 1932

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AND A DEEP DIVE INTO THE LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING CASE

MARCH 22, 2025 10AM-12PM

BREAKFAST AT 10 PRESENTATION AT 11

SPEAKER: PATRICK BAMBURAK, GREAT-GRAND-NEPHEW OF HAROLD HOFFMAN AND RESEARCHER OF THE CASE

South Amboy Senior Center - 108 S. Stevens
Donation \$5
Event being held in conjunction with the City of South Amboy

Dowdell Library News

Happy 111th Birthday Dowdell Library! Join us for a celebratory Maker's Day, Read Across America, and more March fun!

New! The Freegal Music+ Service lets South Amboy cardholders access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels worldwide. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store or Google® Play store.

Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is turning 111 this month! Don't miss their Maker's Day program on Thursday, March 20 from 2:30-4:30 pm and 5:30-7:30 pm. Participate in some fun STEAM activities and celebrate with birthday cake!

Vinyl Oddities at the Library- Drop in on Thursday, March 20 for Maker's Day and a night of music listening at the library courtesy of Gurt Kruse. Watch as he spins vinyl!

Museum Passes! Starting March 1, use your Dowdell library card to get free passes to the Intrepid Museum in New York! Passes valid for a family of two adults and two children.

"After Lunch" by Seward Johnson - caught sleeping on the job! Drop in to the Dowdell Library to visit this life-size sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier. In the meantime, he will be catching some ZZZZs. This exhibition was made possible by the Dowdell Library Foundation.

Birthday Costume Party! Celebrate Dowdell Library's 111th birthday on Wednesday, March 26 at 3-4:30 pm by dressing up as a 111-year old man or lady! Prizes will be given for each age category.

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

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in March from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a reading raffle Saturday, March 1 to Monday, March 31.

Kids and Teens! Don't miss out on the Game On! Basketball Contest happening all March long. Stop in the library for a chance to win an NBA basketball. During March Madness, the January and February winners will have a play-off for the Grand Prize! Don't miss Drop in Club this March from 2:45-4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+ Watch for new games and programs

including Foosball and Shuffleboard @ the Library! Come peruse the new video games and graphic novels available!

Teens! Help us decorate for the library's birthday on Monday, March 3 at 2:45pm. Volunteer hours will be given. Please sign up in advance.

Also, stop by on Monday, March 24 and show your smarts with Teen Trivia. Ages 13+

Teens and Adults! Join the library for the Winter Sewing Series. This two part series is for folks who are looking to buff up or begin their sewing journey. In February, the basics of sewing, everything from tools and terms, basic fabric cutting, to hand vs. machine sewing will be demonstrated. For the second session on Thursday, March 20, learn how to machine and hand sew your very own pocket-sized pouch complete with a button closure- perfect for little notions, knickknacks and items. Learn a lifelong skill, and take home your very own handmade item! Spring Sewing Series coming in April!

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, March 24 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Snow date is Wednesday, March 26 at the same time.

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

The Knitting Circle will be meeting 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.

Drop in for Mah Jongg Mondays and Card Game Wednesdays every week from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring your own set or use the library's!

Coming soon! Women's Expo this Spring! Interested parties may contact the library to participate.

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

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

The Importance of Dental Health for Children: Building Healthy Smiles for Life At the Central Jersey Medical Center

The Central Jersey Medical Center's Dental Department recognizes that good dental health is a crucial part of a child's overall well-being. Strong, healthy teeth not only contribute to a beautiful smile but also support proper speech development, nutrition, and self-confidence. By teaching good oral hygiene habits early and getting regular dental health checkups at the Central Jersey Medical Center, parents and caregivers can help children maintain lifelong dental health and prevent future complications.

Why Dental Health in Childhood is Important

Children's teeth, both baby and permanent, play a significant role in their development. Here are some key reasons why maintaining good oral health is essential:

1. Prevention of Tooth Decay Cavities are one of the most common chronic childhood conditions. Poor dental hygiene and excessive sugar consumption contribute to decay, leading to pain, infections, and potential problems with permanent teeth..
2. Healthy Speech Development Teeth play an important role in forming sounds and words. Missing or decayed teeth can lead to speech impediments, which may require therapy to correct.
3. Better Overall Health Poor oral health can lead to infections and inflammation that affect overall health. Gum disease, for example, has been linked to conditions such as diabetes and heart disease in adulthood.
4. Boosted Self-Confidence A healthy, bright smile boosts a child's self-esteem, encouraging positive social interactions and reducing anxiety about their appearance.

Central Jersey Medical Center's Dental Department Tips for Maintaining Healthy Teeth

Parents and caregivers can take simple steps to promote good dental health from

an early age:

- Start Early: Clean an infant's gums with a soft cloth, and begin brushing as soon as the first tooth appears.
- Regular Brushing & Flossing: Teach children to brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and floss daily to remove plaque buildup.
- Limit Sugary Foods & Drinks: Excessive sugar consumption increases the risk of cavities. Encourage a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products that support strong teeth.
- Regular Dental Checkups at CJMC: Schedule visits to our Dental Department every six months for cleanings and early detection of potential issues.
- Use Fluoride & Sealants: Fluoride strengthens enamel, reducing the risk of cavities, while sealants provide an extra layer of protection against decay.

Creating Positive Dental Habits

Making oral hygiene fun can help children adopt lifelong healthy habits. Consider the following strategies:

- Let kids choose their toothbrushes and toothpaste flavors.
- Use a timer or a fun song to encourage brushing for two minutes.
- Offer small rewards for consistent brushing and flossing.
- Read books or watch videos about dental care to reinforce its importance.

Central Jersey Medical Center is invested in children's dental health that lays the foundation for a lifetime of healthy smiles. With proper care, regular dental visits with our dental team, and a positive attitude toward oral hygiene, parents can help their children avoid unnecessary dental problems and enjoy the benefits of strong, healthy teeth well into adulthood. Start early, be consistent, and make dental care a fun and rewarding part of your child's daily life.

First Flag Raising



1968-Mr. Hughes presents an American flag to St. Mary's High School Principal, Sister Mary Madeline (l) and Father Brembos (2nd from left) to be used for the first flag raising at the new St. Mary's High School on Augusta St. Catherine Hughes is pictured (r).

SOUTH AMBOY ELKS ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

The South Amboy Elks will be hosting their annual Lenten Fish Fry's again. The beginning date is Friday March 7th and will run every Friday during Lent, ending on Good Friday April 18th. Our hours are 5:30-7:30 pm. Your meal includes homemade soup,

dessert, coffee & Tea. Your choice can be fried or broiled. Look for our menu on Facebook. As always, a cash bar is available. Please call ahead for To Go orders at 732-727-7170. Thank you in advance for your support, we look forward to seeing you!

