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Happy Thanksgiving The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is
dedicated to

*Robert "Hossie" Hospidor

*Debra McQuade

*Mark Thompson



November 22, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 35 Issue 2

Veteran's Day Memorial Service



Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 of South Amboy and other local veterans are pictured following their Veterans Day Ceremony at the Veterans Plaza on Bordentown Ave. (Photo by Mary Szaro)

Sayreville Dems Win Council Seats



Democrats Herve Blemur (l) and Alberto Rios captured council seats in the Borough of Sayreville election. Rios was the top vote-getter with 7,729, while Blemur had 7,555. Republicans Anthony Esposito and Council President Donna Roberts received 6,614, and 6,499 respectively.

Central Jersey Medical Center Gala



Attending the Central Jersey Medical Center Gala (l-r) SA Councilwoman Zusette Dato, SA Council President Mickey Gross, Woman of Leadership Award winner Jamie Stratton and Central Jersey Medical Center CEO Jack O'Leary. (Photo/Article Submitted)

On Thursday, October 16, 2025 the Central Jersey Medical Center held its annual Gala at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. The event raises awareness and funding for the CJMC's Women's Health Initiative that offers 3D Mammography services and

other services including OB/GYN, fitness, behavioral health, endocrinology and internal medicine available to women within the community regardless of health insurance coverage or ability to pay.

The CJMC also partners with the Nicholas Hudanish Foundation to expand awareness of opioid addiction and to provide quality educational resources to schools within the region.

Central Jersey Medical Center's Gala recognizes persons who have made an impact on the community and this year the recipients included a trio of dedicated and extraordinary community leaders in their respective fields. Awards were presented by Central Jersey Medical Center CEO, Jack O'Leary.

Evelyn Javier was presented with the Healthcare Hero Award. Evelyn is a dedicated Family Nurse Practitioner and proud Monmouth University graduate with

Continued on page 3

Coughlin, Lopez Re-Elected



Democrat Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez were re-elected to their seats in the 19th District of the NJ State Assembly. Coughlin, formerly of South Amboy won his fifth term in the Assembly, and received 38,527 votes, and Lopez 38,144 votes. *Note: The totals are based on an estimated 95% of votes counted.

Dems Sweep 3 Commissioner Seats

The Middlesex County Democrats won all 3 seats for Middlesex County Commissioners. Charles Kenny led the way with 153,013, followed by Channele Scott McCullum 150,331, and Clary Ozcona Barber 148,486.

Scott Re-Elected Sheriff

Longtime Middlesex County Democrat Sheriff Mildred S. Scott defeated South Amboy resident and former Sheriff's Officer, Republican Pedro Peter Pizar, 158,211 to 89,838.

Sayreville Board of Education Results

There were 3 seats available for the Sayreville Board of Education. The winners were Lucille A. Bloom 6,986 votes, Christopher Callahan 6,560, Jeffrey Smith 6,500. Other candidates received the following votes: Jessica Vant 4,584, Kelly Wankmueller 4,460, Atef Ghaly 3,558, Jaclyn Headlam 1,196.

South Amboy Board of Education Results

In the South Amboy Board of Education, there were 3 candidates for 3 open seats. The voting went as follows: Brandon Russell 1,457, longtime Board of Education member Janet Kern 1,445, Damion Campbell 957. Also, Maribel Aquino ran uncontested and will fill an unexpired term. Aquino received 1,412 votes.

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Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Steiner To Retire From DOT

South Amboy's Lee Steiner will be retiring at the end of December, after 45 years of dedicated service with the New Jersey Dept. of Transportation. Congratulations Lee, on a job very well done! Enjoy your retirement, and God Bless!

McKeon Was Only NJ Manager To Win World Series

A couple avid readers of The SA Times mentioned that South Amboy native Jack McKeon was not the only manager born in NJ to lead a Major League Baseball team to the World Series Championship, and Tom Kelly, who grew up in Sayreville, played baseball in South Amboy youth leagues, and also for St. Mary's HS should have been mentioned in addition to McKeon. Research shows that Jack McKeon was born in South Amboy, NJ, and Jay Thomas "Tom" Kelly was born in Minnesota.

St. Stan's HSA Presents Our Annual Christmas Bazaar!

Sunday, December 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come celebrate the season with fun, prizes, a 50/50 raffle, delicious treats, and community spirit! Don't miss this festive tradition — there's something for everyone!

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..

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.

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The Friends Of South Amboy 13th Annual Charity Basketball Tournament

The 13th annual tournament will take place on Saturday, December 13th at South Amboy Middle/High School. General Admission Tickets are \$10, Students and Seniors \$5. Game schedule as follows:

12:00 noon
Oratory Prep vs. Sayreville

2:00 pm
South Amboy vs. New Brunswick (Girls)

4:00 pm
St. Thomas Aquinas vs. Franklin

6:00 pm
South Amboy vs. East Brunswick Magnet

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign, if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, tv, picture or receive roses. Must promise publication. C.P.

Prayer to St. Jude

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

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

Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1. Chairman of the South Amboy Democratic Organization in 1998?
a. Robert Dato b. Thomas O'Leary c. Raymond Tomaszewski

2. Mayor of the Borough of Sayreville in '98?
a. James Zagata b. John McCormack c. Kennedy O'Brien

3. Where was D & D Insurance Co. located in South Amboy?
a. Bordentown Ave. b. South Broadway c. North Feltus St.

4. Sayreville War Memorial Homecoming Queen in 2004?
a. Alfia Genfi b. Mary Montross c. Anne Jensen

5. In the 2004 South Amboy election, who did John Szatkowski defeat to retain his seat on the council?
a. Vince Mackiel b. David Longenhagen c. Dexter Worthy

6. Back in 2004, this ice cream shop was located at the Quick Check Mall on Main St., Sayreville?
a. Scoop & Serve b. Double Dippin c. Scooter Scoops & More

7. Who was named temporary Administrator of Sacred Heart School?
a. Sister M. Rosemary b. Agnes Lemongello c. Michael Poll

8. Who received the most votes for a Sayreville Council seat in '08?
a. Ron Green b. Lisa Buchanan-Eicher c. Kenneth Kelly Sr.

9. Queen of the South Amboy HS Homecoming Dance in 2008?
a. Hannah Riley b. Samantha Vasquez c. Susan Jones

10. What year was the Mickey Sedlak Center dedicated in Sayreville?
A. 2001 b. 2008 c. 2020

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






John Auto Center

Surjit Singh (r) owner of John Auro Center with his wife Poonam Bamrah. (Photo Submitted)

Surjit Singh, owner of John Auto Center Inc., Honored for His Dedication to the South Amboy Community

Years ago, Surjit Singh achieved his lifelong dream of opening his own auto repair business. A lifelong car enthusiast, Surjit’s passion for automobiles began in junior high school, when he started changing oil, fixing brakes, and replacing lights for his family and friends.

Recognizing a need for reliable auto repair services in South Amboy, Surjit decided to fill that gap. In January 2008, he purchased the former Harry’s Auto Repair at 272 North Stevens Avenue and opened John Auto Center Inc.

From the very beginning, Surjit built strong relationships with residents. One of his first customers was South Amboy Council President Mickey Gross, and over time, his reputation for honesty and quality workmanship spread quickly. Known for his friendly nature, Surjit has even been called “the friendliest mechanic in South Amboy” by former Police Chief Darren La Vigne. A proud supporter of law enforcement, Surjit and his team continue to service many vehicles for local police officers.

As the automotive industry has evolved, so has Surjit’s expertise. Modern vehicles have become more complex, featuring advanced sensors, electrical systems, and computer diagnostics. Surjit and his skilled mechanics have kept pace with these changes. They are trained and certified to repair both modern and classic vehicles — foreign and domestic — and handle everything from routine maintenance to complete engine replacements.

Their work is 100% guaranteed, and no job is too big or too small. Whether it’s an oil change, emissions inspection, or major repair, John Auto Center takes pride in providing dependable, affordable service. Their motto says it best: “Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall — We can basically do it all.” Customer satisfaction is at the heart of Surjit’s success, and the shop’s online reviews reflect that commitment. Victoria G. wrote, “The owner is awesome and really goes out of his way to make sure my car is fixed as quickly as possible. Others told me my car couldn’t be fixed, but he had it running in just one day — and at a great price. I’ve been going to him for years and don’t plan on switching!”



Ted C. added, “Just moved to the area and will definitely be a repeat customer. I thought I had major suspension issues, but Surjit found I only needed new tires and an alignment. Honest, fair, and supportive of law enforcement — this isn’t your typical repair shop that nickel-and-dimes you.”

John Auto Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 732-727-8500 or stop by and say hello — you’ll be glad you did.

A few years ago, Surjit Singh was honored by the City of South Amboy for his outstanding community service and dedication. The City Council presented a formal proclamation recognizing his professional achievements and volunteer work.

The resolution reads, in part: WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of South Amboy would like to acknowledge Surjit Singh for his volunteer service and dedication to the City of South Amboy; and WHEREAS, Surjit Singh graduated from Manhattan Comprehensive High School and received certification in Automotive Service, Electronics, and Service Station Specialist from the School of Cooperative Technical Education in Manhattan; and WHEREAS, Surjit Singh has owned and operated John Auto Center since 2007, and he and his family moved to South Amboy in 2019; and WHEREAS, Surjit Singh has dedicated many volunteer hours to local charities including the Knights of Columbus and Friends of South Amboy, while also supporting the South Amboy Police Department; and WHEREAS, with a loving wife and two children, Surjit is also an active member of the Sikh Temple; NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Governing Body of the City of South Amboy, wish to thank Surjit Singh for his dedication, generosity, and extensive volunteer work in our community.” Through his hard work, kindness, and community spirit, Surjit Singh has proven that success is not only about business — it’s about giving back to the community.”

Central Jersey Medical Center Gala

continued from page 1

over 15 years of nursing experience. She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and the New York Academy of Medicine. In 2020, she was honored as one of the Top 40 Under 40 for her outstanding contributions to the nursing profession.

Steve Jobin was presented with the Service Award. The CEO of the Raritan Bay Area YMCA since 2006 Steve has been the driving force behind its remarkable revitalization. Working hand in hand with the Board of Volunteers, he spearheaded the creation of new service platforms, including 75 supportive housing units, homeless prevention initiatives; drown proofing children, and outpatient mental health services.

