



CITY HALL RECORD

City of South Amboy
140 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ, 08879
732-727-4600
Business Hours: 9 AM— 4 PM

Fall 2019

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Visit our website: www.southamboynj.gov
for upcoming events and other useful information



facebook.com/cityofsouthamboy
twitter.com/SouthAmboyNJ



A Message from Mayor Fred Henry

Hello again to all South Amboy residents. We are pleased again to distribute this news letter on South Amboy events.

I would like to begin my message with compliments to our Police Department for successfully completing the state accreditation process which will improve our professionalism, our rules and regulations of the agency, along with our policies and procedures. The NJ State Chiefs of Police Association inspected all the functions of our department and found no deficiencies! We were awarded a formal certificate of accreditation at a council meeting and I would like to thank Chief LaVigne, Det. Sgt. Holovacko and Sgt. Kanecke and the entire South Amboy police force for their hard work to accomplish this great achievement.

It was also my honor to swear in three new officers: Timothy Kales, Patrick Kelly and Gloriann Rutkowski. They add to an already fine South Amboy Police Department.

Sadly, I would also like to acknowledge the passing of one of South Amboy's finest, former Police Chief Leroy Kurtz. He was a fine chief and great family man. He will be missed.

South Amboy is a great place in which to open a business and recently I was honored to perform ribbon cuttings marking the ceremonial opening of several businesses including Java Dave's Coffee Shop, Broadway Ange, and Harbor Dental Association to name a few. I am happy that these businesses saw the potential we offer here in South Amboy and chose to set up shop here. We will do our best to help make them successful, along with all the other fine establishments in South Amboy.

There are so many events happening here to make South Amboy a great place in which to live. Under my administration our beach front has become one of the jewels of Middlesex County. With the purchase of new equipment, a clean-up plan, and the dedication of our public workers our waterfront has become a beautiful place to relax and enjoy the views.

(continued on page 2)

A Message from the Mayor (cont.)

Just recently, thanks to our Clean Community Coordinator, Jay Elliot, and a group of volunteers additional clean up was done where machines couldn't go. The beach looks better than ever and this will allow us to plan other activities there.

This past summer the Historical Society of South Amboy had a ribbon cutting at their new home across from City Hall. I am pleased to announce that we have now expanded the area for them to occupy so the Arts District and the Historical Society will have their separate spaces. Look for future exciting displays by both the Arts District and the Historical Society.

There are so many events that take place in South Amboy but one of the most moving and emotional took place at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library. With Director Elaine Gaber and her wonderful staff a program entitled "Voices of the Holocaust" was presented. The program included pictures, information, music, and lectures on what really occurred at the Nazi work camp of Terezia. I would like to thank the library for producing such programs and look forward to future endeavors.

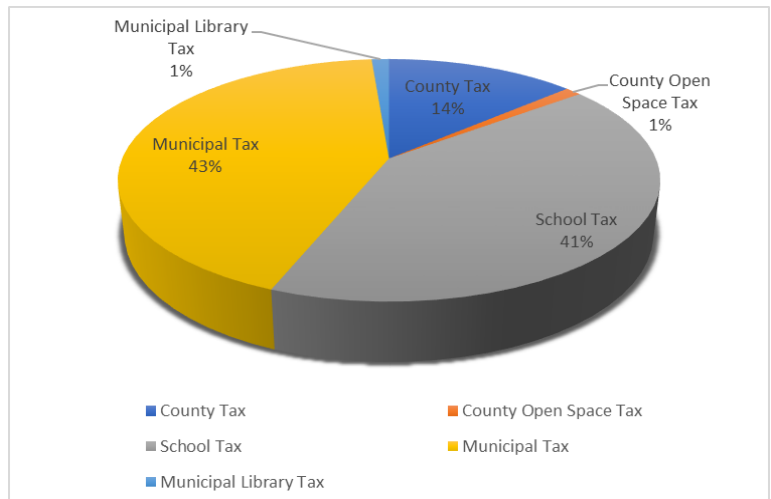
I have touched on a few of the happening in South Amboy. As you read through this newsletter you can see that we are busy with a multitude of projects, from paving streets, to ferry progress, to future renovations of our sports fields and complex, to senior recreation (including Pickle Ball), to our involvement in Municipal Alliance. We have increased services to the city residents without an increase in taxes!

