



# The Mayor's Report

## BUSINESS RECOVERY

As you have seen over the past month we have taken definitive steps to restarting the local economy as restrictions have gradually been lifted by New Jersey State officials. While it has not been easy to meet ever moving deadlines all of our local bars and restaurants that wanted to offer outdoor service as an interim step to a "return to normal" are open for business. This would not have been possible without the hard work and diligence of our Zoning Officer Jason Valetutto, Code Enforcement Officer Jay Elliot, Construction Officer Tom Kelly, Chief Darren Lavigne, and out City Clerk Deborah Brooks.

We hope each of you will take the time to visit our local eateries and enjoy some outdoor dining possibilities. Remember, we depend on our local businesses. Please support them through your continued patronage.

The reopening of businesses, particularly those that serve food and beverages, has been moving forward indoor dining in some fashion. We check on the requirements issued by the Office of the Governor several times per day. As we reopen additional businesses or as changes occur more information will be posted on the City Website [www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov), Facebook, Twitter, and SATV.

## SOUTH AMBOY ROTARY CLUB

Our local chapter of the Rotary Club International is growing and looking for business and corporate partners to join. The Rotary's aim is to promote local businesses and engage in activities that enrich the community that they serve.

Under ordinary circumstances the South Amboy Chapter meets monthly at Sciortino's Harbor Lights to determine what projects they will undertake to the benefit of South Amboy and the local business community. We encourage every local business owner or resident that wants to support local business to join.

If you own a local business or just want to support their efforts please contact Greg Wzykowski at 973-738-9573 .

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## PROJECT CHROMEBOOK

Since our last edition we had a great event at the South Amboy Middle/High School where I had the honor to present to Superintendent Jorge Diaz a check in the amount of \$100,000 to begin the process of equipping all of our students with Chromebooks. Under the leadership of School Board President Anthony Conrad and the members of the Board of Education our City Schools have already been using a Google platform to aug-

ment our academic offerings to our students from K-12. Once this three phase project is completed all of our children will have the benefit of a home computer to make learning that much easier.

Special thanks to the Board of the South Amboy Redevelopment Agency who supported this project and made it possible. As we move forward with other projects we will be taking steps to do similar projects in and around our Schools.

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### RECREATION

One of the hardest decisions we had to make this year was to curtail many of the recreation programs we normally provide during the Summer months. Our staff has been trying to “think outside of the box” for ways to help our children engage in positive projects that can be done from home.

Please consider having your children participate in the “Kindness Rocks South Amboy” Project. Information about the program is posted on the City website or you can call Jacklyn at 732-525-5965 for more information.

While we had to cancel our Fireworks display this year we are already planning the City Trunk or Treat for October and our annual tree lighting and associated events for later in the year. We are planning to move forward with this great annual event so long as the restrictions of the Pandemic allow.

It is our sincere hope that as things return to normal we can again offer a more robust Recreation Program as we move in to 2021.

### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

2020 has been a year filled with road projects. Though often inconvenient, these improvements are necessary to keep the streets in the City in top form. Here in South Amboy we have benefitted immensely from robust support from both the State and County Governments.

State Grant money has provided for the complete resurfacing of O’Leary Boulevard as well as the upcoming South Broadway and Feltus/6th Street project where in addition to milling and paving crosswalks, sidewalks, and curbing where needed will be replaced. The County project already on Lower Main Street is near completion and in the later part of the year Washington Avenue, Raritan Street, and the balance of lower Main Street to the Sayreville border will be redone. The 2020 Municipal budget also has funding available for local roads and we will be paving on 1st Street, 2nd Street, and the length of Augusta Street this year.

Navigating the City is difficult when road work is performed. But the end result is a cleaner and safer road surface for everyone. Since elected Mayor we have made great progress in improving many streets and will continue to aggressively pursue grant money and make provisions in the Municipal Budget to ensure that each neighborhood gets their streets improved.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Speaker of the Assembly Craig Coughlin for advocating on behalf of the City in Trenton for these improvements. Also, grateful thanks to Freeholder Director Ron Rios and the entire Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for ensuring that all County roadways in the City are regularly maintained. Thanks to our City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz for his hard work in coordinating all of these projects. And lastly special thanks to Len Moffa and all of our crews at the Department of Public Works who are out there every day making sure things are kept in top shape.



## BUSINESS, BUT NOT AS USUAL



Many of you already know that City Hall has been closed to the public for some months now. This was necessitated by restrictions in place due to the COVID 19 pandemic. In order to continue to provide the best customer service possible the City Staff has established some temporary measures to make sure services are delivered.

