



# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

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This issue is dedicated to  
\*Robert Bialoblocki  
\*John "Bud" Hamilton  
\*Richard Read



March 29, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 6



Acting Police Chief Patricia Kanecke (Photo/Story Submitted)

## South Amboy's New Police Chief To Be Sworn In April 2nd

Chief Patricia Kanecke was born in Jersey City, NJ, and raised in South Amboy, where she attended local schools. She pursued higher education at Middlesex County College and Stockton State before earning a degree in Computer Programming from CHUBB Institute. Chief Kanecke began her career in the private sector, working as a Senior Programmer in the reinsurance division of AIG and later as a programmer for Supermarkets General, focusing on payroll and human resources. She married John "Jack" Kanecke and became a mother to two sons, Shaun and Ryan. In the early stages of her law enforcement career, Chief Kanecke joined the South Amboy Police Department as one of its first civilian dispatchers. Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to public service, she completed the New Jersey Police Training Commission's Basic Course for Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officers in May 1998. The following year, she earned her certification as a Police Officer in December 1999. She was hired as a Sheriff Officer with the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department, where she served from January 2000 to September 2001. In September 2001, Chief Kanecke made history as the first female sworn officer of the South Amboy Police Department, beginning her career in the Patrol Division. Over the years, she climbed the ranks, earning promotions to Sergeant in February 2012, where she supervised a patrol unit, and to Administrative Sergeant in March 2017. In December 2021, she was promoted to Administrative Lieutenant, and in August 2024, she stepped into the role of Acting Captain. Chief Kanecke began performing the duties of Chief of Police in November 2024 and officially ascended to the position on March 1, 2025. Her tenure as an officer has been marked by a range of

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South Amboy American Legion Post #62 continues the time honored tradition of leading the annual South Amboy St. Patrick's Day parade down Stevens Avenue. (Photo/info by Mary Szaro)

## St. Patrick's Day Parade Drew Thousands

Every year, the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade seems better than the previous year's parade, and the 2025 event was no exception! Mickey Gross and the entire Parade Committee once again continued to amaze faithful parade enthusiasts with the number of marching units, floats, EMT's, and overall entertainment! Countless thousands

of happy people lined the parade route to see South Amboy's biggest event of the year, and one of the top parades in the state.

Congratulations Mickey, the Parade Committee, and everyone who helped to make this an unforgettable day in the history of "The Pleasant Little City." (By Tom Burkard)

## SWMHS HALL OF FAME

The Sayreville War Memorial High School 2025 Hall of Fame Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for 6PM Saturday, April 26th, at the VFW Hall on Jernee Mill Road. Join us as we honor these outstanding alumni of SWMHS. The honorees are: Louis Hoffman, Class of 1969: Awarded the "Green Beret" United States Army Special Forces; FBI Certificate for Exceptional Service in the Public Interest. Bernie Hogya, Class of 1975: Originator of the iconic "Milk Mustache" campaign; NY Times Bestselling Author with an ad on permanent display at the Smithsonian. Scott Jenkins (Posthumous Award), Class of 1974: Founding member of the NJSP Cargo Theft & Robbery Unit;

NJ bipartisan law, named "Lt. Scott Jenkins Law" by Governor Christie. Margaret Miller, Class of 1979: Master Sergeant U.S. Army (retired) 1983-2003; 2022 Guinness World Record Most Softball Pitches in an hour. John Tyszkiewicz, Class of 1964: Teacher & Coach for 41 years at SWMHS; Member of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Hall of Fame 2017 (Football); Football: All State at SWMHS, All-American at Chattanooga and Drafted by the Houston Oilers in 1969. Tickets are \$65.00 each (includes dinner & open bar) and \$45.00 for children (under 21) with a choice of meals. For further information, please contact the Hall Of Fame Committee at ARTEDE4@MSN.COM

## Professional of the Year



Photo from: (l-r) Chris Myers, NJRPA President, Awards Presenter Jason Hazelton, Brian VanDongen, Sayreville Director of Recreation (Center), Rich Poplowski, Sayreville Parks Supervisor and David Guida Jr., Awards Chair. (Photo/story submitted)



Please join us in Congratulating and wishing South Amboy Police Chief Joseph "Joe" Matarangolo a happy and enjoyable retirement after a combined 38 years of faithful service to the Middlesex County Park Police and the City and citizens of South Amboy. Happy Retirement Chief!!! Pictured (l) is Mayor Fred Henry, and (r) Jane Matarangolo. (Photo/info submitted)

## Voters Turn Down Bond Referendum

The City of South Amboy voters turned down a \$35,657,670 Bond Referendum in the special election on March 11. There was a small turnout of 1,194 voters, of whom voted 829 no, and 365 yes for the fund, which was going to be used for renovations and improvements at South Amboy Elementary and South Amboy Middle/High Schools.

The project was planned and designed so South Amboy schools could be safer for the anticipated growth in the future, and there would not have to be any huge expansions or building a new school.

## Terzino Reappointed President

Frank Terzino Sr. was recently reappointed President of the Sayreville Historical Society, for his second term. Congratulations and best of luck, Frank!

## Brian VanDongen Named NJRPA Professional of the Year

The New Jersey Recreation and Park Association (NJRPA) proudly honored Brian VanDongen, Director of Recreation for the Borough of Sayreville, as one of the Professional of the Year Awards at its 50th Annual Conference and Exhibition on February 25, 2025, at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify high professional standards and have made significant contributions through exceptional

Continued on page 8

Next Issue April 26th -- Deadlines April 14th

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## Congratulations



Longtime South Amboy teacher Joy LaVigne was recently honored on her retirement at a board of education meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Vice Principal Michelle Buchanan, Mrs. Joy Lavigne and Principal Sean Dunphy. (Photo Submitted)

### Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

#### Sister Dorothy Celebrates 70 Years

Former South Amboy resident and a 1955 graduate of St. Mary's High School, Sister Dorothy Jancola, RSM, recently celebrated her 70th year as a Sister of Mercy. From 1957-1996, she taught math in junior high in Camden and Phillipsburg, and then in Cathedral HS, Trenton (where she served as assistant principal) and Notre Dame HS, Lawrenceville. In 1980, she became a pastoral associate in St. George Parish, Titusville. Congratulations and God Bless Sister Dorothy!

#### 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.

### Sayreville OLV Knights Fish Fry

We are off to a strong start in March and hope you will continue to join us for the Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes Fish Fry at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus at 775 Washington Road every Friday night during Lent through April 18, 2025. The dinner runs from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This is a takeout dinner only and there are no phone orders. As always, we will be serving Fried Flounder Platters (\$15), Fried Shrimp Platters (\$15) and Fried Combo Platters (\$16) - all which include salad, vegetables, French Fries and desserts. There will also be Fish Sandwiches (\$11) which include only French Fries.

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

#### 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. JJ.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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The "Good News" Newspaper

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The South Amboy/Sayreville Times (SAT) is published monthly and distributed to businesses, schools, banks, restaurants and churches. SAT reserves the right to refuse any advertising, editorial or other information. SAT is not responsible for typos or factual errors in advertising or editorial. Reader letters, articles and artwork are welcomed. SAT © 2016 no matter herein may not be reproduced without the written permission of the publishers. opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers.

## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- South Amboy Fire Chief in 1995?  
 a. James Charmello b. Charles Pickard c. Donald Braun
- President of Sayreville Memorial Post 4699 Ladies Auxiliary in '95?  
 a. Karen Simkovich b. Mary Rosinski c. Janice Montalbo
- Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in South Amboy/Sayreville in 2011?  
 a. Kimshee Komongo b. Wayne Jones c. Jamaal Zumbizi
- Received the most votes in the '95 Sayreville Board of Education election?  
 a. Mark Ilardi b. Elaine Kubacz c. Al Cox
- What year did St. Mary's High School celebrate their 100th graduating class?  
 a. 1969 b. 1988 c. 1996
- Where in Parlin was Nonna Rosa's Pizzeria/Cafe/Catering business located in 2010?  
 a. Main St. b. Ernston Rd. c. Washington Rd.
- What year was the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade canceled because of torrential rain and 65 m.p.h. winds?  
 a. 2007 b. 2010 c. 2018
- Mayor of Sayreville in 2022?  
 a. Vicky Kilpatrick b. Kennedy O'Brien c. James Zagata
- Grand Marshal of the South Amboy Memorial Day Parade in '95?  
 a. Adam Rzepka b. Frank Sullivan c. Mel Meszaros
- President of the Sayreville Historical Society in 2013?  
 a. Arthur Rittenhouse b. Karen Bailey Bebert c. Frank Terzino Sr.

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



(Pictured l-r) Firefighter Captain Nicholas Luciano, Councilman Mike Colacci, Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, and Sayreville Fire Chief George Gawron, and Council President Donna Roberts. (Photo/info submitted)

## Heroic Act Recognized

(Story submitted)

Captain Nicholas Luciano, Captain of the President Park Fire Company, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the Borough of Sayreville for his life-saving actions of two trapped firefighters. Certificate reads as follows.

The Borough of Sayreville would like to acknowledge President Park's Truck 5, Fire Capt. Nick Luciano for his quick thinking and bravery displayed on Thursday, January 30, at 9:26AM as he responded to a multiple structure fire in the adjacent town of South River. An urgent "Mayday" call came over

the radio. There were two trapped firefighters pinned from a collapsed wall against a car. Without hesitation, Capt. Luciano, immediately leaped into action with the help of a member from the county Fire Marshal's office. His swift actions helped free both men from the perilous, life-threatening situation. Capt. Luciano's quick thinking, courage and leadership exemplifies the highest ideas of the fire service. His bravery and selfless actions played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of his fellow firefighters, and he truly deserves commendation for his heroic efforts.



South Amboy Police Captain Brian McCabe (l), who retired recently, is congratulated by his good friend Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto Center in South Amboy. (Photo submitted)

## Captain Brian McCabe Retires After 32 Years of Service to South Amboy Police Department

(By Surjit Singh)

After dedicating over three decades to serving the City of South Amboy, Capt. Brian McCabe has announced his retirement from the South Amboy Police Department. His retirement marks the end of a distinguished career that began as a patrol officer and saw him rise through the ranks to Sergeant and Lieutenant, eventually Captain. Over 32 years, Capt. McCabe has been a constant and reliable presence in the department, earning the respect of his colleagues and the community he served so faithfully.