To view future events in South Amboy please visit our new and improved website and facebook page. I would like all of our citizens to take advantage of the wonderful programs our city is producing for all to enjoy.

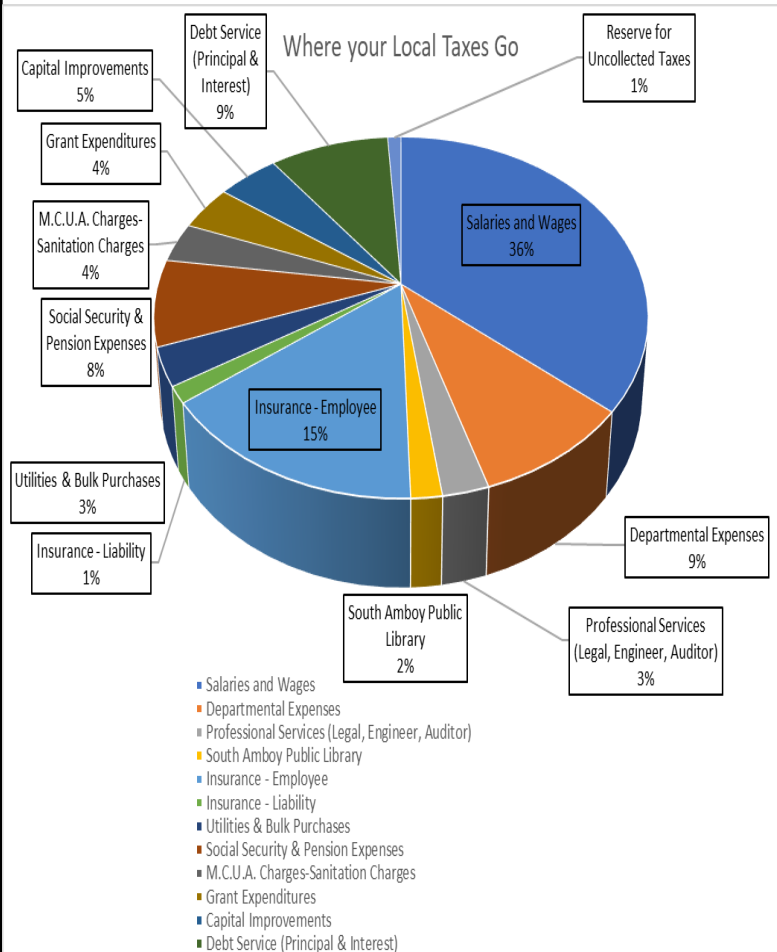
Until next time, may God Bless.

"Where do my taxes go?"

We are often asked where your tax dollars are spent. This chart show what percentage of each tax dollar goes where. As you can see, from every dollar in property tax collected only 43 cents is retained locally to fund local government services.



From the 43 cents retained from each dollar of property tax the City Government must fund the services that you all expect. This chart provides an explanation of where that money is spent.





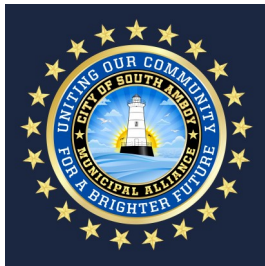
South Amboy Police Department News

Police Chief LaVigne is happy to inform the City residents of the following:

On March 11, 2019 Chief LaVigne testified to the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police outlining the Police Department's Accreditation initiative which began 18 months ago and culminated with the City's Police Department being awarded full Accreditation status. This process has elevated our local Police Department to "Best Practice" standards. A complete update of the Agency's Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures, as well as enhanced training has taken place. Chief LaVigne wanted to emphasize that each and every member of the South Amboy Police Department deserves immense credit for attaining this highly prestigious status and is grateful for the support of the Mayor and Council in this huge leap forward. Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew Carey personally congratulated Chief LaVigne and his entire organization on this outstanding achievement.

