• VOL. 4 NO. 41 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015 •

Newly Elected BOE Members Sworn In Lebreault Elected President; Varela VP

By: Katherine Massopust PERTH AMBOY - At the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting, newly elected Board Members were sworn in. Milady Tejeda was the top vote-getter with 2378 votes; Jose Rodriguez was second with 2369 votes and Manuel Nunez came in third with 1971 votes. Tejeda was elected to a second term as a BOE Member. Nunez and Rodriguez were elected for the first time. The Members were sworn in by Board Secretary Derek Jess.

Each newly elected BOE Member offered a few words.

Jose Rodriguez said, "I am pleased to be a part of the Board of Education."

Manuel Nunez thanked God and everyone: "No person can resolve; my goal is service."

Milady Tejeda thanked God, her family and the voters, "The education of future leaders is important. I care about the future of our City. The most important decision is to build a new High School."

When it came time to elect a president, Jose Rodriguez nominated Sam Lebreault. The motion was seconded by Israel Varela. Lebreault was elected unanimously. Board Member Ken Puccio nominated Israel Varela as Vice-President; it was seconded by Obi Gonzalez. Varela was elected Vice-President with one "no" vote from Board Member William Ortiz.

Lebreault then read a lengthy statement in English and Spanish about moving the Board of Ed forward in the future.

Board Member Anthony Bermudez was absent.

McGinnis School Closed Until Jan. 15, 2015 See Page 7



Milady Tejeda is sworn in by Secretary Derek Jess



Manuel Nunez is sworn in



Jose Rodriguez is sworn in
*Photos by Katherine Massopust

Send Your Events to: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Mayor Henry Highlights Past Achievements and Projects to Look Forward to in 2015



Mayor Fred Henry delivers his speech at the 1/5/15 Reorganization Meeting *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

SOUTH AMBOY - Mayor Fred Henry made remarks to those in attendance after he was sworn in.

Henry recognized certain individuals in attendance. This included: Surrogate Kevin Hoagland, Former Council President Joe Connors, John O'Connell who ran against him in 2014 and representatives from the 19th District. He congratulated Mickey Gross who was newly reelected and is now the new Council President and Christine Noble who was also reelected and will serve as the VP.

"I look forward with working with them and the other Council Members."

Henry was happy to announce that the City had received a \$1.8 million grant which helped with Waterfront improvements. "Our Senior Citizens were moved back to the Center on Stevens Avenue and I am pleased to announce that there has been an increase of Senior Citizens participating in activities. This is a win for our Seniors. We have renegotiated a lease with the "Y". Venetian Healthcare opened up and some residents have moved in. It's a great rateable."

Henry gave a progress report on how the Ferry is moving along. "As you know, dealing with Federal funds is not an easy task. DOT Meetings have been held to discuss designs of

the terminal and the parking lot. The Fire and Police Department participated in Emergency Drills which took place in Texas. Our participation in these drills included a simulated emergency train wreck. Transit was very pleased with our response time. I want to congratulate Fire Chief Mike Geraltowswki, First Assistant Chief John Kelly, and Second Assistant Chief Steve Szatkowski who were sworn in on January 1, 2015. I would also like to thank outgoing Fire Chief Brett Coyle for his service. The City is saving \$8000 a year with the new communications and apparatus equipment for our Emergency Services. Our office and the Fire Department have a more open dialogue." He recognized Police Chief Darren Lavigne and the other Police Personnel in attendance for their service.

"The Police Department has also improved their communications operations. A \$43,000 CDBG was used to repave some of our roads and sidewalk curbs. The JCPL Building was finally dismantled and there were improvements done on John Street. The McCormick/Sands deal was closed on 12/30/14. I want to thank the various Boards for working together to get this done. We received \$3.8 million from the Redevelopment Agency. We are in a better financial

Continued on Page 2

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Mayor Henry Highlights

Continued from Page 1

situation and have a surplus. I want to thank B.A. Camille Tooker and her staff for a job well done. Our challenge is to continue on a positive path. I'm looking for the party's help in that.'

He thanked his Mom and his adopted Aunt Lois and especially his wife, Linda.

"I also want to thank all that supported me or not, but I am here for all our residents.'

Reorganization Meeting 1/5/15

SOUTH AMBOY - A Resolution authorizing a temporary budget appropriations for the 2015 Calendar Year was one of the items on the 1/5/15 Council Meeting. Several appointments were also listed.

John R. Lanza was reappointed as the City Attorney. Mark Rasimowicz was reappointed as City Engineer. Camille Tooker was reappointed as the B.A. and also appointed as the Public Agency Compliance Officer.

Some of the Council Members were appointed on various Boards.

George Otlowski, Jr. was reappointed as Municipal Public Defender.

For a list of the Boards that the Council Members will serve on and other commissions and services on the Agenda are listed on the City of South Amboy Website. http://www. southamboynj.gov/

Topics For Discussion at South Amboy Business Meeting 1/7/15

SOUTH AMBOY - Threre was an Amendment for a Bulk Waste Ordinance. Business Administrator Camille Tooker said, "The Prosecutor's Office requested that the City establish a Fee Schedule for fines. We're looking at the First Offense \$75, Second Offense \$150, Third Offense \$300 and the Fourth Offense \$1000."

City Clerk Laura Kemble-Kalantsis said, "The maximum fine can go up to \$2000."

Item# Carousel Quote for Senior Center Relocation. B.A. Camille Tooker said, "The company, Carousel would provide the service of phones for the Senior Center to be integrated with the phones at City Hall. In the past, the Senior Center was not part of the City's phone system."

Resolution R-32-2015 - Authorizing Qualifications for Professional Services for the City of South Amboy. Tooker said, "There was only one submission by First Management Consultants. Since we are not familiar with them, I want to put a notice in the papers for a rebid."

R-33-2015 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Environmental Services. Tooker said, "This is to allocate \$5000 for Potomac-Hudson for Environmental Issues dealing with the Ferry Service. They need to file with the Department of Transportation because the location was moved to make it more convenient for those who will be using the Ferry Service."

R-34-2015 - Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Architectural Services. This is \$5000 to Architect Mike Testa for Ferry Service Analysis.

R-35-2015 Resolution Approving the Codification. Tooker said, "This is to approve code assistance to Codify the Ordinances. Some Ordinances are no longer in effect. Some needed to be updated and some were updated. With this Resolution, all Codes and Ordinances will be up to date which will make all Department Heads and Boards very happy."

Mayor Henry who attended the Meeting was very happy

that this was finally going through. He has been asking for this for awhile. "Everything is getting updated and modified.'

He also mentioned the fire that took place at the C-Town South Amboy and the Circle Hotel in Savreville which had occurred earlier in the day. "I want to commend our Fire Department for a job well done (in containing the blaze)."

Some of the Council Members in attendance made comments.

Zusette Dato wished everyone a Happy New Year. She felt that everything is getting off to a good start.

Council President Mickey Gross said, "I want to start something new this year." He asked if any of the Professionals in attendance wanted to add any comments.

Camille Tooker took this time to congratulate the Council. "We're getting off to a good start with upcoming projects. I want to compliment our Professional Staff for their hard work and the future projects that will be coming up."

