



## Perth Amboy

### Internal Discord: The Perth Amboy Board of Education Meeting of January 3, 2012

*Ms. Janelle Rodriguez is appointed to a four-month  
seat on the Board of Education*



Janelle Rodriguez is sworn in to the Board of Ed as replacement to Eric Rodgers who resigned for personal reasons

*Photo by Tracy Jordan*



**Eric Rodgers**

PERTH AMBOY - The January 3rd Board of Education ended with board members bitterly deriding each other's competencies and alliances although the meeting had a simple and straightforward agenda - to publicly interview four candidates for a vacated seat (previously held by Mr. Eric Rodgers). Ultimately, Ms. Janelle Rodriguez was appointed and took her place on the Board but she will have to run in the Board elections coming this April.

Before we review the meeting in its entirety, did you know that you can watch these meetings (as well as

City Council meetings) via live streaming video on your computer at home - just go to <http://paps.net/domain/202> and it will be like sitting in the audience (except you can't join in for the public comment portion.) In a few days, a tape of the January 3rd Board of Ed meeting will be posted so you can watch it at your leisure.

The meeting commenced with none of the board members having a copy of the interview questions for the candidates. Misunderstanding between President Samuel Lebreault and Secretary Derek Jess regarding the process for creating, adding to and dis-

seminating the questions beforehand, resulted in no one having a copy of the six questions except Mr. Jess, who handed them to the Board Attorney, Isabel Machado, so she could read the questions aloud. Because the topic was raised, new questions that the Board wanted to ask at the moment were allowed. Here is the resulting tabulation of the gist of the candidate responses to the six standard questions and then the additional questions posed by the various board members.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## South Amboy

### No Major Changes for South Amboy Council in 2012 *Temporary Budget Adopted*

SOUTH AMBOY - During the annual South Amboy reorganization meeting, the council voted to retain Joseph Connors as council president and named Mark Noble as vice president for the 2012 fiscal year.

Councilman Connors' nomination was motioned by councilman William Schwarick and seconded by councilman Donald Applegate. It will be his second term as council president after Fred Henry left the seat to become Mayor in 2010.

"I'd like to thank the council people for naming me as council president," Connors said during his opening comments. "I also thank them for showing confidence in me and I thank everyone for coming out tonight."

Councilman Noble, who was not in attendance for the reorganization meeting, will retain his seat as council Vice President. This will also be his second term, as he acquired his at-large seat in 2010 with councilman Connors.

Councilman Schwarick also returned to the council after recovering from a successful surgery. Mayor Henry acknowledged his return in his opening comments.

"I'd like to congratulate councilman Connors and councilman Noble on being named president and vice president, and I'd also like to welcome back councilman Schwarick as it's good to see



**Mayor Fred Henry**

you again," Henry said.

Once the reorganization was complete, the council adopted resolution 1-2012 which dealt with the temporary budget for the 2012 fiscal year. The 2012 budget, minus principal and interest, will decrease from \$3,651,226 in 2011 to \$3,639,400 this year.

One of the biggest changes in the budget will be in unemployment insurance, which will have zero cash compared to the \$25,000 it received last year. However, other expenses in the Financial Administration will jump from \$2,000 in 2011 to \$18,000 in 2012. The total budget, which includes interest and notes, comes to \$5,371,105 compared to the \$8,962,452 budget South Amboy had in 2011.

The next council meeting will be held on January 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

by Joseph L. Kuchie

### Social Services Sattellite Office to Remain in Perth Amboy *Staff Reductions started over a year ago.*

PERTH AMBOY - Representatives from the New Brunswick Office of Social Services appeared at the 12/12/2011 Caucus Meeting to answer questions of concern to the citizens of Perth Amboy. The Perth Amboy Office which is

located at Olive Street is there to do prescreening for food stamps, medicare and family care. Residents can also go to the Jewish Renaissance Building on Hobart Street to inquire about similar programs. Once the Perth Amboy Office de-

termines an applicant is eligible for general assistance or TANIF they must go to the New Brunswick Branch one time. Councilmen Joel Pabon and Fernando Gonzalez emphasized letting the public

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**Perth Amboy City Council Meeting Tonight 7 p.m.**



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Social  
Services

(Continued from Page 1)  
know about the existing Olive Street location.

*Note: When the Madison Avenue location closed down there was a notice put on the door that they were moving to the Alexander Jankowski Center on Olive St.*

Joel Pabon said that perhaps flyers can be distributed to different locations advising residents of this move. Fernando Gonzalez said that he paid a visit to the Perth Amboy location. "In the 2 hours I was there not one person walked in from the public to ask for assistance."

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach said, "Let's make sure social services will be at Olive Street long term before we start advertising that location. Because of reduced funding and staff, social services is trying to do more with less. This is why they have gone to an automated telephone and internet services."

The personnel at Olive St. can also advise potential clients with documents they need for prescreening and can also provide them with vouchers for transportation to the New Brunswick Office.

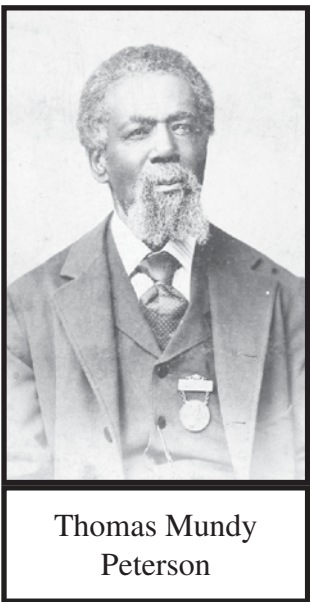
Fernando Gonzalez was also concerned about the general population of Perth Amboy not being very versed when it comes to using computers and looking for information when it comes to social services assistance. There also is a lack of a bilingual clerical staff.

The building of the office that where Social Services were previously located on Market St. & Madison Ave. had horrendous conditions. Originally that building was converted from three town houses to offices. At the time that the Social Services were moving out of that location the conditions were so horrendous with rotting wood, mold problems and you could see the basement through holes in the floor.

Because of that problem some records were lost and the landlord had no intention of making repairs to the Madison Ave. location. ETC recently bought the old Madison Ave. location in the latter part of 2011.

The sign on the building says they will be leasing the building for stores and office space.

NJ Transit Academy Busline 815 can be taken to New Brunswick and then there is a shuttle bus that goes to the Board of Social Services on How Lane.