New Officers – Chief LaVigne worked closely with Mayor Henry and the Council and welcomed, Timothy Kales, Patrick Kelly, and Gloriann Rutkowski as the newest members of the South Amboy Police Department. The officers new officers graduated from the rigorous training program at the Mercer County Police Academy and are on the job to serve all of you.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our residents and vendors that came out to support our second annual National Night Out on August 6th, 2019. We enjoyed meeting you all and we look forward to next years National Night Out event.



Municipal Alliance

Our newly formed Municipal Alliance Committee is setting its gears in motion to provide much-needed tobacco, drug and alcohol awareness information as well as other education programs to enhance the quality of life for our residents. Through grants and matching funds, the Alliance has approved various programs and activities for the community for this upcoming year. These programs will complement and expand our current initiatives, including our very popular DARE curriculum with our 5th graders, which is spearheaded by Det. Stg. Daniel Holovacko and the "Not Even Once" series which was introduced to our HS sophomores this past spring.

Upcoming events include:

Technology Dependence and the Impact of technology on Substance abuse, anxiety, depression and suicide:

October 9, 2019 @ 6:30pm-8:00pm at the South Amboy Senior Resource Center

Current Adolescent Trends—Opiates and Extractions: **October 23, 2019 @ 6:30pm-8:00pm at the South Amboy Resource Center**

South Amboy Green Team

South Amboy is actively participating in Sustainable Jersey and has begun implementing plans to and activities to augment our sustainability objectives. Our Green team is comprised of enthusiastic individuals representing all facets of our diverse community. Keep checking our upcoming calendar of activities.

Waves of thanks for making a splash at the beach Sweeps! With over 6000 volunteers at over 60 sites from Bergen to Cape May counties as well as in watersheds and rivers throughout the state including our Raritan Bay waterfront. There are upcoming cleanups this Fall to keep the area spotless.

Special congratulations to Jay Elliot who has chosen to be our Clean Communities Coordinator!



Council Corner

1st Ward Councilman Brian McLaughlin



It has been a busy year and now we welcome the fall season. We had a few summer storms, but thanks to our DPW, OEM, Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad, as well as the Police Department we kept the pleasant little city running as normal. Thank you all.

You will see the improvements to lower Main Street are underway. I received a lot of your emails, phone calls, and social media posts regarding this project. It will be many months before the project is completed but I am sure you will all find it was worth the wait when it is complete.

Our city sports programs are in progress year round. I am proud that our high school teams had a championship season. I have witnessed the little league fields being worked on by the parents of our young athletes. Thank you to you all for volunteering your time getting the fields ready for another season. I invite you all to come watch and support our high school and youth sports teams.

The city has had some retirements recently. I wish you all well with your retirement. You have all earned it.

The city has also hired some new police officers to replace the retired ones. I welcome you all to your new career with protecting our city. Being a police officer is not the same job it was twenty years ago because of all the scrutiny police officers are under now. I'm confident you will do a great job.

Finally, I ask that some residents consider joining our volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad. This city prides itself on our volunteer city services. The Fire Department and First Aid Squad are in need of volunteers. If you have an interest in volunteering for any one or both of these organizations, please do.

2nd Ward Councilman Tom Reilly



The City continues to work with the South Amboy Board of Education to promote our CO-OP program, which allows students from South Amboy High School to work with City employees in an apprentice-style program. Students who participate in the program gain valuable real-world experience, learn what it is like to participate in a dynamic workplace environment, and gain insight into the types of careers that may await them after high school. The program began last year, and we hope for many more successful years ahead.

For the second consecutive year, South Amboy Elementary School's Government club has conducted a mock-style "council meeting" prior to the regularly-scheduled City Council meeting on May 15, 2019. Participating students took on the roles of the Mayor and City Council members as they introduced an ordinance and voted on its adoption. This is a great way for students to learn the basics of city government and will encourage students to participate in civic events now and into the future.

The City recognized Government Week (April 7 through April 13, 2019). Events included a meet and greet with the Mayor and City Council at the South Amboy Train Station plaza, tours of City Hall with the South Amboy Elementary School Government Club, and a visit by our Mayor to our local schools. The week concluded with the City honoring its volunteers for all of their important work at the April 17, 2019 City Council meeting.

