

A Season of Service and Teamwork

Lights, Laughter, and Local Pride

Throughout 2025, the South Amboy Fire Department was proud to participate in events that bring our community together and strengthen the bond between our public safety agencies.

One of last year’s highlights was our participation in the annual Emergency Vehicle Light Parade. In true holiday fashion, our long-held trophy for Best Decorated Vehicle was mysteriously “stolen by the Grinch.” While we suspect some holiday mischief was involved, we would like to extend our congratulations to the South Amboy Police Department for taking home the trophy this year. Rest assured, the Fire Department is already looking forward to reclaiming the trophy next year.

Events like these highlight the strong working relationship between the South Amboy Fire Department, Police Department, and First Aid.



2025 Emergency Vehicle Light Parade

We work side by side year-round to serve and protect our community, and it is always a pleasure to come together for events that celebrate teamwork, community spirit, and a little friendly competition.

We thank the residents of South Amboy for their continued support and for sharing in these moments with us.

Helping Hands, Stronger Community

Members of Independence Fire Company, along with members of the South Amboy First Aid Squad, under the leadership of former Chief of Department Rafael Albarran, were honored to assist the Raine Foundation in support of its mission to serve families throughout the Bayshore community.

The Raine Foundation has made a significant and positive impact by providing food, clothing, holiday assistance, and other essential resources to families facing difficult circumstances. Their dedication and compassion continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

The South Amboy Fire Department and the South Amboy First Aid Squad would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Raine Foundation for the incredible work they do for our communities. We are honored to support and be a part of such a special organization and commend their continued commitment to helping others.



Festive moments in support of the Raine Foundation



Reflecting on a Year of Progress

A Message from Mayor Fred A. Henry

My wife Linda and I wish everyone a very happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and successful 2026. Special thank you to everyone who helped make 2025 an incredibly successful year for our City!



Here are some important examples of that success that I think are worthy of highlighting:

- Early in 2025 we adopted a budget which resulted in an average of a \$78.00 REDUCTION in municipal taxes for each homeowner (based on \$274,000 assessed home value).
- In April, I was proud to appoint Patricia Kanecke as the FIRST FEMALE Police Chief in the history of South Amboy and Middlesex County! I also appointed three (3) new police officers.
- We continued to invest in the capabilities of our police department, including the purchase of three (3) motorcycles and the acquisition of a Hummer vehicle for our outstanding DARE program, thanks mainly to the efforts of our Business Administrator, David Kales.
- Recently, we received our new senior transportation vehicle, which was on display at the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City. This bus will enable our senior citizens to travel in comfort and style!
- Our First Aid Squad has seen a welcome increase in new volunteers. The city continues to support the mission of this critical department by purchasing a new ambulance and an automatic stretcher to facilitate efficient patient transport.
- The acquisition of a state-of-the-art drone this past year will enhance capability and add another valuable tool to support the operational efficiency of our emergency service departments, for the benefit of our residents. This drone was recently deployed in support of a search and rescue operation on the water, locating lost boaters and aided in their rescue.
- Our Public Works Department procured a front-end loader that will support operations such as salting, beach clean-up, and more!
- To support our downtown businesses, we acquired property on Broadway and will be paving it shortly. This will provide an additional eighty (80) parking spaces for our downtown district.
- Our Senior and Recreation Department initiated a Dedication bench program along the waterfront walkway.

Your trust is the foundation of our work. May your 2026 be filled with health, happiness, and shared success.

Elected Officials

MAYOR

Fred Henry

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Michael Gross

COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

Anthony Conrad

1ST WARD COUNCIL MEMBER

Larry Lenahan

2ND WARD COUNCIL MEMBER

Tom Reilly

3RD WARD COUNCIL MEMBER

Zusette Dato

Contact your council member:

732-525-5920

Mayor's Office: **732-525-5932**

Business Administrator: **732-525-5933**

City Hall Hours

Monday through Friday:

8:30am – 4pm



Meeting Dates

City Council:

First and third Wednesdays of each month,
6pm and 7pm respectively

South Amboy Redevelopment Agency (SARA):

First Thursday of every month, 6:30pm

Planning & Zoning Board:

Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6:30pm



SA First Aid: Serving South Amboy Beyond the Call

The South Amboy First Aid & Safety Squad is honored to have been invited to the 2025 Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting! To us, this is more than just a community event. It's an opportunity to continue building our connections with the community; to show them we do more than just emergency response.

Over this past year, we have gained over 20 new members dedicated to serving our City of South Amboy and beyond City limits! This is more than just a job; it is a passion, an honor, and pure dedication. It is a commitment that you, too, can help us continue to honor each and every day. Join us. Learn something new.



Be part of the team that wins 2026's Christmas Parade.

