



Perth Amboy

Absent Parents and Teachers Overshadow Impressive Board of Education Retreat Meeting



**Board of Ed Vice
President Ken Puccio**



**Dr. Janine Walker
Caffrey**

PERTH AMBOY - Despite a relatively impressive retreat meeting held by the Perth Amboy Board of Education, the big story was the lack of parents and teachers in attendance.

Only four teachers from the school district showed up to hear the future plans of the Perth Amboy education system, which was noticed by not only the board but also some residents that came to listen. The concerns of disinterest within the city were brought up during the public session of the meeting.

"How is it that when the board and superintendent are talking about the negative morale in the school district, none of the teachers come to listen?" resident Cecil Graham asked the board. "There was a lot of good stuff said here today, but most of the city won't know about it because they're not here or won't want to look for it."

There was confusion on whether or not the parents and teachers were notified about the meeting, which was unusually held on a Saturday morning. Richardson Elementary

Kindergarten teacher Lynn Audet, who was one of the few teachers to speak, explained that none of the teachers knew about the meeting.

"There was no clear vision amongst the teachers of this meeting taking place, and there was no announcement about what time to be here," Audet said. "The only reason why I'm here is because the Educational Leaders of the district just got out of another scheduled meeting upstairs and I heard this going on."

Resident Veralouise Davis, a parent of two Perth Amboy students, noted that she did receive a phone call from the city informing her of the meeting, but was disappointed that other parents weren't in attendance. She feared that there was a stigma coming over the city and not enough was being done to unify Perth Amboy.

"I got three phone calls about today's meeting and checked the website for the available times, yet there's still nobody here with me," Davis said. "I don't see how a community can move forward with our education system if nobody is here to listen."

Davis also noted that Perth Amboy was becoming a temporary living location because of the school system, and she was worried that her family would have to move because of the current plans in place. She had originally moved from Piscataway to Perth Amboy because of the pre-school program, but told the board she may have to pack up again.

Mobility was one of the main problems that Superintendent Janine Caffrey talked about in her Intra-district presentation to the board. She noted that mobility within the district ranged from 17-27 percent last year, and it has become an issue that the board will have to work toward fixing in the 2012-2013 school year.

"More things need to be done in order to get everyone on the same page," Davis said. "Teachers need to be on the calling list or something because there's a stigma that Perth Amboy's system is not up to par and I'm afraid I'll have to make plans to move once my daughter hits the fourth grade."

Board of Education Vice President Kenneth Puccio was very vocal following the open comments from the public, explaining that the board did make it known that the meeting would be taking place. Puccio understood why the public was so upset, but explained that messages were sent out to the residents of Perth Amboy.

"We all do our due diligence to make sure things get done and are done right, and I only open my mouth when I've done my due diligence," Puccio told the audience. "I know for a fact that 1,000 e-mails

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South Amboy

First Meeting of February Brings Tough Questions from Residents



The South Amboy City Council Meeting

photo by Joseph L. Kuchie

SOUTH AMBOY - The unusually warm winter weather brought a number of residents to South Amboy's council meeting on February 1st to address issues that are currently affecting the town.

The Bachonski family, who are now the operating owners of The Station Eatery located at the South Amboy Train Station, raised concerns about the 15-minute parking signs that were placed in front of their business. The council had passed a ordinance in 2011 to add those signs to the area, but Cheryl Bachonski expressed her disapproval of the change.

"Nobody can come into our store or anywhere else in the area in 15 minutes if they have to park and walk to where they have to go," Bachonski told the council. "You want to bring people into town, not push them away, especially on Broadway, and we are pushing them away."

Parking ordinance #19-2011, which was approved at the council meeting on November 2nd, 2011, was met with some criticism from some of the town residents

when it was passed. However, Council President Joseph Connors explained to Bachonski that they are just being tested and that if they do not benefit the businesses, they will be taken out of the area.

"The signs were placed there because of the people who would wait outside the train station and take up spots," Connors said. "We tried them out for the first time and it just started, but if it's not going to work then they will be removed."

Connors also noted that there would be a business meeting on February 14th in which the 15-minute parking signs will be discussed. However, the Bachonski family believes something needs to be done as soon as possible before they lose more business.

"We would watch people try to come in and leave because they couldn't find parking, or they would come in and say 'sorry, I couldn't find a spot'," Jessica Bachonski said after the meeting. "They don't have time to sit down and eat so they aren't bothering to come in. It's killing us."