Throughout his career, Capt. McCabe put the safety and well-being of the residents of South Amboy above all else. His unwavering commitment to duty often meant long hours away from his family, missing countless milestones, birthdays, holiday celebrations, and cherished family moments. While the job required significant sacrifices, it's clear that Capt. McCabe's devotion was fueled by a deep sense of service and responsibility to his city.

As he retires, we are reminded of the countless hours Capt. McCabe spent time ensuring the safety of South Amboy's streets.

From managing incidents to mentoring younger officers, his leadership shaped the police department and left an indelible mark on the community.

On behalf of John Auto Center Inc. South Amboy NJ, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Capt. Brian McCabe for his many years of dedicated service. His contributions will not be forgotten, and the legacy of his work will continue to impact future generations of officers. We also wish him the best of luck as he embarks on this new chapter in his life, surrounded by family and loved ones who, after 32 years, are sure to be excited to have him home more often.

As a personal friend, I want to take a moment to thank Captain McCabe for his friendship and support over the years. His tireless work and loyalty to our community have earned him the respect of everyone who knows him, and I am certain he will enjoy a well-deserved and peaceful retirement.

Best of luck, Captain McCabe. Your hard work and dedication to South Amboy will never be forgotten!

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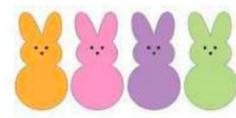
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From The Officers And Members Of The  
**South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426**

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**Yearbook-St. Mary's 1975**  
By Tom Burkard

St. Mary's Class of '75 was back in school for a week in September 1974 for its final year, when Eric Clapton topped the pop charts with his song, "I Shot The Sheriff." While at St. Mary's, Sister Mariann Mahon was principal, and some of the fine faculty consisted of; Corinne Ragusa, Sr. M. Celeste McCone, Richard O'Brien, William Ryan, Robert Decker, Chris Leahy, Ann Durski, Sr. Helen O'Donnell, Judith Bucher. Cheryl Imbriglio and Doreen Tiedemann were Editors-In-Chief of the yearbook. Class President Nora Muchanic was also editor of the school newspaper, "The Crown." Mary Fitzsimmons was Student Council President and also co-captain of the cheerleaders with Joann Mulvey. Extracurricular activities were plentiful at the Augusta Street school, and included various clubs such as the Ski Club, Photography, Hospitality, Auto Mechanics, Apostolic, Spirit, and Foreign Language clubs. The senior play was "The Music Man," and was performed before packed houses at the gym. On the national scene, "Squeaky" Fromme of the Charles Manson "family" tried unsuccessfully to shoot President Gerald Ford. The movie of the year was "Jaws," which grossed over \$100 million in 6 months to set a new, all-time box-office record. Some of the members of the great Class of '75, selected randomly included; Joseph Bartlinski, Kenneth Bartlinski, Fred Beaudry, Gerard Bergin, Lisa Beck, Steven Birmingham, Michelle Bouchard, Patricia Bush, James Caracappa, Donald Carroll, Maureen Connors, Michael Crummy, Thomas Cushion, Lawrence Delaney, Brian Dohaney, Joan Durski, Francis Farrell, Geraldine Fives, Diane Frenier, Elaine Gary, Marianne Gomolka, Karen Grieco, Sarah Griffith, Irene Gray, Debra Harvey, Jennifer Hill, Suzanne Karas, Kevin Kelly, Mark Kenny, Maryellen Kenny, Georgiana Kline, Ann Marie Ksiazek, Eileen Kovchok, Robin Lawton, Wayne Lee, Helen McAfee, Scott McDonald, Heather McLaughlin, John Maher, Susan Malloy, Debra Malowicki, Renee Meszaros, Roxanne Meszaros, William Munck, Mary Lou Nebus, Amy Norek, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen O'Connor, Casimir Ogorek, Patricia Partington, Thomas Patten, Theodore Rachwal, Carol Principato, Linda Radich, Christine Randall, Donna Reich, Louise Russell, Maureen Ryan, Kimberly Sadlowski, Richard Servis, Jerome Short, Margaret Stockton, Brian Stratton, John Szaro, Patricia Titus, Ellen Wallace, Michael Vanni, Michael Witkowski, Sharon Zagata, Marianne Zalewski, Louise Zlotnick. Randomly selected senior athletes included Joe Kolakowski, the Eagles All Everything, who became the first player in the school's history to garner 1,000 rebounds, Peter Bukovec, John Durnien, Jim O'Dowd, Frank McQuade, Glen Tabasko, Ray Linderoth, Dario Valdivia, Bruce Hancik, Matt Loughlin, Mark Zdanowicz, Tim Hall, Annamarie Heil, Kathleen Huresky and Phyllis Nappi, co-captains of the girls basketball team, Joanne Szraga, Marianne Szraga, Carol Moskwa. John Denver's "Thank God I'm A Country Boy" was the top song in the nation as the St. Mary's Class of '75 bid adieu on Graduation Day.

**Dowdell Library News**

Put a spring in your step and hop on into Dowdell Library to celebrate National Library Week and for some great programs!

New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels worldwide including Sony Music, Epic, RCA, and Columbia. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website which utilizes modern application practices to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store.

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

Preservation Week! Stop by Dowdell Library in the week of April 21 for information and resources on how to preserve family heirlooms such as photos and textiles. South Amboy Gardens will be presenting a gardening class on Saturday, April 5, at 1:00 pm.

Stop in to see the Creations by Pearl exhibition and admire some beautiful handmade knits!

Parents with Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in April 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 April from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Hop into the library for our Spring Break Egg hunt on Wednesday, April 23 at 1:00 pm.

Kids and Teens! Watch for new games and programs including Foosball and Shuffleboard @ the Library! Come peruse the new video games and graphic novels available to check out!

Don't miss Drop in Club this April from 2:45-4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+

Teens! Stop by on Monday, April 14 and 28 to solve some clues and get some prizes

with Break-In Bags! Ages 13+ Teens and Adults! Sign up for the Spring Sewing Series. This two part series is for folks who are looking to buff up or begin their sewing journey. On Thursday, April 17 from 6:30-8:00 pm the library will introduce the basics of sewing, everything from tools and terms, basic fabric cutting, to hand vs. machine sewing. For the second session on Thursday, May 15, participants will machine and hand sew their very own hand-made item. Learn a lifelong skill, and take home your very own handmade "me-make"!

Need help with ID.me? Stop by the library for help applying for unemployment, property tax relief, and more on Saturday, April 12 and April 26 at 2:00 pm

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, April 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining!

Senior Tech Time will be on Monday, April 7 from 10:30-11:30 am. Come learn about a new technology topic the first Monday of each month.

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](mailto:communityed@rwjbh.org). Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday April 8 and 22 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

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

Card Game Wednesdays takes place every week from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring your own set or use ours!

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto: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.

**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.

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**FROM THE DESK OF  
TOM REILLY**



One of the City Council's most important duties is to approve the City budget. Choosing how best to spend our taxpayers' hard-earned money to maximize the services and benefits our residents receive is a solemn duty, and I assure you the Mayor and Council give it the utmost thought and careful consideration. Our goal always is to provide transparency and value, so that our residents know where their money is going and can rest assured it is put to use for them and their loved ones.

It brings me great satisfaction to say that the Council approved a budget on March 5th that will reduce taxes without any cut to services. Indeed, the budget increases services such as recreation, senior programs, and improvements to our downtown. It also provides much-needed funding to recruit new members to our fire department and first aid. The City also will now host a summer music concert series during the month of August with performances by various bands. Come down and enjoy the music while patronizing our downtown businesses – it will be a great way to spend a summer night.

If passing a budget is an important duty, then working with the next generation of our City's leaders is a true thrill. South Amboy will celebrate government week beginning on April 16, with a series of events for our residents. The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. at Independence Firehouse, where representatives from the fire department, first aid, police and OEM will be on hand until 7:00 to answer questions and distribute information. This is a perfect time to volunteer for our fire or first aid departments. At 6:00, our South Amboy 5th grade government club will conduct their mock council meeting. We hope to see you there as they introduce and vote on a resolution. At 7:00, just before our regular meeting,

the City will recognize two residents for their contributions to our community. Thomas Gorman has been a volunteer fireman for over 50 years and was fire chief during the City's 100th anniversary. Joan Conway has been a member of the board of education as well as a member of the South Amboy Arts community. Please join me in thanking these two citizens for their time and commitment. Finally, we will announce the winners of the high school essay contest. I have served as a judge the last few years and can say the essays are well written and insightful.

A few other minor announcements. The testimonial dinner honoring former fire chief Tim Gay will be held on April 25 at the Knights of Columbus, Parlin. Please call 732-406-0349 for tickets. April also is stress awareness month. Stress can affect your body, thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Some of the best ways to cope with stress are to exercise regularly, eat a healthy diet, get enough sleep, and practice self-care. Do not be afraid to seek help if you need it. With the spring weather upon us, now is the perfect time to enjoy the weather, get outside, and develop healthy habits.

Respectfully  
Tom Reilly  
2nd Ward Councilman  
City of South Amboy

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## Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Dedicating this month's column to local guitarist Paul Nagy, who passed away on January 15th. I've known Paul since the early 80's through our shared love of music, and the vintage guitar market. We've jammed together, but were never in the same band together, but, ironically, "stole" musicians from each other's bands when needed. In fun, of course! We're both from the "HyWay Music Store" band of "Gypsies," who over the years became close friends, with each other, and "plugged in" to the vast array of guitar and bass amps at Hy Way, and "taught each other" how to play "Rock and Roll!"