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.

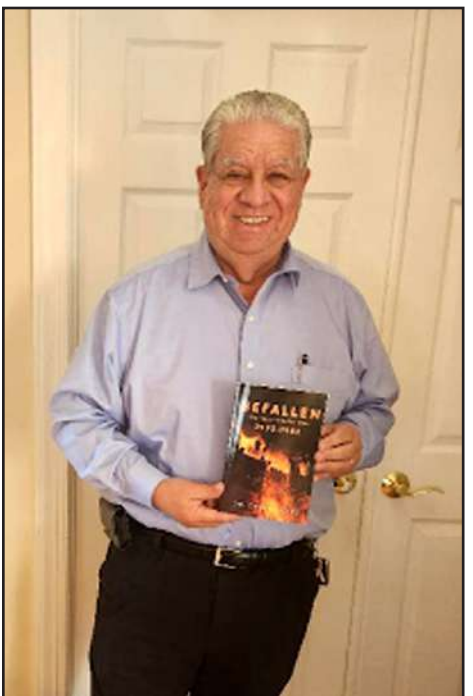
A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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 -J.W.

New Book: Befallen, The Tragic Hoboken Fires 1973-82

Dr. Edwin Duroy is a retired educator serving as a teacher, supervisor, principal, superintendent of schools and college professor. He and his wife Santa have resided in South Amboy for the past 20 years, formerly from Hoboken, New Jersey. The book Befallen is based on his firsthand experience growing up in Hoboken and observing the tragic fires that affected tenants resulting in the loss of lives and the displacement of thousands of residents. These events, an unspoken history, occurred because of gentrification and hundreds of fires during the 10-year period. Befallen includes tragedy, intrigue and leaves the readers asking why these true events happened.

The book can be purchased online via Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Walmart books as a soft cover or e-book.



Dr. Edwin Duroy

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

South Amboy and St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus are hosting a sit-down or take-out Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, March 22 from 5:30-7pm, with live music from 7-10 pm, at St. Lawrence Parish Center, 109 Laurence Pkwy., Laurence Harbor. Cost is \$15 p/p and includes: salad, dessert, tea &

coffee. If you just want to come for dinner and dancing, the cost is a \$5 cover charge after 7pm. Bring your own refreshments and snacks. For more info or to reserve your seats contact Grand Knight Nick Santos 732-794-0889 or Grand Knight Jan Williams 732-553-9060.

School Sports

(As of Feb. 18)

By Tom Burkard

Girls Basketball

South Amboy (11-13)

Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs

Team Leaders

Points-Sarah McLaughlin 241, Emma Kalantis 155; Rebounds-E. Kalantis 251, McLaughlin 111, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 110; Assists-E. Kalantis 91, Moreira-Burgos 51.

Sayreville (11-15)

Coach Janet Cook

Team Leaders

Points-Natalia Glazewski 282, Wironika Glazewski 220, Angelina Sepulveda 174; Rebounds-N. Glazewski 285, W. Glazewski 256; Assists-E. Kalantis 86, Moreira-Burgos 49.

Boys Basketball

Sayreville (20-3)

John Wojcik

Team Leaders

Points-Chidi Chukwurah 415, Sam Jones 358, Keithan Shuler 265; Rebounds-Chukwurah 194, Shuler 106; Assists-Christian Torres 107.

South Amboy (10-14)

Coach Matt Wiater

Team Leaders

Points-John Kelly 464, Alex Gantt 194, Darion Joubert 158, Wesley Lowe 129, Jaidel Vasques 118; Rebounds-Kelly 256, Vasques 155, Joubert 136; Assists-Gnatt 68, Kelly 49.

Wrestling

Sayreville (16-9)

Coach Matthew Van Doren

Sayreville Boys Win 2 In GMCT Bow In Semis

The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team captured their first 2 games in the GMCT, defeating Metuchen 64-55 in the first round, and South Plainfield, 77-70 in the quarterfinals.

Chidi Chukwurah led the way against Metuchen with 22 points and 10 rebounds, while teammates Christian Torres scored 17 and dished out 7 assists, and Sam Jones pumped in 14 points.

The Bombers upped their record to (20-3) in an overtime battle with South Plainfield, who they downed, 77-70. Keithan Shuler scored 22 points, Chukwurah 18 points, 10 rebounds, Sam Jones 15 points, and Torres added 12 assists.

In a semifinal showdown between two county powerhouses, Piscataway (21-4) topped Sayreville (20-3), 73-62. The Bombers led 32-31 at halftime, and 50-48 after 3 quarters, but the Chiefs had a big final quarter for the victory. Keithan Shuler pumped in 16 points for Sayreville.

Bombers Fall In State Tourney

A powerful Watchung Hills team derailed the Bombers of Sayreville, 37-31 in the NJSIAA Team Tournament Quarterfinals North Jersey Section 2 Group 4. Individuals who were victorious for Sayreville were: 190 lbs.-Bryce Bouchard-pin in 0:36; 285 lbs.-Kacper Trzeciak-pin in 6:47; 106 lbs.-Ali Qureshi-decision 9-4; 138 lbs.-Robert Fritz-major decision 9-1; 150 lbs.-Colin Markwood-forefit; 157 lbs.-Andrew Golden-injury default.

Bombers Blast Lady Guvs

Sayreville girls basketball team blasted South Amboy, 64-21. Natalia Glazewski scored 14 points and ripped 12 rebounds, Weronika Glazewski scored 13 and hauled in 10 rebounds, and Angelina Sepulveda popped in 13 points for the winners. The Purple & Gold was led by Gabby Evanski with 9 points, and Emma Kalantis 8.

Jones and Chukwurah Join The 1,000 Point Club

Sayreville Bombers standout basketball players, Sam Jones and Chidi Chukwurah recently joined the elite 1,000 point scoring club both reaching this milestone in their Junior year. *Jones is the third and

Chukwurah is the fourth 1,000 point scorer to play under the outstanding coaching of John Wojcik in his 15 years as Head Coach of the Bombers. The other two are Corey Taite and Ryan O'Leary.

South Amboy Tops Roselle Park

The South Amboy Governors boys basketball squad defeated Roselle Park, 45-40. John Kelly paved the way to victory with 21 points, and Darion Joubert chipped in with 11.

Sayreville Girls Advance In GMCT

The Sayreville Bombers girls basketball team walloped Woodbridge Magnet, 56-29 in the Play-In-Round of the GMCT. The balanced scoring attack featured Angelina Sepulveda 13 points, Natalia Glazewski 13, and Clara Fawzy 10 points.