Gifted & Talented Presentation at 1/7/15 BOE Meeting

Placing Emphasis on Exceeding Standards

PERTH AMBOY – At the 2014. 1/7/15 BOE Meeting, Dr. Elissa Brown, Principal Investigator in collaboration with Rutgers University gave a detailed report on the Gifted and Talented Program in the Perth Amboy School District. Brown is a Professor at Rutgers University and Hunter College (New York). Emphasis on the higher achieving students was addressed.

The report emphasized an effective evaluation of the Gifted & Talented Program that is presently in place in Perth Amboy. The purpose of the report was to document strengths and limitations of the G&T Program while at the same time offering recommendations for future program improvement. The evaluation was performed in October 2014 – December

The findings of the investigation were:

- Perth Amboy has many dedicated teachers
- There is district-wide recognition that G&T students need to be served
- There is no universal standard in PAPS to identify and serve G&T students
- PAPS is not following NJ State BOE definition of gifted-
- There are pockets of schools challenging their students, but this is teacher dependent.
- PAPS has not been effective in engaging parents in supporting G&T Students
- Many students are penalized (given more work) if finished early - they have to wait for the other students to finish



Dr. Elissa F. Brown gives her presentation on Gifted & Talented *Photo by Katherine Massopust

· Teachers, students and parents could not identify what the gifted program is.

*Continued on Page 7



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The Kearny Cottage Historical Society is Looking for Old Photos and Documents of Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Woodbridge, Fords, etc. (Local Area) For an Archiving Project - Your Photos & Documents will be scanned into digital format & returned to you. For more info please call 732-293-1090

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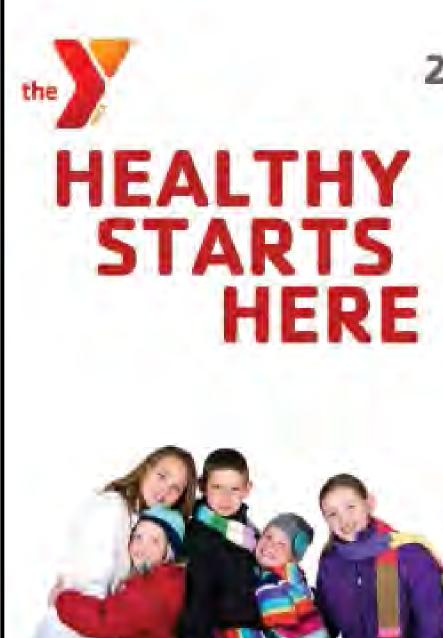
SOUTH AMBOY- Xbox from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Knitting Circle SOUTH AMBOY - There will

be a Knitting Circle on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-72 1-6060.

Kidz Wii Club

SOUTH AMBOY - The Kidz Wii Club will meet every Monday from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. Ages 5 and under For more info call 732-721-6060.



2015 Winter I Programs Jan. 4th - Feb. 14th

Kids programs:

Baby & Youth Ballet Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Martial Arts Born To Move Families Fit Together **Gymnastics** Holiday Care Instructional Baseball Junior Slam Basketball Kids Fit Leaders Club Little Ballers Little Sluggers T-Ball Soccer Academy Sports Bugs Swimming Lessons Teen Center V's Before & After School Programs

Adult Programs:

Cross Fitness Training Grit Series Group Exercise Classes Kickboxing

Open Sports Sessions:

- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- Soccer
- Volleyball

Meditation/Guided Imagery Personal Training Reiki Level One Training Class Running Club Private Sessions: Swimming Lessons Sports Training Tai Chi

Senior Programs:

Group Exercise Classes Personal Training Swimming Lessons SilverSneakers Fitness Program

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

What Does Love Mean?

This week for the editorial I decided to publish wise words from those who you would least suspect. Enjoy and a big thank you to Jeff B. from Arizona for forwarding me this email:

What Love means to a 4-8 year old... Slow down for 3 minutes to read this. It is so worth it. Touching words from the mouth of babes. A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds,

'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined See what you think:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. *Billy - age 4*

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.'

Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' *Chrissy - age 6* 'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' *Terri - age 4*

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' *Danny - age 7*

'Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss.' *Emily - age 8*

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.' *Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)*

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.' *Nikka* - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.' *Noelle - age 7*

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.' *Tommy - age 6*

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.' Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' *Clare - age 6*

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.' *Elaine-age 5*

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.' *Chris - age 7*

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.'

Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'

Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.'(what an image)

Karen - age 7

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross..'

Mark - age 6
'You really shouldn't say, 'I love you' unless you mean it.

But if you mean it, you should

say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

And the final one The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry' - *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The White Kid

I want all of my friends to know my name is Tom and the color of skin is white.

I mention the above because everything I read in the newspaper or see on TV says: "Are you Black or White?" I was talking to a couple of Editors of newspaper last week. I've written well over 200 articles each year would always be on Christmas and "Yes Virginia, There is A Santa Claus."

Won't be my last this year. My young Cousin took a massive heart attack the next morning that took his life. I was unable to attend the wake or funeral.

I want to explain how this ties in with my article on color of skin or Black or White.

My Cousin's Mother's maiden name was Monahan and she was my Mom's Sister. They were born and raised in South Amboy.

One day a little Black girl knocked on the door and Grandma took this little kid in the kitchen for milk and cookies. She said, "We are all God's children and are created equal." That was well over one hundred years ago and I'll never forget that story as long as I live.

My Mother married my Father (John Clark) and lived on State Street in Perth Amboy until 1928. They moved to Metuchen that year. I went to Washington School Grades 1-6 which was 2 blocks from my house. There were no Black kids in my school because they went to Franklin School which was 2 blocks from their homes. Franklin School became the High School in the Forties so we were all together now. Two of my best friends were Black kids. We played baseball every day and all summer long. In the winter we would shovel snow and my Mom would invite us in for hot cocoa. Charlie Butler (was Black). We graduated in 1950. He wrote in my yearbook, "Clarkie, you are a great baseball player and you will be with the New York Yankees in a few years." I wasn't great and the Korean War came along and we both got drafted. I went to Charlie's wake and funeral years later.

I did play some baseball in college so Clarkie didn't let Charlie down.

The V.A. Medical hired me and I was assigned to a Nursing Home at Lyons, NJ. Many Residents were Korean Vets. Some guys were Black and had no family or friends. They now had Tom. A guy named Mark was one of those guys. He died and I made the wake in Trenton that night. I was the only White guy there and I was treated like a king. When I was leaving, a guy said to me, "Tom, this is not a good area. Follow me and I'll make sure you get on Route One." I mention this because I have not made a wake or funeral in a long time.

I have a message for some White people out there. "We have too many fakers."

Yes, my friends, "When is the last time you invited a black kid in for a cold drink or a cup of hot cocoa?"

Thomas Francis Clark

Keep Those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You!



Look Up!

Look up at the glorious sky that God has rendered on to you.

What can be so diverse as those magnificent clouds. Different varieties and shapes.

I float on these clouds, not wanting to look down.

Erasing from my mind the mundane chaos of this world.

So take a deep breath and let your imagination run free and look up *Dioris Arlequin "The Poet"*

What Do You Think? Send us Your Response!