The City has recently introduced a special Volunteer Discount Program with the dual aim of encouraging volunteerism in our City and patronage to our City businesses. Participating local businesses will be offering discounts to our First Aid and Fire Department members. There is no sign-up or registration required for volunteers; they need only provide appropriate identification to be given a discount. This is one way to reward our hard-working volunteers while also incentivizing support for our local businesses.



(Mock style council meeting on May 15th, 2019.)

(Pictured right is the South Amboy residents that were recognized and honored for their volunteerism for the City of South Amboy during Government Week.)



Council Corner (cont.)

Council President Mickey Gross



We've already had a great deal of success with community events this year. The annual Saint Patrick's Day parade was a huge success with over 20 bands and hundreds of marchers. As you read this we are already halfway to the next Parade on March 15th 2020. Our annual Fireworks in celebration of Independence Day was another huge event for the City and we are already looking to next year to make it bigger and better than ever.

In addition to our two major public events we continue to bring more and more community activities to our City including our now annual National Night Out Event, our Holiday Tree lighting, Trunk or Treat and many more.

We always welcome community volunteers to join us in providing these programs and invite any of you interested to contact Jaclyn at our Recreation Department to offer your help.



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019



Fireworks over the Raritan Bay



National Night Out 2019

Third Ward Councilwoman Suzette Dato



A while back I read a news story about a Plainfield program in which barbershops were offering books to children to get them off their iPads and cell phones and reading instead while waiting for family members to get haircuts. As a book lover myself, I was inspired. I contacted Rico Vasquez of Broadway's Image and Elaine Gaber, our Dowdell Library Director, and they both supported the concept. With their cooperation and hard work, our program is off to a good start as evidenced by the photos below. Now when children visit Broadway's Image, they can choose a book to read rather than turning to an iPhone or tablet for entertainment. We encourage the children to take a book home with them. It's a great program to encourage children to read. "Readers become leaders."



City Projects, Improvements and Updates

Ferry Project Progress

While you can't really see the progress, the Ferry Project continues to move ahead. The design engineers at French & Parelo are nearly complete with the layout of the terminal property and are currently working with the NJ DEP to obtain the necessary waterfront development permits. Also underway is the selection process to determine who the Ferry Operator will be. The project will be built in two phases. Phase I will include the parking, docks, bulkheads, and affiliated improvements that will let us begin service to NYC as soon as possible. Phase II will provide for the construction of the Ferry Terminal Building. All indications are that the City is on schedule to advertise bids and begin construction on this long-awaited project at the end of the year.

Paving, Paving, Paving

It must seem that everywhere you go there is road construction in progress. While inconvenient, we have made great progress in repaving major streets in the City. In 2019 we completed the final section of Bordentown Avenue and reconstructed Stevens Avenue. Still to be done, or at least started in 2019 are Pine Avenue from Main Street to Bordentown and the long awaited lower Main street reconstruction. Already on the schedule for 2020 is the completion of South Broadway and the resurfacing of O'Leary Boulevard. These major projects have been funded through NJ Department of Transportation (NJ DOT) grants that have been obtained through the efforts of our City Engineer. Grant applications for 2021 have already been submitted and we are hopeful for funding for the reconstruction of Feltus Street.

City Phone System

Historically, the City had three separate phone systems that were outdated and not working well together. This year we undertook a complete system replacement that will not only provide clear and reliable communication, but has the added benefit of saving taxpayers considerable expense. This new IT based system is state of the art and will foster easier access to various City Departments.

Digital Signs

One visible project that continues is the installation of digital signs within the City limits. Anyone visiting on Broadway has seen our first sign which allows us to provide information about upcoming events as well as display emergency messages when needed. Just prior to the beginning of the school year, the South Amboy Redevelopment Agency (SARA) provided the funding for our second sign in front of the School/Library complex on O'Leary Boulevard. Both entities will share use of the sign to provide updated information on activities specific to them.