Jamie Stratton was presented with the Woman of Leadership Award. Jamie is a proud U.S. Army Reserve Veteran and a dedicated public servant who has spent over two decades improving lives through her work at the South

Amboy Housing Authority.

Jamie trained as a Public Housing Specialist and has since earned multiple certifications, including Public Housing Specialist, Housing Choice Voucher Specialist, Public Housing Manager, Housing Choice Voucher Manager, and Tax Credit Specialist..

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Jamie has been a passionate advocate for youth in her community. She also works tirelessly to support low-income families by helping them access essential resources.

The Central Jersey Medical Center is located in the City of Perth Amboy with additional medical center sites in Carteret and Newark. The CJMC, a Federally Qualified Health Center provides quality healthcare to members of the community regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. Visit cjmc.us for additional information.

The Miraculous Prayer

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

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Gomolka's Collectables Give Away!



(Images are for example and not the actual items)

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

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

Al's next Free Give-A-Way for Dec. 2025 will be "TOYS" some old, some newer. Just in time for Christmas. Cars, Games, Figures, Pez and some very unique Gifts and Stuff could be yours for Free if you enter. It's Easy and Fun! Merry Christmas!



Last Month's winner was:
Elizabeth Levine

The winner must pick up the winning prize in person at a certain location in South Amboy or Sayreville. *The winner must be available to pick up the prize at a predetermined location and time, or the prize will be forfeited.

***No prizes will be mailed, and must be picked up in person.**



Email your name to:
satimes@aol.com
Put Gomolka's Contest in the subject line
By December 4th
GOOD LUCK!
Must enter each month
Staff of The SA Times and their family members are not eligible to enter. One entry per household. Must be 18 years or older to enter.

Yearbook-Sayreville 2010

By Tom Burkard

Sayreville War Memorial HS seniors returned to school after Labor Day, and at that time, the #1 Pop Song in the nation was "I Gotta Feeling" by The Black Eyed Peas. On the Sayreville scene, Superintendent of Schools was Frank Alfano, and school principal was James Brown. Some members of the huge faculty were Mary Charmello, Nicholas Cifelli, Christine Bill, Jacqueline Benavides, Daniel Brack, Mary Fallon, Brittany Dusko, Christa DeLucia, James Craft, Shawn Currie, Tricia Jayson, Richard Gluchowski, Jennifer Pesci, John Wojcik, Marybeth Woolf. The yearbook was titled "Passport," and was dedicated to popular teacher Linda Jakubik-Tanchyk. Co-editors-in-chief were Dana Quinn and Erik Sherman. The Homecoming King was Daniel Bredenbeck and Queen Stephanie Reyes. Randomly chosen seniors from the Class of 2010 were: Lanie Andrews, Brandon Adelino, Kristen Batko, Allison Barney, Sameer Akhtar, Nicole Adamusik, Casey Beavers, Nicole Bright, Brittany Burkhardt, Megan Campbell, David Cunningham, Samantha Braine, Jose Campos, Alexa Cangelosi, James Comerford, Jacqueline Ciak, Anthony Consiglio, Charles Du, Andrea Duffy, Amber Danku, Sarah DeLucia, Basim Fain, Naishal Gandhi, Shakir Goodrich, Cheyenne Grant, Jason Greenberg, David Milewski, Michael Lefton, Amanda Caveney, Steven Buscar, Jaimie John, Kevin Hourahan, Danielle Hogan, Joseph Janela, Veronica Guido, Jeffrey Loftus, Jordanna Lembo, Michael Katz, Gregory Lombardo, Weston Kulick, Tyler Miara, Samuel Moko, Ross Master son, James Midgley, Steven Mierzwia, Woodrow McCarthy, Toni McFeeley, Taylor Miller, Melissa Murray, Matthew Monte, Brittany Nowicki, Kaitlyn Mulcahy, Jordan Newcombe, Kathryn Pentek, Christopher Pearson, Forum Patel, Diann Pierre, Kathy Pindych, Milady Ramos, Markin Samad, Marta Sanowska, Matthew Rifkin, Glenn Sauer, Beant Singh, Jacob Werb, Chelsea Wiley, Brian Truchan, Megan Toth, Jaime Unkel, Robert Zellman, Shannon McKenna.

Sayreville War Memorial HS offered countless activities, clubs, organizations, and sports to its students. Some of the popular activities were Powderpuff Football, the Pep Rally, the Variety Show. A few of the school clubs included African History Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Peer Leadership, Red Cross Club, SADD, Chess, Book, Robotics, and many more. For the musically inclined there was the concert band/jazz band, marching band, and choir. Students into acting had their chance to shine in the Fall Drama, "Macbeth," and the Spring Musical, "Les Miserables." The Student Council consisted of President-Brianne Behr, VP-Michael Clark, Secretary-Sarah Buscar, Treas.-Kristen Wagner. The Senior Class Council was composed of President-Stephanie Reyes, VP-Dana Lefkowitz, Treas.-Elena Santia go, Corresponding Sec.-Mai Le, Recording Sec.-Alexes Correa. On the sports scene, the football team finished (9-2) under Coach George Najjar. The boys soccer team led by All-American Kene Eze turned in a (12-8) record. Eze finished his outstanding career with 106 goals. The girls' tennis team under coach Mike Provenza turned in the best record (20-2) in school history. The boys' bowling team was superb (18-1-1). Jessica Kitrys scored her 1,000 point in leading the girls' basketball club to a fine (16-9) season. At Graduation time, the top pop song in the nation was "Not Afraid" by Eminem, and the talented Class of 2010 certainly was brave as it entered the big, wide, world following their last day at SWMHS.

Irish Christmas Concert to Benefit AOH Hall Restoration

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Middlesex County Division 1, will host an Irish Christmas Concert featuring the renowned Irish band McDermott's Handy on Friday, December 19, at the AOH Hall, located at 271 2nd Street, South Amboy.

The evening will begin with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 8:00 p.m. Guests will be treated to a buffet dinner, along with dessert, coffee, tea, and soda. A cash bar will also be available.

Tickets are priced at \$30 per person, and reservations are requested by December 10. To reserve tickets, contact Ed at 732-570-9691, Joan at 732-857-7124, or email laohdiv1sa@gmail.com or colkellyaoh@aol.com. Venmo payments are accepted at Colkelly-Hibernians.

All proceeds from the event will support the restoration of the AOH Hall's stained glass window, an important effort to preserve a cherished piece of the community's Irish-American heritage.

The Hibernians invite the public to join in an evening of lively Irish music, good food, and festive holiday spirit—all for a worthy cause.

We would love to hear from you!

EMAIL or MAIL or Guestbook



The winner of Gomolka's Collectables Giveaway Contest Elizabeth Levine (r) is shown with Al Gomolka holding some of the comic books she won in the October contest. The prizes included comics from the Golden, Silver and Bronze ages as well as some non-sports cards. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF
TOM REILLY

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to reflect on our many blessings as a community and to express my personal gratitude to all of you. It is easy to be thankful when times are good – when family and friends are healthy, happy, and near, or when we succeed in our careers or our personal endeavors. It is much more difficult to give thanks and to express gratitude when times are difficult – when we face fears and anxieties about ourselves or our families. It is therefore all the more important to remember that the evolution of Thanksgiving in our national history is marked not by times of great success, but uncertainty. The first Thanksgiving, of course, was held by New England pilgrims. They fled religious ostracization at home, and set aside time to give thanks in a new world perched between a vast ocean on one side and the cold, foreboding forests of New England on the other. Their success and prosperity were neither certain nor very likely. But they persevered and expressed gratitude for what they had – each other. In 1863, while the Civil War raged on, President Lincoln designated the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving for the nation’s “singular deliverances and blessings.” Those blessings surely were difficult to see in 1863, when it seemed to many that the nation had torn itself apart irreparably. Indeed, newspaper editor Horace Greeley wryly told Lincoln that the nation seemed “bleeding, bankrupt, almost dying.” But the nation carried on, and it emerged stronger, better, and more just than it had been. On December 26, 1941, the United States Congress had much work to do, not least of which was to calm a worried nation. Weeks earlier, a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor thrust a stunned, unwilling, and unready nation into a brutal two-front global conflict. Americans faced a war in the far reaches of the Pacific – and with most of its Pacific Fleet at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, no clear way to fight it – coupled with a war in the west to



undertake the monumental task of freeing continental Europe. Already mired in the Great Depression, most Americans saw themselves as a tired nation facing an at best uncertain contest. Undeterred, Congress took the time that December day to pass a joint resolution designating the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. Less than four years later, through determination and will and great sacrifice, the United States emerged from the war as the world’s leading democracy, stronger than it ever had been. The lesson from our collective national experience is that often the time for giving thanks is not after the day is won, but before, when things are most uncertain. Perhaps that is when we most need to take stock and appreciate what we have. I hope we also take the lesson that tough times give way to better times, that sacrifice breeds success, and that we can take strength and peace from our loved ones, all while expressing our thanks and gratitude for them. Reflecting on this is history in his 1963 Thanksgiving Proclamation, President Kennedy stated that “we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them” – to remember our shared past and live by its lessons. After recounting the nation’s tremendous growth and prosperity in the years since the Second World War, he stated simply but poignantly: “we give our humble thanks.” My humble thanks to all of you, and best wishes for Thanksgiving

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

Dowdell Library News

"After Lunch" by Seward Johnson - caught sleeping on the job! Drop in to the Dowdell Library to visit this life-sized sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier through December. Catch him before he rides off to the North Pole with Santa! South Amboy Residents! Get free tickets to the Intrepid Museum! Contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org for more information. Join Dowdell Library for the Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 18 from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Be merry and festive! Enjoy light refreshments, enjoy holiday music, and meet your neighbors! Door Prizes! Families! Come play Family Bingo on Saturday December 6th and 20th at 1:00 pm. Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in December from 12:00 to 3:30 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends! Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays in December from 3:15 to 4:30 pm. Kids and Teens! Don't miss Drop in Club this December from 3:15 to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+. Teens! Play Holiday Trivia on Tuesday, December 9 at 3:00pm. Stop by to register for the Teen Test Kitchen on Tuesday, December 16 at 3:00pm! Learn how to make different treats and snacks! Ages 13+. Adults! Cook up some Holiday Bites & Trivia on Thursday, December 11 from 3:30 to 4:30pm. Enjoy some light holiday bites and play some holiday trivia! Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, December 1 at 10:30am. Come learn about a new technology topic.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, December 29 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed. Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday, December 9 and 23 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm. The Knitting and Crochet Club meets Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started! Interested in learning how to knit? Drop in for some informal tips. New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website which utilizes modern application practices to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store. Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Dowdell Library's hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12pm-4pm. Connect on social media!