Guvs Fall In GMCT

The South Amboy Guvs boys basketball team was eliminated in the Play-In-Round of the GMCT by South River, 71-50. The locals were paced by Alex Gnatt with 14 points, John Kelly 12 points, 9 rebounds, and Jaidel Vasques 12 points.

Bus Trip To See Mets vs. Yankees

A bus trip is planned to catch the Yankees vs. the Mets in action at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 6. Cost is \$215 per person. Included in the price is donuts and coffee, which will be served prior to boarding the bus, bus fare to and from Citi Field, and special ticket seating at the Coca-Cola Porch. Bring your own choice of beverage for the bus ride to and from Citi Field. No beverages are allowed to be brought into Citi Field. Be sure to dress comfortably.

A Rendezvous will be at the Spotswood American Legion Post 253, 50 Devoe Ave. between 9-10 a.m. The Luxury Bus will leave at exactly 10:30 a.m.

Limited seats will be available, so call now for tickets. Make checks payable to:

Mel Meszaros, 28A Thomas Paine Dr., Monroe Twp., NJ 08831. Any questions, contact Mel at 732-718-6460.

More Memories From The 60's Part 2

By Robert W. Eginton

There was Marilyn Monroe,

A movie named "Psycho,"

The mini skirt craze,

"Happy Days,"

Jimi Hendrix playing

"Purple Haze,"

Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays.

Afro hair, the World's Fair

The "Flintstones" and "Yogi Bear,"

The "Twilight Zone," "F-Troop"

"Popeye" and the Hula Hoop.

Joe Namath and the

New York Jets

In '69, the World Series c

hamps were

The New York Mets

The building of the Berlin Wall,

"Easy Rider,"

Bell Bottom pants getting wider

and wider.

The Beach Boys were singing

"I Get Around"

"Superman" able to leap tall

buildings

In a single bound,

Chubby Checker doing

"The Twist,"

Ah, those fabulous 60's

may now be gone

But surely will always be missed!

Team Huddle



Sayreville Bombers Head Coach John Wojcik goes over a new play with his team. Now in his 15th season at the helm, he has led the club to an outstanding year, as they captured the White Division title. (Photo submitted)

25 Years Ago



Feb. 2000-South Amboy native and major league baseball 1999 "Manager of the Year," Jack McKeon is pictured prior to visiting St. Mary Regional High School. It was his first stop on a busy and memorable weekend which included "Jack McKeon Day," a card show, sports memorabilia auction, and "An Evening with Jack McKeon" dinner, all for the benefit of the South Amboy First Aid and Safety Squad. (Photo/info by Tom Burkard)

McKeon Comes Home and Helps South Amboy First Aid Raise Over \$6,000

By Tom Burkard

Feb. 2000-Jack McKeon, manager of the Cincinnati Reds major league baseball team, returned to South Amboy as he has done countless times over the years. This time, however, he was on a goodwill mission-to help the South Amboy First Aid & Safety Squad raise much needed funds for its huge overhead and expenses. The First Aid is one of few in the state that operates independently of city support. "Jack McKeon Day" in South Amboy kicked off with a card show and sports memorabilia auction on Saturday, Feb. 5 at Christ Church Hall. McKeon along with local Yankees legend, Allie Clark, and Sayreville's Ed "Buddie" Popowski of the Red Sox, signed photos, baseballs, and just about anything from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. People of all ages came out to meet the local heroes, and help the First Aid as well with their donations for the autographs. The auction was held from 4 p.m.-5 p.m. and Jack McKeon brought many outstanding collectible items, which he gathered himself, to donate for this

worthy event, including a Ken Griffey Jr. autographed ball that fetched the First Aid \$125 from none other than Jack's godson, Jay McKeon. A Cincinnati Reds team autographed baseball went for the highest price at \$160. Allie Clark also donated 3 Yogi Berra autographed balls and a variety of rare baseball photos. "An Evening With Jack McKeon" was held at the South Amboy K of C #426 from 6:30 until midnight, and featured a cocktail hour compliments of Grand Knight Fred Whiteley of Whiteley Funeral Home, and appetizers courtesy of Gary Francy of Old Country Buffet. People later danced to the music of DJ Tony Gonsalves, and enjoyed a prime rib dinner. 155 people attended the sellout event, for \$25 apiece. The 50-50 was won by Claire Noble, and she most generously re-donated the \$250 prize to the First Aid. Marge Gorczyca, Jack's sister, won 1st prize in the raffle, a Sammy Sosa autographed baseball. The events on "Jack McKeon Day" netted the First Aid over \$6,000 after expenses.

Remember When?



February 2013-Sayreville resident Clem Skarzynski (r) organized and ran the huge fundraiser "Songs For Sayreville" for the Hurricane Sandy victims of Sayreville. He is shown presenting a check for \$8,061 to the Borough of Sayreville CFO Wayne Kronowski at the Borough Hall.

The event was a perfect success, as countless, talented musicians entertained the packed house at Bello's all day long. Locals were happy to get help after going through so much destruction and devastation from the superstorm. Great job, Clem! You brought a lot of happiness to so many people of Sayreville who were going through a very tough time. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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 (mention 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.) -PS

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1984-85 St. Mary's Eagles talented team finished (15-7) under Coach Gil Pritchard. Pictured bottom row (l-r) Randy Wilson, Tom Mierzwiak, Bill O'Leary, Bob Bialoblocki, Nick Ferraro. Top row (l-r) Coach Pritchard, Dave Kennedy, Bob Waltz, Jim Vellanti, Bill Reilly, Joe Byrne. Byrne was the top scorer for the season.

T.H.E. Game 60 Years Ago

Year-1965

Sport-Boys Basketball

Teams-Hoffman (0-5) vs. St. Mary's (3-2)
Game 1 of the City Series

Recap-St. Mary's hammered the very young Hoffman team, 77-47. The Eagles raced out to an 18-7 first quarter lead, and never looked back. John Constantine topped all scorers by pumping in 15 points for the Saints. Ed Suchcicki scored 12, and Fran Fitzmorris 9, Rick Jarusiewicz scored 7 and hauled in 11 rebounds for the Blue and Gold contingent. Freshman Curt Wood led Hoffman with 9 points and Edwin Witkowski added 8 for the Guvs.

Others who saw action in the contest were: St. Mary's-Tom Zalewski, Tom Triggs, John Quigley, Jim Doyle, Tom Kelly, John Rucki, Paul Jankowski, Dennis Bratus, Jack Trenta, Bob Knight. Hoffman-Soph, Billy Clayton, freshman Leo Dohan, Hal Dennen, Richie Gunther, Bill Keegan, Tony Pelican, John Jankowski, Don Baranowski, freshman Greg Havlusch, freshman Bob Keegan, Ed Szatkowski.

Player-of-the-Game-John Constantine, St. Mary's.