Apokriatiko Glendi

Carnival - Mardi Gras -Masque WOODBRIDGE - Saturday,

Feb. 21, The Forge Inn, Rte. 9 N., Woodbridge. Live Band for dancing by Maria L Stavros Damore. Fun, Prizes and Surprises. Doors open 7 p.m. Cash Bar. All are invited. Dress in your Favorite Jester, Joker Costume (Optional). St. Demetrios Board of Trustees will be honoring: Lambros Simatos (Elevator Committee/Past President); Kateina Ganiaris (Past President); Soterios Petroutsos (Sexton); George Seitis (Chief Chef), Presvytera Eva Michaels and Zeffie Filindras (Beautification Award Winners). Must make Reservations in advance. Must RSVP on or before Feb. 15, 2015. Donation: \$45 pp; Children 7 to 16 yrs \$25; Under 6 yrs. Free. Seniors over 65 yrs. \$40. Please make checks payable to ST. Demetrios Church and mail to Olga Mamaligas, 40 Henry St., Sayreville, NJ 08872. (732-254-0311). For more info call Irene Pakis -732-591-1878; Afroula Kanellides - 732-423-7256 or Helen Horan - 908-756-6352.

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Published by Amboy Guardian LLC
P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862
(732) 896-4446 Email - CRLYNMXWLL@AOL.COM
(732) 261-2610 Email - KMASS514@GMAIL.COM

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HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday's 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.

Food Stamps Assistance

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday there will be a Food Stamps Assistance Program 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.: JRF's Family Success Center families to come in and meet with a representative from the Community Food Bank of NJ to assist with food stamps application and eligibility guidelines. For additional information please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy (Proprietary House).

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 or 732-324-3505.

Citizenship Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday: : FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER is offering a free course to assist those who plan on taking the USCIS Citizenship Test. All details will be discussed at the meeting. All who plan to take the course must attend Orientation. Call or visit the office to register. 149 Kearny Ave. (Proprietary House) Perth Amboy.

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 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy
TUES. Jan. 13 Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
UEZ, 6 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

BID, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St. City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

PAHS, Eagle Ave.

City Hall, High St.
WED. Jan 21 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

MON. Jan. 26 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

WED. Jan. 28 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St. THURS. Feb. 5 Board of Education, 6 p.m.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 14

WED. Jan. 21 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway



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PERTH AMBOY CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CENTER, P.A.

Dr. James Walff

613 Amboy Ave. Perth Amboy , NJ 08861 732-442-5552

Dr. James Wolff is pleased to announce the addition of Herneg Wu, a certified acupuncturist, to the staff of Perth Amboy Chiropractic Health Center, P.A.

Herneg Wu is an acupuncturist specializing in alternative medicine that will compliment the chiropractic services of Dr. Wolff.

Acupuncture is effective for many systemic and musculoskeletal ailments such as the following:

- Headaches
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- Low back pain
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- Depression
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Most insurance plans cover this service. Call Dr. Wolff's staff today to inquire about this alternative health care service and schedule an appointment.

Peak Flu Season is Here: Help Protect Yourself and Your Family

By: Dr. Nazar Raoof

We are entering the peak of the influenza ("flu") season. Beginning in late September and continuing through March, the influenza virus can cause significant health issues. Predictions that the 2014-2015 influenza season could be severe have come true; in fact it is at epidemic levels with double the number of influenza related hospitalizations compared to last year. In fact, the CDC reports that New Jersey is among a growing number of states with the highest level of influenza-like illness. As of now the current Middlesex County influenza activity level is high.

Influenza is a family of contagious respiratory viruses. Feeling feverish, body aches, headaches, sore throat, and cough are some of the common symptoms. Though these are many of the same symptoms of the common cold, it is the severity of such symptoms and the potential complications that sets influenza apart. Serious health problems can result from the flu, such as pneumonia, regardless of age or medical problems. The flu can also worsen chronic health conditions such as asthma and statistically the flu kills 30,000-40,000 Amere each year!

So how can we protect ourselves and loved ones from this disease? The best protection against the flu is the annual flu vaccine (either the flu shot or nasal spray). When more people are vaccinated, there is less disease spread through the community. With this in mind, Raritan Bay Medical Center initiated a mandatory vaccination policy this season for general staff, nurses and physicians. This policy was instituted to help protect our community, patients, visitors and staff at our Old Bridge and Perth Amboy locations from influenza.

Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Even if the actual seasonal strains do differ from those in the vaccine, for the most part, partial protection can occur, and is better than no protection. Everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine

Americans every season. There is no preference for the type of flu vactores from this protection every season. There is no preference for the type of flu vactores from this protection every season. There is no preference for the type of flu vactores from the vaccine.

Follow these other important steps to protect yourself and your family;

- Avoid close contact with sick people, and if you are sick avoid others to prevent spreading the illness (this includes visiting hospitals)
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or into your sleeve when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands after
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water to eliminate germs. Or use alcohol based sanitizers when soap is not available.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Get plenty of sleep and eat nutritious foods

Dr. Nazar Raoof is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and is Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Epidemiology at Raritan Bay Medical Center. His office, ID Care, is located in Suite 208, 3 Hospital Plaza, at Raritan Bay Medical Center's Old Bridge, NJ, location. To make an appointment, call 1-800-DOCTORS.









Advisory: McGinnis School will be Closed Until Thursday January 15, 2015

Press Release PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy **Public Schools** have an important announcement for parents of children that attend William C. McGinnis. THIS MESSAGE IS ONLY FOR **PARENTS** OF CHIL-**DREN ATTENDING** WILLIAM C MCGINNIS SCHOOL. The William C McGinnis School will be closed until Thursday January 15, 2015 for disinfection from Clostridium difficile. Schools should reopen on Thursday JANU-ARY 15, 2015 but wait for an official announcement. As parents have been previously informed an adult at the school contracted the illness and came to the school with the infection causing the school to become infected. Children from the McGinnis School will be kept out of school. DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO THE MCGINNIS SCHOOL AS IT WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL Thursday JANU-ARY 15, 2015. We apologize for any inconvenience but out of an abundance of caution and after consulting health care authorities the best possible solution is to keep the children out of school. For more information on C-Diff click on the link below. http:// www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cdiff/cdiff-patient. html?mobile=nocontent For further updates continue to check the schools website at www.paps.net Than you for your understanding, Perth Amboy Public Schools

FOCUS Explained

PERTH AMBOY - At the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting, Interim Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez felt the need to explain FOCUS. "There are rumors that the State is taking over McGinnis School. It's sad that I heard these rumors from teachers. "Race to the Top Funding" which replaced "No Child Left Behind" classifies three groups of schools: PRIORITY - Worse; FOCUS - Below proficient; and RE-WARD - Excelling. In Perth Amboy we have two FOCUS schools - our two middle schools (McGinnis and Shull). A percentage of money must be appropriated to them. A regional director comes and works together on a plan to improve instruction. It's Year Three of FOCUS for both McGinnis and Shull. We are working to help the schools improve."