Community Smiles This Holiday

This holiday season, the South Amboy Fire Department was proud to assist Santa Claus in making special visits to residences throughout South Amboy.

With the help of our firefighters, Santa was able to personally deliver holiday treats not only to the children of our community, but also to their furry family members. The smiles, excitement, and holiday spirit shared during these visits truly captured the sense of community that makes South Amboy such a special place.

Events like this allow the Fire Department to connect with residents outside of emergency responses and to help create lasting memories for families throughout our city. We are grateful for the opportunity to spread a little extra holiday cheer and thank the residents of South Amboy for welcoming us into their neighborhoods.



A Message from the Fire Chief

I am honored to serve as your 2026 Fire Chief and look forward to working alongside the dedicated men and women of the South Amboy Fire Department. We are a small, all-volunteer department committed to serving our community with pride, professionalism, and teamwork.

I joined the department in 1999 and have had the privilege of serving with the Mechanicsville Fire Company and the Independence Fire Company. I am currently serving with the Enterprise Fire Company. I am proud of our department's history and look forward to continuing our mission of protecting the residents of South Amboy.

If you have ever considered becoming a firefighter, this is a great opportunity to get involved and serve your community. We are actively seeking new, younger members to help support the five fire companies that make up our department. All training is provided at no cost, and there are many opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and lifelong camaraderie. —**Michael Kelly**



Fire Chief Michael Kelly and his family



With Thanks and Appreciation

As my term as Fire Chief of the South Amboy Fire Department comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to those who made this experience both meaningful and successful.

First and foremost, I want to thank the dedicated members of the South Amboy Fire Department. Serving alongside such committed, professional, and selfless individuals has been an honor. Any accomplishments achieved during my term were only possible because of your unwavering support, teamwork, and dedication to protecting our community.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the citizens of South Amboy. Your trust, encouragement, and continued support of the Fire Department never went unnoticed. It has been a privilege to serve a community that truly values public safety and the men and women who provide it.

My sincere thanks also go to the Mayor, City Council, and everyone in City Hall for their guidance, cooperation, and continued support of the Fire Department. Your partnership and commitment to our mission played a vital role in allowing us to move forward and serve effectively.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the Department of Public Works. Thank you for your hard work in maintaining our firehouses and vehicles. Your behind-the-scenes efforts are essential to our operations and are deeply appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank my family. Your patience, understanding, and unwavering support made it possible for me to serve in this role. The long hours, late nights, and added responsibilities were only manageable because of your encouragement and sacrifice. I am forever grateful for everything you have done for me and for the Fire Department.

Serving as Fire Chief has been one of the greatest honors of my career. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident that the South Amboy Fire Department will continue to uphold the highest standards of service and professionalism in the years ahead. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve. —**Raphael Albarran**



New Police Officers Appointed

In October South Amboy announced the addition of three (3) new police officers:

- Jose Arias
- Douglas Gumprecht
- Raymond Perez

We congratulate these officers on their appointments and wish them a safe and rewarding career in the South Amboy Police Department. The City is committed to the safety and well-being of our residents and will continue to be proactive in making these investments in our police department. We are proud of our Police Department and are grateful for the individuals who serve our City.



Administrative Capt. Daniel Holovacko (left) and Chief Patricia Kanecke with new officers

Honoring a Champion of Community Service

At the December 2025 Council meeting, longtime resident and business owner Surjit Singh was recognized by The Mayor, Council, and Speaker of the NJ State Assembly for his numerous interventions on behalf of people in need of support and assistance.

Surjit, the owner of Johns Auto Center at 272 N Stevens Avenue, is a staunch supporter of law enforcement, and a very present advocate and source of aid and support for people in challenging circumstances. Most recently, one of Surjit's employees observed a family in need of a place to stay. Surjit and his staff brought the individuals to his place of business, offered some sustenance, and got to work reaching out to elected officials and county agencies and nonprofits. Through his persistence, Surjit navigated the procedures and processes and successfully got that family placed in suitable accommodations as well as other resources for their comfort.

This was only one of a handful of situations Surjit intervened in during the month of November. Many of our residents and officials know of similar interventions by Surjit over the years.

The City of South Amboy commends Surjit Singh as a true champion of lifting people up in our community. Surjit, you are exactly the model of community and service above self that has come to characterize what it means to belong to the South Amboy community.





Investing in Technology for Public Safety



The City of South Ambo Office of Emergency Management initiated a public safety program to enhance the City's capabilities. This resulted in the procurement of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), commonly referred to as a drone, as well as the formation of a Drone Unit. The Unit is comprised of ten personnel from OEM, Police, and Fire, who have all earned their Remote Pilot Certificate through the Federal Aviation Administration.