Author  
Gordon Bond  
at the Ferry  
Slip Museum

PERTH AMBOY - "To Cast a Freedman's Vote": How a Handyman from Perth Amboy Made Civil Rights History. On March 31, 1870, Perth Amboy resident Thomas Mundy Peterson dropped a ballot into a box. It was a simple action that took, perhaps, all of a second or two. Yet, in that moment, Peterson made history as the first African American to vote under the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Many factors had conspired to make that moment possible, from the bloody Civil War to surprisingly progressive local attitudes. "To Cast a Freedman's Vote": How a Handyman from Perth Amboy Made Civil Rights History is a new presentation by historian, author and lecturer

Gordon Bond. It explores who this man was, how he came to cast his historic vote and what happened afterward. This talk summarizes the work done by himself and other NJ historians to

tell Peterson's story. It is a study in race relations that resonates with us even today. Gordon Bond is the ePublisher of Garden State Legacy, a free online quarterly magazine dedicated to New Jersey history. Its website, www.GardenStateLegacy.com, includes many free resources for the history and historic preservation communities. He is also the author of the book, "James Parker: A Printer on the Eve of Revolution" and is working with The History Press

on a book tentatively titled, "North Jersey Footnotes: Tangential Tales and Hidden History," due out in the Spring of 2012. He is a proud native of the Garden State and presently lives with his wife, Stephanie Hoagland, and their two cats, Daisy and Onslow, in Union Township.

Dr. Martin  
Luther King,  
Jr. Services at  
Cathedral

International

PERTH AMBOY – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Monday, January 16 at Cathedral International church, 277 Madison Avenue. Participating in the service will be the Perth Amboy High School Chorale, the New Jersey Orators, Perth Amboy chapter, and the Kingdom Dancers of Cathedral International church. Keynote speaker is Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Senior Pastor of Cathedral International. Everyone is welcome to attend this free service. Call (732) 826-5295 for more information.

Czech  
Experience

PERTH AMBOY - You are invited to a Czech Experience on Tuesday, January 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, 233 Smith St., Perth Amboy. Inside the Historic Train Station NY Side. Free Parking after 6 p.m. Visit the Darling of Central Europe - The Czech Republic presented by Paul Kosar, Director of the National Czech Tourism Authority. Presentation, Film and Q&A period. The Event is FREE however seating is limited. RSVP to Raritan-BayCoffee@gmail.com. We will send a confirmation. For more info call 732-343-1717. Don't miss this trip to Europe from your chair.

Veteran's  
Memorial  
Application

PERTH AMBOY - "HONORING YESTERDAY'S AND TODAY'S VETERANS WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY." Any eligible veteran honoree that is not included on the memorial on Sadowski Parkway at this time, may request to have their name placed on the memorial by filling out the form available at City Hall or can be downloaded on the City of Perth Amboy's Website and submitting it to the City Clerk's office along with a copy of Form DD214. SUBMISSION DEADLINE OF ELIGIBLE VETERAN is MARCH 31, 2012. For more information call 732-826-0290.



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Tribute to  
Roberto  
Clemente

PERTH AMBOY - On Friday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Wilda Diaz of Perth Amboy will hold a Reception in the Perth Amboy Art Gallery, 339 Reade Street (off Fayette Street) to kickoff this year long commemoration of the life and contributions of Roberto Clemente. Felix Velez, a local collector of Roberto Clemente memorabilia, has loaned some of his collection to the City of Perth Amboy for this event. Additionally, Robert Rodriguez, a local businessman who owns the Picture Gallery Framing Shop in Perth Amboy has restored a picture of Roberto Clemente given to him and his wife upon his reaching his 3000th hit. Hopefully, this portrait will now make its way to Cooperstown. It is our City's contribution to the efforts of Roberto Clemente's family and Major Baseball in celebrating his legacy during the following year. Roberto Clemente Jr. will be joining us in this activity, as well Maritza Rodriguez and Yvonne Lopez of PRAHD and Jacqueline Quiles, President of el Comite Patriotico Puetorriqueño.

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Perth Amboy Board of Ed Continued from Page 1

Candidate Nina Nieves	Candidate Anton Massopust	Candidate Melissa Morales	Candidate Janelle Rodriguez
Question 1: Provide examples of how you’ve served the community in a volunteer capacity.	I’ve been a girls coach, a youth counselor, an advocate for parents, co-chair of the Middlesex County. Consortium for Healthy Communities and many other committees as you can see on my resume.	I was a Boy Scouts leader for 16 years, a church advisor for youth, a volunteer firefighter for 48 years – I’m a Lieutenant there now and an instructor. I was Chairman of the Perth Amboy Bi-Centennial event.	At Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, I joined the Women’s Professional Network and involved myself in volunteer opportunities. I also have been a literacy tutor for two years in a program for 5ht, 6th and 7th graders called Everybody Wins.
Question 2: What is your vision for your role for the Board of Ed position?	To support the Board and staff, to govern, to get test scores up, to get our students to be global students, not just passing students. To change policies so our students exceed the requirements	I know something about kids. I taught for 31 years. I went to every play you see up there on that wall and I even dragged a goat here three nights in a row. I might have something to offer to help.	I am consistently seeking to add value to my company. My personal brand is “Entrepreneurship, Engagement and Enthusiasm.” I would leverage that with program management and process improvement.
Question 3: What is your proposal for the low performing schools on the NJ ASK test	We need a strategic plan for staff, superintendent and students, not just to improve test scores. We need to promoted civics and parenting and to meet all the needs of all students. We need to be an acculturated community, not just Latino or white or black.	Test scores are a problem. Students are distracted. I teach 2 or 3-timers, who have a lot of distractions and it is hard to fight this. I’ve taught troubled youth from Elizabeth, Newark and Plainfield and they were able to pass a test I gave at a prep school. Their lives are so filled with distractions that its very hard for them to function. I think I saved a few.	We have to put resources into the learning program; for ex., Quantum Learning. Also, parental outreach is crucial to student success. In the mid-high or high school years, it drops off. We have to make sure the parents know how much power they have in their child’s student career.

Continued on Page 11



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

In Plain Sight

January has rolled around and with the new year one often makes resolutions - #1 on the list - lose weight. I've been a member of the YMCA since it opened . Growing up in Perth Amboy in the '70's and '80's I learned to swim in the Metuchen YMCA because the Perth Amboy YMCA was old and the pool there was old as well and the facilities needed an overhaul. My parents thought the Metuchen YMCA was nicer back then. Then in the late '90's the Perth Amboy YMCA burned down and what little facilities that Perth Amboy had was gone and Perth Amboy had nothing for years. I was thrilled when the new YMCA was built and finally opened on December 1, 2008. I was even more thrilled when the pools opened one year later.