Continued on Page 2

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Board of Ed

(Continued from Page 1)

went out to parents a week ago and phone calls were made to notify them of the retreat, so things were done to get people here."

Resident Lou Vargas also admired the work of the council and took the microphone to praise the job they did on the presentation. He wanted to make it clear to the public that it wasn't just the board who was at fault.

"We have to remember that it's Saturday and the board members don't get paid to be here. They volunteer their time and energy and the only reward is the furthering of our children's education," Vargas said. "Let's spend more time on the problems the city faces and move forward as a team to reach our ultimate goal."

However, Puccio was still upset about the lack of teachers and administrators in attendance and didn't understand how the leaders of the district didn't make time to come. He believed that it would have been beneficial for them to be there if parents had a question about their child's school.

"I'm disappointed that not every principal and department head was here today, and I think all of them should have been here," Puccio said. "If parents would have come and had questions about certain schools, then the principals at least should have been here to step up and answer the tough questions."

By some surprise, Mayor Wilda Diaz voiced her opinion during the public session after sitting in the audience to hear the Superintendent's presentation. She praised Dr. Caffrey's eye-opening lecture and urged the board to work together to do more for the city's children.

"I just wanted to note the suburb presentation that Dr. Caffrey gave us today, but with that we must realize that we have to change the way business is done around here," Diaz said. "I believe we have great teachers in Perth Amboy, but we need to continue



Mayor Wilda Diaz



Board of Ed Member
Israel Varela

to change with the times and update our curriculums to prepare our children for the future."

One of the most popular presentations came from Dr. Nestor Callazo, who proposed the idea of bringing the S.T.E.M. program to Perth Amboy High School and the rest of the public school system. S.T.E.M., which stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, is something that he believed would not only change the way things are taught but prepare students for the world's top rated jobs.

"Of the 20 fastest growing professions known today, 15 of them require significant science and math educations," Callazo explained to the board. "More than half of our students don't go into the career choice they want because they don't know how to start, but with this program we will bring the professionals to them and advance their education to prepare them."

Mayor Diaz agreed with the need to advance the use of technology and better the way teachers presented themselves to their students. She once again praised the great presentation, but believed the word had to be spread to the town to get things moving.

"We are blinded by the current state of technology in the world, and we need to start getting with the times," Diaz said. "The information we've seen today needs to be shared

with the rest of our education system. We need to get this out there and show that we truly care about our children."

Despite the back and forth beliefs of the board and residents, Israel Varela concluded the meeting by attempting to unify the two sides. He explained that nothing can get done if everyone is against each other.

"Let's not point fingers, we are all at fault for what's going on with the education system," Varela said. "I believe in the saying 'Collaboration, Consensus, and No Fault'. Let's not fault each other but rather come together and fight this together. Don't point at one another."

The meeting was recorded and will be televised in the next week or two. The presentation made by Dr. Caffrey will also be posted online in the future, and the Board of Education urges those who were not in attendance to read up on the information regarding their children.

by Joseph L. Kuchie

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South Amboy City Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Tom Seig, from George Street, was concerned about the maintenance of the Little League fields and other sporting fields in the area. He was worried about the grass not being cut and some of the areas becoming worn down, but Business Administrator Camille Tooker confirmed that things are being worked on to get it done.

"We are in the process of putting the landscaping bid together and we have added quite a few things together

to get them done properly," Tooker said. "We are well aware that we need to do more out there and we are addressing those issues."

Seig, who will be running t-ball for South Amboy Little League this year, is hoping to rejuvenate the organization in town and get parents to sign their kids up to play. He noted that families have stopped coming down because of the conditions of the fields, but he is working to bring them back.

"We have some new blood

down there and want to rejuvenate the area the best we can, and we also don't want to lose the good fields we have now," Seig said. "Little League used to be huge in South Amboy, so hopefully we can bring some people back."

The next council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15th at 7 p.m.

by Joseph L. Kuchie

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Open House

PERTH AMBOY - Assumption Catholic School will have an Open House on Sunday's, February 26 from Noon to 4 p.m. as part of Catholic School's Week Celebrations. Light refreshments, school tours, and a Power Point presentation will be available for prospective parents and students. For more info about the school, registration, or any events call 732-826-8721 or email acschooloffice@gmail.com.