Hard to remember all the bands we were a part of, but Paul's most recent, before his untimely death was his personal favorite. "The Paul Nagy Project". Formed in roughly 2015, Paul had access to a few very talented musicians that would blend well together for Paul's ideas for the band! And which I never knew at that time, would also be a "blessing" for me and my bands direction years later! But then again, that's how it happens with all bands! We all share the stage with each other, sooner or later! When Paul began putting his band together, he had the experience to select the right bandmates! Lee Scott Bishop..keyboardist and vocalist of a higher standard, Roger Blake, a superb Fender bassist with a solid Blues background, John Raushi on backing acoustic guitar, with a solid as ever rock drummer, Dave Lippencot, to form the solid base for Paul's "Project"! And, "The Paul Nagy Project" was born! Paul's idea was to play "the Rock you don't often hear, the 5,10 minute anthems, the not too oft heard "B" side rockers, and a blend of "Classic Rock" from the '70's! With Lee Scott and Dave sharing lead vocals, they put their message across very well! Roger's solid bass, John's acoustic chording, and Paul's searing, overdriven licks brought it together! And, as every band EVER in existence, they "broke up" after over 7 years of making great music together. Now, "Clem and Friends" come into the picture. Needing a new keyboardist, I asked Paul for the "O.K." to grab Lee Scott for our "Family," and shortly afterwards, Dave Lippencot, was needed with his drumming abilities, to round out our sound, and once Dave found that "Rock and Roll" drum, it was a new experience for "Friends"..again. It happens oh so often in EVERY band, every generation too! We meet up and share the stage! In this issue, look for Dave's, Scott's, and Roger's thoughts and memories with "The Paul Nagy Project". I, the writer, can express my thoughts, BUT I've gotta let Dave, Scott, and Roger, express theirs, by themselves! Scott has moved on

to his and his wife's dream home in upstate NY, living their dream. Dave is here with "friends," pushing us harder, giving the band the "energy" that former drummer Tim Fee left us with! So, it all works out in strange ways, but it does! Paul, we'll all be paying tribute to you on Saturday April 26th playing the music you loved to play. Hopefully we'll get it right for you! See all of you musicians at the Tribute..

2025 Show Dates for "Clem and Friends" and DJ Richie Flash and the "Just Us Cruisers," are set. Sayreville Boro "Blast from the Past" Car Show and Concert at Kennedy Park-Saturday Sept. 13- 5 to 8pm, along with Sayreville Day, Sunday Sept. 14th 2 to 4 pm, with rain dates of Sept. 20th and 21st of Sept. Myself and bandmates extend our sincerest thanks to Rec Director, Brian Van Dongen, for having us there again to continue our incredible tenure for these two fantastic shows. We're coming up on 20 years doing the Car Show, with the late Jerry Ust, Sayreville's then Rec Director giving me the "go ahead and make it work" and with the endless help of DJ Richie Flash and "Cruisers" Car Club it's been a rousing success, with Present Rec Director Brian Van Dongen allowing us to continue the tradition! The Annual Sayreville Day event has been a staple community gathering here in town since the early 90's. I had the pleasure of taking part in the 1991 Sayreville "Community Unity Day" as a D.J., Providing music for the day's events, as a fellow volunteer! I have been a part of the annual event since, with band appearances, when live entertainment began in the late 90's, when the day was held in the high school parking lot, eventually switching over to Kennedy Park! Moving ahead to Sunday, October 26th..St.Stans Incredible Halloween Car Show... 11am to 3pm. We're onstage all day with DJ Richie Flash! This is Central Jersey's largest late season car show, with entrants from NJ, NY, CONN, and Long Island! Do you wanna be "awed?" C'mon out and see for yourself! Tony and Brian Jackowski, and staff, know how to put a show together. DJ Richie Hart, his staff, and Clem & Friends put the icing on this cake, keepin' it Sweet and Rockin' with the songs that blasted from the radios in the Hot Rods and Customs that they bring to the Show! And don't forget the Tommie Samuel and Jerry Ust Memorial Trophies, for the "Best of the Best" in show rides! More info in future issues..Stay tuned Rockers, Motor Heads, and Classic Rockers... When life gets a little "out of tune"..turn up the music..sing along, dance in the kitchen, and watch that smile appear!!



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## Acoustic Friday, April 25, 2025

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance will present another Acoustic Friday showcase on April 25, 2025 featuring Debbie and Paul Gangemi and guitarist Joseph Frame.

Debbie & Paul are a husband-and-wife musical team who have played along the Jersey Shore for 30 years. The couple originally led a band called Crystalblue, and now performs as a duo, covering the music of the 60s, 70s, Motown, jazz, blues, and the American Songbook.

Joseph Frame is an extraordinary solo guitarist with a far-reaching repertoire, which frequently draws from the music of the late Brazilian Bossa Nova master Antonio Carlos Jobim. His meticulously developed arrangements emphasize the harmonic content of each piece he performs. Joe

also performs original pieces that meld the influences of his various musical interests: Brazilian, Classical, Gypsy-Jazz, and the Great American Songbook. Be sure to check out Joseph Frame at [www.frameworkjazz.com](http://www.frameworkjazz.com)

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](mailto:SAarts141@gmail.com). Watch for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.



Pictured (l to r) Roger Blake, Lee Scott Bishop, Paul Nagy, Dave Lippencot..The Paul Nagy Project 2022.

### The Paul Nagy Project..An Introspect

(As told by the remaining bandmates)

I the writer, like all of us, can put our thoughts and memories of someone in writing, so, this space was needed for some Introspect from the original, former members of "The Paul Nagy Project," keyboardist Lee Scott Bishop, Bassist Roger Blake, and Drummer Dave Lippencot. Only they can remember the times they had together as bandmates, playing the music they loved, enjoying one another's friendship and talents, so this column is their's.

Keyboardist..Lee Scott Bishop..."Paul was a good friend, I never knew him to lose his cool, or get annoyed with anyone. He told me so many stories, that gave me an inside look at local bands, music". He and Carmine Matteliano helped me produce 6 original tunes I wrote..."The Paul Nagy Project" came about in 2015"with its original members". Prior to that, I worked with Paul and the Late Danny Swarbrick, along with Ron Howden from "Nectar" on drums, and Dennis McDonough as lead singer." Danny's wife, the late "Big Nancy Swarbrick, the superb Blues harp player, joined in with the group too. What a show that was!" Dunellen was Paul's hometown, so we did a lot of work in the area, Dunellen Theater, Roxy and Dukes, The Columbian Club, and more!" Paul enjoyed toying with and playing the "B" side hits. The less heard gems and anthem rockers of the 60s and 70s." That's what made us different from other bands. Paul's guitar work was the glue that kept this band together."

Roger Blake...Fender bassist..."As we all hear from other musicians, I was told, hey, there's a guy named Paul Nagy looking for a bass player. He's starting a band. So, as it always goes for us musicians, I called Paul. We spoke for an extended time about music, musicians, and starting a band. I told Paul, yes, I was interested, so a rehearsal was set up at The Woodrock Studios in Raritan, NJ..."(where, readers, my great nephew, rising rapper DJ AJP aka as Adam Poland is the head studio Tech), again a small world! At the end of the session, the band was formed. Paul's knowledge of music was inspiring, and a wonderful experience. I will miss him!".. (note) Roger was the outstanding bassist for the Blues Band, "Black Cat Bone" of which I had the pleasure to jam with, and know the members!

Drummer Dave Lippencot (He's the

member who is putting together the Tribute Show for Paul on April 26th (flyer on this page). "I've had the pleasure of knowing Paul for over 20 years, in fact, that's how I met Paul, at a tribute jam for a fellow musician that had passed away. Kinda ironic, isn't it? When Paul began putting the "Project" together, I just happened to be there so we began our search for the rest of the band, which became Roger and Scott. They had worked with Paul at one time or another. This tribute is for Paul!"

These are the memories and thoughts the surviving bandmates have remembered, and wanted in writing for their personal tributes. As all musicians, we move on, and keep looking for that "new band" and new experiences too. With most, (if not all of us musicians), that "time" to look is getting shorter. "This isn't a "Dress Rehearsal" for most of us, as we all joke about at times, but after all those years we've been playing music, it took this long for ALL OF US to realize and agree to "Leave the ego's home. Just bring yourself, your talent, and your fun. It'll all come together, just as it was meant to! Let's have fun, learn from one another, encourage each other, appreciate each other's talents and let them use them!" My thanks to Scott, Dave, and Roger for sharing their memories for this column!

### #1 Pop Songs March 29

- 2021-Peaches-Justin Bieber
- 2014-Happy-Pharrell Williams
- 2004-Yeah!-Usher
- 1999-Believe-Cher
- 1986-Rock Me Amadeus-Falco
- 1979-Tragedy-The Bee Gees
- 1965-Stop In The Name Of Love -The Supremes

### #1 Country Songs March 29

- 2024-Where The Wild Things Are -Luke Combs
- 2016-Heartbreak-Carrie Underwood
- 2008-Small Town Southern Man -Alan Jackson
- 1995-Old Enough To Know Better -Wade Hayes
- 1981-Guitar Man-Elvis Presley
- 1975-The Bargain Store-Dolly Parton
- 1968-A World Of Our Own-Sonny James

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## MUSIC TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

## SONG

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Your Song                   | a. Wings                    |
| 2. Sing A Song                 | b. The Carpenters           |
| 3. Just A Song Before I Go     | c. Simon & Garfunkel        |
| 4. Annie's Song                | d. Crosby, Stills, Nash     |
| 5. Danny's Song                | e. John Mellencamp          |
| 6. The Logical Song            | f. Loggins & Messina        |
| 7. Authority Song              | g. Elton John               |
| 8. Heard It In A Love Song     | h. John Denver              |
| 9. The 59th Street Bridge Song | i. Supertramp               |
| 10. Silly Love Songs           | j. Brenton Wood             |
| 11. The Shoop Shoop Song       | k. The Marshall Tucker Band |
| 12. Oogum Boogum Song          | l. Cher                     |



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

### Police Chief continued from page 1

significant responsibilities, including serving as the department's TAC Officer, overseeing all computer, dispatch, and communication matters, and coordinating vital programs such as the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program, SuperStorm Sandy recovery, and the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, she managed many critical administrative functions within the South Amboy Police Department, including policy development, officer training, scheduling, building maintenance, and overseeing the Records and Communications Divisions. Her leadership and dedication were instrumental in the department's successful achievement of Accreditation three times, approved by

both the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Chief Kanecke's exemplary service has earned her numerous awards, commendations, and citations for outstanding arrests, public service, and police actions. She has been a proud and active member of PBA Local #63 and the New Jersey State PBA, where she served as a Delegate from 2007 to 2012. Her commitment to public service also extended to the South Amboy Board of Education, where she served as an elected official from 1993 to 1998, including multiple terms as Vice-President. Additionally, she has been an active member of the South Amboy Irish-American Association for many years.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### A 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.