What is disappointing to me is the amount of people that tell me that they have never even set foot in the building and worse they never even thought about it. The "Y" offers 2 pools (one recreation - one competition), two cardio fitness rooms, an exercise room, weight lifting facility, Basketball Courts, Spinning Rooms and an Indoor Track and much more. For a minimal cost anyone can join (resident or non-resident). The "Y" has something for everyone ages 2 to 102. Presently the "Y" has over 7000 members, 1400 of which are under age 17.

I love to swim, so my favorite part of the "Y" are the pools. (I use the Competition pool). The Competition pool

is huge (12 lanes). The Competition Pool is utilized by the Perth Amboy High School Swim Team and the St. Joseph's High School Swim Team and other swim teams as well. They have swim meets there sometimes with over 1000 people at the "Y" at once. The smaller recreation pool is only 4 feet deep so even if you can't swim you can enjoy the facility. The "Y" offers classes for those of you who can't swim (adults and kids) or for those of you a little more advanced there's the Master's Swim Class . People come from as far as Somerset, Middletown and Red Bank just to use the Perth Amboy YMCA pool.

Say you have no interest in swimming? The "Y" offers classes in aerobics, body-flow, kickboxing, zumba, water aerobics - even belly dancing. You can even have your own personal trainer if you want (for an additional cost). There's also a playground for the kids. If you just like to walk there is an indoor track for those rainy days.

Some of these programs cost a little extra (many are free to members) but they are worth it if you are interested. So if you are committed to keeping that #1 New Year's resolution (lose weight- remember) or you just want to get into or stay in shape, if you haven't already check out your own backyard and enjoy what Perth Amboy has to offer. It's a beautiful facility. Enjoy it.

K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Give or Take

The Holiday Season is past us once again. Some people made contributions to the needy in sums of money. Others may have donated their time at a soup kitchen or nursing home. Some people brought canned foods, clothing or toys to their local church or Chamber of Commerce. You may have visited some elderly person who is alone and cannot get out of his or her house. Some people have asked me questions like, "Do you think these people really care about what you did and what did you get out of it?"

The answer to those questions are, "Yes, these people really do care and appreciate

the help and kindness." What do we get out of it? I'll tell you what we get out of it. It is a real good feeling inside. Too many just don't understand this. They are the take people. They understand get, obtain or grab what they can. You might know some me, myself and I people. They are all around us.

They take, take and take until they have nothing left to take. Yes my friends, their inner nature is not one of giving but of taking. This type of person may mean well but if they do give something , they give it aggressively and always in the take zone. That zone means trouble to us. They give us a hard time, a migraine, sorrow and a heartache. They could

even be the cause of our stroke or heart attack.

I always try to give everyone the benefit of the doubt and I think there is some good in every person that God created.

After living over eight decades , I have news for all my friends out there. I'll let you in on a little secret. So try and keep this under your belt. The me, myself and I people do give something to most of us but it is not good. They give us something to remember them by and that is a big pain in the backside.

Happy New Year to everyone out there and let's hope and pray that 2012 is a good one.

Thomas Francis Clark

Election Time & Animals

It is interesting how during election time, many candidates come out of the woodwork looking for your vote. To date, there is only one person, who is active in our community that made a generous donation to the one rescue organization that has been helping the community of Perth Amboy with its animals. Many city officials and citizens verbally offered praise to Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter, but none stepped forth to speak up for and support us in public, during our attempt to offer a solution to better our City Animal KILL shelter. Not one city official spent time with the kitties and doggies during our weekly adoptions. Not one city representative asked to hear what it is that we do on a daily basis to get the animals off the streets, spayed/neutered and adopted. I personally offered many solutions and a year later, the City of Perth Amboy still has not put together a Low-Cost Spay/Neuter program for the citizens of Perth Amboy. The animals need the community "leaders" help and no one is listening to the one group of people who are working in the trenches day in and day out. There hasn't even been one city official that has made a donation of pet food or a mon-

etary donation to benefit Perth Amboy's voiceless babies. I am challenging those who are running for election to pay close attention to the needs of this community, when it comes to the animals and how our city shelter is being operated. The animals are being killed unnecessarily because the shelter and its resources are being underutilized. By now our City Shelter should have someone who is Bilingual, when our city is predominantly Latino. Our students should be volunteering on a weekly basis at the City Shelter, but there is NO Volunteer Group. Community members, businesses and organizations MUST join forces to help Perth Amboy's animals and that includes the elected officials.

Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter has been working diligently at trying to MAKE a DIFFERENCE in the City of Perth Amboy. Unfortunately, since Perth Amboy is so overwhelmed with issues affecting the operation of our city, the problem of cat overpopulation is being overlooked and money is being thrown out the window. There are many animals being fixed that are then later killed because no one at the shelter is promoting adoptions. Our PATV Channel 34/46 news station should be utilized by the City Shelter to actively promote our pets in need of homes. During this

2012 election, I'd like to see the people running our city to be more proactive and involved in the affairs having to do with the City Animal Shelter and our great rescue Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter.

Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter REALLY needs the community's HELP. We need VOLUNTEERS and people who are INTERESTED in FOSTERING or ADOPTING precious KITTIES and DOGGIES. Perth Amboy's HOMELESS animals can be seen during ADOPTIONS at Woodbridge Petsmart on Sundays or on our FACEBOOK page under Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter. Donations of PET SUPPLIES, FOOD, CHECKS or GIFT CARDS can be sent to or dropped off at 362 State Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. I eagerly anticipate having the opportunity to meet with and work alongside those candidates who are running for 2012 elections. I am interested in topics relating to the environment, education, real estate, and of course, the animals. My vote will go to the person who truly is not afraid to meet a challenge and is willing to take risks to benefit the greater good of the community.

Virginia Morales

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Say No to Red Light Cameras

The recent publicity about car crashes filmed by red light cameras proves they don't stop accidents by drivers (who may be distracted by cell phones). If they really wanted a way to alert drivers about red lights

they would install a small flashing light to attract attention. Such devices are in use in other states, and are probably more cost-effective.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING





Where to Find Us . . .