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Pumpkin Pie

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(Add Ons) Half Trays

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Sweet Mashed Potatoes - 50
Roasted Loin of Pork - 65
Macaroni & Cheese - 55

Desserts

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Apple Pie - 25
Pumpkin Cheesecake - 55

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ROAST TURKEY DINNER - 25

Roast turkey breast, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and cranberry sauce.

HAWAIIAN HAM - 25

Smoked Carved Ham topped with a homemade pineapple salsa. Served with sweet mashed potatoes and asparagus.

ROAST LOIN OF PORK - 25

Sliced Loin of Pork Served with mashed potatoes and asparagus.

PRIME RIB - 38

Roasted Prime Rib of beef, served with baked potato & mixed vegetables.

DESSERT

Pumpkin Pie
Rice Pudding

All Specials Served with soup or salad and dessert.

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Speaker Coughlin Secures Historic Fifth Term After Big Election Win for Assembly Democrats

Democrats Chose Leadership Team for 222nd Session

Members of the Assembly Democratic Caucus convened in Trenton today to select the Leadership Team for the 222nd Legislative Session. Speaker Craig J. Coughlin was chosen to serve a historic fifth term as Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly.

The Caucus met following Tuesday’s election in which high turnout helped power Democratic victories across the state. Democrats in the Assembly successfully defended every seat and flipped an additional three seats for a 55 - 25 majority, with some races still not called. That is the largest majority held by Democrats in fifty years.

The gains in Tuesday’s election show a continued voter shift to the Democratic Party. Since the 2023 election, Assembly Democrats have picked up nine seats. The last time a party picked up four or more seats in consecutive elections was 1989-1991.

“It’s an extraordinary honor to have once again earned the trust of my colleagues, and to be chosen to serve a fifth term as Speaker is a privilege that will stand as one of the greatest honors of my life,” said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “Together, we have accomplished so many great things for the people of New Jersey and I look forward to continuing to serve the 9.5 million people who call our state home.”

The Caucus also voted to return Majority

Leader Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden, Burlington) to serve an eighth term in his leadership position. Speaker Pro Tempore Annette Quijano (D-Union) will begin her first full-term in this position, and Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-Somerset, Union) will begin her first full term as Majority Conference Leader.

“I congratulate the leadership team and all of our new and returning members. Our progress over the past eight years speaks for itself and reflects our commitment to tackling the kitchen table issues people care about most. We have accomplished so many great things for the people of New Jersey, from record property tax relief and the launch of the new Stay NJ program, to keeping the costs of medications down, expanding access to housing, supporting working families, and leading the fight against food insecurity,” said Speaker Coughlin. “Kitchen table issues will continue to guide our work as we move forward, and I am eager to spend the next two years working with our leadership team, our caucus, our colleagues in the Legislature, and the Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill to build on the strong foundation we’ve laid for New Jersey’s future.”

Reorganization of the 222nd Legislative Session will take place on January 13, 2026, when all members will be sworn in and an official vote on leadership will take place.

Sayreville Library News

Festive Holiday Gatherings with Vanessa (Virtual)

Monday, December 1 @3PM

Celebrate the holidays with some simply elegant dishes. Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish and learn a low-stress salmon main course, some new, tasty appetizers, and a sweet dessert that doubles as a holiday gift.

This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.

Register online or call 732-721-0212 Ext 112.

Patrons must provide a valid email address.

Trivia with Dan

Monday, December 1 @6:30PM

Think you are good at trivia? Want to try and win some prizes? Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game.

Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.

Mindful Yoga

Tuesdays in December @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 library unattended while an adult patron is in yoga class.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Year End Financial Planning

Monday, December 8 @5:30PM

The best time to review your financial picture is before the new year begins. Join Kimberly Stratton from Marg Financial for this informative seminar and go over how to create a full financial plan. From cash flow to investments to retirement and more.

Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Note Small children may not be left unattended in the library while an adult patron attends this event.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, December 16 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Santa Baby-Starring Jenny McCarthy. Rated PG 1 hr 29 Mins. Refreshments provided. Registration required

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Blood Drive-Sponsored by Vitalant

Monday, December 29 2-6PM

Help us help others. Donate blood and help save a life. Appointments recommended but not required.

Councilman John’s Monthly Minute

Why Development Matters – and What’s Possible for Ernston Road

In Sayreville, designating certain properties as “Areas in Need of Redevelopment” is not about change for its own sake—it’s about opportunity. It’s a tool that allows the Borough, through the Sayreville Economic & Redevelopment Agency (SERA), to bring property owners, neighbors, and developers together in a positive, structured way to plan improvements, attract investment, support existing businesses, and enhance quality of life.

Under New Jersey’s Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL), a municipality can study areas that seem underused, vacant, or behind on modern infrastructure to see if they meet criteria for redevelopment or rehabilitation. Sayreville has been using that mechanism more and more to guide smart growth and long-term vision. Once an area qualifies, a redevelopment plan is prepared. This outlines what might go there—whether new housing, mixed-use buildings, improved commercial spaces, or infrastructure upgrades—and allows the Borough to invite collaboration with current owners.

One of the things I’m especially proud of in Sayreville is that when we talk about redevelopment, our community does it together—with respect for property owners, business operators, and neighbors. In the recent plan for the Ernston Road / Mini Mall area, that’s exactly how things are laid out. The Preliminary Investigation Study, conducted under the LRHL, makes clear that any redevelopment plan for the site will be a non-condemnation redevelopment plan. That means Sayreville will not use eminent domain. This is about partnership, voluntary cooperation, and building together—not taking from anyone.

This designation helps create a shared vision so that everyone—residents, business owners, and developers—is working toward the same future. It also makes the area more attractive to developers, who are often wary of uncertainty or outdated zoning. A plan signals that the Borough is serious about improvement. It gives property owners new tools and potential incentives for investment or sale, while allowing the town to plan for infrastructure upgrades and safety improvements.

One site now under discussion is the stretch of properties along Ernston Road—specifically, 17 parcels that include the mini mall, nearby commercial spaces, and adjacent lots. This area plays an important role in Sayreville’s local economy and connectivity, but like many older commercial corridors, it faces challenges in keeping up with modern needs and changing trends in how people live, work, and shop. Redevelopment planning provides an opportunity to refresh the area, introduce updated infrastructure, and reimagine its long-term potential. The



goal is to refresh this area in a way that brings new energy without pushing out existing value.

If done thoughtfully, redevelopment here can connect to bigger regional improvements—like the upcoming Transit Village project in neighboring Old Bridge. That means planning for smart transportation, safer roads, and options like micro-commuting. It also creates the opportunity to provide new housing options that are affordable, blended into the area, and don’t add to school overcrowding or traffic congestion.

Ernston Road itself could benefit from improved design, including safer intersections, updated sidewalks, and lighting—ideas that will be explored through additional planning and public input. Middlesex County and Old Bridge have both been conducting safety and circulation reviews for Ernston and its nearby arteries, and Sayreville has a chance to integrate into that work in a meaningful way.

And for local businesses, this kind of planning can offer real benefits. Whether it’s better parking, street visibility, infrastructure support, or upgraded facades, redevelopment helps existing businesses thrive—not just attract new ones. Through tools like PILOT programs (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), certain projects can become more feasible, opening the door to better lease options and greater investment in the space.

The bottom line is this: Redevelopment isn’t about disruption—it’s about direction. It’s about having a say in what our community becomes and making sure we do it in a way that honors our existing neighborhoods, supports local business, and creates safe, connected, and vibrant places for everyone.

When done right, redevelopment doesn’t erase history—it builds on it. It allows us to preserve what makes Sayreville special, while thoughtfully weaving that tradition into new growth. Our past isn’t something we pave over; it’s the foundation we build on. The spirit of community that shaped our borough is exactly what guides how we move forward—with care, collaboration, and pride.

Let’s continue this conversation together—and make smart choices that move Sayreville forward.

With gratitude and pride,
John Zebrowski
Sayreville Councilman

Bon Jovi Visits Sayreville



Rockstar Jon Bon Jovi and his wife Dorothea made a surprise visit to the Bombers Beyond Cafe on Main St. in Sayreville on Nov. 10th. Jon and Dorothea are both graduates of Sayreville War Memorial HS. The students pictured are part of the Sayreville School District’s 18-21 program that offers them the opportunity to gain work experience and learn necessary skills after high school.



Jon and Dorothea are pictured with other surprised and happy students/workers.



Jon and Dorothea Bon Jovi were invited to the Sayreville Historical Society Museum following their visit to the Bombers Beyond Cafe, by Past President Art Rittenhouse, who gave them a grand tour of the Museum. (Photo by Art Rittenhouse) Jon and Dorothea brought a lot of happiness to the locals who were fortunate enough to meet them.

The Smoke Column

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

When fire departments start planning for the purchase of a new piece of fire fighting apparatus, they take into consideration the needs of their community. Considerations are given to the workforce availability, needed water supply, size and usage of the response area, communications, storage spaces, and equipment that will be transported inside this new apparatus. Firefighters, as purchasers, are no different than homeowners and families that go out grocery shopping. Everyone is looking for the best deal and the “biggest bang for the buck.” Most local fire engines carry 500 to 1,000 gallons of water, with 750 gallons being typical. In many cases this may be a sufficient amount of water to suppress a one room fire. What may be detrimental in carrying more water is the amount of overall weight it adds to the entire apparatus and the elimination of storage space which is taken away for the additional amount of water.