Community Blood Drive

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Blood Drive at Robert N. Wilentz School, 51 First St., Perth Amboy from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28. Blood Mobile will be located outside of the school on First St. Be a lifesaver and give the gift of life. *All donors will receive a Chick-Fil-A coupon for a free chicken sandwich. For more info call 732-376-6070.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

More Than Just Books - The Need for Funding for the Renovation of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library

The Perth Amboy Free Public Library is more than just books. The entire library is widely utilized every day by patrons from surrounding towns as well as from Perth Amboy. As of the latest statistical study (completed in 2010 - I am certain that the numbers are even higher now) the Perth Amboy Free Public Library has over 13,000 adult patrons (ages 8th Grade & up) and over 12,500 child patrons (ages 7th Grade & lower).

The computers are utilized by over 150 to 200 patrons daily depending upon the hours that the library is open.

People utilize the Perth Amboy Free Public Library for a diverse amount of research purposes including genealogical research and preparing employment resumes.

The library has a collection of over 170,000 books available to the public plus a collection of children's books. This collection includes traditional research materials such as periodicals and other reference materials such as microfilm and microfiche available for the public to utilize. The library has over 400 titles of magazines and newspapers accessible for the public to read. If a title of a book is not available, the staff can arrange an interlibrary loan. People from other libraries also borrow books from the Perth Amboy Library. A Perth Amboy Library Card is good for most surrounding libraries in the area.

The Perth Amboy Free Public Library receives frequent inquiries from national and in-



ternational residents who desire local information.

The Children's Library has frequent programs that many children participate in.

The Library is a historic building and an integral piece of Perth Amboy's rich history. A little history about the Perth Amboy Free Public Library: *The Perth Amboy Free Public Library was built on its present site on Jefferson Street, in 1901, on land donated by J. C. Mc Coy, of the Raritan Copper Works and constructed with the aid of a \$20,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, a \$1,000 donation from Adolph Lewisohn to purchase new books, and an agreement by the City to provide for the Library's upkeep.*

On December 9, 1903, the building, the first in New Jersey to be the beneficiary of Mr. Carnegie's generosity, was opened to the Public. The growth of the Library from that time was so marked, that in 1914, the Carnegie Corporation donated an additional \$30,000 for the creation of two reading rooms. A Children's Library was built in 1925, unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1977, and was not rebuilt. The

present Children's Library is located in the basement of the building, in an area formerly used as a meeting room and theatre.

This centrally located building now is in desperate need of renovation. There is a proposed \$10 million dollar library renovation and expansion project. Presently after years of leaks the roof is finally receiving much needed repairs. Many more repairs are needed as well. The Library is a widely utilized and much needed facility for Perth Amboy.

The recently formed Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library have been raising funds for the Library's renovation as have other organizations. The Library is still looking for an Angel Investor for this much needed project.

"Every act you have ever performed since the day you were born was because you wanted something. Aim for the highest and when it's a question of God's almighty spirit. Never say I can't."

- Andrew Carnegie

K.A.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

A Proper Time for School Board Elections

In my opinion, I would like to see the School Board elections continue to be held in April.

I believe they should be held separate and distinct from other politics.

Holding them with Federal, State, County, and even City elections will dilute their importance to local communities and while the numbers will go up for general voter participation, I believe the candidates' messages and platforms will be lost amongst that of Presidents, Senators, Congresspersons, Governors, Assemblypersons, Freeholders, Mayors and the like. School Board matters deserve their own election, and April is the right time for it.

That is precisely why I was in favor of moving Council elections to November. Along with saving some money, it provided that separation needed between School Board and City elections, we didn't have in the past with one election in April and one in May.

If you feel the same please reach out to our local Board members as well as our State Senators and Assemblypersons and express yourselves.

Respectfully yours,
William Petrick

Legislation sponsored by Senator Donald Norcross (D-Camden/Gloucester) and Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer) to give voters, Municipalities, and School Districts the ability to move local school elections from April to November was approved by Senate committee and will now go to the full Senate. Bill (A-4394/S-3148).

KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING



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Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

TODAY. Feb 8 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Feb 9 Municipal Court, 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
Board of Education, 7 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Feb 13 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Feb 14 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
WED. Feb 15 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

South Amboy

THURS Feb 9 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
MON. Feb 13 City Hall, N. Broadway
TODAY Feb 5 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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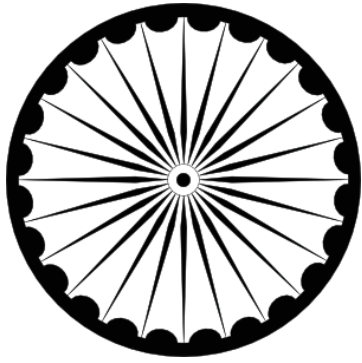
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Dr. Gene Fink Dr. Karen Radano
Dr. Courtney Lesnick Dr. Brian Civatte