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A&P FOOD MARKET .....	325 ROUTE 35
<b>IN CLIFFWOOD BEACH:</b>	
7-ELEVEN.....	196 ROUTE 35
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LIBERTY BAGEL CAFE.....	326 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
METROPOLITAN CAFE .....	747 KING GEORGE'S RD.
ORIGINAL PAT'S DELI.....	684 KING GEORGE'S RD.
PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
SUPER DUPER DELI III .....	650 KING GEORGE'S RD.
<b>IN HOPELAWN:</b>	
KRAUSZER'S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
PABLO'S HAIR SALON .....	76 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SOVEREIGN BANK .....	571 FLORIDA GROVE RD
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THOMAS PLOSKONKA C.P.A.....	1149 GREEN ST.
<b>IN LAURENCE HARBOR:</b>	
HOFFMAN'S DELI .....	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
KRAUSZER'S.....	9 LAURENCE PKWY.
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SOUTHPINE LIQUORS .....	467 S. PINE AVE.
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JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER .....	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER .....	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS .....	73 SMITH ST.
LAUNDRY FACTORY .....	162 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
LAUNDRY ON MADISON .....	285 MADISON AVE.
LAW OFFICES .....	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET .....	77 SMITH ST.
LEONARDO DAVINCI'S.....	71 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY .....	75 BRACE AVE.
LUIGI'S RISTORANTE .....	93 SMITH ST.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC .....	788 CONVERY BLVD.
PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PIZZARELI, PIZZA .....	232 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PHO ZONE .....	182A SMITH ST.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS .....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR .....	310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK .....	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION .....	100 FIRST ST.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
7-ELEVEN 553 .....	SAYRE AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
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CHINESE DELITE .....	59 MAIN ST.
F&J DELI & PIZZA .....	563 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER .....	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT .....	111 MAIN ST.
TOSCANA RISTORANTE .....	309 MAIN ST.
VENICE PIZZERIA .....	881 MAIN ST.
<b>IN SEWAREN:</b>	
MOBY DICK'S .....	351 WEST AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....	514 WEST AVE.
<b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK .....	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BISTRO .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CENTER DELI .....	250 N. STEVENS AVE.
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COLLEEN'S KITCHEN .....	132 S. PINE ST.
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
FOODTOWN .....	611 BORDENTOWN AVE.
KRAUSZER'S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S .....	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
NEW DELUXE DELI .....	528 RIDGEWAY AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS 132 .....	S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
<b>IN WOODBRIDGE:</b>	
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE .....	52 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM 107 MAIN ST.	
NEWS & TREATS .....	99 MAIN ST.
114 MAIN BAGELS .....	114 MAIN ST.
REO DINER .....	392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE .....	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.
WOODBIDGE VETERINARY GROUP .....	424 AMBOY AVE.

**Kidz Wii Club**  
SOUTH AMBOY - The Kidz Wii Club will meet every Friday at 3:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza,South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

**Volunteer Firefighters Needed**  
PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department: Volunteer Division needs members. Accepting men and women ages 18 years or older. Volunteers must be a Perth Amboy resident. For more information please contact 732-442-3430.

**Tea Room Open**  
PERTH AMBOY — The Tea Room at the historic Proprietary House, Kearny Avenue, is open on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.  
For \$7 per person, visitors can enjoy assorted teas and delicious homemade desserts served by hostesses Helen, Dorothy and Kathy. Take a tour of the only remaining Royal Governor’s Mansion in the U.S.  
The Proprietary House, which was built between 1762 and 1764, and is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is owned by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Parks & Forestry.  
For more information or group reservations, call (732) 826-5527.

**Kearny Cottage Open**  
PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-675-8826.

**ADS SELL! CALL MILTON 732-306-0040**

Community Calendar

**Perth Amboy**  
WED. Jan. 11 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.  
City Council, Regular 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High Street  
THURS. Jan. 12 Municipal Court, 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.  
Board of Education, 7 p.m.  
Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Ave.  
TUES. Jan. 17 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.  
BID, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High Street  
WED. Jan. 18 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

**South Amboy**  
MON. Jan. 16 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway  
WED. Jan 18 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

Watch Our Blog  
www.AmboyGuardianBlogspot.com

Find The Amboy Guardian at these Seasonal Perth Amboy Waterfront Locations  
American Pride Bait & Tackle .....211 Front St.

STAY INFORMED!  
ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

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424 AMBOY AVE., WOODBRIDGE • 732-636-5520  
www.woodbridgevetgroup.com

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Friday 8 am-6 pm • Saturday 8 am-Noon



**Watch Our Blog**  
**www.AmboyGuardianBlogspot.com**

**Special Announcement**  
**PATV is Streaming!**

PERTH AMBOY - Many of the programs currently airing on channels 34 & 47 will now be seen via Video-On-Demand. Now you can view the programs you like, when you want!

To access the Perth Amboy Television streaming site all you have to do is go to patv.pegcentral.com and surf through the programming. The video listings can be seen all together or under specific categories. *Dis-*

*claimer: All shows seen on 34/47 can only be streamed if they follow strict copyright laws. Only then, will each individual program be able to be put on the patv.pegcentral.com streaming site.* For further information, please contact: David Garb Perth Amboy Television 732-376-6030 ext. 23538

Press Release



**A New Food Network Series Is Looking for Food Entrepreneurs**

PERTH AMBOY - A new Food Network series is looking for FOOD ENTREPRENEURS, specifically, people who have left their previous career to start a new restaurant (or similar business). Must have little-to-no prior professional culinary experience. Must be planning to open a brick-and-mortar space where there will be walk-in customers (restaurant, bakery, sandwich shop, etc.) Must be aiming to open between now and autumn 2012. Those chosen will receive culinary & business coaching from Bobby Flay (a chef, restaurateur, and fixture on the Food Network) as well as invaluable national publicity.

Those interested that fit the guidelines, please email the following to foodtvshow@gmail.com: Outline your timeline, budget, menu, team, and especially what's at stake for you in this endeavor (why you are doing it and what risks, financial as well as personal, you are taking). The Food Network is highly interested in the "human interest" angle of your story.

There is also a Twitter account and a Facebook page for more information. The Food Network will be accepting stories through February and is casting nationally. Please also email us at the New Jersey Small Business Development Center at TCNJ to director@sbdcnj.com, and let us know you are submitting your entry. NJ Small Business Development Center at The College of New Jersey Proudly Serving the Mercer & Middlesex Small Business Community.

**Garbage Cleaned up by Train Station**  
*photos by Tracy Jordan*

**Before: Friday January 6, 2012**



**After: Saturday January 7, 2012**



The Dowdell Library Foundation's grant to South Amboy's Dowdell Library will be used for an online learning center. From left: Catherine Charmello, President of the Board of Trustees, and Elaine Gaber, Director, of the Dowdell Library; Mary Rager, Secretary, and Mimi Pichey, President, of the Dowdell Library Foundation.