A fire company has ordered a new piece of fire apparatus with a booster tank capacity of 750-gallons which is a typical size in our area. The original design offered by the apparatus salesperson had a 750-gallon booster tank which allowed for a lower hose bed, built on a top-of-the-line custom fire truck chassis with a 170-inch wheelbase. One of the firefighters on the purchasing committee asked the question, “how much would a 1000-gallon booster tank add to the overall cost”? The salesperson said that the additional 250-gallon booster tank would cost an additional \$3000. Not a bad deal, right? An additional 250-gallons would add an additional 2085 pounds of weight to the apparatus. And now, the rest of the story. Adding more than a ton of additional weight means the original chassis components become inadequate and the apparatus is overweight. Engineering determined that the rig as originally proposed needed upgrades to

the axle and frame, and if the response area had hills, a larger horsepower engine would be needed. So, what would be needed for that additional 250-gallons of water in the booster tank? The engine would have to be increased from 450-horsepower to 500-horsepower for \$38,000. The new engine would add 1450 pounds, which would now make it necessary for a heavier duty transmission, adding three hundred more pounds for \$16,000. The new tank would require a longer wheelbase for \$3100. The original front and rear axles would not be sufficient for the weight so new axles would add another \$10,200 to the cost. So now the additional cost of adding ONLY 250 more gallons to the booster tank would increase the total price \$76,500. Before fire departments consider these changes after the specifications are finalized, are they really necessary in your response area? Most residential areas have fire supply hydrants spaced no further than one thousand feet apart, some may be much closer, and all should be readily accessible. All first line responding apparatus carry one thousand feet of supply hose line which can be hooked to the hydrant as a supplement to the booster tank water supply.

Most strategies and tactics in our local area call for more than one piece of apparatus to respond to all reported working structure fires so there should never be a report of lacking water or an insufficient amount of water. When responding to a clearly identified major fire, carrying that extra 250-gallons of water would be just like a drop in the bucket, useless. Most structures that have a heavy fire load will usually have some type of fire suppression installed on the premises. Complete a survey of your response area and determine, well ahead of a disaster, what you as an officer would/should need if a fire occurs.

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Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

WOW..that’s how I can describe St.Stans 5th Annual Halloween Car Show, this past October 26th! The weather was on our side, and over 300 plus beautiful “rides” registered for the slew of trophies on the line for the winners...The Falcon’s Nest Café was busy all day long with orders for their delicious Polish food platters...The Tricky Tray table was swarmed with ticket buyers...50/50 tix were “hot sales” all day, and by the way, WON by my twin sister Cynthia Poland...D.J.Richie “The Flash” Hart along with the “Just Us Cruisers” Car Club, began guiding the entrants and their cars onto the fairgrounds at 7a.m.! 11a.m. brought the opening of the show to the main stage where Ms.Ella Cook sang the Nation’s Star Spangled Banner, with her absolutely patriotic voice.. The live music began with Central Jersey’s Hottest, Liveliest Classic Rock/Doo Wop Band “The Clem and Friends Rock and Roll Band.” Playing the songs that came out of just about all the beautiful classic rides at the shows car radios during the 50s, 60s and 70s, as they cruised the avenues in America..Showing off their “Rides” and of course, impressing the “Chicks”! Ms.Ella Cook was back onstage to join

The band in the 50s classic “What’s Your Name” Doo wop...then later with her own sing along version of John Denver’s classic hit.. “Take me Home..Country Road,” and oh, what a crowd pleaser that was...Rumor.. Ella’s manager is negotiating changing the band’s name to ...yup, you guessed it...”Ella and Friends”..before next year’s show! We’ll see how that turns out! “Friends” kept the crowd “rockin and rollin” till 2:15, when the trophies were handed out to the winners! Local Circle Track Wall Stadium Sportsman Champ, Steve Golembieski won the Jerry

Ust Memorial Trophy, with the Ust family members present, with his beautiful Pinto Bodied, Chevy Powered Sportsman Stock Car! Steve ran that car in the 70s and 80s... sold it..and after 26 years, found his car in a barn in upstate New York..completely destroyed...He got it back and rebuilt it back to its original running competitive condition...Nice job Steve! A well deserved Trophy! Many thanks go out to the Ust Family...Mrs.Eileen Ust.. Jerry’s Brother, Jack Ust..Janet Ust Cook and her husband Bill, with Jerry’s beautiful grandchildren, Ella and Jackson...by the way ,Jackson... nice perfect choice in picking the winner for your Grandpops Trophy! The Michael Samuel Trophy went to Sayreville’s Jan Williams with his ’57 Chevy Drop Top, and the Tommie Samuel Award went to Sal and Julia Leonardi, the owners of the ’58 Blue Chevy 3100. And, again another year the Show’s Organizing Committee out did themselves..Thank You to Chris Bardsley,Tony Jackowski,Danny Hockenjos, and Annette Hockenjos..and their entire staff, all who gave their time and efforts to make it such a success! More News ...Saturday, January 17th 2026..the Sayreville VFW Post 4699 will be hosting the Post’s Home, 80th Anniversary Gala, celebrating 80 years of Service, Sacrifice, and Brotherhood, with “An Evening to Remember” ..5pm to 10pm..with a Cocktail Hour, Gourmet Dinner, Open Bar ,and Live Music by “The Clem and Friends Band”..Attire calls for a “Black Tie Event”.. Military Honor Guard Dress Uniform..

Tickets...\$100.00..RSVPBYJAN.9TH.. Please contact Katie at 732-672-0401....See you all there! Spread the Love..we all need it. Music is the Universal Language..Keep it in your Heart!



Jerry Ust Trophy Winner, Steve Golembieski with Pinto Bodied Limited Sportsman Stock Car. (Photo/info submitted)



Jerry Ust Trophy Winner, Steve Golembieski with Pinto Bodied Limited Sportsman Stock Car. (Photo/info submitted)



Ms. Ella Cook’s finely toned voice led the crowd with John Denver’s “Take me Home..Country Roads.” (Photo Submitted)



Girls/Boys

By Tom Burkard

1.Girls Girls Girls

2.Boys

3.Girl Watcher

4.Boy From New York City

5.Girls Just Want To Have Fun

6.Boys Of Summer

7.My Girl

8.Smokin’ In The Boys Room

9.A Girl Like You

10.Wild Boys

11.Hey Girl

12.Boys Are Back In Town

13.Uptown Girl

14.Where The Boys Are

15.Girl On A Swing

16.Beautiful Boy

17.Lonely Girl

Answers
1b 2q 3j 4k 5l 6p 7d 8d 9f 10g 11a 12m 13b 14e 15n 16a 17c.

#1 Pop Hits Nov. 22

2020-Mood-24kGoldn

2015-Hello-Adele

2000-Independent Women Part 1
-Destiny’s Child

1993-I’d Do Anything For Love-Meat Loaf

1988-Straight Up-Paula Abdul

1976-Tonight’s The Night-Rod Stewart

1969-Wedding Bell Blues-5th Dimension

1954-Mr. Sandman-The Chordettes

#1 Country Hits Nov. 22

2021-Fancy Like-Walker Hayes

2011-Crazy Girl-Eli Young Band

2004-Heartless-Kanye West

1995-She’s Every Woman-Garth Brooks

1984-Give Me One More Chance-Exile

1973-The Most Beautiful Girl-Charlie Rich

1966-Open Up Your Heart-Buck Owens

1951-Slow Poke-Pee Wee King

One Hit Wonders

40 Years Ago

Academy; You Spin Me Round-Dead or Alive; One Night In Bangkok-Murray Head; Voices Carry-’til tuesday; Party All The Time-Eddie Murphy; Tarzan Boy-Baltimora.

Bruce Played In Sayreville Back In 1971

By Tom Burkard

It’s hard to believe, but on July 22, 1971, the great Bruce Springsteen performed live in Sayreville at D’Sscene nightclub, which was located on Route 9 North. Headlining on the double bill was the group, then known as The Bruce Springsteen Band (in its 9-10 member incarnation). Sunny Jim was the opening act. Bruce and his Band did two shows that evening, one at 9 p.m. and the late show at 11:30 p.m. Sunny Jim also opened the late show. This was the second trip for “The Boss” at D’Sscene, as he had gigged there on January 18, 1971 with one of his first

bands, Steel Mill. Springsteen returned on July 29, 1971, for two more shows, and once again, Sunny Jim opened. Ironically, when you think about it, Springsteen performed professionally in Sayreville, before Bon Jovi played his first note on a guitar in the Borough. Bruce also appeared at CBA in Lincroft in ’73, and jammed with a band called “Satan’s Jury.” We’re wondering if any of our readers were present at any of Springsteen’s local performances. Let us know at: satimes@aol.com.

Breakfast With Santa

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are hosting our annual “Breakfast with Santa”

Date:
Sunday, December 21st,
9:00 am to 11:30 am

Where:
Columbian Club Hall
aka The Knights of Columbus 308
4th St. South Amboy

Cost:
Adults \$12.00
Children 12 yrs and under \$6.00
Children under 5 free

Come and enjoy breakfast with Santa and celebrate the most joyous time of year! Breakfast menu will be served. Bring your cameras “SANTA WILL BE THERE” for photos. RSVP to Bruce at 732 586-9779 call or text.

Proceeds will be used for the many local charities that our Council contributes to.

South Amboy Historical Society Event

The South Amboy Historical Society at the Sunday November 23, 2025, open house will hold the following event at the galley on Broadway 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. In honor of our veterans during this month, the 1963 movie about President John F. Kennedy, “PT 109”, will be shown, followed by “The Search for Kennedy’s PT 109.” There will be conversation on the New Jersey and South Amboy connection to PT 109 with research materials and various displays.

Believe In Me

By Robert W. Eginton

He came on a late December’s day
To have the sins of the world
Taken away.
He said to believe in me
And I will show the way.
So that we could live for eternity
He said “just believe in me,”
And you will see how great a love I have for thee.
If you just believe in me
You will see
What a beautiful place Heaven can be.

A Block Off Broadway Productions Challenges Gender Roles with “Miscast” Cabaret

By Isabel Roth

Rehearsals are in full swing at A Block Off Broadway Productions, and the creative staff is working to go out with a bang for the end of this New Jersey community theater season. “Miscast” allows performers to play roles they would not traditionally get to – women playing male roles, men playing female roles, etc. It gives all different kinds of people a chance to embrace creative freedom, all the while breaking stereotypes.

The theater community often uses “miscast” performances for comedy – watching something that goes against the grain has the ability to cause discomfort, and it’s easy to play into the idea that an audience will laugh. It might be funny to watch a group of adult men perform, for example, “Cell Block Tango” from Chicago. However, for many performers, it goes deeper than that.