Back In Those College Days

Emma Herrick (Sayreville) played first base for New Jersey City U...Alissa Bikowski (South Amboy) also played softball for New Jersey City U...Destiny Gonzalez (Sayreville) played for Middlesex College... Back in the '70's, Jim Shannon (St. Mary's) took his baseball talents to Villanova U., and Bob Miller (St. Mary's) played baseball for Middlesex County College...Sayreville Bombers longtime and current head coach, John Wojcik (Sayreville) was a basketball standout with Ramapo College back in 2007...Mike Osowski (Sayreville) was a co-captain of the Delaware University basketball team in the early 1960's...In 1961-62 three Sayreville alumni played college basketball. Al Soroka starred for Christian Brothers College of Tennessee, and averaged 18.3 ppg. In 15 games. Bill Mandy averaged an incredible 33.4 ppg for the Alliance of Delaware freshman team, was promoted to varsity, and averaged 15 ppg. Joe Deerin was a starter for the Rider College basketball squad...Jeff Osowski (Sayreville) played basketball for Penn University. As a soph his team faced nationally ranked University of Kentucky, a team that featured future NBA Hall of Famer Dan Issel, and Jeff scored 5 points and grabbed 8 rebounds in a 64-49 setback. Issel was held to 12 points and 17 rebounds.

Selected To Hall of Fame



Ichiro Suzuki was recently selected for induction to the Baseball of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. He finished his career with 3,089 hits, .311 batting avg., 1,420 runs, 509 stolen bases. In addition, he was Rookie of the Year, won 10 Gold Glove Awards, 3 Silver Slugger Awards, won 2 batting titles, and won an MVP Award. (Photo/info by Tom Burkard)

Glory Days In Local Sports

2022-South Amboy boys basketball team bowed to Highland Park, 42-35 in the Play-In-Round of the GMCT. Brandon Gasiewski tossed in 11 points and Josiah Floyd 9...2019-Sayreville girls basketball team nipped Matawan, 42-40 in the first round of the Blue Devil Holiday Tournament. Stephanie Van Note and Janeva Holland led the way with 15 points apiece...2008-Cardinal McCarrick girls basketball squad smashed South River, 67-21. Chrissy Keir fired in 12 points and Patty Langan added

10...1998-Sayreville boys basketball team downed a powerful Piscataway Chief contingent, 53-44. Marcin Ziobron burned the nets for 17 points, Leland Norris 16, John Farinick had 14 points and 5 steals...1980-Hoffman boys belted Montgomery, 51-44 behind Bob Aucone who had 18 points, and 11 rebounds, and Frank Wahler 16 points...1971-St. Mary's Eaglettes girls basketball club hammered Hoffman, 56-22. Kate Durnien and Kathy Birmingham topped the Blue & Gold with 11 points each.

80 Years Ago

1945-Hoffman (7-0) trounced St. Mary's (10-1) in boys basketball, 43-28. Jim Croddick led the Guvs with 18 points, while teammates John Bodenman and George Munck scored 9 apiece. Bob Fleming scored 9 and George Harkins 9 for the Eagles.

65 Years Ago

1960-Sayeville (16-3) trounced St. Mary's (5-13), 62-46 in the season finale. The Bombers were led by Fran Marchesi with 23 points, Bill Mandy 14, Joe Deerin 12. Henry "Henny The DJ" Conroy topped the Saints with 16 points, and John Paczkowski added 11.

Flashback: 1954 Sayreville Wins Title

The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team won the CJ Group 2 title for the 1953-54 season by downing Penns Grove 63-54. Coach Gutkowski's team then fell to a powerful Weehawken club, 71-60 in the CJ Group 2 finale, and finished the season with a fine (20-5) record.

The Bombers standout roster for the season included All-County standout Stan Kojkowski, Rich Kurczeski, Bob Shorosky, Charlie Kolb, John Callahan, John Marcinczyk, Stan Marcinczyk, Ed Chmielewski, Les Farley, and Ed Prysak.

65 Years Ago Bombers Win Basketball Crown

1960-The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball captured the CJ Group III championship by topping Neptune, 56-48. The team under Coach John Gutkowski captured their first title since 1954. Neptune held a close 15-13 first quarter lead, but Sayreville took a 28-24 margin to the lockers at halftime. The Bombers upped the spread to 46-38 after 3 stanzas, and the 8 point lead held up through the final buzzer.

Bill Mandy topped the scoring brigade with 24 points, followed by Joe Deerin 14, Fran Marchesi 8, Mike Osowski 7, Rich Mazur 3. Other talented members on the Sayreville roster: John Phillips, Lenny Popowski, Jim Prusarczyk, Bill Falgares, Lowe, Jim Applegate, Dennis Grobelny.

45 Years Ago

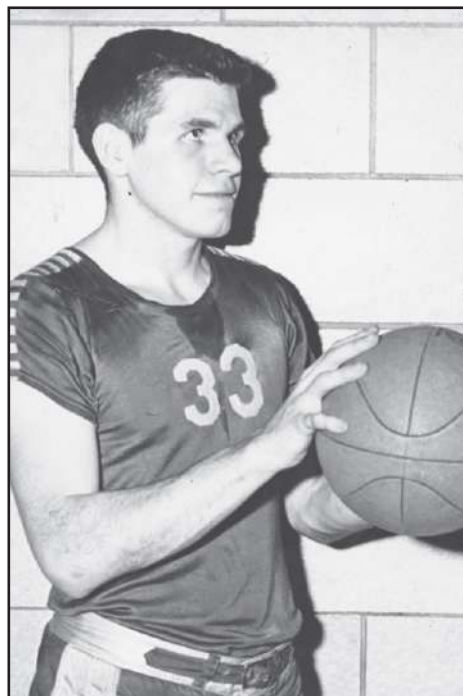
1980-Perth Amboy St. Mary's beat Hoffman, 80-76, despite an outstanding, career-high scoring performance by Bill Lewis, who poured in 35 points...

Woodbridge nipped Sayreville, 49-48 in the season opener. Dan Osborne fired in 24 points and Fred Krumbine had 12 points.

Fathers & Sons Update-Part 3

There were a few more additions for the growing list of Fathers & Sons who played varsity sports for Sayreville, Hoffman/South Amboy, or St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick. They are as follows:

Jack Conlon (Hoffman), Paul Conlon (Cardinal McCarrick); Steve Richmond (Hoffman), Matt Richmond (South Amboy).



Joe Rudy

Joe Rudy: Sayreville Great Remembered

By Tom Burkard

Joe Rudy, perhaps the greatest three-sport star in Sayreville HS history died on January 22, 2025. While playing varsity sports from 1949-53, he set scoring records and was selected for All-County and All-State while leading his team to many victories, and helping them to be one of the top teams in NJ.