Negotiations to Begin on Purchase of Delaney Homes Property

PropertyPERTH AMBOY – At the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting a motion was put on the table to open negotiations with the Housing Authority to purchase a portion of the Delaney Homes land

Board Member Obi Gonzalez spoke, "We had a visit from the SDA and have approval for a school. The B.A. of Public Schools (for Middlesex County) will negotiate the purchase of the Delaney Homes Property from the Housing Authority for the construction of a new High School. As past President of the Board of Education, I was the Go-To Person. We want to do our due diligence to have all properties available to us. The Delaney Homes is the best option we have. The SDA has committed money to us. I want to assure the public. We are working through this problem."

Board Vice President Israel Varela said, "I personally was looking at the biggest place. By the time we build this school, it will be overcrowded. Unfortunately we have to take what's available. I wish we had more time. Those are the cards we were dealt with."

The motion passed unanimously.

Bilingual/ESL Parent Institute Program Approved

PERTH AMBOY - At the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting Interim Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez was excited that a Bilingual/ESL Parent Institute Program is being initiated. The program will begin on March 2, 2015 and continue on to May 27, 2015 on Monday's and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Shull School. The Title III Immigrant Program will pay for the entire cost. "This is a wonderful program to work with new immigrant parents. It's a course to teach literary skills and promote literacy and comprehension. It's an educational opportunity," Rodriguez stated.

Board Member William Oritz asked, "How will you get parents involved?"

Dr. Rodriguez answered, "It's part of the Bilingual Program."

"Are there any more details?" Ortiz asked

She responded, "It is a series of workshops for new Bilingual parents."

Discussion on Physical Restraint System Training

PERTH AMBOY – There was a discussion pertaining to the approval of Warning Order LLC to provide a 1-day Physical Restraint System Training at the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting. This course is for all new administrators and security personnel. There is also a 2 hour refresher course for previously trained individuals. The training officer, Mr. Wolff was present at the meeting.

Wolff stated, "Sometimes administrators and security personnel have to put hands on students or parents. This course teaches how it can be done in a safe and practical manner in a school environment. The refresher is necessary every one year because if you don't use these skills, you tend to forget what to do. Every officer is certified. It is in your best interest to have this class. Every Principal, Vice-Principal and Security Personnel has to undergo training. Teachers are not trained."

Gifted & Talented Presentation 1/7/15 BOE Meeting

Continued from Page 2

- There is district leadership support for meeting the needs of G&T students
- There should be a centralized process so when students reach High School they have similar sets of experiences.

Brown offered the following recommendations:

- Hire a district level supervisor
- Put into place an identification system
- Identify G&T students in their area of strength
- Provide specific training to K-2 teachers on nurturing potential signs of G&T students
- Provide advanced content to supplement Common Core Standards
- Provide professional Development and teacher certification in gifted education
- Develop documents for communication, procedures and

guidance.

Brown concluded her presentation by emphasizing the importance of helping the Gifted Program. She is hoping to put Perth Amboy on the map as an example of what a G&T Program should be.

Board Member Obi Gonzalez stated, "I'm concerned. We can kill two birds with one stone. We might have difficulty finding a person. (referring to a go-to person for G&T). This person has to be very skilled. This person will report to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools."

During the public portion, Resident Stanley Sierakowski commented on the program: "Dr. Elissa Brown gave a great presentation. I don't care how much money you spend – you're talking the cream of the crop. It's too important. You should focus on this."

Send Your Events to: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Know Your Flood Risk: New FEMA Flood Maps for Middlesex Ready for Review. Open House Scheduled. *Public Open House scheduled for January 29, 2015.*

Press Release

SAYREVILLE -The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II office released updates to the flood hazard maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), for Middlesex County. These updates were preliminarily issued to Middlesex County and incorporated areas on January 1st, 2014. The FIRMs identify areas that have flood risk in Middlesex County. Insurance companies use FIRMs to determine flood insurance rates for buildings and their contents, and lenders utilize this information to determine flood insurance requirements. Middlesex County residents and property owners are encouraged to learn more about their flood risk and the updates shown on the preliminary flood hazard maps by looking up their property's address in the "What's my BFE" tool at www.region-2coastal.com.

Middlesex County will hold a public Flood Risk Open House on the updates at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, 1001 Fire Academy Drive, Sayreville, NJ 08872, on January 29th, 2015 from 5pm to 9pm. No appointment is required. Using interactive flood hazard maps at this Open House,

representatives from the State, Middlesex County, and FEMA and their mapping partners, will be available to answer flood risk and insurance questions, and explain the preliminary flood hazard maps. Residents are encouraged to bring their elevation certificates and/ or flood insurance policies to the event in order to get the best information about how their flood insurance may change as a result of the new preliminary flood

The following information will **not** be available at this meeting: Disaster-related recovery efforts and outstanding insurance claims.

Please plan to attend this meeting if your property is currently mapped within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), newly mapped into an SFHA, and/or if you currently have flood insurance. If you are unsure of your flood risk, please refer to the Preliminary FIRMs which are available on the FEMA Map Service Center website, https://msc.fema.gov/portal, or call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or your local flood plain administrator or building official.

If you are in a high-risk flood zone, known as the

SFHA, you may be required by your lender to carry flood insurance. FEMA staff will be available at the Open House to talk about these changes.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States. It is vital for property owners to understand their risk and taking advantage of tools and programs available to them. Property owners can take action by purchasing flood insurance and implementing mitigation actions to help reduce future flooding impacts.

The preliminary flood hazard maps that will be shared at the Open House are an update of the existing FIRMs, which date back for some communities to over 30 years ago. These preliminary FIRMs and the associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) provide the basis for flood risk education and floodplain management measures. Middlesex County is required to adopt updated maps to continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes flood insurance available to the community.

For additional information on flood hazard risk and the mapping process, please visit www.region2coastal.com.

New Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center Welcomes First Residents to Experience the Future of Long-Term Care

News Release 12/18/14 SOUTH AMBOY - Today the first residents are moving into the new Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center, a cutting edge rehabilitation and long term care center that embraces person-directed care, modern design and technology near the South Amboy waterfront. Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center replaces the 1960s-era Briarwood Care & Rehabilitation Center in Sayreville and one of 10 Windsor Healthcare Communities located throughout New Jersey. Briarwood management and residents and indeed everyone who is part of the family-owned Windsor Healthcare Communities have been looking forward to the three-mile move to the Vene-

"We're delighted to welcome the first residents to our newest community, which offers them a true home designed to provide person-directed care surrounded by the thriving South Amboy downtown and waterfront," said Hyman Jacobs, founder and CEO of Windsor Healthcare.

Venetian, located in the Southern Redevelopment Plan of South Amboy, is within walking distance of downtown South Amboy, the train station and two parks on the waterfront promenade, which offers scenic views and lots of entertainment. Venetian's immediate neighbors are the South Amboy YMCA, Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, and new townhomes to be built by Woodmont Properties.

Windsor Healthcare Vice President Michael Jacobs describes the Venetian as a model for the future of transitional and rehabilitative care, is well as long-term care, with floor plans and lifestyles that allow residents more choice and flexibility throughout the day, creating an environment that does not feel institutional.