“I get nervous before performing to begin with, and this adds an entire other element,” cast member Calvin Manion, who is 14 years old, relayed in an interview. “Sometimes I still feel like I’m gonna get judged, even when I’m playing male roles. There’s a stigma that doing theater isn’t very ‘masculine.’ It’s weird being a boy who does theater sometimes.”

Manion has been performing since a very young age. He has taken on many roles in his time, and has been deemed a standout character actor by much of the creative team at A Block Off Broadway. It’s in his nature to mend into what any particular character calls for, but it does not always come easily.

“I’ve played characters with feminine traits before. I feel good about this, and I’m excited. I feel like it’s taught me a lot more about myself, and to not care as much about what others think. I’ve mostly learned to overcome the pressure that comes with being a guy in the theater setting, but I mainly still get nervous to perform in front of my family sometimes, and I feel like I have to work through that. This is a good reminder to keep putting myself out there and to not worry about judgement.”

“Inclusivity has always been at the forefront of our mission. I think it’s more important than ever now to break out of stereotypes and be able to break that gender binary that so many people seem to get stuck on,” Amanda Dunyak, co-director of the “miscast”, spoke. In conversation later on, she added that because the cabaret is going to be an evening of great entertainment and fun, it will still serve as a grand reminder that “joy is created when people are allowed to express themselves.”

A Block Off Broadway was founded on the goal that it would create an accepting community, especially for younger people like Manion. The overarching belief is that performers will not only grow artists, but also as people. There are many individuals across the country that live in a hostile environment

because of things like gender and sexuality. This company, and the performances they create, serve as a reminder that no one should be ashamed of who they are or where they come from.

The creative staff for the “miscast” cabaret had a vision of what they wanted before the rehearsal process began, but they realized that members of the cast would too. Since this is a “once in a blue moon” opportunity for many, they made an effort to ask auditionees why they chose their audition song, and if they had a story they were really looking to tell.

Lola Grasso, a 19 year old college student, works on the junior production staff and is also a member of the cast. She is portraying Jean Valjean from Les Misérables and the Teen Angel from Grease, two characters iconic for their masculinity. “I would not be surprised if Jean Valjean popped up when you googled the word, ‘man.’ I think I will definitely be able to bring a unique perspective to Valjean, especially in the song I am performing, which is called Confrontation. Valjean has been caught by Javert, who is an officer that has no sympathy for the reason as to why he committed certain crimes. I mean, it was literally just because he was poor.” Grasso spoke, very passionately.

Grasso majors in theater at Kean University, and expressed that she sometimes grapples with her place as a member of the community. She feels this is the case for women in most places of work or education, however. She sympathizes with Valjean’s plea, and connects it back to this regard.

“I’ve been in many situations where I’ve had to fight for my respect, whether it be a person who is in a higher standing than me, or just a peer. Maintaining dignity is something I believe that women have to consciously think about a lot more than men do, and I think I will be able to channel a lot of that into my performance.”

The rehearsal process for the “miscast” cabaret has been deemed invigorating. There’s been an overwhelming sense of creative fulfillment for everyone involved. Manion, Dunyak, and Grasso maintain that this is something “you are not going to want to miss.”

A Block Off Broadway’s “miscast” cabaret will be performed at the Ancient Order of the Hibernians in South Amboy, New Jersey on November 29, 2025 at 7 p.m. This performance will be co-directed by Nicole Mazzara and Amanda Dunyak. Tickets will be going on sale in the coming weeks, and those interested are urged to monitor Facebook and Instagram.

Tickets will be available online and at the door for \$15. All proceeds go directly back to the theater.

Faithful Wait

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

Red, yellow, orange,
gold and brown
Active autumn leaves
fall gently to the ground
To take their rest,
the trees recharge anew
Saying farewell to the
summer with
drops of colored hues
Our bodies, our spirits,
sometimes feel this fall
But as if we were trees,
try to heed their call
To persevere through cold,
less active, darker days
Withstand, and a spring with
warm and brighter ways
Will make you feel,
as if when you lost your leaves,
That faithful wait as
do the autumn trees.



Walk With Me

By Philip

My love for you
will always be
From now until eternity.
Come walk the walk
of life with me,
We’ll grow together
gracefully.
I’ll guide you and
I’ll show you the way,
I’ll teach you how
to hope and pray.
Just walk with me,
but should you stray,
Come back to me;
Come home to stay.
Walk with me and
when life if through,
I’ll take you to
Heaven to start anew.
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pain will not ensue;
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Saturday, January 17th, 2026 at 5:00pm
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Attire: Black Tie or Military (Honor Guard) Dress Uniform
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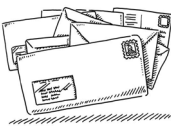
RSVP by January 9th, 2026
Please contact: Katie at 732-672-0401

LETTERS

Brian & Tom
Thank You!

Thank you for another great edition. The story honoring Jack “Trader Jack” McKeon brought back some moments in baseball that I almost forgot. Great guy and someone who deserves recognition.
Bill Farrell
Formerly of Sayreville,
St. Mary’s HS ‘68 graduate

Tom, Brian & Staff
Congratulations on your 34th Anniversary issue of The SA Times! As always the October issue was phenomenal!
Betty Leveille
South Amboy



Old Friends



H.G. Hoffman HS Class of 1971 friends gathered for an early pre-Thanksgiving mini-reunion at Java Dave's Coffee, 110 North Broadway, South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) Bob Huryk, Chuck Pawlowski, Dennis Yanoski, Pete Dobrzynski, Mike Tingle. Everyone had a terrific time reminiscing about their days at the legendary John St. High School. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Sayreville Cultural Arts



Members of the Sayreville Cultural Arts are recognized, thanked and congratulated at a Borough Council meeting by Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and Council members for their outstanding service to the community. They received a certificate, presented by Council President Donna Roberts for their hard work and dedication.



Last month's Sayreville Cultural Arts sponsored a very successful 'Scare in the Air' Halloween event. (Photos Submitted)



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Annual Blue Mass for Law Enforcement Officers and Memorial.



South Amboy Police Dept. officers.



Sayreville Police Dept. officers.

On October 29th members of South Amboy and Sayreville police departments joined fellow law enforcement officers from federal, state, county and local agencies of the Diocese for the annual Blue Mass for Law Enforcement Officers and Memorial. This year's Mass honored two local officers that died of work related illnesses. NJ Transit Police Inspector Robert Noble who had a medical emergency on duty and Retired Sayreville Police Captain William Gawron 9/11 illness. Each officer's families were presented with a statue of St. Michael, Patron Saint of law enforcement by Bishop James Checchio. (Story by Jamie Norek/ photos submitted)



Veteran's Day Memorial Service
(Photos by Beverly Connors)



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry addresses those in attendance.



Bob Sekerak pays tribute to all Veterans.



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Holiday Season
Events

❄️ Tree Lighting

Friday, December 5, 2025 6pm

Join us for a family fun event of musical performances, crafts with SA Arts, Emergency Vehicle Lights Parade, Santa and the lighting of our Christmas Tree!
Broadway in front of City Hall/Train Plaza



Light Up South Amboy

Home Decorating Contest

Spread Some Cheer This Holiday Season

Deck The House Merry & Bright

Registration: starts December 1, 2025

Deadline: December 9, 2025

To Enter Contest:email your address & phone number to polomenep@southamboynj.gov

CASH PRIZE TO FIRST PLACE WINNER

Winner will be announced on December 15, 2025



Holiday Lights Trolley Tour

Friday, December 12, 2025

Tour times: 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM & 8:30PM

Seating reservations start Dec. 1st through Dec. 5th.
(limited seating - open to South Amboy residents only)

To reserve seating contact Patricia – 732-525-5965

(Trolley tours are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather)



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Acting Superintendent
of Public Works

21st Annual Dad-Daughter Dance

The South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary Club will host the 21st annual dad-daughter on Friday, February 6, 2026. It will be held at the VFW on Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville. For more information or to register contact Greg at 732-721-0400 or email greg@customfinancial.org



A Merry Family Christmas

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with sausage or meatballs, salad, Italian bread, dessert and soft drinks while listening to the vocal stylings of Jerry Spathis. December 6th 5-8pm at Sacred Heart Church Memorial Hall, 531 Washington Rd. South Amboy, NJ. There will be pictures with Santa and crafts and gifts for the children.

Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$5, Children under 5 Free. Tickets can be purchased through Zelle 732-910-8397 or through Sacred Heart Church office or via weekend Mass collection basket. Ticket orders must be submitted by November 30th. For more information contact Karen Bebert at 732-910-8397.

Proceeds to benefit Love Life at Sacred Heart in South Amboy.





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Middlesex College Celebrates Opening of Aseptic Simulation Lab

Made possible by Johnson & Johnson, the facility mirrors a professional lab setting to prepare learners for real-world practice in the growing fields of cell and gene therapy biomanufacturing.

Middlesex College's Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning and the Department of Natural Sciences have unveiled a new Aseptic Simulation Lab, made possible by a \$250,000 contribution from Johnson & Johnson. The lab provides learners with a sterile environment in which to perform work such as handling cell cultures, tissues, and biological materials, essential in industries including biomanufacturing, biotechnology, and biopharmaceuticals.

Middlesex College has partnered with NJBioFutures, a workforce development coalition launched by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges with support from Johnson & Johnson and other industry partners, aimed at creating a sustainable, skilled talent pipeline to support New Jersey's rapidly expanding cell and gene therapeutics sector. Along with Raritan Valley Community College and Mercer County Community College, Middlesex College will provide training and certification programs in these areas.

"We are thrilled to open the new Aseptic Lab at Middlesex College, which represents our commitment to providing our students with the highest quality of education and hands-on training," said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick. "Thanks to the support of Johnson & Johnson, we are able to provide new opportunities for this lucrative and emerging field in the workforce. The Aseptic Lab offers learners the experience of engaging in realistic scenarios that will help them develop the critical thinking and understand the strict protocols necessary in this vital lab environment."