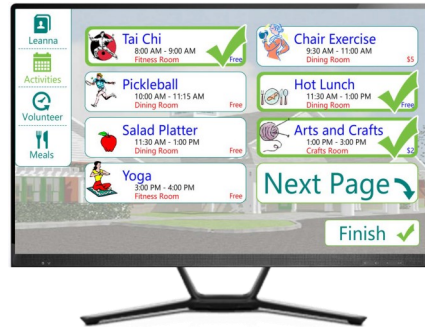
Social Media

We try to keep a very active presence on various platforms to keep everyone informed on local news and events. In addition to our website, Facebook, and Twitter, our very own SATV is available free of charge on both the Cablevision and Fios systems. Checking in on these services is the best way to keep up to date on events and news in the city.

South Amboy Senior & Recreation Department

It was another successful year for our Summer Parks program. This year the program extended its hours, and added additional trips. We look forward to continuing to enhancing our Summer Recreation program in the future. The Recreation Department is preparing for other annual events such as Trunk-or-Treat/Fall Fest, Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Trolley Tour.

In October the Senior Center will be installing the "My Senior Center" system. This system will allow each resident who is registered for our programs to schedule transportation or register for events. Seniors will be able to access the system via a kiosk at the Center or online via their computers. The system will also allow us to maintain an accurate file for emergency use and track participation and use data so we can improve our offerings to our Senior population.



Sports Complex Renovations

During Budget year 2019 the City committed to funding renovations of the athletic fields that surround the Middle/High School Complex. Our grant writer is currently working on obtaining matching grant funds to begin Phase I of that project while our City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz is designing what promises to be a first-class athletic complex for our young residents. This will be a multi-phase project spanning several years but be on the lookout for a ground breaking ceremony in the Spring as we kick off the needed improvement.



Youth Programs

This year the City, in cooperating with the Board of Education and YMCA began a new program to teach all of our second grade students to swim. Conceived by Council President Mickey Gross this program is designed to bring an additional layer of safety to our waterfront community. Plans are already underway to repeat the program in 2020 and beyond and it is our hope to eventually guarantee that all our children will learn to swim.



Our South Amboy Youth Program (SAYO) is going to capitalize on their success dances for pre-teens again this Fall/Winter and are looking to add more programs for this age group. Details will be posted soon. The SAYO is always looking for volunteers to help out with these events. Please contact (732) 525-5965 if you are interested in volunteering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRUNK - OR - TREAT/SAYAA Fall Extravaganza

October 26th, 2019

(Rain Date: October 27th)

1:30pm-4:30pm

South Amboy High School Parking Lot/
Allie Clark Sports Complex



Annual Tree Lighting

December 6th, 2019

(Rain Date: December 7th)

6pm

Train plaza on Broadway across from City Hall



Holiday Lights Trolley Tour/Home Decorating Contest

December 13th, 2019 (tours run 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30pm)

(SA Residents only. *Please call (732) 525-5965 starting on November 4th to reserve your seat*)

Seating is very limited

South Amboy Youth Organization (SAYO)

Pre-Teen dances

Dances are held at the South Amboy Senior Resource Center. Dj, Pizza, & refreshments will be provided.

Admission is \$20/child (cash only)

Chaperone & your child will get in **FREE** of charge!
please email kellyj@southamboynj.gov if interested

Halloween Dance Party : November 1st, 2019 7:00pm-10:00pm

80's Flashback Dance Party: November 25th, 2019 7:00pm-10:00pm

*For children of South Amboy residents and South Amboy City employees.
Proof of residency and child's grade will be required.*

South Amboy Department of Public Works

CURBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

January	11 • 25	July	12 • 26
February	8 • 22	August	9 • 23
March	8 • 22	September	6 • 20
April	5 • 19	October	4 • 18
May	3 • 17 • 31	November	1 • 15 • 29
June	14 • 28	December	13 • 27

NOTE: Municipal Public Works holidays do NOT affect the recycling collection schedule.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

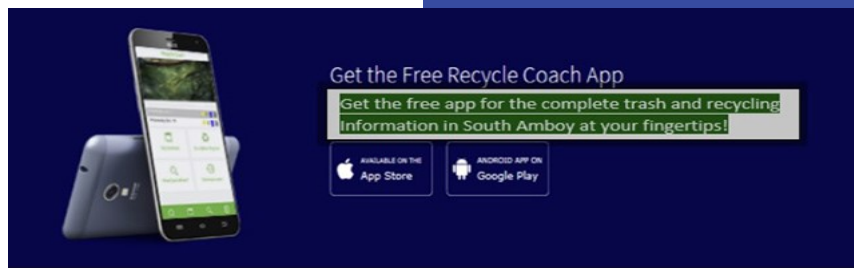
For future bulk pick-ups: Items must be bagged, canned or bundled for pick up.