*photo courtesy of The Dowdell Library Foundation*

**South Amboy's Dowdell Library Foundation Gives Grant for Online Learning Center**

SOUTH AMBOY - On December 13, 2011 the Dowdell Library Foundation presented a check for \$1,543 to the Sadie Pope Dowdell Public Library of South Amboy. The grant was presented by Mary Rager and Mimi Pichey on behalf of the Dowdell Library Foundation to Elaine Gaber, Director, and Catherine Charmello, President of the Board of Trustees, of the Library.

The Dowdell Library Foundation's grant will be used to purchase an online software teaching center that will provide coaching for SAT, AP, GED, and citizenship tests as well as job search and workplace skills.

"We anticipate that the new

Online Learning Center will help South Amboy students as well as many others in our community," noted Mimi Pichey, President of the Dowdell Library Foundation. "We were able to make this grant thanks to the many people who contributed generously to our 'Dunk a Politician' booth at the South Amboy Street Fair and our 'Dining to Donate' events at local restaurants."

The Dowdell Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, visit [www.Dowdell-Foundation.org](http://www.Dowdell-Foundation.org) or call (732)316-1078.

Press Release

**Read the Guardian Weekly For News You Won't Find Anywhere Else!**



**Three Kings at PRAHD helping over 800 Happy Children January 6, 2012***photos by Paul W. Wang***St. Vincent DePaul in Perth Amboy & Santa Claus Gave Out Gifts to 173 Happy Children***photos by Carolyn Maxwell***“Is Weight Loss Surgery Right For Me?”**

OLD BRIDGE - RBMC is sponsoring a “Is Weight Loss Surgery Right For Me?” seminar Monday, January 16, 7 to 8 p.m. at its Old Bridge location. The informative event will focus on weight loss surgery including discussion on Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass, Adjustable Gastric Banding, and Gastric Sleeve; Dr. Oluseun Sowemimo will lead discussions on the concerns surrounding weight loss surgery as well as its successes. Family and friends are welcome. The meeting will be held in Auxiliary Hall B & C located on the lower level of the Medical Arts Building, adjacent to the hospital on Ferry Rd. between Routes 9 & 18. For more info call 1-855-846-3463).

**Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter in need of Volunteers, Donations & Fosters**

PERTH AMBOY - The Happy Home Shelter (Not affiliated with the Perth Amboy City Shelter) is a 501C-3 Non-Profit Organization and is in need of volunteers, donations and fosters. Please donate PET SUPPLIES, FOOD, CHECKS or GIFT CARDS. SEND to: 362 State Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 or DROP OFF DONATIONS at PetSmart on Adoption Days. ADOPT precious KITTIES & DOGGIES @ Woodbridge PetsSmart on Sundays 12-5pm. OPEN YOUR HEART to a homeless animal and SAVE A LIFE! Make a Difference! HOST A PET FOOD DRIVE For more information, email vmoralespps@yahoo.com or call 1-732-486-6382 or 732-277-7650 or 732-826-1124 or email PAHHS2010@aol.com. Visit and LIKE our FACEBOOK page @ Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter. Perth Amboy happy home shelter needs a lot of help for the animals. Perth Amboy's animals are suffering. Help us raise the money to rescue, spay and neuter more kitties so they don't suffer on the streets and have a chance to be adopted. Adopt, spay, neuter, love...





**Childbirth  
Education /  
Lamaze Class**

PERTH AMBOY - RBMC is sponsoring a one day Childbirth Education / Lamaze Class Saturday, January 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class is designed to help expectant parents better understand the childbearing process. A registered nurse with special training in labor, delivery and childcare techniques will facilitate the class. It will be held in Centennial Hall, 530 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. The fee for the course is \$125 per couple. Registration required, call 1-800-362-8677.

**Mechanicsville  
Hose Co. No. 1  
Comedy Night  
2012**

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Comedy Night on January 28 at Memorial Hall of Sacred Heart Church, Main Street, South Amboy from 7 p.m. to 11p.m. \$40 per person. Includes: Buffet, Beverages ( Soda- Beer-Wine ) and Entertainment ( 2 Comedians plus DJ ) For tickets and info Call ( 908 ) 296-4254. Seating is Limited.

**The Chakras:  
Awaken the  
Hidden  
Energy Within**

PERTH AMBOY - RBMC'S Division of Integrative Medicine is offering The Chakras: Awaken the Hidden Energy Within educational sessions, Wednesdays, Jan 18 through Feb 29, 7 to 9:30 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Chakra work benefits body, mind and spirit and leads to a greater sense of harmony and inner balance. Energy Medicine Practitioners Denise Reisert and Robin Matteo, will teach participants how to evaluate their own body energy and awaken hidden energy. Cost is \$165 for all five sessions. Individual classes are \$50. For more information and to register, call 1-800-362-8677.

### Epiphany at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

*photos by Paul W. Wang & Katherine Massopust*



### Prospora Ukrainian Assumption Church - December 6, 2011

*photos by Paul W. Wang*







# ONE HUNDRED YEARS ONE MILLION SMILES...



## 2011 Community Partnerships & Accomplishments:

- Scholarships for low income families
- Scholarships for Youth Membership
- Community Access Week
- Prevention Program for Youth
- More than 1,300 youth members engaged in healthy activities
- Constructed New Community Playground
- New Integrated Medicine Services (partnership with Raritan Bay Medical Center)
- Free Pool Use for Perth Amboy High School Swim Team (partnership with Bd. Of Ed.)
- Middle School Students free every Friday (partnership with Bd. Of Ed.)
- Subsidized Afterschool Programs (partnership with Bd. Of Ed.)
- Hosting of GED Program (partnership with Middlesex County College & DOL)
- Family Counseling
- Alianza Partnership for families Special Needs
- More than 100 City activities/events in 2011 including SWAT training, Fire Department Water Rescue training, recreation and administration programs
- Free or Reduced Memberships for Active Duty Military and Family, Clergy, Disabled Vets, Active Older Adults, All Perth Amboy Residents, Perth Amboy Police Personnel & Perth Amboy City Personnel (at the request of the City)
- Active Older Adult Programs including Silver Sneakers
- Climbing Wall and Volunteers for City & School events
- Counselor in Training Youth Employment Program
- Alternative Physical Education
- \$1 million to the City for the opportunity to serve the community
- Food & Clothing Drive
- A leading employer of Perth Amboy Teenagers
- Use of YMCA property on Jefferson Street for parking has assisted the City to generate thousands of dollars
- Church/Civic Group Programs including Girl Scouts, St. Peter's, St. Stephens, La Asuncion, Our Lady of Fatima, Grace Fellowship, Faith Fellowship, Vida Church, Living Rivers Church, Renovation House, Triple Threat Ministries, Jewish Renaissance Foundation, The Boys & Girls Club, DYFS, Local Banks, Harbortown Homeowners Association, Heroes & Cool Kids, Friends of the Library, NJ & NY Blood Banks, Rutgers, UTI & Tropical Cheese Industries
- Youth Advocate Program

# ALWAYS HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



# THE AMBOY GUARDIAN



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the New Year!