He was selected to All State and All County teams in football and basketball, and also excelled on the baseball diamond. Joe played both offense as a fullback, and as a defensive tackle, and was a 1st Team choice at both positions.

As soon as football season ended, Rudy was on the basketball court, scoring lots of points and leading the Bombers to victory. During his junior year, 1951-52, he topped the team in scoring with 319 points and a 12.7 avg. Joe captured the Middlesex County scoring title in 1952-53, by scoring 493 points, 22.4 avg. He set a new one-game scoring record for Sayreville by pouring in 41 points against St. Peter's. Later in the season, Joe went on to break the new one-game record. In addition, he became the school's all-time leading scorer with over 800 points in his career.

Joe was also a standout on the baseball field as a third baseman/pitcher, and a power hitter. In '53, he fired a masterful no-hitter as the Bombers belted Jamesburg, 7-0, and finished the year with 8 victories. He and his teammate Gene Malkiewicz once tried out for the New York Giants Major League Baseball team.

Following high school graduation, he received scholarship offers from many colleges, but opted for joining the U.S. Army. Joe then went on to a successful career with the Borough of Sayreville Water Dept., where he worked for over 30 years, and retired as a Chief Operator.

*If you would like to read more about Joe Rudy, go to our website: www.thesatimes.com and look up the Aug. 23, 2008 issue, page 13, where I did a feature interview with Joe titled "Joe Rudy: One of Sayreville's Greatest Athletes."

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Fishing Flashes
 By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water
 Please excuse a typo from last month's issue regarding the minimum size limit for Striped Bass. Size limit is 28 inches, not 26. The bays and rivers open on March 1st. It looks like it will not be a bonanza as most of the fish stayed in the ocean, very few came inside the bay. I would say the outlook does not look good at this time. It's a slow winter other than a few special offshore trips. Party Boats have a pick on Ling and Blackfish. The offshore trips are catching Porgies, Sea Bass and some Pollack when the weather allows them to go that far offshore. Inshore fishing is a slow pick. In the rivers and bays in back of Seaside and LBI some White Perch are being caught. Winter Flounder season also opens on March 1st. That fishing will also be a slow start.

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Fresh Water
 There is now, at this time, safe ice to do ice fishing. Lake Hopatcong produces Pickerel and Perch. Other frozen lakes will produce some fish too. At the Round Valley Reservoir, Trout are being caught on live shiners from the boat launch area. This area has some open water. When conditions permit, check spots in the Delaware from Trenton, north and above Lambertville for some Walleye fishing and other fish.

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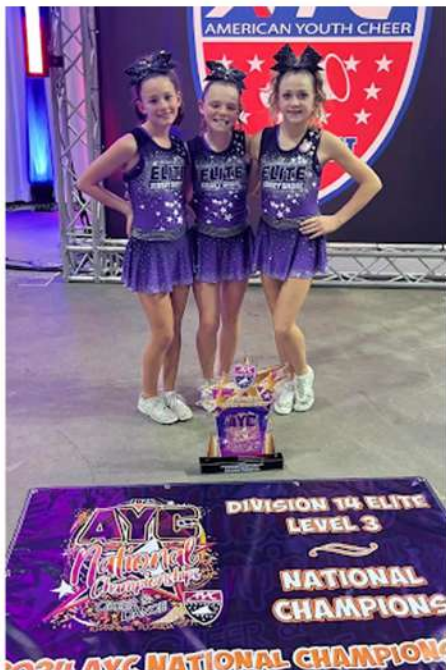
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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
 (Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me,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

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

Sayreville Jr. Bombers

Sayreville Jr. Bombers 2024 AYC National Championships were truly incredible for all 3 teams!
D8 Cheer - 1st place National Champions, Undefeated cheer season.
D10 Cheer - 3rd place
D14 Cheer - 5th place



Jersey Shore D14 Elite Level 3
1st place National Champions. cheerleaders from Sayreville, Victoria Marotolli, Lynn Bialoblocki & Julie Sekerak.



Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify these four? Here is a hint they all play guitar!! We need all four names. Send your answers to satimes@aol.com by March 17th.

Who Is It?

Last month's mystery men were the Dead End Kids later known as the Bowery Boys (l-r) Leo Gorcery, Billy Halop and Huntz Hall. The following got it right: Winners: Rich Angerstein, Edna Pilch, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Bruce Grankowski, Ed English, Lina Dreesend, Mark and Pam DePazza, Steve Laskiewicz, Pete McIntyre, Laurie Loftus, Dane Colburn, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret.



January Who is it?
Dead End Kids/Bowery Boys
Leo Gorcery, Billy Halop, Huntz Hall

WWW.?

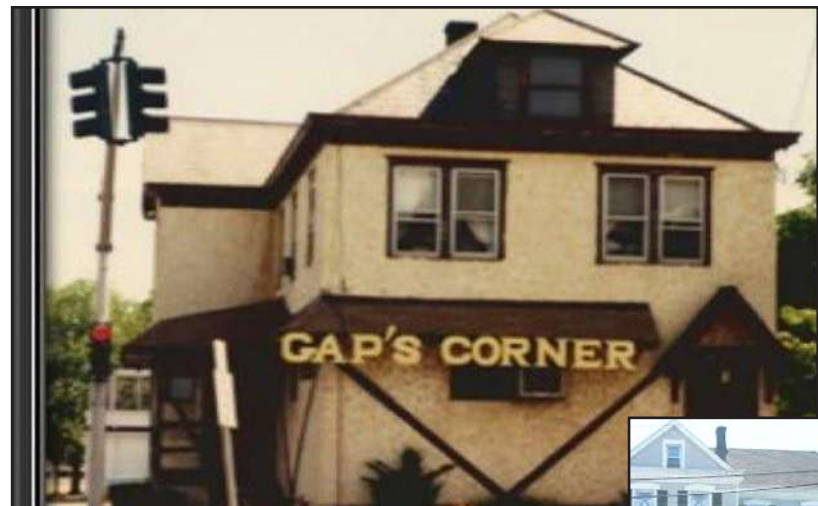


Do you know the name of this business? If you think you do, send your answer to satimes@aol.com by March 17th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

January Winners

Last month the WWW.? was Jacqueline's Florist on Bordentown Ave and South Pine in South Amboy. It was previously know as the Corner Keg and Gaps Corner

Winners: Jim & Debbie Sissick, John & JoAnn French, Ed English, Lynn Loy, Steve Laskiewicz, Pete McIntyre, Laurie Loftus, Barb Bockus, Dane Colburn, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret, Lisa Grankowski,



Jacqueline's Florist, formerly Corner Keg and Gaps Corner



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Senior Fraud Prevention Scams
 Friday, March 14, 2025
 at Middlesex College