The Chakras: Awaken the Hidden Energy Within

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is offering The Chakras: Awaken the Hidden Energy Within educational sessions, Wednesdays, February 8 through February 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 four sessions. Individual classes are \$50. For more information and to register, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

Citizen's Campaign

NEW JERSEY - Thurs. February 9th at 6 - 6:45pm - Cut the Cost of Government & Put Money In Your Pocket! Join us for this free webinar, fusing our Citizen Legislator class with a discussion with Mark Magyar Only 25 spots available, sign up now.

Wed. February 15th, 12 p.m. to 1 pm - Democratize Your Local Party! Interested in democratizing your local political party or simply getting your foot in the door, but don't know where to start? Whether you're an elected party committee person or not, learn how to move your ideas forward by joining our Citizens Campaign Camden County Chair and long time party leader, Joyce Walker in a free webinar to get answers to your questions and hear how you can get moving within the political process in your town. Don't wait, only 15 spots left! Register now.

Wed. February 22, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - Middlesex County Meet Up: Join us at this free meet up for guidance from our experts and meet other citizens from around Middlesex County who are taking the next step and getting results.

Warriors Of Light Photography Exhibit

UNION - Perth Amboy's Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez is also a photographer. Vivian Rodriguez's latest exhibit "Warriors of Light" places the immigrant experience in sharp focus. The exhibit is a concise narrative of upward mobility. Through a series of photographs Rodriguez charts her Uncle Jesus' American journey. The exhibition is on display at Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union. For more info call 908-737-5326 or go to www.keanexchange.com.

OLV Seniors Trip to American Music Theater

Featuring Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
SAYREVILLE - The OLV Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to the American Music Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The date of the trip is Thursday, May 17, 2012. The price of the trip is \$150.00 which includes: the price of the show ticket, bus transportation, bus gratuity, dinner at Shady Maple, and snacks on the bus. The bus will leave OLV lower parking lot at 2 p.m. and return approximately at 12:30 a.m. For further information or to make a reservation, please contact Teri at (732) 727-7639.

Titanic: The Latest Chapters

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a program on the Titanic: The Latest Chapters at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. This interesting program will be highlighted by author Charles Haas - who will takes us aboard the lost liner to discuss the 1985 discovery to the present day. Find out about the artifacts that were recovered on recent expeditions, the identification of the unknown child, and the last survivors. April 2012 will be the 100th Anniversary of Titanic's sinking. Commemorative events are planned around the world. For more Info call 732-721-6060 comments@dowdell.org. The Dowdell Library is located adjacent to the South Amboy High School. Sponsored by the Friends of the Dowdell Library

Blood Drive and Soda Bread Sale

SOUTH AMBOY - The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women in conjunction with New Jersey Blood Services will host a "Blood Drive" at the Sacred Heart school cafeteria located behind the convent on Walnut Street in South Amboy on Sunday, February 12, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Please note: there will not be any machines for the collection of platelets, however there will be "ALYX," an automated red blood cell collection system which allows you to donate two units of critically needed red cells in just one visit saving two lives each time. Any questions or to schedule an appointment call New Jersey Blood Services at 1-800-933-2566. The Sacred Heart Council will also be having our annual homemade "Irish Soda Bread" sale at this time. Any questions, please call Eileen at (732) 525-2696.

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...

Perth Amboy Native Austin Keelen on Top of Technology

PERTH AMBOY - Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Austin Keelen is assigned to Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and has earned the reputation as being a "go-to" guy for challenging technology issues.

Austin Keelen is a Perth Amboy born native. His duties in the Carrier Strike Group include user account management and network administration for four CENTRIX (Combined Enterprise Regional Informational Exchange) enclaves which enable secure messages to be exchanged between U.S. forces and allies.

Keelen enjoys the challenge of the multifaceted work. "The field of information technology is constantly growing and constantly evolving so there is always something to learn, always something to challenge me," Keelen states.

A leader among his peers, Keelen completes his intricate assignments with a high degree of professionalism. He motivates those around



Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Austin Keelen

him by setting an example of high personal standards. A valuable asset to the staff, his hard work is recognized through the chain of command.

Austin Keelen is presently studying for his enlisted aviation warfare specialist (EAWS) pin as well as his A+ and N+ Certifications. These entry level civilian certifications are equivalent to over 500 hours of practical experience as a network technician.