***no construction materials, hazmat materials or tires will be picked up.**

NO STICKERS NECESSARY.

Bulk Drop Off is every 3rd Saturday of the month at the City garage located behind the YMCA from 7AM—11AM.

Please call (732) 721-8100 if you have any questions or concerns.



FIND OUT HOW TO RECYCLE RIGHT

MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ

Do you know what goes IN your Recycling BIN?

DO Recycle	Plastic Bottles & Containers coded with #1 & #2 only	Glass Bottles & Jars all sizes, shapes and colors	
	Mixed Paper paper, newspaper, magazines, soft cover books		Cardboard corrugated, cereal, clean pizza boxes
	Cans aluminum and steel (tin) cans		
DON'T Put IN the Recycling BIN	Plastic Bags i.e.: grocery, ziploc, garbage bags	Styrofoam	
	Shredded Paper	Greasy or food contaminated items	
	Syringes, batteries and bulbs	Dishware, glass, and mirrors	
	Plastic coded #3 - #7	Pots, pans, and small appliances	
		Tanglers i.e.: garden hoses, electric cords	

Recycling Challenges

One of the things that drives up municipal costs is the introduction of trash into the recycling stream. To help you decide if an item is recyclable please refer to the graphic. Recycling material should never be put in plastic bags. Problems with your recycling pickup?

Call the Middlesex County Improvement Authority hotline at 800-488-6242.

Thank you for recycling right!
middlesexcounty.nj.gov/recycleright

Office of Emergency Management

City of South Amboy

Tel (732)588-5830 Fax (732)588-5833



JCP&L has some exciting news for your constituents and our residential customers regarding ***payment assistance of utility bills!***

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Housing and Community Resources (DHCR) recently announced the launch of "DCAid," a new user-friendly eligibility screening tool designed to help New Jersey residents find available utility and housing assistance programs. The eligibility screening process only takes a couple of minutes to complete. Users can determine if they are eligible for DCA services that provide assistance with the following:

- Heating costs
- Utility bills
- Rent (including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the State Rental Assistance Program)
- Removal of lead hazards in the home
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Weatherization assistance
- Homelessness prevention programs

The results, based on general income and household information entered, will provide a brief description of eligible programs with contact information for the agency where the user can apply.

The DCAid eligibility screening tool can be accessed at www.nj.gov/dca/dcaid.

People in emergency situations should dial NJ 2-1-1 for information on immediate assistance.

NEW @ DOWDELL



**SADIE POPE
DOWDELL LIBRARY**

INFORM. ENGAGE. INSPIRE!

South Amboy, New Jersey

Dowdell Library of South Amboy - Elaine R. Gaber, Director

The library is celebrating 105 years of service to the people of South Amboy
Adjacent to the South Amboy High School – John T. O’Leary Blvd.

732.721.6060 comments@dowdell.org www.dowdell.org

STRETCH YOUR BODY AND MIND

Meditation for Beginners

Center your mind with these easy
meditation techniques.