An aseptic lab is a controlled, sterile environment designed to prevent contamination by microorganisms. These labs are essential in industries such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical

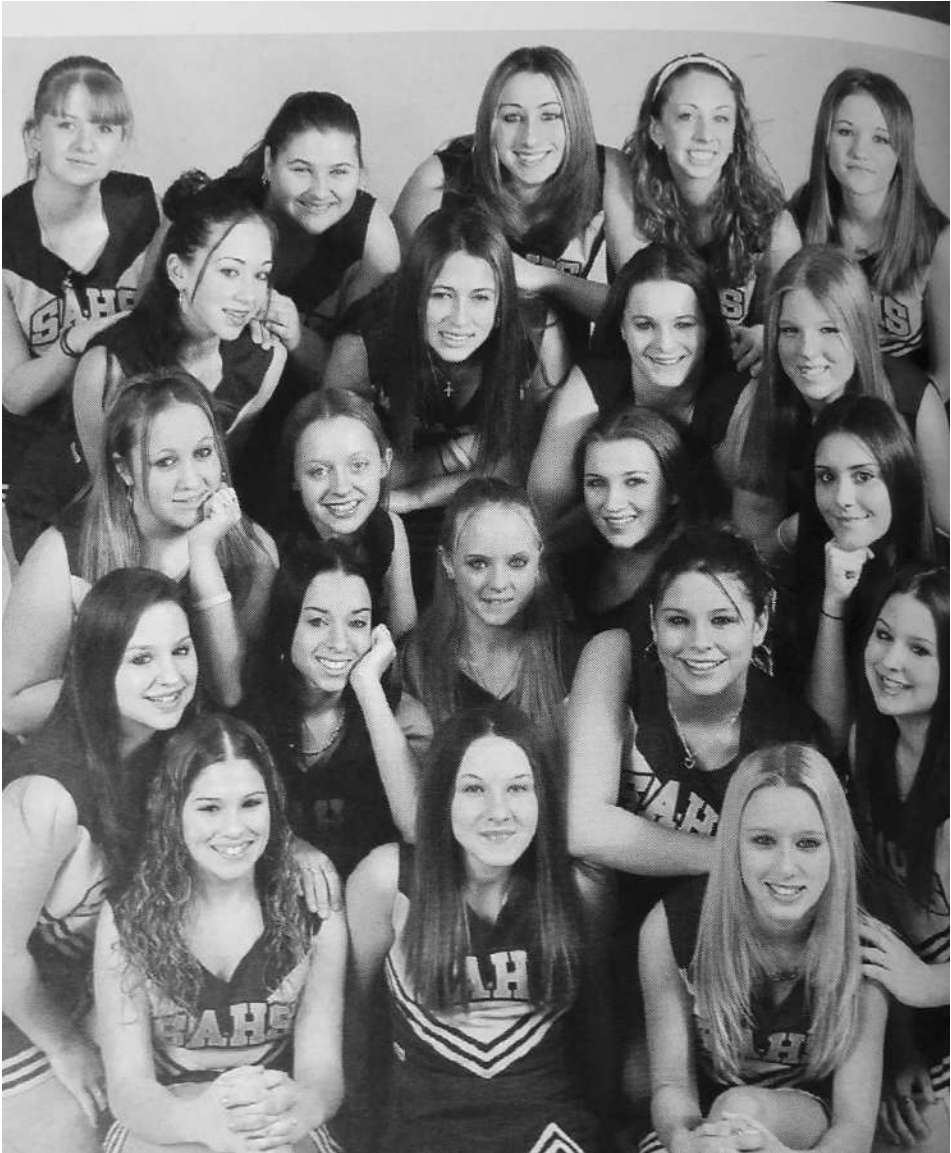
research, where even a single contaminant can compromise experiments or the production of life-saving medications. In addition to working with specialized equipment, individuals are trained in strict gowning, masking, and sanitization procedures to ensure that all work remains free of unwanted microorganisms.

The simulation lab includes equipment which will be used in instruction in the areas of aseptic cleanroom technology and manufacturing processes. Simulation practice has been shown to significantly enhance judgement, decision-making, and hands-on skills, while encouraging collaboration with peers.

"Today's opening of the Aseptic Simulation Lab at Middlesex College marks an exciting step forward in preparing students for high-demand careers in not just New Jersey's but the world's growing life sciences sector. To solve the toughest health problems we face today, students need exposure to environments that mirror real-world biomanufacturing and biotechnology settings," said Kimberly Lounds Foster, Vice President, Advanced Therapies Supply Chain, Johnson & Johnson. "Johnson & Johnson is proud to work across communities supporting local institutions like Middlesex College and others involved in the NJBioFutures initiative to ensure that our workforce has access to the hands-on experience and rigorous training required to power the next wave of health innovation."

"Johnson & Johnson's investment is more than a contribution to education — it's a commitment to the future of healthcare, science, and innovation," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "This new Johnson & Johnson Aseptic Biomanufacturing Lab exemplifies the kind of partnership that fuels opportunity and drives progress in Middlesex County. Together, we're preparing students with the hands-on experience and training they need to excel in New Jersey's growing biomanufacturing industry."

20 Years Ago



2005-South Amboy HS varsity cheerleaders were front row (l-r) Barbara Charmello, Samantha Gavron, Jaclyn Charmello. 2nd row (l-r) Linda Hoehman, Brittany Usa, Ryan Murphy, Tabitha Noble, Rachel Hoehman. 3rd row (l-r) Victoria Walsh, Kim Kassing, Caitlyn Winkler, Jessica Kotsak. 4th row (l-r) Sarah English, Ashley Charmello, Kristina Romano, Melanie Breen. 5th row (l-r) Amanda Christensen, Amanda Parsons, Candice Wrzesniewsky, Katlin McCallister, Laura Schmidt. Missing from photo: Heather Erickson. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Can you identify these two tennis stars? Hint: they have a total of 19 grand slam titles between them. Send your answers (we need both names) to satimes@aol.com by Dec. 8th.



Officer Joe Bolton and Captain Jack McCarthy

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Last month's mystery duo was Officer Joe Bolton and Captain Jack McCarthy mainstays on local TV Stations in the 60's and 70's. The following knew who they were: John F. Giaquinto, Rick Esposito, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Edna Pilch, John & JoAnn French, Joe Hansell, Walter Starzec Jr, Betty Leveille, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Bruce Grankowski, Bruno, Anne, Fred Leppig.



WWW.?



Can you identify this building? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Dec. 8th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? Winners

Last month's WWW.? was South Amboy Deli, formerly Smiley's, Mike's Corner and Chappy's. Winners: Patti Tengelics, Dennis Quinlan, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Dennis & Kathy OLeary, Edna Pilch, John & JoAnn French, Steve Laskiewicz, Barb Bockus, Walter Starzec Jr, Betty Leveille, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Bruno, Anne, Fred Leppig, Gary Feret, Ed English, Dane Colburn, Lisa Grankowski.



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Salt Water
Party boat fishing for Striped Bass is very good. Jigs and casting plugs are doing the work. There are enough Bass to keep in the 28 to 31 inch slot limit. The rest are shorts or too big up to 40 lbs. and must be returned. The NMFS Board met and decided to keep the current Striped Bass regulations for 2026 season. For local beach fishing for Stripers, this is still slow. I made checks and talked to people but didn't see any fish being caught. Blackfish at Barnegat Light is very good with some nice keepers taken. Surf fishing in that area and LBI is also producing some Stripers on lures. Some Bluefish are still around but will soon leave. Bottom fishing on party boats for Blackfish, Ling and Sea Bass remain good.

Fresh Water
With Fall Trout stocking completed, the big problem is low water just about everywhere. I discovered that out when I attempted to fish the Pequest River in mid-October trying several spots with mainly low water levels, however I did find a patch of fast water. I missed one and managed to land one trout over 16 inches on a small plug. The Black River was not stocked due to the very low water table. The Delaware River is giving up Small Mouth Bass on the small side.

Catch Any Fish Lately?

Let The SA Times and its readers share in your good day of fishing. Why not show it to everyone? Send a photo of you and your catch with a caption including your name and town, type of fish, when and where you caught it, the length and weight if you wish, or any other pertinent information. Please make sure it's a clear picture and we will be glad to publish it in The SA Times for FREE! Email your photo/caption to: satimes@aol.com.

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Gone Fishin'



Dan McCabe caught this nice Striped Bass in the Raritan Bay fishing on the Tigger out of Morgan Marina. (Photo/info Submitted)

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



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

School Sports

(As of Nov. 8)
By Tom Burkard

Sayreville Bombers
Football Update
Sayreville Falls To Old Bridge
In Semis

On November 7th, the talented Sayreville Bombers football team had their dreams of a state title ruined by Old Bridge, 28-27 in an exciting CJ Group 5 semifinal game. Both clubs entered the battle with (9-1) records, but the Bombers fourth quarter rally fell one-point short of tying the game.

Shaun Jackson was once again outstanding as he scored 3 touchdowns for Sayreville on runs of 21, 4, and 37 yards, while chalking up 216 yards rushing, but to no avail, as the Bombers tremendous season ended on a sad note. Joseph Curbelo intercepted an Old Bridge pass in the 4th quarter, and scooted 76 yards for a TD.

Congratulations to Coach Mark Poore and the entire Sayreville Bombers on a super (9-2) season in 2025!

Bombers Blast Trenton In
Quarterfinals

On October 31st, The Sayreville Bombers powerful football team, under 2nd year Head Coach Mark Poore destroyed Trenton, 36-0 in the quarterfinals of the NJSIAA CJ Group 5 Tournament.

Shaun Jackson led the offensive machine by scoring 3 touchdowns, 2 on rushing and one on a pass from quarterback Tyler Butka. Jackson tallied 111 yards rushing, and 43 more on 3 pass receptions.

Sherwin Appiah also rushed for a TD. Joseph Carbello and Chase Barnes excelled on defense by registering 8 and 7 total tackles respectively.

Oct. 24-The Bombers belted St. Thomas Aquinas, 33-26. Appiah raced for a 73-yard TD, and also caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Butka, who also scored a touchdown on a 1-yard plunge. Jackson added another TD, while the defense was anchored by Julian Perez with 12 total tackles, and Christian Woodward 2 sacks.