Guitar Night

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Guitar Night on Friday, Feb. 10 - from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, (Inside the historic Train Station). Two guitarists, Alejandro Ataucusi - Spanish/English and Paul Kosar - Czech/English, will play. If you play guitar, you can bring your instrument as well. For more info call 848-203-3432

Meditation Workshop

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Meditation Workshop: Meditation, A Spiritual Solution to Stress, Anger and Conflict on Thurs., Feb. 9 at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, (Inside the historic Train Station). There will be two sessions, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Sessions are free. There will be an interactive lecture and exercises by Jim Rose, M Ed., Rutgers University. For more info call 848-203-3432.

Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446



PERTH AMBOY - The Women of the MOOSE Lodge Chapter 1247 present a check for \$2552.30 to Project Lifesaver at the January 25, 2012 City Council Meeting

We are on the Web!
www.AmboyGuardian.com

Happy Valentine's Day

Massage for Couples Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is offering a Massage for Couples Tuesday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Participants will learn massage techniques to relax, decrease their stress level and improve their quality time together. Presented by Anna Biteye, CMT. Cost is \$95 per couple for two-night class. For more information and to register, call 1-800-362-8677.



Reiki Level One Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is holding a Reiki Level One class Saturday, February 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Reiki is a simple, safe, and effective healing practice that complements medical treatment. First Degree Reiki training includes history and principles of Reiki, how to practice self-treatment and share with family, friends and pets and a discussion on how Reiki can support wellness. The class will be taught by Reiki Master Sharon Yeskel. The fee for the course is \$175. To register or more information, call 1-800-362-8677

Tour of Maternity Pavilion

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's monthly tour of its Dr. Sam. Gordon Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, February 8, 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. As part of the event, information is provided in an open house format about child car seat safety, guided imagery and body mechanics training for use during labor, nutritional information for mother and child, how to pick a pediatrician and an infant CPR demonstration. Participants are asked to meet in the main lobby of the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration suggested, call 1-800-362-8677.





Save Money This Tax Season Get your Taxes Done for FREE!

PERTH AMBOY - Avoid using a paid tax preparer and save up to \$300. If you made less than \$60,000 in 2011, you can get your taxes done for free by IRS-certified volunteers at locations throughout the community. The free tax sites also help eligible taxpayers claim important tax credits and increase their income. Some of the credits include: 1 The Earned Income Tax Credit, 1 Energy Credit, 1 Childcare Credit. Get your tax return prepared at the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, Schedule an appointment for free tax preparation. Call Tania 732 324-2180 Sponsored by the United Way of Central Jersey and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation.

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• Oil Change (up to 5 Qts 10W30)
• Synthetic Oil (extra)
• Change Oil Filter
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\$24.95
(Most Cars)

Valentine's Day Tea at the Prop House

PERTH AMBOY - The Royal Governor of the Colony of New Jersey, William Franklin cordially invites you to a Valentine's Tea at the Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy Sunday, February 12th 2012, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$7.00 Suggested Donation includes tea, homemade desserts and a tour of the mansion. Any questions, please call 732 826-5527.

Happy Hour Workshop

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is offering a Happy Hour Wednesdays, March 14 and 28, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Join Denise Reisert, EMP/RCP and Robin Matteo, EMP for an hour of positivity, transformation, and connection with like-minded souls that will leave you feeling more open, uplifted and lighter of spirit. Each individual workshop will be filled with activities and thoughtful conversation. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information and to register, call 1-800-362-8677

Wellness Retreat:

Calling your Spirit Home

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is holding a Wellness Retreat: Calling your Spirit Home Saturday, March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Join Reiki Vivian Lynch, Reiki practitioner and Integrative Imagery Practitioner and providers from the Division of Integrative medicine for a day or renew, relax, breathe, and connect. Open your heart and lighten your spirit through meditation, music, movement and energy practices. Cost is \$60 per person. To register or more information, call 1-800-362-8677.

Childbirth Education /

Lamaze Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a one day Childbirth Education / Lamaze Class Saturday, February 18, from 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.

The Barge
On The Waterfront in Historical Perth Amboy

Valentine Dinner Special

Sweetheart Dinner for Two

STUFFED LOBSTER TAIL OR FILET MIGNON

\$56⁹⁵ + Tax
No coupon on special

Includes Soup, Salad, Potato or Vegetable, Coffee & Dessert. Valid Feb. 11-14, 2012. Regular Menu Available. Call for Reservations.