"You won't see endless hallways with disconnected spaces here," said Michael Jacobs. "We built the Venetian as a series of 'neighborhoods' with lovely bedrooms featuring big picture windows flooding the rooms with light because we want residents to feel at home."

Residents of each neighborhood have their own team of dedicated care partners trained to tailor daily life and activities to individual preferences.

Vice President Batsheva Katz noted that food choices and access to food are important to quality of life for nursing home residents, so in addition to community dining rooms, each neighborhood in the Venetian has a full kitchen with



SOUTH AMBOY - One of the first Residents at Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center in South Amboy, Larry Weghorn, is greeted by his care partner Ayde Ruiz today as Windsor Healthcare Vice President Batsheva Katz (L) and Venetian Administrator Gina Kirchoff. (R) look on.

*Photo Submitted

an oven, stove, microwave and refrigerator. Residents will be able to help themselves to a snack in between meals and help cook a meal on occasion.

Kessler Rehabilitation is providing rehabilitation therapy services for both long- and short-term residents at the Venetian. A large state-of-the-art rehabilitation gym, an outdoor RehabPark, and a full-service kitchen will enable rehab residents recovering from an illness or surgery to undergo clinician-prescribed physical, occupational and speech therapy in preparation for returning home.

Kessler Regional Vice President Remko van der Voordt, PT, noted that all short and long term care residents have access to top-of-the-line rehab equipment and receive high intensity therapy at Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center. The long-term care section of the rehab gym serves the specific needs of long-term residents, such as fall prevention, balance or wheelchair mobility training. In the occupational therapy section of the gym, residents focus on activities of daily living, regaining the necessary skills to prepare foods in the kitchen and operate a washer/dryer. They also receive training in cognitive functioning. In the RehabPark, residents will work on improving movement, balance, walking and even transferring in

and out of a car.

Residents transferring from the Briarwood will be moving into Venetian in phases over the near term. Venetian is also accepting applications for new residents. Gina Kirchoff is the administrator for Venetian, and will be transferring from Briarwood, where she has also served as administrator.

About Windsor Healthcare: A family-owned company, Windsor Healthcare Communities provides clinically sophisticated sub-acute care, as well as comprehensive nursing care, in ten homes located throughout New Jersey. The company leads the state in our adoption of a more enlightened philosophy of "life after adulthood." Windsor Healthcare Communities honor people first, value relationships, and treat Elders and employee care partners like family. This family commitment is Windsor Healthcare's measure for outstanding, quality care. Windsor Healthcare Communities strive to do things as residents would do them at home.

Windsor Healthcare Communities include Abingdon Care & Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook, Ashbrook in Scotch Plains, Briarwood in South Amboy, Buckingham at Norwood, Canterbury in Cedar Grove, Cornell Hall in Union, Llanfair House in Wayne, Windsor Gardens in East Orange, Merwick in Plainsboro and the Venetian in South Amboy.

Please visit www.windsorhealthcare.org for more information.

Health Coverage

PERTH AMBOY - The Health Insurance Marketplace helps uninsured people enroll in health coverage. From November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015, the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center at 275 Hobart Street can help you apply for health coverage through the Marketplace. Plans cover essential health benefits, pre-existing conditions, and preventive care. Our Patient Navigators are available to help. Call us at 732-376-9333.

Toys For Tots

*Photo Submitted



SAYREVILLE - Marine Eddy Androvich of Sayreville, NJ presented a Toy for Tots Certificate of Appreciation to Janice O'Neil of Build A Bear Workshop in Menlo Park Mall, Edison, NJ for their support. Marine Androvich had completed his 40th year collecting toys. Ed started in November 1974 and has never lost a year. Marine Androvich works with Marine Corps in 6th Mt. Reserves in Red Bank, NJ.

Code Blue Heating Centers in Perth Amboy

Press Release 1/8/15

PERTH AMBOY - The Office of Emergency Management has announced a "Code Blue" in the City of Perth Amboy. Heating Centers are designated for the public in three Perth Amboy facilities due to low temperatures, until further notice:

1. Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center located on 1 Olive Street; open M-F from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2. Perth Amboy Public Library (Brighton Avenue Community Center) temporarily located on 57 Brighton Avenue; open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.

3. Raritan Bay Area YMCA gymnasium located on 357 New Brunswick Avenue; open M-F 5:30 a.m. - 9:45 p.m.

A "Code Blue" is activated when temperatures fall below 20 degrees. If anyone sees a person who needs help, they are urged to call the Perth Amboy Police Department at 732-442-4400. If needed, transportation will be provided by local emergency responders.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Trip to Caesar's Casino Every First Thursday of Each Month. Bus leaves 12 Noon from Knights of Columbus, 228 High St., Perth Amboy. Cost \$30 per person. Receive a \$30 slot card. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

Public Notice Middlesex Water Company Warns Against Imposters Posing As Utility Personnel

Posing As Utility
Personnel
Press Release 1/8/15
ISELIN - - Middlesex Water
Company is urging customers
to be on the alert for individuals claiming to be water company representatives. Recently, the company has learned

Company is urging customers to be on the alert for individuals claiming to be water company representatives. Recently, the company has learned of incidents in its service area, where imposters, often working with another person, will pose as water company representatives, and will attempt to gain entry to a customer's home to check water quality or meter piping. Often, while the customer is distracted while complying with a request to check their tap or fixture, they will later discover they have been burglarized. The Company is urging customers to be wary of any water utility representative seeking to gain access to their home, to carefully check for company name and identification and to contact Middlesex Water's Customer Service Department at 800-549-3802 to verify the authenticity of the employee before allowing entrance. If a customer suspects a person or persons to be posing as water utility representatives, they are encouraged to get a detailed description of the parties in question and to notify the police immediately.

Contact:

Bernadette Sohler, Vice President – Corporate Affairs Middlesex Water Company 1500 Ronson Road

www.amboyguardian.com

Toy Drive Success

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - I am the founder of "Roots to Addiction", I am also a resident of South Amboy. Roots To Addiction is a central NJ, community based, grass roots, closed Facebook support group for those struggling with substance use disorder, those in recovery and loved ones. Our Motto in Roots to Addiction is "Together WE Can". We partnered with Help Not Handcuffs for a holiday toy drive.

Help Not Handcuffs is a community campaign to decriminalize and de-stigmatize substance use disorders and substance use by highlighting the negative human and financial impacts of failed drug criminalization laws. This year, Help Not Handcuffs selected Asbury Park's Epiphany House which serves women recovering from substance use and their children who live with them in the houses that Epiphany operates.

The Holiday Drive was organized for two purposes:

1. To send a message to people recovering from substance use that the broader community cares about them as they overcome their challenge. This is important as substance use disorders (SUD) are stigmatized and often shamed and criminalized unlike equitable mental or physical health dis-



Donation drop off. (L to R) is me (Randy Thompson, Help Not Handcuffs Campaign Founder), Katie Tomasso, Director of Epiphany House and Andrew Gibson a Help Not Handcuffs' Volunteer. The picture shows off the donations but we could not take pictures with the actual recipients due to privacy concerns. *Photo Submitted

orders.