## The Smoke Column

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

In the spring of 2024, we witnessed numerous protests being held throughout our country. These protests were held at colleges, universities, civil monuments, and on the public streets. Protests have increased this year as we witness them daily in the news media. The reason for the protest is not the concern of the first responders, but the safety of all involved is the ultimate objective. It does not matter whether first responders agree or disagree with the protest. It is our duty to work with law enforcement to make the environment safe. Unfortunately, protestors use devices to secure themselves to facilities or other protestors using items that are difficult to dislodge or release them from. Multiple protestors connected together may increase the danger of the situation and make the solution more dangerous to solve. In some cases, protestors will use a vehicle and stick their arms inside the rear windows, securing their arms together with locking devices. Now the vehicle with multiple victims intensifies the difficulty in freeing the protestors. When firefighters respond to situations of this nature, we may encounter unruly protestors that may have a grudge against everyone, even those who are trying to help them. Firefighters will have to coordinate their work with the mindset that these protestors may be breaking the law and can be arrested. In some cases, it may be better to let the situation play itself out. In the media spotlight, the protestors may attempt to enhance the situation in order to make it more dramatic for the media but in turn may make it more dangerous for first responders. Without media coverage, will the protest abate? Can the media be legally kept away from the scene? Protests that have secured themselves in a variety of locking devices makes it difficult to unsecure them. Can first responders legally touch these

protectors as they attempt to release them from their devices? It may be a wise decision to leave these protestors together until a safe location can be established to hold them once they are released. Protestors should receive multiple warnings and be given the chance to disperse voluntarily before any intervention by first responders is undertaken. Protestors usually demonstrate what is called passive resistance and there are legalities as to the type of force that can be used against them. The devices used by some protestors for securing themselves can be challenging to remove. At times it may cause more harm to the individuals when using mechanical devices to free the protector. Safety is paramount for both the first responder and the protector. How should fire responders react when a fire alarm is reported from inside a building filled with protestors? We would have to anticipate the possibility of an active fire and respond using our standard procedures. Will the protestors allow us inside? Coordination with the law enforcement agency must secure the entrance/exits so if there is an active fire, the protectors can evacuate and fire fighters can gain entry. We have witnessed protests in New York City and throughout the country. Did we ever consider the possibility of similar protests in our own community? Protests have occurred at colleges/high schools across our country for several reasons and in some cases, the students were given permission to protest by the facility. It may be within the jurisdiction of law enforcement to physically remove protestors, not first responders. Many of these questions need to be answered before the situation occurs. Could a school protest be considered an emergency situation? Are we prepared to respond to these situations? In any response we must always keep safety as our number one priority in everything we do!

### Brian VanDongen-continued from page 1

service to the profession and noteworthy dedication to the Association.

During the ceremony, Awards Committee member Jason Hazelton presented the award, highlighting Brian's unwavering dedication, innovative programming, and outstanding leadership:

"Brian is a valued member of our leadership team in Sayreville and is directly responsible for the explosive growth in programming and facilities within our community. Under his leadership, recreation programs have not only expanded in number but have also become more innovative and inclusive. Brian continues to develop and implement programs that serve all members of the community, from toddlers to older adults."

Brian's impact extends across both Sayreville and Middlesex County, with key initiatives including: -A partnership with the YMCA to provide swim lessons, -An app-based scavenger hunt to engage residents, -Indoor LED mini golf, offering a creative

recreational experience, -The revival of a beloved community bonfire, -A quarterly newsletter to enhance social media outreach, -The continued success and expansion of Camp Kindness Day, an award-winning program that fosters values of kindness and inclusion among young participants.

Under Brian's leadership, Sayreville is set to embark on over \$7 million in improvements to its recreational facilities in 2025, ensuring even greater opportunities for community engagement and enrichment.

Beyond his contributions to Sayreville, Brian has been an active and enthusiastic leader within NJRPA, serving as District 4 Chair and consistently demonstrating a commitment to professional growth, mentorship, and the advancement of the field.

NJRPA congratulates Brian VanDongen on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his tireless efforts to enhance recreation opportunities and inspire future leaders in the field.

The New Jersey Recreation and Park Association is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting parks and recreation; enhancing the professional development of its members; advocating sound policy and stewardship related to parks, recreation, resource management, and leisure services; and increasing awareness of the value of play and preservation of the environment to interested citizens and the public.

The purpose of the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association's Awards Program is to honor and identify dedicated leaders, employees, and volunteers in the field of Parks and Recreation, and to recognize the State's outstanding Recreation and Park agencies for excellence in programming, publicity, and facility design. The goal of the Awards Program is to focus State attention on the achievement of Park and Recreation agencies, to recognize the continuing efforts of staff and volunteers, and to acknowledge support extended by member agencies.

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,L,P., E.P., I.P.

## Irish Pride and Tradition March On:

Celebrating 50 Years of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Amboy

by Mary Szaro, President, The Historical Society of South Amboy

The 2025 St. Patrick's Day parade in South Amboy takes place fifty years to the day since the first parade marchers stepped off on Sunday, March 16, 1975. This golden anniversary is a historic milestone and a day to celebrate Irish culture, heritage, and pride with community, family, and friends.

Local newspapers in March of 1975 captured the inaugural launch of the parade from the Monaghan House on Pine Avenue with marchers proceeding through town to City Hall to raise the Irish flag, an annual ritual first started in 1949 by Mayor John Leonard. "Mayor William E. O'Leary will be the Grand Marshal of the municipality's first St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday at 2 p.m."

The original idea for the parade was that of Frank Connelly, owner of the Monaghan House. That first small celebration included a bagpiper, South Amboy Police, Firemen, First Aid Squad, and a small group of marchers representing the Frank Conley Association.

While all parades celebrating this monumental Irish holiday will trace their inspiration back to Ireland, our parade has a direct connection to the old sod and a son of Ireland. Francis "Frank" Connolly,

born in 1929 in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, Ireland, left his homeland to come to America as a teenager, ultimately settling in Monmouth County, New Jersey. He would live his American dream as a successful businessman and owner of the Monaghan House bar, which he named after the county of his birth in Ireland. He also owned Connolly's Bar and F & M Liquors, both in Kearny, and is credited with opening the first Irish Pub in San Juan, Puerto Rico called the Blarney Stone. Founder of the Frank Connolly Association, his organization sponsored the first three parades until passing the torch to the South Amboy Irish American Association, who later passed it on to the South Amboy Parade Committee. Frank Connolly died in 2007.

Sadly, the inaugural parade turned into a somber event shortly after it kicked off at 2 pm when Charles F. Thompson, Superintendent of the South Amboy Board of Public Works collapsed after suffering a fatal heart attack while proudly marching alongside his fellow firemen from Enterprise Hook and Ladder Company. He was rushed to nearby South Amboy Memorial Hospital but despite emergency efforts, was pronounced dead. Mr. Thompson lived on Henry St. and worked for the City of South Amboy for thirty-five years. He was a volunteer fireman and a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In a grim twist of fate, Mr. Thompson was selected as the flag-raiser that first year. Local newspapers reported the raising of the Irish flag at South Amboy City Hall was "an occasion of dedication, yet of sadness" brought about by the death of Mr. Thompson. His brother-in-law, John Potthoff,

assumed his duties and dedicated the flag in Thompson's memory.

The history of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in America date as far back as 1601 in St. Augustine, Florida, 1737 in Boston, Massachusetts, and 1762 in New York City. The tradition of wearing green became a widespread sign of Irish pride and a symbol of Irish nationalism when Irish rebels wore green to represent their resistance against British rule and to show support for Irish independence. The "wearing of the green" was a way to express solidarity with the Irish cause. The color green has strong ties to St. Patrick's Day itself. The holiday commemorates St. Patrick, the patron saint of



Frank Connelly

Ireland, who is said to have used the shamrock, a small three-leafed plant, to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to the Irish people. The shamrock is traditionally green, further solidifying the color's association with the saint and the holiday. Over time, wearing green on St. Patrick's Day became a widely embraced tradition, symbolizing Irish pride and solidarity. The idea that wearing green makes you "invisible to leprechauns," who are said to pinch anyone not wearing the color, also contributed to the popularity

of green attire on the day.

We celebrate the 50th anniversary of our local parade this year as a testament to the enduring power of tradition, the resilient spirit of the Irish people, and the shared cultural history of our city. For five decades, our parades have symbolized a community coming together to share the diversity and pride that make us all who we are. St. Patrick's Day parades serve as an opportunity for the people of South Amboy to honor their Irish heritage while welcoming all cultures to join in the fun and festivities as bagpipers fill the air with Irish music along the parade route.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Amboy has become an anticipated local custom for all generations, symbolizing the enduring spirit of the Irish with a fun-filled day of festivities for everyone. This milestone anniversary invites us to reflect on the parade's incredible journey and lets us embrace the many memories created along the way. Whether you're a lifelong resident or a first-time visitor, there is an undeniable sense of excitement that makes this parade feel special. The enthusiasm starts with the time-honored tradition of the Color Guard of the American Legion leading the parade. Our local veterans marching serve as a profound reminder of the sacrifices and dedication of those who have helped shape our nation. The respect and reverence shown as they pass by reflect the patriotism and respect of the parade-goers and remind us that the liberties we celebrate are hard-won and not to be taken for granted.

So, celebrate the freedoms we hold dear, and enjoy the Shenanigans!

### Sayreville Library News

**Mindful Yoga:** Tuesdays in April @6:30PM. Come & join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic yoga class is open to all levels of experience. This class is designed for stress relief. Participants should be able to get down to the floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing. \*Please note: young children cannot be left in the children's room unattended while an adult patron is in yoga class.\* Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

**Movie Matinee:** Tuesday, April 15 @1PM. Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Ezra - Starring Robert De Niro and Whoopi Goldberg, Rated R-1 Hr 40 mins. Refreshments provided. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

**How to Declutter a decade's worth of stuff with Jamie Novak (Virtual):** Monday,

April 21 @6PM. Just inherited a home and really need to get it cleaned up? Looking to move? Haven't really cleared out your closets in years? Then join Jamie Novak, Best-selling author and humorist, for her latest session on decluttering your home. Learn what to toss first and how to sort through things. 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.