Drones are rapidly evolving technology geared towards meeting the needs of various disciplines. South Ambo Emergency Services will be able to use this tool for scene assessments, monitoring large scale events, conducting damage assessments post disaster, and search and rescue. The Unit's drone is equipped with a high-quality camera, a speaker to make public announcements, a spotlight, and a drop-device. The drop-device will allow safety equipment to be lowered to someone in distress, such as a life vest.

When emergency responders are operating at an incident, including the use of **emergency drones**, it is critical that the public **does not fly personal drones in or near the scene**. The City's UAS Drone will have red and blue flashing lights on.

Unauthorized drones can:

- Interfere with emergency operations, delaying life-saving efforts.
- Create collision hazards for emergency drones and aircraft.
- Violate federal and local regulations, which may result in fines or legal action.

Please **keep your drones grounded** and allow emergency crews to work safely and efficiently. Your cooperation helps protect lives and ensures responders can do their job without unnecessary risks.

This program has already proven to be an asset to not only South Ambo, but to our neighboring public safety agencies. The Drone Unit has been requested to help support the mission of ensuring life safety, incident stabilization, and property conservation.



New Jersey Tax Collection

For online payment users (WIPP) — a PAS-1 form information button has been added to your WIPP (online payment portal) website to allow residents to easily access the prior year taxes billed information they need to complete their PAS-1 application for property tax relief.

JOIN the enrolled services of auto-pay (WIPP) – visit the official website of City of South Amboy www.southamboynj.gov Create an account to schedule payments & sign up for auto-pay!



Important Reminder from the Office of the Municipal Clerk
clerk@southamboynj.gov
732-525-5920

Annual License Renewal

Business Licenses

A great business starts with being up to date!



Dog Licenses

Woof! A licensed pup is a happy pup!



Cat Licenses

Meow! Don't forget your furry friend!



Food Licenses

Safe food starts behind the scenes so renew that license!



Winter is Here! Know The Snow Removal Rules

Just a reminder: In accordance with City Ordinance 137, the owner, occupant, or tenant of any property bordering a City street must remove snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks within 12 hours after snowfall ends.

If ice cannot be safely removed, it must be thoroughly covered with sand or an ice melt/de-icer type substance. Also, it is a violation of the ordinance to throw or deposit shoveled snow into the city streets.

Recycling Reminder

Help keep our recycling running smoothly by placing all recycling cans out the night before collection day. Please make sure cans are facing forward and easily accessible so the truck's automated arm can reach them without delay.

Have questions or running into any issues? We are happy to help — call 732-525-5973.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community clean and green!

Tree Preservation Ordinance

As of March 5, 2025

Any resident who wishes to cut or remove any tree, upon any lands within the City of South Amboy, shall do so only with City approval, in accordance with City Ordinance Chapter 158.

Any questions should be directed to the City Conservation Officer John Bartlinski at bartlinskij@southamboynj.gov, 732-401-2651, or contact the Building Department at 732-525-5927.



Happy Valentine's Day

MAYOR FRED HENRY
CORDIALLY INVITES
ALL SOUTH AMBOY SENIOR
CENTER MEMBERS TO THE
VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH, 2026
12:00 NOON

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED: YES _____ NO _____

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FORM: FEBRUARY 6TH, 2026

RESERVATIONS ONLY

IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THE PARTY AFTER COMPLETING THIS
FORM, PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE.

732-525-5960



A Message to Our Seniors

Happy 2026! As we reflect on 2025, we would like to thank the members of our Senior Center! Thank you for being a part of our center events and utilizing our transportation services. Over the past year, we have had such an amazing turnout for arts and crafts, presentations, live music, and many other notable events like, senior chair yoga! The overwhelming participation in the costume and ugly sweater participation at the Mayor's parties have brought us lots of laughs and so much joy. We also had great upgrades to the center this year to make it fresh and bright! We can't wait to see what the new year will bring!

Any resident of South Amboy, 60 years and older, is eligible to join our senior center and take advantage of all the services we provide. We are always looking for new members and new ideas! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Mayor Fred A. Henry
Cordially invites all
South Amboy
Senior Citizens Members

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

MARCH 17TH, 2026 12:00PM

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FORM : MARCH 10TH 2026

RESERVATIONS ONLY

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

Transportation needed YES NO

PLEASE PICK AN ENTREE

CORNED BEEF _____ TUNA FISH _____

PLEASE NOTE: OUR PARTIES TEND TO FILL UP QUICKLY AND WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT LATE REQUESTS.

IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THE PARTY AFTER COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE . 732-525-5960



Celebrate Government Week



with the City of South Amboy

• April 15, 2026 •

9am

Fire Department talk with South Amboy Middle-High School students

4-7pm

Open house at the Independence Fire House on Broadway with police, fire, first aid, OEM, and other community organizations

6pm

Mock City Council Meeting with SAES 5th grade students

7pm

Recognition of outstanding volunteers and high school essay contest winners