For general business matters like dropping off applications or picking up finished work there is a work station in the front lobby of City Hall. Should you require a

permit or any other paperwork from us you can generally find what you need at that location. In other more specific instances like birth, death, or marriage certificates appointments can be made.

The best step to make sure your matter is handled correctly please call the Department that oversees your specific need. All City Departments can be reached via our main number at 732-727-4600. There is a voice prompt menu that will guide you to various departments. The City staff will be happy to help you with any matter.

For your convenience there is a locked “drop box” in the lobby where you can deposit payments for tax and sewer accounts. You can also opt to use our online payment portal at [www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov).

Once we receive clearance to re-open City Hall to the public we will have some changes in place you should be aware of . All visitors to City Hall will be required to wear an appropriate face covering. If you do not have a mask the department that you visit will have one available for your use. We have added multiple hand sanitizer stations as well as floor decals to indicate safe social distancing practices. Lastly, our staff will also wear masks at all times and will be located behind “teller” windows to provide an extra level of protection.

We are currently looking at some changes to the Senior/Recreation Center to prepare for the eventual resumption of activities there to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable population. We continue to provide busing to medical appointments and grocery shopping for our seniors.

As we gradually relax restrictions please remember to support our local businesses when you shop, dine, or order takeout.

## PROPERTY COMPLAINTS

Our Code Inspectors are on the job daily to identify and attempt to rectify property maintenance issues. In general, when a complaint is received an inspector will respond to the reported address, make observations, and then issue a notice of violation giving the responsible property owner a specific time period to bring the property in to compliance.

If there is no response or if the property owner refuses to correct the problem then a summons is issued and processed through our Municipal Court.

As we work continuously to make sure that public spaces in the City are constantly maintained and upgraded we rely on individual property owners to make sure that grass is cut, there is no accumulation of garbage or debris, and that the structure is maintained in a safe condition.

During the height of the pandemic our inspections efforts had to be cut back and we are now catching up on past complaints. If there is a property you observe that needs their attention please call 732-727-4600 and select option 3 then option 3 again to leave a message for the Code Enforcement Officer. They will follow up on the complaint in a timely manner.



## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Mayor Fred Henry

732-525-5932

### Council President

Mickey Gross

### 1st Ward Councilman

Brian McLaughlin

### 2nd Ward Councilman

Tom Reilly

### 3rd Ward Councilwoman

Zusette Dato

### Councilwoman At Large

Christine Noble

### Director of the Middlesex County Freeholders

Ron Rios

### State Senator

Joseph Vitale

### NJ General Assembly

Craig Coughlin

Yvette Lopez

### US Congressman

Frank Pallone

### US Senator

Robert Menendez

Cory Booker



## COVID 19 RESOURCES

As new resources become available for residents and businesses we try to update the City website often. Frankly, the volume of information and the rate at which it is updated makes it very difficult to keep up. To make things more convenient for all concerned please consider visiting some of the following websites.

You can find the most up to date executive orders at [www.nj.gov/governor](http://www.nj.gov/governor). For specific questions about COVID, travel advisories, testing, available benefits and much more visit [www.covid19.nj.gov](http://www.covid19.nj.gov).

To be informed about cases reported, trends, and specifics about the spread of the disease you can visit [www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_dashboard.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml).

We will continue to update information as it becomes available but encourage anyone with questions to visit these sites to stay informed with up to the minute data.



## PLAYGROUNDS REOPEN

City playgrounds reopened on July 2nd with some timely additions. Signs will be posted to remind visitors to maintain social distancing, cover their faces, and most importantly to stay at home if sick or symptomatic.

Our DPW crews will be cleaning the equipment at an increased frequency but nothing is a substitute for good judgement and responsible behavior to keep everyone safe.

Remember that if you suspect you may have been exposed to COVID 19, or have symptoms and suspect you are affected there are numerous sites around the County and State to be tested free of charge.

## HISTORY IS EVERYWHERE

Many of you have probably already driven on the new blacktop on Stevens Avenue. However, you probably don't know that during the construction project some very old trolley tracks were recovered from one of the excavations.

The items were recovered and set aside in a safe place for the Historical Society of South Amboy to add to their large and growing collection of South Amboy Memorabilia. You might see them as part of a planned display once the Passenger Ferry Terminal is completed.

South Amboy was an important part of the Camden & Amboy Railroad which was conceived by Robert Stevens to connect the Delaware River [Philadelphia] with the Raritan River [New York]. In the process of remediating the ferry site the City engaged an archeological firm to locate, identify, and catalog the many artifacts.

The Historical Society of South Amboy prides itself on collecting artifacts and researching the events that have shaped the City and is responsible for the acquisitions and installation of many historical markers around the City. As the Ferry project moves forward they will be asked to work closely with SHPO [State Historical Preservation Office] to make sure that future riders will know the transportation history of the City of South Amboy.