**Resumes and Cover Letters (Virtual):** Tuesday, April 22 @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.

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# EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**  
PROMPTLY 9:00AM

**VETERANS FIELD AT WAR MEMORIAL PARK**  
(BLUE TURF FIELD BEHIND BOROUGH HALL)

OPEN TO SAYREVILLE RESIDENTS  
UP TO AGE 10

**South Amboy**  
3/16/2025  
**ST. PATRICK'S PARADE**  
Photos by Tom Burkard

Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien waved to the huge crowds throughout South Amboy. ←

South Amboy HS senior Vinny Lee had a great time marching in the parade, and waving to the spectators along the parade route.

**SWMHS Marching Band.**

Members of the South Amboy Fire Dept. looked sharp and kept in perfect step while marching. →

Colonel D.B. Kelly Pipes & Drums played their outstanding music to the delight of parade-goers. ←

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## Trinity Methodist Craft Bazaar & Tricky Tray

Please join us on Saturday, April 12 at Trinity Methodist Church at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy from 9 am to 2 pm. We have over 25 vendors, a bake sale, cafe,

and a tricky tray. At 12 pm we will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt outside. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please call Lori at 732 763 6232.

## Sock Hop-April 25

The Knights will be hosting an old fashion 'Sock Hop' with live music from the 50's & 60's by the Cellar Dwellers & Friends. When: Friday April 25, 2025, Doors open 6:30 pm / Music 7-10pm; 308 Fourth St. South Amboy, N.J. 08857. Menu: Hot dogs, fries, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, hot pretzels, Mac & cheese and desserts, Cash Bar. Proceeds to benefit local charities. Reservations Required, call or text Bruce 732-586-9779. Adults: - \$25; Kids under 12 - \$10.

## ANNUAL SPRING FISH DINNER

The Camp Dill Foundation and the Old Timers of Troop 91 will be having their annual Spring Fish Dinner on May 6, 2025 in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy. The event will be a totally "drive-by" take-out only dinner. The time of the event will be 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and the cost is \$17.00 per dinner. ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE. For ticket information, call 732-899-6074 or e-mail djsibol@aol.com. Ticket mail orders with payment can be sent to Dan Sibol, 90 Meridian Drive, Brick, NJ 08724.

We thank you for your support as we continue to benefit the youth of the South Amboy / Sayreville area. For more information on the Camp Dill Foundation and its current activities, go to their web-site at <https://www.campdill.org>.

**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 -B.S., P.S.



8-year old Olivia had a great time at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Amboy. (Photo submitted)



These three friends really enjoyed the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



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## Community Memorial Picnic

Saturday, May 17, 2025 | 1-4 pm

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Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased from members of the American Legion and Auxiliary or by contacting us at [post62americanlegion@gmail.com](mailto:post62americanlegion@gmail.com)

The drawing will be held 4pm at the picnic.

You do not need to be present to win.

The winner will receive 50% of ticket sales with the remainder of the proceeds going to the American Legion Building Fund for the construction of the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy to provide housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and new headquarters for American Legion Post #62.

American Legion Post 62



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**South Amboy**

# St. Patrick's Day Parade

3/16/2025

Photos by Brian Stratton



Grand Marshal Mark Herdman and Family.

Grand Marshal



SA Mayor Fred Henry & wife Linda.



NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin



South Amboy Fire Dept.



SWMHS Marching Band.



SA Middle/High School Band.



Honorary Grand Marshal Donna Williams capturing memories.



Col. D.B., Kelly Pipes & Drums.



South Amboy Council members,



The Uptown String Band.



South Amboy Elks.



Riley's Touch A Truck.



Col. D.B. Kelly AOH.



Balloon Art!



This band sounded great!



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The Ragtimers a crowd favorite.

### SWMHS Class Of 1975 50th Reunion

Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) 'Class of 1975' will celebrate its 50th reunion with two evenings of festivities including a dinner at Forsgate Country Club on Friday, June 27, 2025.

The class of baby boomers is one of the largest to graduate from Sayreville High School on June 12, 1975, with more than 500 classmates.

"The response thus far to this long-awaited special occasion has been very gratifying," the reunion committee stated.

The committee also reports a growing list of RSVPs from all over the country.

The itinerary kicks off on: Thursday, June 26 at 5:15 p.m.: A guided tour of our Alma Mater, Sayreville War Memorial High School. Meet at the office entrance on Washington Road promptly for the starting time.

Thursday, June 26, immediately following the tour at approximately 6:30 p.m.: A casual get-together (Dutch-treat) at Sean's Pub N' Grub (the Old Deerfield Inn) 50 Deerfield Road, Parlin, NJ 08859.

Friday, June 27, Morning/Afternoon: On your own. Free time to visit with friends and family or enjoy events in the area.

### OLV COLUMBIETTES CHARITY YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. located in the OLV Knights of Columbus parking lot at 775 Washington Rd, Parlin (across from the Parlin Post Office). Come down and see what treasures you can find among our seller's tables. All proceeds from this event will go to charity. \*Rain Date: May 17, 2025: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\*\*ATTN: SELLERS/VENDORS - to reserve a space please call Wendy at 732-266-5924 by April 5, 2025. Spaces are \$20 each with a 2-table maximum. Bring Your Own Tables.



Friday, June 27, 6:00-10:00 p.m.: Reunion celebration at Forsgate Country Club, 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 (casual business dress). Appetizers, buffet dinner and dancing. Cash bar available. Entertainment provided by DJ - Michael Martino. Cost: \$100 per person, TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE by May 23rd.

The committee advises attendees to make all reservations for hotels and events at your earliest convenience.

- Courtyard by Marriott, Cranbury South Brunswick, 420 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512. Group rates are available until May 28th.

- DoubleTree by Hilton, Monroe Township Cranbury, 390 Forsgate Drive, Monroe, NJ 08831. Group rates are available until June 6th or until sold out.

For additional details, costs, payment guidelines, accommodations, etc., please refer to our class Facebook page 'Sayreville War Memorial High School Class of 1975' or email us at SWMHS1975@gmail.com



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### 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. When the doors open in April - we will have changed our inventory

to all spring/summer clothes at great bargains and updated our household shop with Easter decorations and so much more.

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.



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**A Good Day**  
 By Robert W. Eginton  
 Today it was a very good day.  
 I made someone smile.  
 I sat in peace with myself  
 To contemplate life for awhile.  
 I have food on my table  
 A roof over my head,  
 I talked to the Lord today  
 And He listened to what I said.  
 I got to see the sunset  
 In the western sky  
 And had the chance to watch  
 Another day go by.

**God Break**  
 By Al Gomolka Jr.  
 Times Poet Laureate  
 c. 1995  
 Timeout! Hold Your Horses!  
 Chill out! Calm down!  
 Count to 10! Take a God-Break  
 Bills to pay. Important dates.  
 Driving everyone everywhere.  
 Doctors, lawyers, taxes, crime.  
 Take a God-Break  
 Demands, demands.  
 Work, children, spouse.  
 Confusion, agitation, disillusion.  
 Take a God-Break  
 Headache, worry, turmoil.  
 Uncertain, unsafe, undone.  
 Take a God-Break  
 Soothe, restore, heal.  
 Close your eyes.  
 In the light of your mind, whisper;  
 "Please God?"  
 Thank you, God!"  
 That's the God-Break.

**Tired Of The Same Old Lenten "Fish Fry"?**  
 Want To Have Something Different During Lent!  
 The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 will be hosting a Soup, Salad & Pasta dinner.  
**Date:** Friday, April 4th 2025  
**Time:** 5:30pm-8:00pm  
**Where:** Council Hall 308 Fourth St. South Amboy N.J. 08879  
 Dine in only-Menu includes 4 different (meatless) soups, salad, pasta with marinara sauce, dinner rolls, desserts, tea and coffee  
 Cost: Adults \$ 12.00.

**Route 9 Community Discount Cards**  
 The South Amboy Middle High School Class of 2029 is selling Route 9 Community Discount Cards. The purchase price is \$20.00 per card. The class of 2029 will earn \$10.00 per card sold. This money will help fund or defray the cost of activities during their time at SAMHS.  
 Please consider purchasing one or many to help the Class of 2029. For more information, please click the link below.  
<https://route9community.com/participating-businesses/>

**Church Yard Sale**  
 Date: April 26, 2025; Rain date: May 3, 2025; Time: 8am-noon. Where: First Presbyterian Church- Sayreville parking lot (behind Church building) 172 Main Street (across from the Borough Hall). Come check out what we have. There may be something you didn't even know you needed. This is the preview sale for our September Flea Market.

**Fish and Chicken 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.

**WWW.?**



Does this look familiar? Send your answer in to: satimes@aol.com by April 14th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

**February Winners**

Last months WWW.? was previously Mike's Tavern, then Danny Boys, and now The 244 Spot.

Winners:

Dennis Quinlan, Paul Conlon, Betty Leveille, Ed English, Jim Sissick & Debbie Sissick, Gary Feret, Don Zrebiec, Steve Laskiewicz, Amanda Costello, John & JoAnn French, Barb Bockus, Lisa Grankowski, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre.

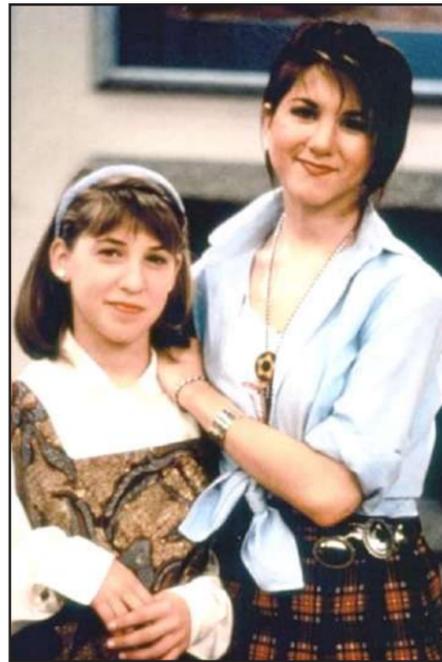


Mike's Tavern, then Danny Boys, and now The 244 Spot



**Who is it?**

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this young duo? Send your answers to satimes@aol.com by April 14th. Who Is It?