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm

*September 24 | October 22 | No-
vember 12*

Yoga for Beginners

Discover simple but powerful yoga
postures to find stability and bal-
ance

Thursdays from 6-7:30 pm

*September 19 | October 3 | Novem-
ber 7*

CELEBRITY STORYTIME

**Welcoming South Amboy Element-
ary School Principal, Sean Dunphy!**

Wednesday, October 2 3:30 pm

Refreshments

ADULT TECH CORNER

Introduction to Google Drive -
October

Consumer Reports Gift Buying Tips
- November

Hoopla Holiday Music & Movies -
December

Every Thursday evening 6-7:30 pm

CULINARY PROGRAMS

Cookie Pizza - Monday, October 7

Taste Testing Stuffing - Monday,
November 4

Peppermint Cocoa Cookies - Monday,
December 9

11am-12 Noon

KID’S HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Indoor Trick-or-Treating *October*

MARIO KART PARTY

Everything from Nintendo 63 to
Switch to playing on your
Smartphone! *November*

NATIONAL PICTURE BOOK MONTH

Special Story time fun and unique
events during *November*

**MIY Thanksgiving Scarecrow
Contest** *November*

ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Enjoy holiday cheer and seasonal
refreshments. Meet your neighbors!

Door prizes

Monday, December 16 6:30-8 pm
city’s chronicle! We’ll make digital
recordings of citizen interviews and
add them to our archives.

January 2020

IN THE STACKS...

Borrow the latest bestsellers, movies,
or **search the historical archives.**

Enjoy **free downloadable content**
such as eBooks, eAudio, magazines,
music, movies or comics.
24 hours / 7 days a week

The Library’s **monthly calendar &
eNewsletter** is available at
www.dowdell.org

Use your mobile device to **scan the
QR Code** to access the Library’s web
page.



Access **free online materials** for your
educational, consumer or business
needs.

Become a Member of the South Amboy First Aid & Safety Squad



*Serve the Emergency Medical Needs Of Your
Community!*

A Unit of A.R.C.

If you are at least 16 years old and have a few available
hours in your day each week to give to others, contact
us at

Southamboyfirstaid.org or call (732) 721-1005

South Amboy First Aid Squad serves our residents
24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week, 365 days-a-year.

The squad is an independently run private
organization, completely staffed by dedicated
volunteers and supported by tax-deductible donations.

*Join your fellow residents with service to our
community.*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

**All training courtesy of the South Amboy First Aid
Squad.**

See how a little bit of your time
can benefit so many.

Become A Volunteer Member Now!

**South Amboy First Aid Squad -
PO Box 328 - South Amboy, NJ 08879**



Please be reminded that October 15th,
2019 is the last day to register to vote for
the upcoming November 5th, 2019
General Election. If you have not yet
registered to vote, please print the voter
registration form from:
elections.org/voting-information.html.

You can mail it directly to the Middlesex
County Commissioner of Registration at
11 Kennedy Blvd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816-9928 or you can
feel free to stop in the Municipal Clerks office located at 140
North Broadway, South Amboy, NJ, 08879.

You can register to vote if you are a United States citizen,
you will be 18 years of age by the next election, you will be a
resident of the State and County 30 days before the election
and you are NOT currently serving a jail sentence, probation
or parole because of a felony conviction. Please remember
that your vote is your voice and every vote does count.

Frequently Used Municipal Phone Numbers

Business Administrator:	732-525-5932
Animal Control:	732-855-0600
Building Department:	732-525-5927
City Clerk:	732-525-5920
City Engineer:	732-605-9440
Code Enforcement:	732-525-5936
Health Department:	732-525-5961
Library:	732-721-6060
Municipal Court:	732-525-5929
Planning Board:	732-525-5932
Police (Non-Emergency)	732-721-0111
Police Records:	732-525-5942
Public Works:	732-721-8100
Recreation Department:	732-525-5965
Rental Housing:	732-525-5936
Senior Center:	732-525-5960
Sewer/ Vital Statistics:	732-525-5925
Tax Assessor:	732-525-5969
Tax Collector:	732-525-5924
Zoning Officer:	732-636-2121

Elected Officials

Councilman Brian McLaughlin: First Ward
Councilman Thomas Reilly: Second Ward
Councilwoman Zusette Dato: Third Ward
Councilwoman-at-large: Christine Noble
Councilman-at-large, President: Michael Gross

Mayor: Fred Henry



Check out the South Amboy
Youth Athletic Association at
www.leaguelineup.com

Nixle Alerts!

Be sure to sign up on Nixle
to receive alerts &
notifications from South
Amboy Police &
the Office of
Emergency Management :
www.nixle.com