Perth Amboy Board of Ed Continued from Page 3

	Candidate Nina Nieves	Candidate Anton Massopust	Candidate Melissa Morales	Candidate Janelle Rodriguez
Question 4: We recently received some State monies – what is your suggestion for use of this?	I would leave that to the ones who worked on obtaining the monies.	All I know is 100% of that money needs to go to the students – every penny of it, no matter what, to help those kids learn.	Identify the needs of the community; then provide what would give the most impact.	Get community feedback, focus on bringing in programs like Quantum Learning and professional development for staff and administrators. Welcome community feedback on this.
Question 5: We have had new additions and reactions to changes. How would you build up morale	You build morale from the inside out. You have to massage what people are used to into what it is going to be happening now.	Students are number 1, then the teachers need backing. That combo is what makes it all go. Not principals, not administrators. Realize that the teacher’s job is very very important.	Begins with understanding and open communication. Explain the value of the changes and achievements – that creates camaraderie.	So much is going on at one time. No one wants to feel out of the loop, even food service workers. Reassure everyone that these changes will help them.
Question 6: We are moving forward with implementation of Quantum Learning. What is your opinion of it?	It’s not our role to be trainers. But I, as a professional too, need training to maintain my license. I hope the teacher’s professional development needs are addressed in Quantum Learning	You didn’t really just ask me that? I have been told by many experienced teachers that its a complete waste of time. It cost the citizens of Perth Amboy a good deal of money and I’m sure it could be used somewhere else. Look, every day for a teacher is opening day on Broadway and you have to be the star. They should have someone speak to them that do all the things teachers do like break up a knife fight or drive a kid home to find out no on is at home. People should explain the type of problems kids have.	I would say bring in a series of professional speakers. Create a culture of learning. Let teachers network with other professionals	It’s great. In any field, professional development and new ways, new materials, new programs; this is what keeps us on the cutting edge and modern. We need to do this in our area even towards national ideas.
From Israel Varella: We have a model bilingual program – what would you do with it?	We are a generally bilingual community with speech, but we need to be a bi-literate community in reading and writing, in order to compete in the larger society.	Don’t fix it if it ain’t broke. But if it is broke - you have to recognize it.	I would add more varied topics in the bilingual program. Is there a certain direction that we want to take education in Perth Amboy? Perhaps add business or finance.	It’s obviously needed; so many come in to the system at various levels. Closely monitor and make the transition period as short as possible; don’t allow a time frame that lets people get comfortable. That can be a hindrance in becoming proficient in English. Get them into the mainstream.
From Obi Gonzalez: Please describe your position on charter schools and vouchers and their impact on the public schools	I attended public school until 5th grade; charter school in junior high and private school for high school and college. These schools don’t take away from us if we are competitive with the other choices. Right now, we are not at that competitive edge. We need people to want to move here and live here.	I’m afraid vouchers are an athletic thing. In Charter Schools the kids want to be there; the parents want the kid to be there and there’s a breed of teacher who wants to be there. This will work but in the Perth Amboy Public Schools you have all kinds of kids and this approach will not work.	I’m not knowledgeable enough to explain the impacts of these schools on the public schools	These are just other options. It’s good if there is something for everyone. Some need personal attention and maybe the charter school can respond to that. And some charter schools focus on certain things, like ours focuses on public service and leadership. Some might focus on art or math. Perhaps we could offer something that the charter schools cannot.
From Mark Carvajal: The district is going through a transition – what would you do to ease the challenges of these transitions?	Make people feel like they’re being heard – that alleviates stress. Take time for town hall meetings more frequently to know what’s really going on.	Don’t change for the sake of change. And vice versa, find out what’s working. In teaching, every year is different. You have to cope with change.	Develop a communications plan around the key components that are coming down. Explain the value of those changes.	Open lines of communication between staff and parents. The revamped website is great – keep the info flowing and transparent. It reassures all that we are working toward the betterment of all and we are open to suggestions.
From Milady Tejada: If appointed, what would your main three priorities be?	To get on sub-committees. Since I ran, I shifted a little. Policy, yes, to tweak the system to make it work better and then discipline – which means a lot of things.	Are students getting the best education possible? Are people talking to the teachers about their problems? Make sure that everything that goes on in the classroom is worthwhile.	Understand and support the Board’s vision, build a strong system and community relationships and improve the perception the community has of education in Perth Amboy and what would they like to see as education in Perth Amboy	Proactively seek out parents and bring them up to speed nationally and let them know what they can do; hundreds of people are affected so improve staff relations and more public discussion of the 39 million. Mount a public campaign around that.

Continued on Page 12



## The Benefits of Taking the Train

PERTH AMBOY - You can take the train, which runs on the NJ Coastal Line, all the way down to Bay Head, NJ. It stops at various beach towns: Belmar, Point Pleasant and Long Branch, to name a few.

That means that in the warmer months, you can go to the Jersey shore and avoid all of the Garden State Parkway traffic, tolls and parking lot fees once you arrive there! The train travels North all the way to Penn Station, 34th Street in Manhattan. Some people do not believe when I tell them that it goes all the way to NYC! It also stops at Newark Liberty Airport , so if you can get by with a carry on bag or two, you can again avoid paying anything at all to park at the airport while you fly. The train can also bring you to downtown Newark, NJ, very close to the Prudential Center – The Rock – for all kinds of sports events and concerts and also the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) which is either a brief walk or subway ride away. You can take the train to the Secaucus stop and go to Giants Stadium from there. Finally, there is even one train a day that takes you right into Hoboken – no changing in Newark Penn needed.