2. Also, the holiday drive sought to highlight that many people who suffer from SUD are not able to receive recovery supports or treatment if needed due to failed criminalization laws. Criminalization laws squander very limited resources and do not deter drug use or distribution.

The Holiday Drive was suc- • Fun 107.1 FM cessful in delivering 1 1/2 truck loads of toys along with \$550 in gift cards to area stores like Target, Toys R Us and Shop Rite.

Partnering with Help Not Founder Handcuffs were several local businesses and other commu-

nity and/or recovery groups:

- Shop Rite of Neptune
- Retro Fitness of Neptune
- Neptune Police Department
- The Center for Recovery Education and Success (CARES)
- Roots to Addiction
- The Monmouth Rugby Club
- People's Transport
- Pop's Bagels
- WRAT 94.3 FM
- Warm Things Comedy Show performed at The Saint in Asbury Park

Kim Seber **Roots To Addiction**

















Background Info

Families are constantly torn apart by costly drug laws that do not deter or reduce drug use yet incarcerate people on a daily basis. Meanwhile those that ask for help cannot find it making crisis all the more likely.

By focusing funding on arrest and coercive policies and programs, those who need and want support for recovery and/or treatment will continue to be left without help.

FACT: One in every 30-40 people has a family member incarcerated due to drug charges at a cost of approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000/year

FACT: Trauma, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Adverse Childhood Experiences and cooccurring mental illnesses are common drivers of substance use which is why criminal prohibition laws do not stop or deter the use of drugs

FACT: The overwhelming majority of people with substance use disorders willingly seek out treatment. But many cannot find it, In 2012 - 31,145 adults in NJ sought but did not receive treatment. Also, 56,000 adolescents needed but did not receive treatment.

FACT: The majority of people who use substances do not have substance use disorders yet are subject to arrest and possibly forced treatment – thereby consuming resources

FACT: We do not have enough resources to help those who need it and ask for it. As long as we continue to make arrest the priority with substance use we will not be able to invest in recovery supports and treatment

Children and families end up sharing the pain of these failed policies, especially during the holidays. Please consider making a contribution to ease their family's burden this year.

Tax Facts

Year-End Holiday Giving

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka
Dear Client:

With the holiday season upon us, many of you give generously to your favorite charities and we applaud your efforts. However, to ensure that your donations are tax deductible, there are a number of important points to keep in mind.

Rules for Charitable Contributions of Clothing and Household Items

Household items include furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances and linens. Clothing and household items donated to charity generally must be in good used condition or better to be tax deductible. A clothing or household item worth over \$500 does not have to meet this standard if you include a qualified appraisal of the item with your return

To be deductible, you must generally get a receipt from the charity showing the date and place of the contribution and a description of the property. However, for gifts under \$250, if it is impractical to obtain a receipt (e.g., goods are delivered to an unattended drop site) a receipt is not required if you have written records with the same information as required for gifts over \$500 (as described below).

If the gift is worth \$250 or more, you must get a written acknowledgement from the charity that includes a description of what was donated and when, and a statement either that no goods or services were rendered in return for the donation or describing and valuing what the charity provided in return. The acknowledgment must be obtained by the time the tax return for the year of the donation is filed or due, whichever comes first.

If the amount of your deduction for all similar noncash contributions (such as clothing, jewelry, furniture, electronic equipment, household appliances) is over \$500, you must keep written records that (1) indicate the appropriate date each noncash item was acquired, (2) include a reasonably detailed description of the donated property along with its condition, (3) estimate the purchase price of the item, (4) describe its current retail (usually second-hand or thrift-store) value, and (5) explain how this value was determined (e.g., from the Salvation Army's online donation guide:http:// satruck.org/donation-valueguide). If the amount of your deduction for all similar noncash contributions is over \$5,000, you'll generally need to have the items appraised by a qualified appraiser.

Guidelines for Monetary Donations

You must have a bank record or a written statement from the charity to deduct any donation of money, regardless of amount. The record must show the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. Bank records include canceled checks, and bank, credit union, and credit card statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity, the date, and the amount paid. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity, the date, and the transaction posting date.

Donations of money include those made in cash or by check, electronic funds transfer, credit card, and payroll deduction. For payroll deductions, you should retain a pay stub, a Form W-2 wage statement or other document furnished by your employer showing the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity.

These requirements do not change the long-standing requirement that you must obtain an acknowledgment from a charity for each deductible donation (either money or property) of \$250 or more. However, one statement containing all of the required information may meet both requirements.

Other Important Reminders

Other important reminders to keep in mind while planning your holiday and year-end charitable giving include the following:

- Qualified Charities. It is important to check to see if the charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. "Select Check," a searchable online tool available on IRS.gov, lists most such eligible organizations. In addition, churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and government agencies are eligible to receive deductible donations, even if they are not listed in the tool's database.
- Year-end Gifts. Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2014 count for 2014, even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2015. Also, checks count for 2014, as long as they are mailed in 2014.
- Itemize Deductions. For individuals, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A can claim deductions for charitable contributions. This deduction is not available to individuals who choose the standard deduction.

• Special Rules for Cars Boats, and Airplanes. The deduction for a car, boat or airplane donated to charity is usually limited to the gross proceeds from its sale. This rule applies if the claimed value is more than \$500. The organization must give you Form 1098-C or a similar statement that you can attached to your tax return.

Please give us a call if you have any questions or need further information.
Tom Ploskonka, CPA

Photography Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Come learn Portrait Photography. Lessons take place at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave. at 7 p.m., Tuesdays starting 1/27/15 will last an 8 week session. Must have a Digital Camera. \$50 pp for 8 week session. For more info call Paul at 732-293-1090 or 908-812-4549.

Military Assistance

Center

WOODBRIDGE - Sansone Auto Mall and Woodbridge Township are sponsoring a Military Assistance Center, 3rd Floor, Town Hall. Ronald G. Davie, Coordinator. 732-634-4500 ext. 2037. Email - Ron. Davie@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

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 19, 2015 at The Cathedral, 277 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy.

"King Day service at The Cathedral is an annual community event where many come to hear of King's philosophy that lives on" stated Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Lead Pastor at Cathedral International.

James Brown, CBS Sports-caster will be among guests at the service. Leaders from various houses of worship will attend and share in reflections on Dr. King. In addition, the Perth Amboy High School Concert Band, Cathedral International's Joy Bells Children's Choir and Cathedral Warriors will participate on the program.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free service. Call (732) 826-5295 for more information.

Dowdell Library Celebrates 100 Years

Press Release 12/8/14 SOUTH AMBOY - 2015 is just around the corner and the Dowdell Library of South Amboy will be welcoming in its 101st year! The Centennial year was a year chock-full of events such as a children's Olympic Read-a-thon, a Centennial Bake-off, a Meditation program, a children's gardening program, the Centennial Celebration at the South Amboy YMCA, a super hero costume contest, a cooking demo by caterer Carole Semel, an Eyes of the Wild animal program, a Stephen Youll exhibition and reception, the Get a Job workshops, the I Love South Amboy Photography Contest (Grand Prize winner was Anne Wang and Runner-Up was Edward Hughes); as well as the South Ambov Historical Society's 1914 program commemorating the library's beginning!