**Who Is It?**

Last month we were looking to identify four Jazz guitar greats, they were Pat Martino top left Django Reinhardt top right, Joe Pass bottom left and Pat Metheny bottom right. The following got it right: Ed English, Gary Feret, Meghan Dunn, Mark and Pam DePazza, Dane Colburn.

February Who is it?  
Pat Martino, Django Reinhardt, Joe Pass and Pat Metheny



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**Basketball Greats Honored Long Ago**

**15 Years Ago**  
 2010-OliviaGorczynski, CardinalMcCarrick-1st Team All-Area, Home News Tribune; 3rd Team All-Non-Public All-State Star Ledger; 1st Team All-Middlesex, Star Ledger.

**25 Years Ago**  
 2000-Ed Behnen, South Amboy-1st Team All-State Group 1, Star Ledger; 1st Team All-Middlesex, Star Ledger.

**40 Years Ago**  
 1985-Lynn Ust, Hoffman-1st Team All-Middlesex, Star Ledger; 1st Team All-County, News Tribune; 1st Team Middlesex County All-Stars-Home News.

**45 Years Ago**  
 1980-Reggie Carney, Hoffman-Coach of the Year, Home News; Sue Check, Hoffman-1st Team All-Middlesex, The News Tribune; 1st Team All-Middlesex, Star Ledger; 2nd Team All-State Group 1, Star Ledger; Jamie White, Hoffman 1st Team All-Middlesex, The News Tribune.

1980-Ralph Novak, Sayreville-1st Team All-County, The News Tribune.  
 1980-Cindy Allman, Sayreville-1st Team All-Middlesex, Star Ledger.

1980-Bob Howarth, St. Mary's-Coach of the Year, The News Tribune.

**55 Years Ago**  
 1970-George Krzyzanowski, St. Mary's-1st Team All-County, Evening News; All-State Parochial.

**60 Years Ago**  
 1965-Jeff Osowski, Sayreville-3rd Team All-State, All-Groups, Star Ledger; 1st Team All-County, Perth Amboy Evening News; 1st Team All-County, Sunday Home News; 1st Team All-State Group 3, Star Ledger; 1st Team All-Middlesex County, NY Daily News; 1st Team All-State, Group 3, Newark Sunday News; 2nd Team All-Groups, Newark Sunday News; Middlesex County Scholar Athlete.

**75 Years Ago**  
 1950-Jack Vail, St. Mary's-1st Team All-County, Perth Amboy Evening News.  
 1950-Ben Zaleski, Sayreville-1st Team All-County, Perth Amboy Evening News.

**Basketball Record Breakers**

**60 Years Ago**  
**Jeff Osowski Sets New Records**  
 1964-65-On February 19, 1965, Jeff Osowski of Sayreville broke the Bombers record for career points which was held by Ron Kuran with 1,296 points...A week later, on Feb. 26, 1965, Osowski broke the Middlesex County scoring record for a season of 598 points, which was held for 14 years by Joe Servon of South River. During the same game, a 72-41 Sayreville victory over New Brunswick, he also set a new career scoring mark for Middlesex County, breaking the old record of 1,371, held by John Gallagher. In the record breaking contest vs. New Brunswick Jeff finished with 27 points and 23 rebounds. He also fired in 46 points in a 79-75 loss to Edison to set a single-game scoring mark for Sayreville...Jeff Osowski finished an incredible senior year season with 661 points, 28.7 avg., and for his career, 1,421 points.

**1973-74**  
 Wayne Kreiger set a new record for Sayreville with 320 career assists, and 137 assists in a season...Steve Makwinski became the school's All-Time leading scorer with 1,546 points, and averaged 24.6 ppg.

**1962**  
 Tom Farrell set a single game rebound record for St. Mary's with 35, as the Eagles blasted Perth Amboy in the 6th Annual Holiday Festival Tournament. Jack Kreiger led the Blue & Gold with 29 points, Farrell tossed in 20, and Joe Chodkiewicz 13.

**80 Years Ago**

**1945-Believe it or not, Sayreville HS had a girls varsity basketball team, and a pretty good one too under Coach Miss Farrell. Our locals defeated New Brunswick, 20-17, as Jane Mansfield swished in 12 points to pace the Bombers. They then went on to pound St. Mary's of Elizabeth, 40-22, as Marie Hartman pumped in 18 points and Mansfield scored 12.**

**The Local Sports Memory Machine**

By Tom Burkard

**55 Years Ago**

1969-70-The South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball League featured 7 teams; Bay City Liquors, South Amboy A.A., Sanitary Fuels, English Chevron, Army Vets, J & B Trucking, Colonel's Garter.

The top 3 scorers on each team with total points listed were as follows; Bay City Liquors-Dennis Bratus 117, Chet Meinzer 70, Bill Masterson 60 (tie), Tom Gorman 60; South Amboy A.A.-Jim Higgins 109,

Ed Paczkowski 101, Tom Downs 69; Sanitary Fuels-Ron "Mucky" Ciszewski 136, Billy Clayton 130, Ken Wahler 83; English Chevron-Steve Flanagan 123, Rick Ferguson 114, John Lange 103; Army Vets-Tom Holovacko 189, Bob Jones 149, Joe Gatyas 54; J & B Trucking-Jimmy Lyons 142, Jerry Disbrow 132, Gene Kaboski 69; Colonel's Garter-Steve Shawnhouse 129, Ray Selover 100.

**Glory Days In Local Sports**

2018-Sayreville's Blake Bouchard captured the 152-lb. GMC Wrestling championship for the Large School District... 2008-South Amboy boys basketball team won their own South Amboy Tournament over Keansburg, 57-44. Mark Simko was the leading scorer with 22 points, followed by Larry Lenahan 18, and Joe Charmello 9. All three Guvs were selected to the All-Tourney Team...1995-St. Mary's girls basketball squad clinched the Gold Division title by pounding Piscataway Tech, 54-26. Robyn Palomo topped the Lady Eagles with 13 points...1981-Sayreville boys hoops team jolted JFK, 69-58 behind Mike Tevis with 24 points, Dan Ogborne 16, and Fred Krumbine 12...1973-The Bombers clubbed Carteret, 54-44. Wayne Kreiger pumped in 15 points, John Wojcik 14, and Steve Makwinski 10...1966-67-St. Mary's top 5 scorers for the season were: Rick Ragula 328 points, Tom Kelly 207, Dennis Bratus 206, John Rucki 175, Dan Hansell 126...1965-Hoffman boys basketball club ripped Raritan, 74-61. Freshman Curt Wood fired in 27 points, soph Billy Clayton 18, and soph Ed Witkowski 14.

**From The Sports Archives**

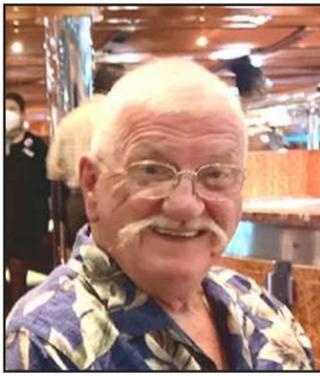


2005-The South Amboy Governors boys varsity basketball team pictured front (l-r) Brian Seres, Mike DeJoy, Colin Krzyzanowski. Middle (l-r) Fred Beaudry, Jordan Dudley, Ibo Diaz, Joe Magnifico, Greg Stefaniuk. Back (l-r) Asst. Coach Gary Kuhn, Robert Mehal, Paul Tylek, Joe Bartlinski, Sean Powell, Tom Szatkowski, Coach George Krzyzanowski.

## Richard Read



Richard Ralph Read, 76, passed away on Feb. 24, 2025, at Hackensack University Medical Center with his daughters by his side, after a short, but courageous battle with cancer. Born in South Amboy, NJ, Richard was a hardworking and skilled contractor who took great pride in his work. His attention to detail and strong spirit were evident in every aspect of his life.



is survived by three loving daughters, Caprice Gommoll and her husband Carl, Cherice Smith and her husband Brian, and Dana Anglada. He was proud "Pop" to Chase and Blake Gommoll, Zaiden Smith, and Jaxon Anglada.

After his retirement, Fine Wine & Grill became a second home for Richard; it was there that he found not only a new sense of

purpose, but also a second family, who treated him like one of their own. Richard's love for his family was unwavering, and his legacy will live on through them.

He was predeceased by his father, Albert Read, his mother, Dorothy Read (Schultz), and his brother Albert. Richard

## Obituaries

Ambrosia, Michael J. Jr., 81, of Parlin died on March 5.

Anane-Sarfo, Hubert, 66, of Parlin died on Feb. 15.

Armstrong, Lillian A., 98, of Sayreville died on March 13.

Bialoblocki, Robert M., 83, of South Amboy died on Feb. 23.

Bradley, Teresa J., 66, of Sayreville died on March 15.

Caccio, Anne R., 91, of Parlin died on March 17.

Connors, Helen, 91, of Sayreville died on March 15.

Corman, Joan, 84, of Sayreville died on Feb. 25.

Coskie, Edward, 88, of South Amboy died on March 10.

Erickson, Edward F. Jr., 88, of South Amboy died on Feb. 13.

Gaito-Lewis, Theresa "Terry," 73, of Parlin died on March 3.

Gordon, Cheryl E., 71, formerly of Parlin died on Feb. 5.

Hamilton, John "Bud," 77, of Morgan dies on Nov. 30.

Humphrey, Rosemarie A., 93, formerly of Sayreville died on Feb. 22.

Ioriello, Christopher G., 93, of Sayreville died on March 7.

Kelly, Kevin, 74, of Parlin died on Feb. 19.

Leon, Margaret Woods, 70, formerly of Sayreville died on March 15.

Lewandowski, Dr. Kenneth, 61, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 21.

Luther, Lois, 87, formerly of Sayreville died on Feb. 25.

Madden, Carol A., 85, formerly of Parlin died on March 17.

McBride, Michael H., 71, formerly of Sayreville died on March 6.

Natalevic, Helena, 66, of South Amboy died on March 5.

Picchini, Margaret, 90, formerly of South Amboy died on March 3.

Ploskonka, James, 72, of South Amboy died on Feb. 28.

Read, Richard, 76, of South Amboy died on Feb. 24.

Resina, Gianpiero L., 86, of Sayreville died on March 19.