The Middlesex County Office of Aging and Disabled Services, in partnership with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, is hosting the 2025 Senior Fraud Prevention Conference—a vital event aimed at raising awareness about scams targeting older adults and providing resources to help protect them—on Friday, March 14 at Middlesex College. The conference will discuss common fraud schemes, including online, phone, and door-to-door scams. Attendees will also receive expert guidance from law enforcement on best practices to safeguard personal information and financial security. This FREE conference is open to all older adults (60+), caregivers, and those who serve the older adult population. Registration is required and ends March 10, 2025. To register, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/g/em6eNupTrr>
 WHEN: Friday, March 14, 10 am–1 pm
 WHERE: Middlesex College – West Hall, Parkview Room
 2600 Woodbridge Ave | Edison, NJ 08818
 WHO: This event is a collaboration between the Middlesex County Office of Aging and Disabled Services and the Prosecutor's Office. For questions, please contact 732-745-3295 or email mcoads.events@co.middlesex.nj.us.
 For more information on programs and services for older adults in Middlesex County, please visit middlesexcountynj.gov.

Bay Watch



The cold weather brought out some different kinds of characters, especially this winter wonderland lifeguard on the South Amboy waterfront walkway. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

LETTERS

Tom,
 Mike Dietche sent me the January edition of The SA Times.
 Your article about my induction into my college Hall of Fame is greatly appreciated by me and my family!
 I'm very proud to be your classmate from SMHS Class of 1969...including our Poet Laureate Albie Gomolka!
 Stay well!
 Sincerely,
 Monica & Jim McCloud

Tom & Brian,
 Interesting articles! Great story on Jim McCloud pages 2 & 3 and seeing "Ish" in the photo of the Sacred Heart 7th & 8th grade team! Wow! This brings back many memories of our days in SA. Thanks to you and Tom, I always feel I never left the town I grew up in.
 Bill Farrell
 (Formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville)

A Salute To St. Patrick's Day The Irish Moon
 (Gerlach)

(Submitted by Dr. Edwin Duroy)
 It is a time that I reflect on days of the past
 Thinking of lost childhood never leaves my heart
 Remembering fondness and life's fray
 But the green in my days will always stay
 A bright hue smiles forever in time
 Green flowers in lapels match only those red waves in her hair
 A colleen to admire this green day so fair
 Celebrate the hours all for the Celtic honor
 We salute the culture instill with pride
 All day from morning to the Irish Moon

Snow Day



This little girl got to experience her first snow with her daddy!



My Perfect Valentine



Samantha and Elliana Pagan got to celebrate a special Valentine's Day with a craft and party at school.



Obituaries

Bauer, John T. "Red," 70, of South Amboy died on Jan.28.
 Brower, Barbara V. Drude, 97, formerly of Laurence Harbor/South Amboy died on Jan. 24.
 Cannan, Charles F., 76, of South Amboy died on Jan. 20.
 Daley, Barbara M., 96, of Parlin died on Jan. 24.
 DiGiovanni, Maria C., 65, of Sayreville died on Feb. 3.
 Dill, Dorothy, 83, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 22.
 Faccione, Caroline, 104, of South Amboy died on Feb.10.
 Falk, Angeline "Angie," 91, of Parlin died on Jan. 29.
 Fasullo, Stephen J. Jr., 37, of Parlin died on Dec. 29.
 Fielek, Raymond W., 80, of Sayreville died on Jan. 24.
 Garnett, Anne L., 92, of Parlin died on Feb. 6.
 Gordon, Cheryl E., 71, formerly of Parlin died on Feb. 5.
 Gorman, Mary Ann H., 69, of Sayreville died on Feb. 1.
 Harming, Dan Sr., 89, of Parlin died on Feb. 10.
 Jacobus, Wallace "Brud," 87, of Laurence Harbor died on Jan. 20.

Kulick, Andrew W., 93, of Sayreville died on Jan. 19.
 Leschinski, Mark, 65, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 17.
 Lynch, Dennis E. Sr., 75, of Sayreville died on Feb. 3.
 Meyer, Kenneth J., 83, of Parlin died on Feb. 17.
 Micula, Wlodek, 73, of South Amboy died on Feb. 15.
 Nagy, Paul, 70, of South Amboy died on Jan. 15.
 Nugent, Donna M., 59, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 4.
 Ryan, Eileen Patricia, 84, of South Amboy died on Jan. 26.
 Rudy, Joseph "Joe" E., 90, of Parlin died on Jan. 22.
 Ruiz, Artemio, 89, of Sayreville died on Feb. 18.
 Semoneit, Anita Dexheimer, 87, of South Amboy died on Feb. 19.
 Thomas, John H. Jr., 79, of Parlin died on Jan. 20.
 Timpson, Gary, 79, of South Amboy died on Jan. 21.
 Yates, Raymond S., 83, of Sayreville died on Jan. 23.
 Zych, John "Mike," 71, of Sayreville died on Feb. 15.

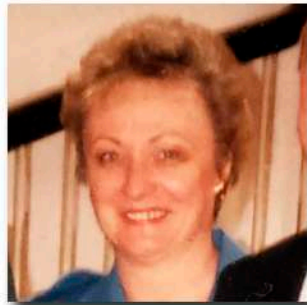
In Memoriam

Mark Leschinski, 65, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 17. He was a former Captain of the Morgan Fire Dept., and also worked for Public Service, where he worked for 26 years, and retired as a Senior Supervisor. As a young man, in the early 1980's, he was the manager of Howard Johnson's Discovery Lounge on Rt. 9 South in Sayreville. Paul Nagy, 70, of South Amboy died on Jan. 15. He was an excellent musician who played in many well-known bands, and also gave private guitar lessons. Paul was a great man, who loved to share his music,

most recently with his band, The Paul Nagy Project. Raymond Fielek, 80, of Sayreville died on Jan. 24. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant in Vietnam aboard the USS Hunterdon County, as part of Operation Game Warden, playing a vital role in keeping rivers free of infiltration in the Mekong Delta. John "Mike" Zych, 71, of Sayreville died on Feb. 15. He was a DuPont employee for 42 years. Anita Semoneit, 87, of South Amboy died on Feb. 19. She was a kind-hearted lady who always had a good word for everyone.