The year concluded with the warm Centennial Salute - Holiday Open House, in which Mayor Fred Henry proclaimed "the library is a destination for the community that honors the values and traditions of the past while striving to best serve the community to contribute to an even better future." He further congratulated and commended the library "in recognition of 100 years of exemplary community service." thermore, Senator Vitale and Assemblymen Coughlin and Wisniewski transmitted via a Joint Legislative Resolution that "the year 2014 marks the One Hundredth Anniversary of Dowdell Library, which is a highly esteemed organization within the Garden State community." Additionally, "the Dowdell Library has admirably served its community by providing an essential source of education and enjoyment..."

The Centennial Planning Committee consisted of the following members of the community: Marilyn Cipollari (staff), Marilyn Davidoff (MGD Enterprises), Elaine Gaber (Director), Jacqueline Julian (Jacqueline's Florist), David O'Connor (Library Board), Janet Simeone (staff), Marty Tannenbaum (Innovative Document Imaging), Gail Tanski (Gail Tanski Photography), and Barbara Tobin (Library Foundation).

Library Director Elaine Gaber would like to recognize and express appreciation to all who have served as Library Directors, Trustees, and staff members, and acknowledge the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation and the City of South Amboy for supporting and contributing to our amazing library for 100

years. The Dowdell Library is an "in demand" destination for the community due to those joint efforts and contributions. She went on to say that we are proud to be part of this remarkable institution and pleased to provide leadership and valuable services to the residents of South Amboy. Ms. Gaber also mentioned that "we envision that one hundred years from now, our commitment to responsible planning will enhance the library's role as a vital community hub for learning, growing and enjoying the expanding opportunities of our changing world. We will ensure the library's sustainability and continue to evolve to best serve the residents of our "pleasant little city by the bay."

Library locations through time: South Amboy Post Office (Broadway & David Street); South Amboy Trust Company (Broadway & Augusta Street); Calvary Methodist Church (Second & Stevens Avenue) and currently: South Amboy High School Complex (John T. O'Leary Blvd.)

Perhaps Barbara Bush, First Lady of the United States 1989-1993 said it best: "Libraries and librarians have definitely changed my life and the lives of countless other Americans."

The Dowdell Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School off O'Leary Blvd. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10 am – 8 pm; Wednesday and Friday 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday 12 noon – 4pm. For current programs, log onto www.dowdell. org. For additional information, contact the library at comments@dowdell.org or 732-721-6060.

at the YMCA 12 Weeks of Healing

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Y is offering a FREE 12 week program for cancer survivors starting January 2015. Extensive research has shown that exercise for individuals recovering from cancer, and individuals going through treatment for cancer, can help reduce fatigue and loss of strength. The program meets twice a week, Tuesdays 6-7pm and Thursdays 1-2pm, and will give participants a gradual approach to exercise as they work hand in hand with our experienced trainers and staff. There will be a focus on cardio exercise and progress into weights, stability and endurance. For more information, contact Lois Griffin at 732-316-8219 or lois.griffin@ ymcaofmewsa.org.

3 Kings Day at St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry, Perth Amboy 1/4/15

*Photos Submitted by Jerry Yaros











PERTH AMBOY - There were 314 happy children come on 1/4/15 to the Perth Amboy St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry for presents to celebrate their annual Christmas (Three Kings Day) Toy Distribution.

South Amboy Elks Christmas Party 12/21/14

*Photos Submitted



SOUTH AMBOY - On December 21, 2014, South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 hosted a Christmas party open to all children in the surrounding community. Lunch was served and the children enjoyed a fun filled afternoon. All were surprised when the characters from the movie Frozen surprised them. Elsa and Olaf took pictures with all the kids. The children also enjoyed the games, face painting and dancing to the music provided by the DJ. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from Santa and goody bags for all. It was a joy filled afternoon.





3 Kings Day at PRAHD with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno 1/4/15 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



A Crowded Room



PRAHD Board Member Mathias Rodriguez and PRAHD Executive Director Yvonne Lopez



Lt. Governor Guadagno helps PRAHD staff with gifts



Hector Bonilla addresses those in attendance



Director of Hispanic Affairs Abraham Lopez, Lt. Governor Guadagno, the Three Kings and Yvonne Lopez



The Three Kings hand out Gifts to Children

Baseball Alumni Dinner - Portuguese Club, Perth Amboy -12/28/14

*Photo Submitted



PERTH AMBOY - 1st annual Perth Amboy Baseball Alumni Dinner held 12/28/14 at the Portuguese Club Honoring the Jose Hernandez Scholarship Fund.

Tour of Berkow Maternity Pavillion

PERTH AMBOY- Raritan Bay Medical Center's monthly tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, January 14, at 7 p.m. Newly expectant parents are invited to take the tour and learn about the maternity unit's modern comforts designed to provide a calm and relaxing birthing experience. Participants are asked to meet in the main lobby of the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration required, call 1.800. DOCTORS (1.800.362.8677) and reference zip code 08861

Edison AARP Chapter 3446

Chapter 3446
EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, January 19, 2015. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall located at 167 Brower Avenue, Edison, NJ. Walter Stochel Jr. of the Metuchen/Edison Historical Society will present a program titled "Edison Then and Now". The following is a schedule of events for the coming months, which are open to non-members. February 19, 2015: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Jukehouse Heroes" - For information call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659. For information on the knitting and crocheting club, call Kay at 732-548-1976. Canned food for MCFOOD, and miscellaneous items for nursing homes & hospitals will be collected at the meeting, as well as metal can tabs & eyeglasses for Ronald McDonald House. For additional information, visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

Ask the Rabbi

EDISON - Every Wednesday, in January and February, Rabbi Saks of Congregation Beth Mordecai of Perth Amboy will be at Menlo Park Mall Food Court at 12 noon to 1 pm for his "Ask the Rabbi" program. He will offer a Jewish perspective on any question that you would like to ask.

Learn with the Rabbi at

Panera Yeshiva

WOODBRIDGE - Every Wednesday, in January and February, Rabbi Saks of Congregation Beth Mordecai of Perth Amboy will be at Panera Bread in Woodbridge (across from Wegmans) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. He will be teaching different Jewish subjects each week.

Assumption Catholic School Open House

PERTH AMBOY - Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy will host an open house on Sunday, January 25, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. as part of its Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Light refreshments and school tours will be available for prospective students and their parents. Founded in 1963, Assumption Catholic School brings the tradition of high-quality Catholic Education to the city of Perth Amboy, NJ. AdvancEd accredited, the school provides a Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of prekindergarten (age 4) through eighth-grade students. Before Care and After Care are available. To receive more information about the school, call 732-826-8721 or visit www.assumptioncatholicschool.net. If you have any friends or family that is looking for a school for their children, please let them know about our open house.

Ladies Auxiliary #4699

SAYREVILLE - the monthly meeting of the Sayreville Ladies Auxiliary #4699 on Jernee Mills Road will be held on January 27 at 7 p.m. All auxiliary ladies are invited to attend. A light refreshment will be served. For more info call 732-264-3041.