Roessle, Carol E., 79, formerly of South Amboy died on March 3.

Rowley, Brian C., 50, of Parlin died on March 3.

Sakowicz, Maciej "Magic," 48, of Sayreville died on Feb. 19.

Steiner, Douglas, 56, formerly of Parlin died on Feb. 28.

Torraca, Olga, 89, of Parlin died on March 1.

Williscroft, Beth Swider, 64, formerly of Sayreville died on March 12.

Michael McBride, 71, formerly of Sayreville died on March 6. He was past President of the OLV AA, coached Sayreville Recreation girls soccer, and also coached boys

soccer at St. Mary's HS. Helen Connors, 91, of Sayreville died on March 15. She was a bookkeeper for many years at the Sayreville Board of Education.

## In Memoriam

### Urgent Need for Mental Healthcare for Our Youth

The Central Jersey Medical Center recently held a press conference with state and local officials to recognize that mental health challenges among young people in Perth Amboy and surrounding areas have surged, yet access to quality care remains limited for various reasons.

From academic pressures to social media influences and economic uncertainty, today's youth are facing unprecedented stressors. Through their mental health services, the Central Jersey Medical Center provides accessible, affordable, and effective mental healthcare for young people, which has never been more urgent.

#### The Growing Mental Health Crisis

According to the CDC, the rate of anxiety and depression among adolescents has risen dramatically over the past decade. Suicide is now a leading cause of death among young people, and many struggle in silence due to stigma or lack of resources. The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated these issues, leaving many youth isolated and without support.

#### Barriers to Mental Healthcare

Despite the growing need for mental healthcare, young people face numerous barriers to receiving mental health support, including: Stigma and Shame – Many young people fear being judged for seeking help, leading them to suppress their struggles rather than address them. Lack of Access – Many communities, particularly in underserved urban areas such as Perth Amboy and surrounding communities, lack mental

health professionals who specialize in youth care. The Central Jersey Medical Center's mental health services are available in their Perth Amboy center. Financial Constraints – Mental healthcare can be expensive, and many families cannot afford it, especially if it is not covered by insurance. This is why the Central Jersey Medical Center accepts most insurance plans including Medicare and Medicaid. Patients without insurance may be eligible for care on a sliding scale. School and Parental Support Gaps – Schools often lack adequate mental health resources, and some parents may not recognize the importance of professional care. The Central Jersey Medical Center's mental health services are a valuable resource for parents and guardians.

#### Investing in Youth Mental Health Matters

Mental health affects all aspects of a young person's life, including their academic performance, relationships, and future opportunities. The Central Jersey Medical Center advises that untreated mental health conditions can lead to poor school outcomes, substance abuse, and an increased risk of self-harm. Investing in early intervention and comprehensive care can prevent long-term struggles and improve overall wellbeing.

If you or someone you know is in need of mental health services, the Central Jersey Medical Center is here to help. Dr. Cynthia Vuittonet, Chief Medical Officer and her staff are dedicated to providing critical mental healthcare services for youth from infancy through age 17.

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



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*Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.*

David Bloy

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*Rocco M. Cuoco, Manager*

N.J. Lic. No. 4605

## School Sports

(As of March 12)  
By Tom Burkard

### 2024-25 Final Team Leaders

#### Boys Basketball

Sayreville (23-5)

Coach John Wojcik

Points-Chidi Chukwurah 511, Sam Jones 447, Keithan Shuler 328; Rebounds-Chukwurah 248, Shuler 133, S. Jones 99; Assists-Christian Torres 137, Shuler 61, Joe Santamaria 49; Blocks-Chukwurah 13, S. Jones 7; Steals-S. Jones 25, Torres 25, Chukwurah 24, Shuler 20; 3-Point Field Goals-S. Jones 61, Santamaria 12.

South Amboy (10-15)

Coach Matt Wiater

Points-John Kelly 485, Alex Gantt 204, Darrion Joubert 166, Wesley Lowe 132, Jaidel Vasques 120; Rebounds-Kelly 261, Vasques 159, Joubert 141; Assists-Gantt 73, Kelly 53, Lowe 30; Blocks-Vasques 34, Kelly 22, Gantt 13; Steals-Kelly 55, Gantt 35; 3-Point Field Goals-Kelly 47, Lowe 34.

#### Girls Basketball

South Amboy (12-14)

Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs

Points-Sarah McLaughlin 244, Emma Kalantis 178, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 108; Rebounds-E. Kalantis 266, McLaughlin 119, Moreira-Burgos 108; Assists-E. Kalantis 92, Moreira-Burgos 57, Sophie Hernandez 41; Blocks-E. Kalantis 7, Gwen Kalantis 6; Steals-Moreira-Burgos 118, McLaughlin 59, E. Kalantis 51; 3-Point Field Goals-McLaughlin 58, Moreira-Burgos 10.

Sayreville (11-15)

Coach Janet Cook

Points-Natalia Glazewski 282, Weronika Glazewski 220, Angelina Sepulveda 174; Rebounds-N. Glazewski 285, W. Glazewski 256, Sepulveda 75; Assists-Sepulveda 45, Mehak Kaun 21, Gianna Falto 18, Karina Cardoso 16; Steals-N. Glazewski 48, W. Glazewski 42, Falto 36, Kaun 30.

#### Wrestling

Sayreville (16-9)

Coach Matthew Van Doren

### Bomber Wrestlers

#### Bow In Quarterfinals

The Sayreville Bombers wrestling team lost a tough 37-31 contest to a tough Watchung Hills (17-4) in the NJSIAA Team Tournament quarterfinals North Jersey Section 2 Group 4. Sayreville individual winners included 190-Bryce Bouchard, 0:36 pin; 285-Kacper Trzeciak, 6:47 pin; 106-Ali Qureshi, 7-4 dec.; 138-Robert Fritz, 9-1 major dec.; 150-Colin Markwood, forfeit; 157-Andrew Golden, injury default.

\*Note: Robert Fritz qualified for the New Jersey State wrestling championships. Best of luck, Robert!

### Sayreville Falls In CJ Group 4

Coach John Wojcik's powerful Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team dropped a heartbreaking 58-52 overtime battle to Freehold Twp. in the CJ Group 4 quarterfinals. Our locals led by 4 points after 3 quarters, and with the score tied 49-49 at the buzzer, were forced into OT against the #10 seeded Freehold. Unfortunately, the Bombers were outscored 9-3 in the extra session. Sayreville, who was the #2 seed, was paced by Chidi Chukwurah with 16 points, Sam Jones 13, and Keithan Shuler 12.

### T.H.E. Game

Year-1978

Sport-Boys Basketball

Teams-Hoffman (2-1) vs. St. Mary's (1-3)

Recap-It was the Purple and Gold of Hoffman all the way, as they topped their crosstown rivals, 56-47. Frank Kuziemski copped scoring laurels for the Guvs with 17 points, followed by Bob Clayton 13, and Bill Lewis 12 points. The Saints were led by Pat Quigley's 12 points, and Tom O'Leary scored 11.

Players-of-the-Game-The entire Hoffman team was outstanding, especially defensively, as they shut down the Eagles offense.

## Coach Wojcik, Bomber Boys Honored

Coach John Wojcik, in his 15th season as head coach of the Sayreville Bombers boys varsity basketball team turned in one of the best records (23-5) in the school's history. He was selected the GMC and also White Division Coach of the Year. Congratulations on a truly outstanding season Coach Wojcik!

Three of his stellar players, Chidi Chukwurah, Sam Jones, and Keithan Shuler also were chosen for honors. Chukwurah and Jones were selected to the All-White Division team, and also the All-Conference team. Shuler was picked for the All-White Division squad. Congratulations on a really tremendous season, Chidi, Sam and Keithan!

## College Notebook

Michael Novak (Sayreville) is off to a great start with New Jersey City University (NJCU) (3-1-1). He is currently 4-for-8, .500 avg., with a triple, 4 RBI, and is 2-for-2 in stolen bases...Michael Colonnello (Sayreville) is playing for Kean University (12-1) and batting .154, with 2 hits including a home run and 3 RBI. He also has 2 stolen bases in as many attempts.

## Sofilkanich Chosen Player Of The Year

By Tom Burkard

Bucknell University standout sophomore basketball star Ashley Sofilkanich of South Amboy, has been selected as the Patriot League Player of the Year. Ashley turned in another outstanding season, where she led the team in most offensive categories including points scored-610 (4th best in school history), 19.7; Blocks-69; Rebounds-260, 8.4; Field Goals Made-236 (2nd best in school history); Field Goal Pct.-.503; Free Throws Made-133.

In addition, Sofilkanich tied the Bucknell U. Hall of Famer Molly Creamer's single game scoring record, by pouring in 44 points against Colgate University.

Ashley finished her sophomore season with 610 points bringing her 2-year career mark to 998 points! What a fantastic accomplishment!

In the semifinals of the Patriot Women's Basketball Tournament, Bucknell dropped a tough 49-39 contest to Army. Sofilkanich was Bucknell's top scorer with 13 points from 5-for-17 floor attempts, and 3-for-4 on the free throw line. (Bucknell U. finished (17-14) for the season.

In addition to her Player of the Year Award, she was a 1st Team All-League, and also 1st All-Defense Team. Congratulations Ashley on an incredible season, and best wishes for continued success!



Ashley Sofilkanich

## Lady Guvs Bow In CJ Group 1

A very strong and talented Middlesex girls basketball team, seeded #4 with a record of (19-8) used an incredibly tight defense to easily defeat the South Amboy Lady Governors, 39-8 in a first round CJ Group 1 contest. South Amboy, seeded #13 with

## Pro Baseball Report



Brandon Bielak

## Bielak Signs With Diamondbacks

Sayreville's own Brandon Bielak was recently signed by the Arizona Diamondbacks to a minor league contract, and reported to Spring Training with the big league club. In 2024, Bielak pitched for Houston and Oakland, working 29.2, and had a 5.16 ERA, while going (1-0). He also spent time in the minors with Las Vegas in Triple-A, and in 16 games, pitched 66.2 innings, with a 6.08 ERA.

A product of St. Joseph's Metuchen High School, and Notre Dame University, his career Major League Baseball totals are: Games-76, Innings pitched-204, Strikeouts-160, ERA-4.63, Won-12, Lost-13, Saves-1. Best of luck, Brandon!