Dorothy Zajak Jesberger
 January 28, 1940 - February 2, 2000

*I feel a warmth around me,
 like your presence is so near.
 And I close my eyes to visualize
 your face when you were here.
 I endure the times we spent together,
 and they are locked inside my heart
 As long as I have those memories
 we will never be apart.
 Even though we cannot speak anymore,
 my voice is always there,
 because every night before I sleep,
 I have you in my prayers.*



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February 12, 2009 - February 12, 2025



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 more than a thought away.
 They live in our hearts forever.*

*We love you!
 Shirley, Brandon, John
 Family and Friends*

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



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*May your troubles be less
 and your blessings be more
 And nothing but happiness
 come through your door*

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Eileen Patricia Ryan

Eileen Patricia Ryan, 84, of South Amboy, New Jersey died peacefully at home on January 26th, 2025, surrounded by members of her devoted family. The mother of 6 sons, her campaign to build a new school for the children of South Amboy led her to run for public office and ultimately serve as the president of the city's Board of Education that built the South Amboy Middle and High School.



She was a communicant of Saint Bernadette's Parish in Parlin, a former volunteer with the South Amboy First Aid Squad and a longtime pediatric nurse in addition to her many years of service on the South Amboy Board of Education. Protecting, healing, and loving children was her calling.

She is survived at home by her beloved husband Jim and her lifelong friend and sister Ellen Boddie, as well as her grateful sons and their spouses: Kevin and Clare Ryan of Fair Haven, Timothy and Heather Brooke-Ryan of South Brunswick, Jim and Kim Ryan of South Brunswick, Gene and Susan Ryan of Dayton, Maryland, Owen Ryan and Trevor McLaren of Denver, Colorado and Christopher and Stacey Ryan of Somerset. She was the grandmother of Heather and Blake Levy, Daniel Ryan, Samantha Chase, Liam Ryan, John and Meghan Ryan, Emily and Peter Halloran, Nora Ryan, Alyssa Ryan, Matthew and Anna Ryan, Maggie Ryan, Jillian Ryan, Jack Ryan, Quinn Ryan, Maeve Ryan, McKenzie Ryan, Lily Ryan, Savannah Ryan, Christopher Ryan, Avery Ryan, Keara Ryan, Olivia Ryan and Sawyer Ryan, two great grandchildren Cole Levy and Patrick Halloran, and a third great-grandchild due in June. In addition she is survived by her brother Robert Boddie and his wife Doris, her sister Katie Scarmelino, her sister-in-law Donna Britto, more than 40 dear nieces and nephews, and many beloved friends.

She tired of excuses, mounted her own grassroots campaign for the Board of Education and won a surprising upset victory against longtime incumbents. The following year she recruited other moms to run for election to the Board, seized the majority, and was elected president. She led the Board and the city to approve a new school and library facility that ended bussing and split days for the children of South Amboy. Thousands of children, including her grandchildren, have walked through the doors of the school and library in the decades since its opening.

Eileen originally had no interest in running for political office; her days and hands were full raising six boys, including two sets of twins. But she grew increasingly impatient as her pleas to local leaders for a new school went unheeded, particularly after South Amboy's children were forced into half-day split school sessions and bussed 10 miles south because of inadequate facilities.

She was the grandmother of Heather and Blake Levy, Daniel Ryan, Samantha Chase, Liam Ryan, John and Meghan Ryan, Emily and Peter Halloran, Nora Ryan, Alyssa Ryan, Matthew and Anna Ryan, Maggie Ryan, Jillian Ryan, Jack Ryan, Quinn Ryan, Maeve Ryan, McKenzie Ryan, Lily Ryan, Savannah Ryan, Christopher Ryan, Avery Ryan, Keara Ryan, Olivia Ryan and Sawyer Ryan, two great grandchildren Cole Levy and Patrick Halloran, and a third great-grandchild due in June. In addition she is survived by her brother Robert Boddie and his wife Doris, her sister Katie Scarmelino, her sister-in-law Donna Britto, more than 40 dear nieces and nephews, and many beloved friends.

She is the sister of the late Mary Laterza, Teresa Oswald, Sister Ann Patrick Boddie, James Boddie, John Boddie, Patrick Boddie, Connie Boddie, William Boddie, Harry Boddie and Mickey Boddie. A Mass of Christian Burial for Eileen was offered on Thursday January 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM at St. Bernadette's Church, Parlin. Burial services will followed at Calvary Cemetery in Sayreville. Family received friends on Wednesday January 29th from 2pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals", 237 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Eileen's memory may be made to either Collier Youth Services, 160 Conover Road, Wickatunk, New Jersey <https://www.collieryouthservices.org/donate> or the South Amboy First Aid Squad, 401 Main Street, South Amboy, New Jersey <http://www.southamboyfirstaid.org/donate.html>

Barbara V. Drude Brower

Barbara V. Drude Brower, 97, of Old Bridge passed away on Friday January 24, 2025 at Roosevelt Care Center, Old Bridge. She was born and raised in Jersey City, then married the love of her life, Richard Brower, and they resided in Laurence Harbor for many years prior to moving to Wildwood. She was previously employed by Wawa Food Store in Wildwood for 23 years. Following her retirement she moved to South Amboy briefly, then to Roosevelt Care Center in Old Bridge. She enjoyed playing the lottery and Bingo and going on trips to Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Barbara had a beautiful singing voice for her entire life, and could



have been a professional if she chose to do so.

Daughter of the late Henry William, Jr. and Rose Oehler Drude she is also predeceased by her husband Richard Brower; her son Wayne Brower; her son-in-law William Carling and her daughter-in-law Theresa Brower. She is survived by her sons Richard Brower of Keansburg and William Brower and his wife Ursula of Morganville; her daughter Debra Carling of Spotswood; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Cremation was private under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy.

Cremation was private under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy.

Louis J. Nemeth

Louis J. Nemeth, 75, of South Amboy, NJ, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 27, 2025 at his home after a long illness, with his dear wife Kathleen by his side. Born on May 6, 1949, to the late Ethel and Louis Nemeth, Louis spent the majority of his life in South Amboy, where he was a beloved member of the community.



memorabilia, and DVDs, through which he built an extensive and cherished collection over the years.

Louis is survived by his devoted wife, Kathleen Nemeth of South Amboy, NJ, and his two brothers, Joseph Nemeth and Ernest Nemeth, both of Edison, NJ. He will be remembered for his love of family, his hobbies, and his warm

Louis was an active member of Christ Church, where he married the love of his life, Kathleen, 27 years ago. His passions included collecting baseball cards, music

presence. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to a charity of choice in Louis's memory.



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. Prices vary depending on the size required.



In Memory Of / In Memoriam Tribute Remember your dear loved ones who have passed on through the years by placing an In Memory Of / In Memoriam Tribute ad (with or without a photo).

Art work (flowers/religious theme) will be included.

For pricing

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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 -K.B.