**EVERY DAY IN FEBRUARY
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Happy Valentine's Day

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Chocolate Cover Strawberries!

Open Daily Through Valentine's Day!

Visit our store to see our large selection of
 Valentine's Chocolates
 Party Favors
 Novelty Chocolates
 And Much More!

Valentine Story Time
 SEWAREN - There will be Valentine Story Time at the Sewaren Free Public Library, 546 West Ave., Sewaren on Friday, February 10 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, story & snack. Ages 2 to 9 appropriate. Families from all towns welcome. Free. 732-634-7571 or email sewarenlibrary@gmail.com. Registration required.

Portuguese Manor RESTAURANT - LOUNGE

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February 14

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 www.portuguesemanorrestaurant.com
 We Wish You all Happy Valentine's Day

PAMA Valentine's Day Dance

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Merchants Association INC. (PAMA) would like to invite you to our Valentine's Day Dance. Our goal is to raise money for our 9th Annual Children Awards Dinner while having fun with our special someone on Valentine's Day. Each Year PAMA makes a conscious attempt to recognize the Top Academic Students of the Perth Amboy School system. Your donation of a ticket purchase would be greatly appreciated. We invite you and your love ones to an evening of dining and dancing on Thursday, February 9th at Seabra's Armory, 200 Front Street, Perth Amboy from 6:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Ticket \$50 per person which includes your donation! For more info call 732-904-6844.

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 Per Person
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TWO DAYS TO CHOOSE FROM
Saturday Feb. 11th
 Boarding 7 pm,
 Sailing 7:30 pm
 Returning 11:30 pm
Tuesday Feb. 14th
 Boarding 6:30 pm
 Sailing 7 pm
 Returning 11 pm



Happy Valentine's Day

Buffet at 8 p.m.
Show at 9:30 p.m.

Comedy Night Friday, March 9
featuring
Otto & George
and
Johnny O.
to benefit
Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter

Cash Bar Available
\$25 per person

Adult Themed Entertainment no one under 18 Admitted

For more info call **732-826-1124** Show Your Love! 

Knights of Columbus
228 High St.
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Cardiac Club
PERTH AMBOY - RBMC's Cardiac Club will meet Mon., Feb 20, 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..

Happy Valentine's Day!
From Our Family to Your!


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- ULCERS/FOOT WOUNDS
- WARTS

Happy Valentine's Day!

Se Habla Espanol
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Mardi Gras Dance
SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Mardi Gras Dance Saturday, February 18 from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the South Amboy Elks Lodge 784, 601 Washington Road, South Amboy featuring band "Noisy Neighbors" 5 piece band \$15 pp. Cajun Buffet, door prizes, raffle and Mardi Gras Mask Contest! Cash Bar. So come on down and have some festive food and dance your feet off! Tickets can be purchased at the lodge! *for questions leave message @ SA Lodge 732-727-7170 for Jeanine. Proceeds to benefit Drug Awareness Peer Leadership Conference!

May Valentine's Day Bring You All The Love & Happiness You Deserve!





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Journey with-in Meditation
PERTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is offering a Journey within Meditation workshop Thursdays, February 2 through February 23, 7 to 8 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 365 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Class facilitator Vivian Lynch, RN, Reiki practitioner and integrative imagery therapist, will discuss inner wisdom, spiritual guides and inner strength with participants teaching techniques on how to quiet the mind, relax the body and tap into the spirit. Cost is \$50 for all four sessions. Individual classes are \$15. For more information and to register call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

THE AMBOY GUARDIAN



Remember February is Healthy Heart Month - Be Sure to Check Yours

The Staff of the Amboy Guardian



Happy Valentine's Day

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Happy Valentine's Day!

Tuesday, February 14th 2012

CALL FOR YOUR RESERVATION

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RESTAURANT HOURS:
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SUN 1:00PM-10:30PM

BAR LOUNGE HOURS:
MON-THURS 11:30AM-11:00PM
FRI&SAT SUN 11:30PM-1:00AM
SUN 1:00PM-11:00PM

132 SOUTH BROADWAY SOUTH AMBOY, NJ

Storytime with Mia

SEWAREN - Storytime with Mia is a fun, free event for children ages 3-7 and their accompanying adult & siblings. Families get to enjoy story, snack, games, crafts and more on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. from October through March. The 2012 dates are: 2/11 & 3/10. This event is free but requires a sign up by calling the library at 732-634-7571 or emailing sewarenlibrary@gmail.com. The Sewaren Library welcomes patrons from all towns, not just Sewaren and has a large variety of free events every month. Check out our website at <http://sewarenlibrarynj.com/Sewaren> Library, 546 West Ave, in the Sewaren section of Woodbridge Township.