Vet's Coffee House

PERTH AMBOY - Attention area vets of our Armed Forces. The Salvation Army Vet's Coffee House meets once a month, every 2nd Thursday for coffee, donuts and conversation. Time is 19:00 - 21:00 located at the corner of Washington Street and State Street, Perth Amboy. We can be reached at the Salvation Army 732-826-7040. We look forward to meeting you.

Flu Shots Available

PERTH AMBOY - Don't Let the Flu Be Your Costume. Get your vaccination at the JRMC. Schedule your appointment today at one of our locations. Perth Amboy, 275 Hobart Street, (732) 376-9333 or email contactus@jmc. us. In Newark - 5 locations (973) 679-7709 or email newarkhealthcenters@jrmc.us

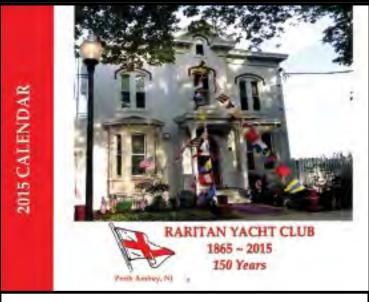
Pasta NightSOUTH AMBOY - Come for

SOUTH AMBOY - Come for Dinner, Stay for Music at Open Mic Night. Friday January 30, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. hosted by the Columibettes at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus, 308 4th St., South Amboy. Pasta Night - Spaghetti or Baked Ziti, Meatballs or Sausage, (1) beer, wine or soda, salad/bread/dessert and coffee - \$10 per adult \$7 per child - children under 5 yrs old free....Please call Maria for tickets 732-313-6483.

HSE (GED) Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Interested in obtaining your high school equivalency (HSE formerly known as GED) diploma while getting paid to learn? If so, please contact the Civic Justice Corps program at (732)324-2114 Ext. 102 or Ext. 100 or visit us at 149 Kearny Ave. (Proprietary House) Room 401 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. CJC is a project of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation. We provide academic, leadership and career support to males between the ages of 18-25 years old. We also offer a modest stipend to all our participants.

2015 RYC Commemorative Calendars For Sale



PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Yacht Club, Perth Amboy will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary in 2015. To "Kick Off" the New Year, a limited edition, commemorative calendar with 13 vintage photographs is available for \$15 by contacting the RYC Office 732-826-2277 or Barbara Booz 732-442-4234.

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Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department Parade Committee

will be holding their 5th Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 17, 2015 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall 228 High St., Perth Amboy Adults \$10 Children under 5 - Free Come out and support your local heroes!

Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. (Mention your request.)

Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.

Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each.

K.M. & C.M.

Chamber Players

WOODBRIDGE - Happy New Year! 2015 at the Barron Arts Center. All Seasons Chamber Players on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 8 p.m. Their 26th Season at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. Reservations Essential. Call 732-634-0413.

> Music at St. Mary's

St. Mary's
SOUTH AMBOY - "Calling music lovers of all ages! Music at Saint Mary's presents: Exit 4 Woodwind Quintet! This program of eclectic music for a woodwind quintet (flute oboe, clarinet, French horn, and bassoon) will be sure to delight the entire family. Unlike string quartets with their homogeneous blend of sounds, the 5-instrument composition of the wind quintet creates a delightful listening experience for the audience. Don't miss this opportunity to hear these incredibly talented musicians. Sunday-January 25, 2015; 4:00 pm, at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879! Free admission (\$15 donation suggested). A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert."

Edison AARP Chapter 3446

EDISON - The following is a schedule of events for the coming months, which are open to non members. Feb. 19, 2015: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Jukehouse Heroes" - For more info call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659. For additional info visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Cardiac Club will meet Monday, January 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Meetings are held in the hospital's Centennial Hall and provide education and support for those managing chronic heart conditions. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 732.324.5178.

Childbirth Education Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a one day Childbirth Education class Saturday. January 17, 8 a.m. to 5 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 at Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy. The fee for the course is \$125 per couple. Registration required, call 1.800.DOCTORS (1.800.362.8677) and reference zip code 08861.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 11



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Opening Day, Jefferson Market circa 1909, Jefferson Street.

*Photo Courtesy of Anton Massopust

This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

WED. Jan. 14 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. THURS, Jan. 15 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a m.

THURS. Jan. 15 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

MON. Jan. 19 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m.,

Fellowship Hall, Commerce St. TUES. Jan. 20 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m.,

Church Hall, Brace Ave.

Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.

WED. Jan. 21 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 St.

Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m.,

Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.

THURS. Jan. 22 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 14 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center. S. Stevens Ave.

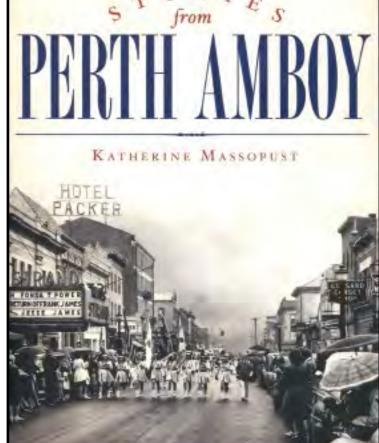
MON. Jan. 26 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon

Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
MON. Feb. 2 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon,

Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Attn: If Your Club changes Your Schedule due to the Holidays or if you have Community Events to Submit Please give us two weeks advanced notice!

732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610 AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

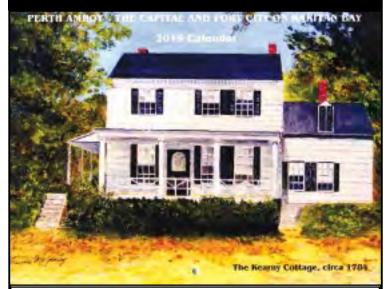


AMERICAN CHRONICLES

Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig's Department Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - or Fertig's at 732-646-8337 - A Great Gift!

2015 Commemorative Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2015 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Dept. Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-646-8337 or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. This year, the Calendars feature full color paintings by Artist Francis McGinley from Donald Johnstone Peck's book, "An American Journey of Hope." Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$15 Each.

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A Petition to St. Jude

May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you, St. Jude F.M.J.

Prayer To St. Claire For Employment

Prayer To Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit

Prayer To Blessed Virgin Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary St. Jude Novena

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

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PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful 4 bedrooms home located in a nice neighborhood and within walking distance to park and public transportation. \$149,000



EDISON - Custom updated Brick Ranch featuring granite and stainless eat-in kitchen; fully tiled bath; central air; tiled family room and a phenomenal yard for out-door activities and cookouts; Great neighborhood; near schools, community college and public transportation. Don't Miss This One - It Won't Last!! \$269,900



PERTH AMBOY - Three units on one lot, 2 two family and main building with 2000sqft former Mexic Restaurant(Carvajal) 4 studios all rented, plus a #33 liquor license and 15 cars parking spaces. see attachment for P & L. it is being sold in "AS IS" condition. \$849,000



PERTH AMBOY - Split level home with addition that has 2 more bdrms for a total of 5 bdrms. Home has 1.5 bathrooms but also have an unfinished room in the addition that is set to be a 2nd full bathroom. Beautiful landscaping throughout the property. Large Shed in yard. Nice deck that leads to a pool. Jacuzzi in the yard as is. \$284,999



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