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with your 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.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

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

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, thou who art all knowing - Who brightens every path that I may reach my ideal - Thou givest me the divine gift of forgiving and forgetting wrongs done unto me and who in every instant of my life art with me. I'd like in this short dialogue to affirm my gratitude for all your blessings and reaffirm once again that I never want to part from thee though illusions of material things abound. My desire is to be with thee and all my loved ones in perpetual grace. Thank you for our mercy on me and mine. Persons should pray 3 consecutive days without revealing petition. Within 3 days grace will be obtained regardless of how difficult the petition may be. Publish this prayer once the petition has been attained. Thank you Holy Spirit. -P.S..

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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



South Amboy Board of Education Sets March 11 for Bond Referendum Proposed Projects to Ease School Overcrowding; Make Critical Health and Safety Repairs

The South Amboy Public Schools Board of Education is asking the community to vote on a \$35.6 million referendum that would fund additional classroom space to ease overcrowding and make critical health and safety repairs to both school campuses in the City.

If South Amboy voters approve the ballot question – to be presented during a special election on March 11 – the school district would be authorized to borrow money to fund important school projects at South Amboy Elementary School and South Amboy Middle/High School.

The proposed projects are designed to ensure the schools can safely accommodate future planned growth without major expansions or construction of a new school.

By investing now in these critical upgrades, it avoids the need for a bond referendum that would cost considerably more in the near future, according to South Amboy Schools Superintendent Dr. Frederick Williams.

The Board of Education, with voter approval, would issue bonds for \$35,657,670, which would be paid back over 30 years. The total estimated annual cost to taxpayers would be \$474.48 for the average assessed house in South Amboy, valued in 2024 at \$274,817.

The school district has been approved to receive aid from the state to help cover the debt, totaling more than \$9 million.

“Both school facilities are outdated and showing their age,” Dr. Williams said. “This proposed project streamlines the necessary work to ensure the schools can accommodate a 21st century curriculum in safe, comfortable and modern facilities.”

School officials said the proposed

upgrades should be of interest for the entire community.

South Amboy is undergoing a major renaissance, with the opening of the Manhattan-bound ferry spurring even more redevelopment. Families are moving into South Amboy, attracted to the ease of commuting by road, rail and ferry, fueling the residential real estate market to unprecedented levels.

“By offering better school facilities, positioned for long-term success, South Amboy will continue to attract families who want to live here, ensuring residential property values continue to grow,” said School Board Member Paula Taggart, chair of the Referendum Committee.

“This school improvement project helps protect and nurture residents’ investments for when it is time to sell,” she added. “I truly hope that many residents take the time to learn about this important plan and vote on March 11.”

The average purchase price of a home in South Amboy is now estimated at \$500,000, with 10% growth over the past year.

Here is the reasoning behind the referendum:

South Amboy Middle/High School

Leaking roofs, a broken HVAC system, old doors and crumbling floors are just some of the reasons why school officials are proposing significant renovations to the school building.

For example, the original HVAC system in the school cafeteria no longer works, creating uncomfortable temperatures for students and staff in the warmer months. In September, with temperatures hovering at 90 degrees, school officials needed to open

the exterior doors in the cafeteria for air circulation, which created an unnecessary security risk. The same problem is expected in late spring.

The additional concern is the other original HVAC systems in the school are nearing the end of their lives and will need to be replaced. The school district spends a considerable amount of money on repairs to 30-year-old HVAC systems annually and the expense will only get worse. This referendum is designed to solve the problem in one efficient swoop and ensure no faulty mechanics hinder learning during hot and cold spells.

Another concern is the leaking roof in the community’s auditorium, as well as the many broken seats that were part of the original construction of the building. School officials continually identify a growing number of roof leaks throughout the building, evident in the stained ceiling tiles, that interrupt learning. The original protective cover on the school roof dissolved over the years, forcing maintenance staff to regularly undertake emergency spot repairs. The entire roof needs to be replaced.

School officials are also concerned about the state of the exterior school doors, which were part of the original construction. The doors surrounding all parts of the school are so old that replacement parts are no longer available for the deteriorating hinges and other hardware, creating a potential and ongoing security issue for a building that serves students in grades 6-12. All original doors need to be replaced.

The tiled floor throughout the school is cracking and sinking in places. Not only is this a safety issue, it's a situation that will

only worsen over time, affecting the subfloor and creating a much more expensive repair if not addressed now.

In addition, as the school district offers a 21st century education with an extensive STEM curricula, the science labs need to be overhauled and renovated to current educational standards. The fixtures and equipment date to the opening of the school in the mid-1990s and can no longer serve the modern curriculum.

South Amboy Elementary School

South Amboy has a large number of students who require specialized services. Some of these students are enrolled in private, out-of-district schools at taxpayer expense. This referendum will create more classrooms to help bring these students back in-district, saving a substantial amount of money in tuition and transportation costs.

In addition, the extra classroom space will be used for free, full-day pre-k education programs for students ages 3-4, funded, in part, by state aid. This popular program continues to make South Amboy a desirable community for its residents, as well as young families who are eager to buy a home.

Another vital component of the project is to replace old windows and part of the roof, which were not completed in a capital improvement project undertaken a decade ago. It is important to note that construction costs continue to rise. This proposed project is designed to solve facility issues at the elementary school for years to come, both efficiently and strategically.

Updates about the upcoming referendum will be posted on the school website, sapublicschools.com. **(Photos/Article Submitted)**

South Amboy Arts Acoustic Friday

(Photos/Info Submitted)



Tom Lucas (left) and Linda Eckman (right) shown here performing the opening set at the Acoustic Friday showcase. Rich Adams (not shown) joined on bass guitar.



Russell Mason (left) and Sadie Pepitone are a husband-and-wife musical duo known as the Masons. They move smoothly between solo and duo performances without missing a beat.



Performers from the February Acoustic Friday showcase take a final curtain call. From left to right: Russell Mason (vocals and guitar) Sadie Pepitone-Mason (vocals and keyboard), Tom Lucas (vocals and guitar), Linda Eckman (vocals and guitar), Jerry Smith (host), and Rich Adams (bass).



The SA Arts audience enjoys an evening of music and entertainment. Notice the sly wave coming from Dylan Kyriacou. Dylan is scheduled to appear on March 21 for the Acoustic Friday Irish Celebration.



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Wine All Types




750ML
\$9.17

DOMAINE LESUFFLEUR
All Types



750ML
\$9.99

MARK WEST
Pinot Noir Wine



750ML
\$11.71

APOTHIC
Wine All Types



750ML
\$12.17

CASTANEDA SANGRIA



750ML
\$5.99

CLOS DU BOIS
All Types



750ML
\$11.71

FLAME VODKA



750ML
\$9.99

CMARENA TEQUILA



750ML
\$25.71

JAMESON IRISH WISKEY



1.75L
\$55.71

KHOR VODKA



1.75L
\$19.99



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