Civil War Round Table

WOODBIDGE - The next meeting of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey will be held on at 7 p.m. in the Woodbridge Public Library, George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge. All are welcome! The upcoming speaker schedule is: March 5, Dick Simpson, "Battle of Pea Ridge" April 2, John Hoptak, "Battle of South Mountain" May 7, John Quarstein, "Battle of Williamsburg" June 4, Steve Laird, "Lee & Jackson at Chancellorsville" July 2, David Koch, "Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address & Transformation of the Civil War" August 6, Gail Stephens, "Lew Wallace at Shiloh"

Recital

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a David McCarthy, and Christopher Deibert-Duo Organ Improvisation Recital on Sunday, February 19, 2012 3 p.m. at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta St, South Amboy. David McCarthy, and Christopher Deibert-Duo Organ Improvisation Recital. Come hear these two seasoned performers play works from the organ repertoire and also create on-the-spot improvisations together on material submitted by the audience. McCarthy and Deibert are both well-known solo recitalists; don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear them perform together on St. Mary's historic 1883 Jardine Pipe Organ. Please join us after the concert for a free reception and a chance to meet the performing artists. Suggested Donation \$15 Cheerfully Accepted!

Raritan Bay Paddlers Club

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a meeting of the Raritan Bay Paddlers Club (Formation Meeting), Mon. Feb. 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, (Inside the historic Train Station). The meeting is open to anyone over 18 years old interested. New club forming.

Group Exercise for Children

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Branch YMCA is offering three new group exercise classes for children ages 8-12: Kids Bootcamp, Kids Circuit Training, and ZumbAtomic. This is a great way for kids to exercise and stay active before they're old enough to use our Wellness Center. These classes begin the week of February 6, and will be held at the South Amboy Y, located at 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd in South Amboy.

Kids Bootcamp is on Mondays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and is a total body workout geared for kids. Kids Circuits is on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and includes different workouts while rotating through different stations. ZumbAtomic is on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and follows the same Zumba format as adults. Kids will keep moving through dance and lively music.

Each class is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members; non-members are required to have an active Program membership at registration. For more info call Mike Manfre, the Physical Director at 732-316-82082.

"National Black" HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

PERTH AMBOY - The Puerto Rican Association "H.O.Y." Program and the Perth Amboy Cathedral is having a "National Black" HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2012 "Free" testing day event, On Tuesday February 7, at 100 First St., Perth Amboy, from 10 a.m. - 3pm. There will be free HIV testing, information and awareness, Diabetes Screening, and United Health Care will be providing health insurance information. Bake Sale, Raffles, For more information please contact Iris Gomez, "H.O.Y." Program Coordinator at The Puerto Rican Association 732-442-1081 ext. 146.

We are on the Web!
www.AmboyGuardian.com

Movie Time

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a movie "Sarah's Key" Rated PG-13 at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 11 at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Movie Time

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a movie "Puss in Boots" Rated PG at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 25 at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

7th Grade Strong Kids Initiative

PERTH AMBOY - Where will the 7th Graders spend their weekends? AT THE Y! The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA and the Perth Amboy Board of Education have partnered to provide 7th graders FREE UNLIMITED access to the Y on weekends.

The 7th Grade Strong Kids Initiative at the Y will begin Saturday, February 4th, parent/guardian will be required to attend an orientation session. Students need to bring one of the following: Recent Report Card or Class Schedule confirming enrollment in the 7th Grade. Students will have

access to: Open Swim - Recreation & Competition Pools, Running and Walking Track, Gymnasium, Family Center/Computer Access/Active Gaming, Health & Wellness Center and the Group Exercise Classes.

The Y's focus is to help reduce barriers and increase support of healthy living in youth. It is a priority at the Y to help youth develop healthy lifestyle habits. "At the Y we are committed to inspiring kids. The 7th Grade Strong Kids Initiative will make a significant impact in their lives and help them make better informed

Open Mic & Color Caribe, Art Reception

PERTH AMBOY - The Station Open Mic and Color Caribe, Art Reception will be on Thurs. Feb. 16, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, (Inside the historic Train Station). Enjoy the open mic for music, song, spoken word and visit the Caribbean through the modern abstract oils of local artist Juan Valdez. For more info call 848-203-3432.

decisions about their health and well-being. We want to encourage pre-teens to be involved in positive activities around positive people", said Steve Jobin, President & CEO of the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA.