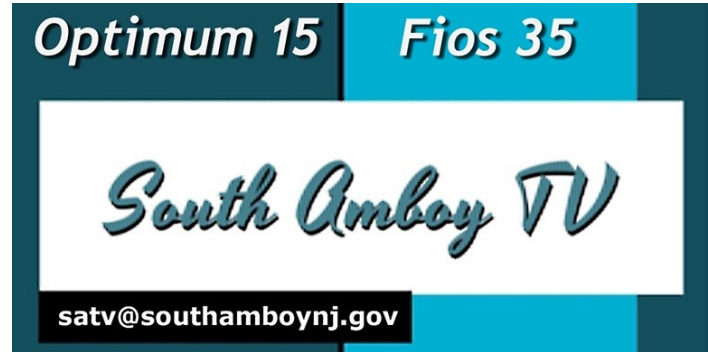
## SOUTH AMBOY TV

Did you know that we have our own TV channel? SATV can be found on Optimum channel 15 and Fios channel 35. Over the past year we have been working to increase the programming on the station to keep you all better informed.

The “man behind the curtain” like the Great and Powerful OZ is Stan Olochwoszcz, a community volunteer. Stan is tech savvy and a great asset to the City in our efforts to bring more offerings to our public access station.

In addition to public service announcements and video segments SATV acts as a community bulletin board where local non-profits can advertise their events free of charge. Interested in having your non-profit event on the air? Please submit your request in plain text at least two weeks in advance to [satv@southamboynj.gov](mailto:satv@southamboynj.gov).

Stan is just one of many examples of people in our City that share their talent to the benefit of all of us. Many thanks to him and his team!



*No matter where your interests lie there is a place for you with our community volunteers.*

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

There are only so many things government can accomplish, particularly in a small town environment. We are fortunate to have a very active community and many organizations that provide services to many aspects of our City.

For many years both the Food Pantry of the First Presbyterian Church and the Saint Mary's Food Bank have been supplying members of our community in need. Over the past several months their efforts have dramatically increased out of necessity. We are grateful for the many volunteer hours these generous folks provide and encourage you to assist them in their efforts.

The Friends of South Amboy have also been a driving force in the City when it comes to charitable events. Between fundraisers for people suffering life altering illness to providing scholarships to our graduates these dedicated folks work year round to bring positive energy to our community. We are thankful that they take the time to make a difference.

The South Amboy Youth Athletic Association is another organization that benefits our community in their service to chil-

dren. Their all volunteer staff provides countless hours of coaching and mentoring to the children in our community and helps develop our future citizens through their positive role modeling.

The Board of Directors of our local YMCA also tirelessly works to provide support to keep the Y where it belongs, in South Amboy. This awesome Community Center is a prominent fixture and provides many opportunities for adults and children in the City.

Fraternal Organizations like the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion all play a major part in events. And don't forget the Historical Society of South Amboy and the South Amboy Arts District who bring the past alive and provide cultural events.

In short, there are a great many opportunities to pitch in and contribute your time and talents to our community. I encourage each of you to consider participating in these or other groups in South Amboy. No matter where your interests lie there is a place for you with our community volunteers.



## CITY OF SOUTH AMBOY

### Job Opportunity

#### **Bus Driver/Omnibus Operator – Part Time**

The City of South Amboy is currently accepting applications for the position of Bus Driver (part time) for the Senior/ Recreation Center.

**Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office at 140 N. Broadway ONLY. Online applications will not be accepted or reviewed.** Closing date for this announcement is July 17, 2020 at 4pm.

Experience and a New Jersey Class C Driver License with passenger endorsement is required. Preference is given to residents of the City of South Amboy. The City of South Amboy is an equal opportunity employer.

For a description of duties typical for this job please review the information at the following link: <https://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/05594.htm>

## MEETINGS & APPOINTMENTS

Due to restrictions from the Pandemic City Hall is temporarily closed to the public and all public meetings are being conducted via a free video/phone conferencing system to allow members of the public to fully participate.

Meeting times and login information is advertised as required by law. Dates and login information is available on the Official City Website at [www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov).

Business requiring direct contact with City personnel [e.g. marriage licenses] can be arranged by appointment.

It is our expectation that City Hall will open once State guidelines allow. Please be aware that all visitors to City Hall will be required to wear an appropriate mask and hand sanitization will be available.

If you require the assistance of any particular City Department please call our main number at 732-727-4600 and utilize the voice menu to route your call. All City Departments are available using this system.

### City of South Amboy

Primary Business Address  
140 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ  
08879-1642

Phone: 732-727-4600  
Fax: 732-727-6139  
[www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov)



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