Oct. 17-Sayreville’s dream for an unbeaten season was halted, as they suffered a major upset to a fired-up Montgomery squad, 43-15. At game time, the Bombers were ranked #18 in the state with a perfect (7-0) mark. Jackson’s 94-yard TD run, and a 26-yard TD reception by Ryan Sanoiozenzo from Butka were Sayreville’s biggest offensive highlights. Andy Walsh had an extra point. Brian Zangrillo racked up 11 tackles.

Remember When?



Former South Amboy resident Mike Klimchak proudly shows his 1964 Little League championship jacket from the Enterprise Hook & Ladder team. It still looks in great shape! He said, “Remember when winning the jackets in the Little League was everything?” It sure was Mike, also Babe Ruth League and beyond, and the trophies awarded to the champions and 2nd place teams weren’t too bad either. (Photo submitted)

Boys Soccer
Sayreville (9-9-2)

Coach Nick Cifelli
Team Leaders
Goals-Eugene Zebrowski 10, Christian Wozny 6, Tinur Lubka 5; **Assists**-Edgar Perez Ceballos 5; **Points**-Zebrowski 22, Wozny 16, Lubka 11.

South Amboy (6-8)
Coach Tony Gonsalves
Team Leaders
Goals-Dilin Crespo 7, Kcen Ventura 3; **Assists**-Sebastian Roessele 2, Jeshua Vicuna 2; **Points**-Crespo 14, Ventura 7.

Girls Soccer
Sayreville (11-8)

Coach Alison Riccio
Team Leaders
Goals-Emma Halmo 14, Jayda Roque 7, Isabelle Deoliveira 6; **Assists**-Karina Cardoso 5, Halmo 4, Roque 4; **Points**-Halmo 32, Roque 18, Deoliveira 14.

South Amboy (4-11-2)
Coach Gina Martinez
Team Leaders
Goals-Ashley Moreira-Burgos 13, Adrianna Cosme 1; **Points**-Moreira-Burgos 26, Cosme 2.

Field Hockey
Sayreville (6-11)

Coach Mary Charmello
Team Leaders
Goals-Gabrielle Jones 6, Lucy Logan 6, Cayley Pinto 6; **Assists**-Logan 7, Savannah Parse 4, Pinto 3; **Points**-Logan 19, Pinto 15, Jones 14.

Sayreville Nipped In
Quarterfinals

Metuchen squeaked by Sayreville, 2-1, in the Girls Soccer GMCT. Jayda Roque scored in the first half on an assist by Emma Halmo, but the Bulldogs came back strong to nip the Bombers.

Bombers Top Bears

The Sayreville Bombers girls soccer squad beat East Brunswick, 3-1. Emma Halmo blasted home 2 goals, and Isabelle Deoliveira scored a goal for the locals.

Sayreville Boys Bow
In Group 4

In the 1st round of the CJ Group 4 state tourney, the Bears of East Brunswick nipped the Bombers of Sayreville, 1-0 in a real nail-biter for the hometown fans.

Monroe Eliminates
Sayreville

Monroe shutout the Bombers 3-0 in the Boys Soccer GMCT quarterfinals. Sayreville had advanced with a thrilling 2-1 double-overtime victory over Piscataway. Vadim Bortnyk scored a goal in the first half, and Timur Lupka hammered in the game-winner in the second OT session.

Somerset Tech Stops
Guvs

In the first round of the Boys Soccer GMC Invitational, Somerset Tech eased out a 1-0 victory over Coach Tony Gonsalves’ South Amboy Governors.

Mierzwiak Had An
Award Winning
Season!

Samantha Mierzwiak from South Amboy and a Junior Defender for the Red Bank Catholic Soccer Team received the following accolades for the 2025 Season: First Team All Division A North, First Team All Monmouth County and Second Team All Shore. Congratulations Samantha!



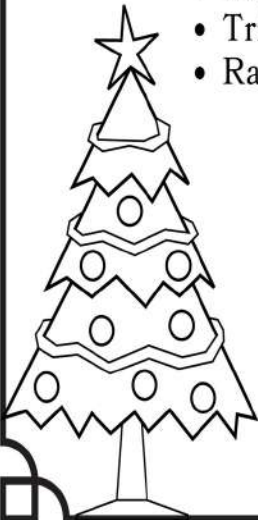
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- Children’s Games
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- Pictures with Santa



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and have family fun!!!

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County Champions



The 2025 Middlesex County OVER 60 Senior League Champions-Top row (l-r) Frank O’Leary, Don (Fish) Fischer, Scott Mugele, Steve (Snake) Toth, John Segledi, Jim (JJ) Jimenez, Dan (Rags) Righetti, John Mazur, Joe Lynch, Brian Latham, Coach Pat Douglas. Bottom row (l-r) Bernie Maguire, Bill (Smooth) Schnitzerling, Rick (Bone) McMahon, Jim (Knobby) Nardello, John (Tinman) Garced, Tim Gandy, Steve Barba. Missing Teammates, Joe DiFabio, Tom Baldowski, Tim Walsh, Bill D’Amico, Joe Minnella, Mike (Slope) Rzewuski and Tom Gleason). (Photo by Kathy Reardon)

Prime Time Bombers Win Crown
By Pat Douglas

In Middlesex County Senior League (Over 60) action the PRIME TIME BOMBERS beat the talented Highwaymen 27-16 at the Warren Park Field in Woodbridge, Monday Nov, 3rd. Led by Knobby Nardello's 2 Home Runs and 10 RBI's, the Bombers were able to stave off the powerful Highwaymen attack. Scott Mugele's 3 run homer run in the top of the first set the tone for the Bombers offense this night. Leadoff hitter Brian Latham continued his torrid tournament hitting with 4 hits (including a triple) and 3 runs scored. 8 year Prime Time Bomber Veteran Bernie Maguire contributed 3 hits and scored 3 runs in the effort. Rags Righetti, John Segledi, Ricky McMahon, John Garced, Steve Barba, Snake Toth, Don Fischer,

and Joey Lynch all contributed mightily to the victory, and Tim Gandy, who pitched each game of the 2025 playoff tournament was superb again. The defense was also a contributing factor in bringing the Bombers their second championship since joining the league in 2018. It was also my (Douglas) final game coaching this team and what a way to go out. Thanks to these guys and all the players who came through our organization through the years. It's been a privilege to be associated with such fine men for so many years, both on the Bombers and across the entire league. And the future looks bright as I leave my guys with a great coach and teammate, Rick (Bone) McMahon.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



2000-It's hard to believe that it's been 25 years since this great group of teenagers played for the South Amboy Governors soccer team. Pictured top row (l-r) Coach Tony Gonsalves, Raphael Moura, Jason Mages, Chris Glomski, Pat Cahoon, Ken Pesci, Justin Steffens, Greg Fay, Marcello Santos, Victor Bober. Bottom row (l-r) Chris Ball, Hector Pena, Brian Fallon, Brian McNamara, Janusz Kmiecik, Chris DeLucca.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2023-Sayreville field hockey won their final game of the year over North Plainfield, 2-1. Mackenzie Hastings scored the game-winner on an assist by Sheridan Markowski with 57.4 seconds left...

2017-South Amboy boys soccer squad nipped Piscataway Tech, 5-4 in a CJ Group 1 opening round contest. Jonathan Yepes broke loose for 3 goals, Kasper Gurdak and Daniel Pena added a goal apiece...

2008-Colts Neck edged Sayreville girls soccer club, 3-2 in CJ Group 4. Amanda Mathisen and Jolise Aponte scored a goal apiece...

1999-South Amboy girls soccer team captured the Mayor's Cup by pounding St. Mary's, 6-1. Regan Rone was spectacular with 2 goals and an assist, while Randi Rone, Kim Peterson, Lisa McCarthy, and Heather Letts scored a goal apiece...

1983-St. Mary's girls cross country

squad breezed by Middlesex, 16-43. Allison Carew and Jeanne Radwanski tied for 1st place in 17:28, Janice Reilly was 3rd in 18:01. The Lady Eagles record improved to a perfect (7-0)...

1971-St. Mary's boys cross country club flew past Pope Pius X, 25-33. Rich Therkelsen captured 1st place, John Aviglione 2nd, Pat Fitzgerald 4th, Bob Quinn 5th, and Ray Lasko 13th place...

1965-Ed Witkowski rebounded a missed free throw and stuffed it for the game-winner with 0:02 left to play, as the Governors slipped by South River, 51-49. Greg Havlusch topped the scoring with 14, while Billy Clayton had 13, and Curt Wood 12. Joe Theisman, who went on to pro football superstardom scored 9 points for the Rams...

1957-Sayreville junior super athlete, Tommy "Red" Michaels led the county with 17 touchdowns, and 105 points.

1 Year Ago

2024-Sayreville junior standout Shaun Jackson broke loose for 6 touchdowns , 4 rushing, and 2 on pass receptions. He also added 2, 2-point conversions and accounted for a total 40 points, to lead the Bombers to a 43-42 victory over Monroe. In addition, he racked up 285 yards on 17 rushes. An incredible performance!

It's How You Play The Game

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.2006

To cheat or to play fair
Or should we even care
To win and never lose
Who wants to hear the boos?
Keep a little on the side
Hold secrets that you hide
Or life won't be the same
It's how you play the game
Call a pitcher from the pen
To try and save the win
When the arm's gone lame
It's how you play the game
The drive is too severe
To by the rules adhere
All bets you better hedge
Maintain that upper edge
Have aces in the hole
No matter what the role
In life, for love, or fame
It's how you play the game
The goal may be unknown
But seek it on your own
To try the best your aim
It's how you play the game

"Hossie" Was Golden Gloves Champ And Much More

By Tom Burkard

Robert "Bob" "Hossie" Hospidor 91, of Morgan died on Oct. 20. He was born and raised in Perth Amboy, and was inspired and encouraged to enter the boxing ring by Dick Shingola, a Perth Amboy Police Officer at the time, who became his manager/trainer around 1952-53. Hossie excelled at boxing, and in 1954, battled his way to capture the New Jersey Golden Gloves Flyweight title in the 112 lb. class, winning a unanimous decision over a boxer named Tony Orlando.