What about cost? If you are over 62 years of age, you pay half price, which means that a roundtrip ticket to New York Penn Station is just \$11.50 for you. Yes, round trip to NYC and back for less than \$12.00! Disabled persons travel also at half price and guess what – with proper ID, the aides or assistants of disabled persons ride for free! Children four years old and under ride for free. Children 5 to 11 ride for half price. During holidays, from 7 pm the evening of the Friday before the holiday up until 6 am the Monday after a holiday, two children aged

5-11 can ride at no charge accompanied by one adult. A few conductors have told me there is no charge for uniformed military or public safety staff but I could not verify this. Monthly rail passes, with unlimited number of rides allowed during the month, are available at a rate less than buying individual tickets. These rail passes are transferable to the bus and light rail systems, all included. Finally, if you use the train to commute, there is a commuter tax benefit available for your employer – up to \$230 per month pre-tax can be utilized for your rail pass. See the details at [njtransit/taxbenefits.com](http://njtransit/taxbenefits.com).

And parking? Parking is free on Sundays and after 6 pm Monday thru Saturday. If you are a resident of Perth Amboy and also use the train to commute to your job, you can obtain a sticker for your vehicle that allows you to park at no cost at the lot at the station. Call the Parking Utility to apply: 732-826-9223. Otherwise, parking is 25 cents per hour and the machines take quarters or one dollar bills only – they do not take credit cards at this time, which is very frequently needed by travelers. There is plenty of parking available.

In the past month, the loudspeakers have been fixed so announcements are audible, plus there is now a speaker in the main lobby and also inside the coffee café. The cafe also has plenty of train and bus schedules plus a map of the entire rail system in NJ, which comes in handy for many making long or multi-line trips. The list goes on, but these are some of the main benefits of utilizing our train station. For a copy of the entire NJ Coastal Line timetable and prices, go to <http://www.njtransit.com/pdf/rail/R0080.pdf>. Sit back it and enjoy the ride,

by Tracy Jordan

## Arrest Made

PERTH AMBOY - On Friday, 02 December 2011 members of the Special Investigations Bureau arrested Pedro A. Rodriguez, D.O.B. 08/10/1985, of Carteret, New Jersey for selling cocaine in the City of Perth Amboy. Recovered from his vehicle was a large rock of cocaine that weighed approximately 52 grams with

a street value of \$5,000.00. He also had \$129.00 in cash that was seized. Bail was set by the Honorable Judge Maria Del Valle-Koch at \$25,000 no 10% option. The investigation was conducted by Officer David Guzman with the assistance of Investigative Bureau personnel.

## Perth Amboy Board of Ed Continued from Page 11

After the interviews, Mr. Carvajal asked if the candidates' qualifications could be discussed publicly. He was told by the Board Attorney that all four candidates would have had to have been asked if this was acceptable and if all four had said yes in writing, then that could have occurred. The President stated that in the past candidates did not like this, so these candidates weren't asked. Ms. Roman said we can't assume based on experiences of the past. Mr. Carvajal added he had understood the candidates would be asked in advance from a discussion with Mr. Lebreault and Mr. Lebreault replied that Mr. Carvajal had 'dropped it' to which Mr. Carvajal repeated his comment; he has understood the candidates would be asked in advance.

The candidates were called up to stand before Attorney Machado. Apparently, permission to discuss the candidates was not given by all four, although nothing was announced to this effect. A ten-minute break was called so that the Board could go into closed session for discussion. Mr. Carvajal asked if anyone who already knew how they would like to vote needed to go into the closed session? He was told no by Mr. Lebreault, so various members did not enter

the closed session. The others stayed in the auditorium, chatting amongst themselves. As soon as the members returned and the public session resumed, Ms. Obi Gonzalez nominated Janelle Rodriguez. With five votes "yes", Ms. Rodriguez won the seat.

Various board members wanted to make comments at this point, "It's difficult to appoint someone with so many issues and criticisms abounding although we are all on the same page," said Obi Gonzalez. "I would vote for Nina, who put her money where her mouth is and actually ran for a seat and barely lost," said Ken Puccio. (By 18 votes! Someone called from the audience). Kurt Rebovich stated that all candidates had wonderful resumes but he felt tonight's decision "...is a disgrace as Ms. Nieves was fourth runner up (next in line) the last time there was a school board election", and added he felt that "No one up for re-election on this current board should be voted for" by the public.

Ms. Rodriguez was sworn in and took her seat at the board table. The public comment period followed and Rev. Milton Lester, President of the Perth Amboy Chapter of the NAACP, stated that he was offended. "Ms. Nieves had lost by so few votes last time; she

is the one who the people have voted for. The people have expressed their voice." He added, "This was a stacked deck. You all knew who would be in before you even got here tonight. I don't come to Board meetings because you don't represent the people. It eats my guts!" Comments by Rick Aviles: "There are no African American or Latino or Caucasian seats here – all of you work for all of us. You need to respect the President and not fight and act like you all just met each other yesterday!" Alan Silber said he was amazed at partial private and partial public sessions all occurring in one meeting: "You decided to discuss the candidates in private, yet some of you were doing it in public, while others went into private. Then, you did end up commenting on them at length in public!"

by Tracy Jordan

## Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - RBMC's Cardiac Club will meet Mon., Jan 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., 530 New Brunswick Ave in the hospital's Centennial Hall. Explore heart conditions and healthy living. Refreshments will be served. For more info call 1-800-362-8677..

## Adult Enrichment Program Classes

PERTH AMBOY - We are now accepting registrations for the Adult Enrichment Classes for Winter 2012! Registration will be accepted any of the following nights before the classes begin on: Mon., Jan 9, Tues. Jan 10, and Wed., Jan 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Classes: Yoga, Citizenship, Interior Design, Computers\*, Salsa, Zumba,

Basic Spanish, Cooking, Basic Music & Cake Decorating. \*Computer Classes \$75. All Other Classes \$25. Payment accepted by cash or money order ONLY! No discount rates for: BOE Staff Members, Perth Amboy Gov. Employees & Senior Citizens. Any questions please contact Mrs. Loyda Garcia or Maria Zayas at 732-376-6240.

## HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday, Jan 16 at 6 p.m.

Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend.

Meetings are held at the hospital's Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

To register or for more information, call (732) 324-5022.

DO YOU HAVE A WOUND THAT WON'T HEAL?



The Center for Wound Healing at Raritan Bay Medical Center with its hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOt) unit treats non-healing and complex wounds, even helping many avoid amputation. Among the conditions we treat are:

Diabetic wounds • Bone infections • Crush injuries  
Radiation related complications • Tissue damage infections  
Failed skin graft • Oral surgery complications

CALL US AT 732.324.4941. CONVENIENT HOURS. MEDICARE AND MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED.