## Ust Hired At University of Pittsburgh

By Tom Burkard

Brant Ust, has recently been hired as Senior Deputy Athletic Director, Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. Ust has had an amazing rise through the ranks in sports and athletics through the years.

An All-American baseball player while starring for Notre Dame University in the late 1990's, he was drafted by the Detroit Tigers following graduation, and embarked on a professional baseball career from 1999-2008. He then became a player/coach for Great Britain Baseball from 2007-2009. In 2008-09, he was an assistant baseball coach at the University of Michigan, and from 2010-2014, he worked for USA Baseball as the Director for the 18U National Team, and Alumni Relations.

Continuing in his field of expertise, Brant was Assistant Athletic Director/Monogram Club Executive Director at Notre Dame University from 2014-2018. From 2018-22, he took his many talents to Auburn University, where he served as Associate Athletic Director, Administration. He was the Senior Associate Athletic Director at Auburn in 2022-23, and then took a job with the U.S. Air Force Academy as Senior Associate Athletic Director, a position he held from 2023 until recently, when he took the position of Senior Deputy Athletic Director, Administration at Pittsburgh U., home of the Panthers.

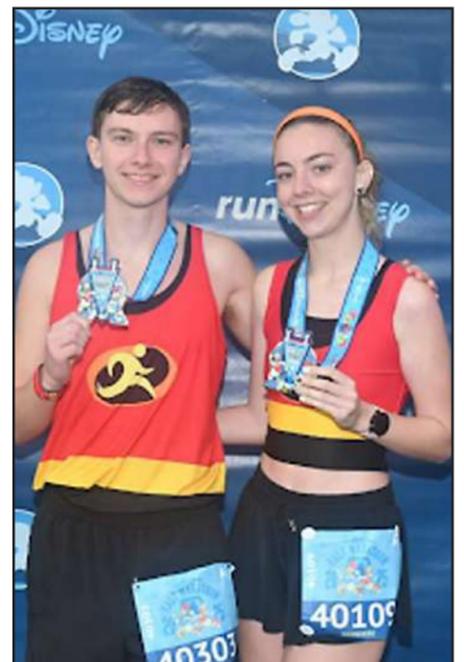
Brant, who is the son of former South Amboy resident and 1959 St. Mary's High School graduate, Paul Ust, has had an outstanding career in sports/athletics, and we wish him a very successful run with the Pittsburgh University Panthers.

## Congratulations!



South Amboy HS Senior, Sarah McLaughlin received the Athlete of the Season from the Greater Middlesex Conference Student Athletic Advisory Committee. Athletic Director Jamon Dunn, proudly presented her with the award. (Photo Submitted)

## Winners!



Guinevere and Spencer Kennedy ran the Walt Disney World Half Marathon back in January. Guinevere placed 147th out of 13,099 runners, 24th out of 7,945 women and 4th in her age group. Spencer placed 700th out of 13,099 runners, 518th out of 5,154 men and 38th in his age group. Congratulations to both of you! (Photo/Info Submitted)

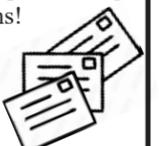
## LETTERS



Tom & Brian,

Just want to congratulate the entire Sayreville Bombers men's basketball team, coaching staff and players on a terrific season. For winning the White Division, Coach John Wojcik for his Coach of the Year honor, Sam Jones and Chidi Chukwurah for achieving the milestone of reaching 1,000 points. Senior Keithan Shuler, Sam and Chidi for all conference honors. The rest of the players for their contributions, Christian Torres, Joe Santamaria, Ziyen Jones, Joseph Lewis, Andrew Provence, Tyler Yar, Devin Aldridge, Julian Hall, Adrian Ciesla, Saba Tkemaladze, Osman Alishah, and Bryce White. For the graduating seniors we wish you the best, as it was a pleasure watching you guys play. For the guys coming back next year remember, with hard work, sacrifice, and commitment, special things can happen. Congratulations!

Steve Makwinski  
1974 Sayreville Graduate



### 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.

## Black History Month Commemorated



On February 27, 2025, the City of South Amboy, spearheaded by Councilman Anthony Conrad, commemorated Black History Month. "It was a true honor to be part of South Amboy's first-ever Black History Month ceremony, and inspiring to see so many members of the community come together to celebrate the rich and enduring contributions of Black Americans," said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. "Black history is American history, and our diversity is what makes us stronger, creating a community that's not just united, but one that's capable of accomplishing amazing things together." Mayor Henry – as a former history teacher I know the importance of teaching all aspects of our shared heritage. For too long, portions of our history have been ignored, and we need to come together and educate people. We recognize the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement and Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. But there are also lesser-known Black Americans who used their knowledge, skills, and inventiveness to create items we use today. Longie Johnon, a nuclear engineer, invented by accident the super soaker. Garrett Morgan in 1923 designed the 3-light traffic signal. Shirly Jackson who invented fiber optic cables which are essential to modern communication. These are only a few of the endless list of Black Americans who contributed to our rich American history. Councilman Anthony Conrad, Pastor Kelsey Maye (Ark Ministries, South Amboy), Ameila Jucha (student), McKaella Maye (students), Mayor Fred A. Henry, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Sheriff Mildred Scott (Keynote speaker), Rev. Donna Stewart (NAACP President – Perth Amboy branch). (Photo/Story Submitted)

### Remember When?



Swan Hill Ice & Coal Co. is pictured being demolished on lower Henry St. in South Amboy. The business was very important to South Amboy and Sayreville residents for many years. (Photo courtesy of Ann Jankowski and Leslie Tighe)

### Congratulations!



South Amboy resident Mary Porcello (c) recently received the Community Partner award from the Middlesex County Education Association (MCEA). Pictured with Mary are Lois Yukna MCEA President (l) and Maureen Strzykalski MCEA 1st Vice President (r). (Photo Submitted)

### 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.

## Hibernians Continue to Foster Irish Heritage

By Jordan Drevelus

There is no doubt that the Ancient Order of Hibernians has a long history in South Amboy. For many of the younger residents of South Amboy, the AOH is known for its green building on 2nd St. and the organization's charitable works, many of which benefit the local community. For many others who were there when the local charter was revived during the late 1990s, there is more to the story. To fully understand the AOH in the South Amboy / Sayreville sphere, it is important to note the origins of the organization. First and foremost, as a worldwide order, all that the AOH has accomplished far exceeds what the founders of the order could have envisioned. Their vision at the time of founding was, simply put, to survive as Irish in the United States.

As an order, the AOH was founded in New York City in 1836. Its purpose was to defend Catholic Churches and Irish immigrants from the attacks of groups such as the Know-Nothings. These groups desired to harm the immigrants by any means necessary including the burning of churches. Membership was open to Irish Catholic males. Historically, Irish migrants were treated harshly and often were discriminated against when it came to fair housing and work. While the organization was entirely new and for a particularly American purpose, it had its foundation with fraternal organizations in Ireland. It continued in its mission and even saved the original St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City from being burned. Ideas of charitable events and promoting Irish heritage were not on the horizon while the persecution of the Irish continued in the United States and in Ireland itself. Many members of the AOH would assert that Ireland still is not free considering the status of Northern Ireland.

In the United States, with time, things changed. The Irish in the United States, once hated and persecuted, went through many hurdles. As the Irish became Irish Americans, they, after years of fighting oppression, fought to achieve the American Dream. So many Irish Americans fought for the United States in the Civil War and subsequent conflicts, served as police, firemen, and so many more as successful businessmen on their own. Even so, the divide continued especially on the grounds of faith. One of the greatest hurdles was the election of John F. Kennedy, an Irish Catholic, to the presidency. While he was not the first Irish

American president, he was the first one that was allowed to hold the faith and traditions of his ancestors; Kennedy was also a member of the AOH. With the divisions ceasing, the AOH's mission changed. Some divisions folded, others did so and were revived, and today new divisions continue to be founded.

In South Amboy, it is hard to separate "Irish" from the history of the town. The working-class history of the town and the presence of one of the earliest Catholic communities in the state, St. Mary Church, tell the story. A similar story exists with the Irish and St. Mary Church in Perth Amboy. With the passage of time fades many stories that would provide insight. We know that Saint Mary Church (1851) was founded around the same time as the local congregation, Christ Church (1852) This fact, perhaps, paints a nicer picture than the events of New York City. The South Amboy AOH was founded in 1887. Research did not reveal when the Middlesex Division 1 AOH as an organization became inactive nor what of its activities were unique. In the 1990s, the AOH revived their charter and went about rebuilding their organization. Those who live in South Amboy can tell that the need of defending the Irish from attack was long gone! The town had long been influenced and populated by the ancestors of Irish and Polish immigrants. There was a need, on the other hand, to preserve that rich Irish heritage and for a place for people of that heritage to celebrate it. The remaining members of the "old guard" can tell of the purchase of their building, which itself has a long and impressive history as a number of things such as a library and a church, and all of the work that was required to renovate the building. So many worked so hard to see an adequate space come to fruition in South Amboy for a multitude of reasons.

Today, the Ancient Order of Hibernians continues its service to Irish heritage but also engages in much community outreach. They donate money to those in need all while exercising the virtues of "Friendship, Unity, and Christian charity" which is also the motto of their order. Nationally, having achieved their original goal, the AOH stands for so much more and continues to further fulfill its motto. Our local division has a plethora of activities which include fish fries, bus trips, and general fellowship. Most of these activities are open to the public and will help support the AOH's efforts.



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**750ML**  
**\$8.99**

**ALL OF ME**  
*All Types*



**750ML**  
**\$8.99**

**GIADA SANGRIA**  
*All Types*



**750ML**  
**\$8.99**

**SIMONETTI**  
*All Types*



**1.5L**  
**\$8.99**

**MONTMEYRAC**



**750ML**  
**\$6.99**

**LAU DUM**  
*Sweet Red Wine*



**750ML**  
**\$9.99**

**LAU DUM**



**750ML**  
**\$8.99**

**DARK HORSE**  
*Wine All Types*



**750ML**  
**\$10.99**

**LINE 39**  
*Wine All Types*



**750ML**  
**\$9.99**

**MIAMORE**  
*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**



**Happy Easter!**



\*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.