Hospidor was always a big baseball fan, and loved the Detroit Tigers, the team his favorite player Al Kaline played for. Ironically, Bob had an uncanny resemblance to Kaline, and even got to meet his hero once at Yankee Stadium. His love of sports and the outdoors became more evident, as he played Fast Pitch Softball with the legendary powerhouse Meade Street Aces in the Perth Amboy League, and later went on to compete in Slow Pitch Softball as a pitcher/second baseman for many area teams. Hossie also played in the South Amboy Slow Pitch Softball League for several years, and was

well-known and respected by everyone. He loved competing in softball so much that he played well into his 70's and early 80's, a remarkable feat!

Hospidor worked for over 30 years as a dedicated Middlesex County Sheriff's Officer, and played a major role as Judge's Man, for the late and great Judge Theodore Appleby, and others through the years. Hossie, was one of the most-valued/well-respected officers, and was chosen to work on all the high profile cases that came into the Middlesex County Court House, including the Joanne Chesimard trial which was followed nationally.

Robert "Bob" "Hossie" Hospidor was a really special guy, and a true champion, not only in the boxing ring, but in all phases of life. He touched so many lives in a positive way, and helped to make the world a better place. If you ever had the opportunity to meet or get to know this gentleman, you were truly blessed.

God Bless you "Hossie." You will never be forgotten.



Morgan resident, Bob "Hossie" Hospidor was the 1954 New Jersey Golden Gloves Boxing Champion in the 112-lb. Flyweight Class



1954-Morgan's Bob "Hossie" Hospidor knocks out another opponent on his way to the NJ Golden Gloves 112-lb. Flyweight boxing title. "Hossie" 91, passed away on October 20th.

T.H.E. Game

Sport-Football
Year-1998

Teams-Sayreville vs. Bishop Ahr

Recap-The Bombers won a real nerve-wracker, 22-21 in overtime, as Antwine Simmons ran for the winning extra point. Quarterback Charlie Bowden ran for a 5-yard TD and fired a 62-yard touchdown pass to Yazid Jackson. Ira Gilmore also scored a TD on a 1-yard run.

Player-of-the-Game-Charlie Bowden.

Mark Thompson



Mark Thompson, 59, formerly of South Amboy died on March 8. An '84 Hoffman HS graduate, he was one of the school's greatest pitchers in history, finishing 3 years of varsity baseball with an outstanding (21-3) record, and is currently #5 on the Hoffman/South Amboy All-Time victories list. Mark was selected All-County and All-State for his outstanding ability, and was a key factor in helping the Governors to the Group 1 state title in 1984.



Bob "Hossie" Hospidor wearing his favorite Detroit Tigers baseball hat.

50 Years Ago

1975-St. Mary's blasted Perth Amboy St. Mary's, 77-62 in basketball action. John Miller led the way with 31 points, and Mike Grimley tossed in 17 for the Eagles...

Mater Dei hammered Hoffman, 84-73. Bob Besner and Tom Suau topped the Purple & Gold with 18 points apiece, while Tom Billich pumped in 17.

80 Years Ago

1945-Rumson nipped Hoffman, 28-27 in boys basketball, to end the Guvs unbeaten streak at 8. John Bodenmann scored 10, and Jim Croddick 8 for Hoffman.



Bob "Hossie" Hospidor loved playing softball, and competed with many teams, playing in leagues all over NJ.

60 Years Ago

1965-Sayreville superstar Jeff Osowski scored his 1,000th career point on a free throw with 5:31 left in the game, to lead the Bombers to a 92-67 romp over Red Bank Catholic. Jeff had a game high of 32 points...

1965-St. Mary's nipped St. Peter's, 55-53. The Blue & Gold were paced by John Constantine with 16 points, and Tom Zalewski 11.



Obituaries

Abramson, Kathy, 66, of Sayreville died on Oct. 21.

Bloomer, Gloria, 92, of South Amboy died on Nov. 4.

Boehm, Robert B., 69, of Sayreville died on Oct. 21.

Castoraro, Marguerite “Babe,” 94, of Parlin died on Oct. 29.

Di Fiore, Lucille B., 82, of Parlin died on Oct. 22.

Gatz, Martha, 100, of South Amboy died on Nov. 5.

Gomolka, Kari L., 43, of Laurence Harbor died on Nov. 1.

Hospidor, Robert “Hossie,” 91, of Morgan died on Oct. 20.

Jaffe, Sandra, 88, of Parlin died on Nov. 6.

Kawalec, Walter Jr., 87, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 18.

Logan, Eric J., 70, of Sayreville died on Nov. 4.

McQuade, Debra L. Schreck, 61, of Sayreville died on Oct. 31.

Paris, Eileen A., 72, of Sayreville died on Oct. 24.

Pysno, Edward “Buck,” 96, of Sayreville died on Oct. 22.

Smith, Lisa, 61, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8.

Sumski, Carole Joy, 88, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 22.

Thompson, Mark A., 59, formerly of South Amboy died on March 8.

Tuohy, Emmett C., 44, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 29.

Vargo, Richard, 78, of Parlin died on Oct. 20.

Wojewoda, Helen Nowicki, 93, of Sayreville died on Oct. 29.

Wojtanoski, Gregory “Greg” F., 78, of South Amboy died on Oct. 15.



In Memoriam

Walter J. Kawalec Jr., 87, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 18. He was a former French teacher at Sayreville War Memorial HS. Carole Sumski, 88, formerly of South Amboy died on Oct. 22. She was a teller at South Amboy Trust Co, and also taught Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church. Her father was the late Assemblyman Andrew Kurtz. Emmett Tuohy, 44, formerly of Sayreville died on Oct. 29. At the time of his passing, he was serving as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Dept. of State.



20th Anniversary in Heaven
FRANK R. WOJTASZEK
NOVEMBER 29, 2005

GOD SAW YOU WERE GETTING TIRED AND A CURE WAS NOT TO BE, SO HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND YOU AND WHISPERED, "COME TO ME." WITH TEARFUL EYES WE WATCHED YOU, AND SAW YOU PASS AWAY. ALTHOUGH WE LOVED YOU DEARLY, WE COULD NOT MAKE YOU STAY. A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING, HARD WORKING HANDS AT REST. GOD BROKE OUR HEARTS TO PROVE TO US, HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST.

SADLY MISSED BY, WIFE, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

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

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

TO ST. JUDE
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude gave me hope. -P.S., B.S., S.S., M.S., K.S., S.P., N.P..

Regina Paone Puccio



Regina Puccio, 88, of South Amboy, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2025.

Born and raised in New Brunswick, Regina attended St. Peter’s School, where she made lifelong friends. She was a proud resident of South Amboy for 62 years, where she and her husband, Frank, built a warm and welcoming home together. After Frank’s passing in 2011, she was known as the “General” of her family. Regina loved bringing people together—whether for family picnics, gatherings with friends, or her famous big Sunday dinners. A true foodie, she found joy in cooking, sharing meals, and creating memories around the table.

A woman of strong faith, Regina was a devoted member of St. Mary’s Church, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and volunteered with the Food Pantry. She was deeply committed to helping others and living her faith through service and kindness.

Regina enjoyed playing Bocce, bowling and working out at Curves throughout much of her adult life, always valuing friendship, health, and community. She cherished time spent with her family—especially her grandchildren and, most recently, her great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy.

She will be remembered for her faith, her strength, her love of good food, and the warmth she shared so freely with everyone around her.

Daughter of the late Nicholas and Frances Georgiana Paone, she is also predeceased by her loving husband of 52 years Frank A. Puccio, her brother Anthony Paone and her son-in-law Robert Allen.

Survived by her children Mary Frances & Bill Tucka, Annette Allen, Joe and Claudia Puccio, Celeste Troisfontaines, and Nadine Puccio. “Nonna” cherished her grandchildren Joseph, Mark & his wife Shauna and Stephanie Puccio, Nicole & her husband RJ McPartland, David & his wife Alyssa Tucka, Danielle & her husband Dan Czarny, Nicholas & Christopher Benson, Jake & fiancé MacKenzie, and Luke Allen, as well as her great-grandchildren Caden, Emma, Wade, and Miranda, who lovingly referred to her as “Gigi Nonna”.

She is also survived by her siblings, Sister Catherine Paone, Marlene and her husband Lynn Nellenbach, her sister-in-law Barbara Paone and many cherished nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leukemia or Parkinson’s Foundations.

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.

Kurzawa Funeral Home
338 Main Street
South Amboy, NJ 08879
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Rocco M. Cuoco, Manager
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Debra McQuade

It is with profound love and deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Debra Lee McQuade (Nee : Schreck) 61 a lifelong resident of Sayreville, New Jersey who left this world peacefully at home on Friday, October 31, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Red Bank, New Jersey, Debbie was the heart of every room she entered, bringing warmth, laughter, and kindness wherever she went. She had a rare gift for making everyone feel like family, welcoming others with open arms and an even more open heart. Her generosity knew no bounds, offering comfort, wisdom, and unconditional love to all who needed it. She had a way of lifting others out of dark times and reminding them of the goodness still in the world. We will remember her as a jack of all trades, a gifted chocolate maker, home designer, a mechanic, baker, therapist and a medium, but above all, she was a mother to everyone she met.

Debbie is predeceased by her mother Beatrice Carpenter, father-in-law John P. McQuade II, sister Donna Steinruck.

She is survived by her father James Schreck, and his wife Jane, beloved husband, John McQuade, loving daughters



Nichole Herrick, and her husband Jake, Erin McQuade, and Kellyann McQuade, adored grandmother to Dakota Herrick, Mason Herrick and Brooke Herrick, dear sisters Gail Giannotto, her husband Michael, Sue Scialfa, Mary Donnelly, Kelly Hogue, and her husband Charlie, brothers Richard Schreck, Joseph Gougeon, and his wife Heather and James Gougeon, and his wife Beverly. Also survived by her mother-in-law Margaret McQuade, Michael McQuade, and his wife Cheryl, Colleen Egan, and her husband Bob, Dennis McQuade, and his wife Nicole, Brian McQuade, and his wife Rebecca, Jennifer Heyman, and her husband Kyle, MaryKate McQuade and special mention to her grand-dog Dexter. She is also survived by many, many other loving family members.

Debbie’s love for her family was immeasurable, and her spirit will continue to live on in their hearts and in the countless lives she touched.

Services were under the direction of Kurzawa Funeral Home in South Amboy, New Jersey.

Her memory will remain a beacon of love and kindness to all who knew her.

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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