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WWW.RBMC.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/MYRBMC



Watch Our Blog

[www.AmboyGuardianBlogspot.com](http://www.AmboyGuardianBlogspot.com)



## Trip to Atlantic City

SAYREVILLE - There will be a trip to Showboat Casino, Atlantic City on Sunday, January 15 \$30 slot cash back, bingo, 50/50 and snacks on bus. Movie on Trip home. Bus leaves Sayreville Senior Center parking lot at 10:45 a.m. Returns approx. 8:30 p.m. Cost \$35 ( a \$10 deposit required by 1/7/12) To sign up contact Art Rittenhouse at 732-525-3208 or leave a message at the museum 732-390-7048. Sponsored by the Sayreville Historical Society.

## Orientation & Registration

*For the Multicultural  
Grand Cotillion,*

**Scholarship Society Inc**  
PERTH AMBOY - The Cotillion will be on Sunday May 20, 2012 from 3 p.m. to 7 pm at the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, 515 US Highway One South, Iselin. Registration for the Cotillion will be on Saturday's January 14 & 21, 2012 at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave, Perth Amboy from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For children/teens ages 5yrs to 17 years - Male and Female. For more information contact Mrs. Barbara Walker at 732-277-9576.

## Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - There is an ongoing book sale at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library, 196 Jefferson St., Perth Amboy. Fill a bag for \$5. Book Dealers Welcome. For more info call 732-826-2600.

## Tot Time & Storytime

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be Tot Time - (Ages 0-2) on Mondays at 11:30 a.m. and Storytime (Ages 3-5) on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Fridays Ages (Ages 6+) at 3:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

## Kid's Bingo

SEWAREN - The Sewaren Free Public Library welcomes kids in grades K-5 and their accompanying adults & siblings for a fun night of BINGO! This event will be on the 1st Friday of every month at 7 p.m. from October through May. The remaining dates are 2/3, 3/2, 4/6 & 5/4. Come one, come all, but sign up is required every time. For more info or to register call 732-634-7571. Sewaren Library welcomes patrons from all towns, not just Sewaren. The Sewaren Free Public Library is located at 546 West Ave., Sewaren.

## Sayreville Recreation

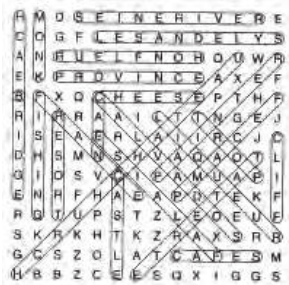
SAYREVILLE- The Sayreville Recreation Department will continue offering Zumba, A fitness class that fuses hypnotic musical Latin rhythms and tantalizing moves to create a dynamic workout system designed to be fun and easy to do, on Tuesdays at 7:40pm. The Yoga classes at 6:30pm will also continue. These classes are located in the Samsel School on 298 Ernston Road in Parlin. Registration starts 1/3/12 Classes will start 1/17/12. For more information please contact Denise @ 732-525-9536 or zumbasayreville@gmail.com

## Edison

### AARP #3446

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, January 16. 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 167 Brower Avenue, Edison. A program of Celtic music will be presented by guitarist Edward Saulz. On Feb. 15 a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Wally's Cafe" is planned. Call Angie at 732-738-0759 for reservations. Deposits for a package tour on April 25-26 to the Lancaster, PA area to see Jonah and 9/5 The Musical, plus Rockvale Outlets with accommodations at the Fulton Steamboat Inn are now being taken. Call Bob at 732-885-1789 for more information. All trips are open to non-members. Canned food for MCFOOD and misc. items for the veterans home will be collected at the meeting.

**Answers  
From Puzzle  
On Page 15**



## LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Circa 1905 Michael Zylka (in black suit) founder of Zylka Funeral Home drives the Coach in a funeral.

*photo courtesy of Michael R. Zylka*

# Senior Scene

## Happenings

### Perth Amboy

TODAY, Jan. 11 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m.,  
Williamson Hall, High St.  
• Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium,  
Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
MON., Jan 16 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m.,  
Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.  
TUES., Jan 17 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m.,  
Church Hall, Brace Ave.  
• Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m.,  
Presbyterian Center, Market St.  
WED. Jan 18 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m.,  
Williamson Hall, High St.  
• Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium,  
Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
• Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m.,  
Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone Sts.  
THURS., Jan 19 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m.,  
Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

### South Amboy

TODAY, Jan 11 South Amboy Seniors, noon, YMCA building,  
John T. O'Leary Boulevard.  
MON., Jan 16 St. Mary's Seniors, noon,  
Senior Resource Center, S. Stevens Ave.

## SEND US YOUR CLUB NEWS

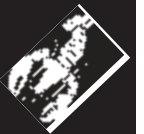


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tion \$50 - 732-826-6359

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**AVENEL** - House is beautiful - has big yard, all windows, kitchen, 2 bathroom, boiler, water heater all new, fresh painted, big back deck and more. **\$239,000**



**PORT READING** - Short sale. Subject to bank approval. Commission also. Buyer resp. for C/O & any repairs. Perfect for a large family. Front porch, formal dining room, 2 walk-in closets, full basement ready to finish. Large backyard. Great location near major hwy. House being sold in "as is" condition. Fire in 1992. Rebuilt new. **\$175,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Very large single family within walking distance from waterfront. Buyer resp. for C/O T, Smoke Cert. Termite Cert., and all repairs. **\$95,000**



**FORDS** - Great starter home close to shopping district and all major highways. Needs some TLC. Buyer is resp. for C/O, termite Cert. and all repairs. **\$149,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Nice moving in condition house. Not a short sale. Perfect for first time home buyer. Sold "as is" condition. Buyer is resp. for C/O, Blue Print for second floor project at office. **\$75,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Perfect for a large family with big rooms within walking distance to waterfront, private patio and alley way. Come and see this immaculate luxurious comfort. **\$289,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - A must see this well maintained, large 3 bedrooms, 2 full bath, big house. Subject to a sub-division. **\$219,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Check out this great 5 year old home. Better than new. Nice layout, great neighborhood. Granite, stainless steel appliances. Master bedroom has an on suite. A MUST SEE. More pics to come in the near future. **\$275,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Move-in Condition, a must see - clean as a whistle - all remodeled. A huge shed being used as a recreation room. **\$270,000**