For more information regarding the 7th Grade Strong Kids Initiative please contact Jennifer Abreu, Membership Director at 732.442.3632 or sjobin@rbaymca.org.

news release

PRAHD Becomes HUD Certified Offering Additional Housing Services to Residents

PERTH AMBOY— The City of Perth Amboy announces that the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) has received its certification as a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency.

The HUD certification allows for a multitude of additional housing related services to be made available to all Perth Amboy residents including those of Middlesex County. PRAHD will operate its Housing Center with three bi-lingual HUD certified counselors, who will attend to clients on a daily basis to assist them with pre and post purchase counseling, foreclosure assistance and prevention, general referrals and other related housing needs.

"This makes two HUD certified agencies in Perth Amboy. Our Office of Housing and Social Services directs residents to HUD certified locations for classes on homeownership. It's not only for helping individuals or families struggling through housing difficulties, but also for workshops on homeownership preparation and how to maintain it. It's proactive, not just reactive," said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

This accreditation strengthens PRAHD's existing programs and supports the City's Office of Housing and Social Services efforts, to further assist the community with housing related matters, while guiding clients to specific resources and services.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to engage PRAHD in a new frontier of comprehensive human services that support the city's efforts. PRAHD has been working to achieve its HUD certification for two years and finally our efforts have been rewarded. This accomplishment is a benefit to the agency increasing our capacity to provide enhanced services to the hundreds of clients in need of housing related services. The HUD certification will bolster the strength of our agency, the City of Perth Amboy and the County of Middlesex, as a whole," said Maritza Rodriguez, Interim Executive Director of PRAHD.

ABOUT PRAHD
PRAHD, Inc. is located on 100 First Street in Perth Amboy, New Jersey and is open from 9:00 -5:00 p.m. during the business week of Monday to Friday. For additional hours and information, please

contact Yvonne Lopez at: 732-442-1081 or visit www.prahd.org.

The agency operates 16 programs offering multiple services for more than 17,000 unduplicated clients annually throughout Middlesex, Essex, Union, Monmouth and Ocean counties.

PRAHD's programs and services include: Pre-school, tutoring and after school programs, housing assistance programs (foreclosure and pre/post purchase counseling), summer recreation, HIV/AIDS educational services, substance abuse prevention, employment and training for senior citizens, transportation, language translation and interpretation, advocacy, home care for homebound and developmentally disabled individuals, youth work readiness program, diabetes program, blindness prevention program and numerous recreational, social, and cultural activities.

For additional information about the City of Perth Amboy, please visit: www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us.

news release

Jewish Renaissance Medical Center - Smile Day - February 3, 2012

Photos by Paul W. Wang



Open House at Assumption Catholic School - February 5, 2012

Photos by Paul W. Wang



The Perth Amboy Free Public Library Roof Repairs - February 6, 2012

Photos by Paul W. Wang



Knitting Circle

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Knitting Circle on Tuesday, February 21 at 6 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Rescuing the River

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a film and discussion about the decline of the Raritan River and the efforts to restore it followed by a Q&A with producer Eric Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper Bill Schultz, and Bob Spiegel of the Edison Wetlands Association on Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Perth Amboy YMCA Theater, 357 New Brunswick Ave. Perth Amboy. FREE Parking at the Municipal C:omplex Parking Lot. DON'T MISS IT! Admission is free, but space is limited. To reserve a seat, send an email to pethamboykayak@hotmail.com or RescuingRiver@aol.com by March 18.

South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade

SOUTHAMBOY - Mark your calendars for two upcoming South Amboy St. Patrick's Day parade fundraisers.

Tip-A-Pint afternoon at the Landmark (note new date) will be held on Sunday February 19th from 3-7PM, and Tip-A-Pint Night is happening on Thursday, March 8th at the Munck-ee Bar in South Amboy. Cost for each event is \$20 and includes food, beer, wine, soda, and a special performance from the Col. D.B. Kelly Pipes and Drums. Admission can be paid at the door, no advance sales. All proceeds go to fund the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This year's parade steps off at 2 p.m. on Saturday March 10th with a rain date of March 24th. Along with numerous marching bands, there will be floats and thousands of marchers. As in years past, the parade promises fun and excitement for all ages, celebrating South Amboy's rich Irish heritage, and of course everyone's favorite holiday, St. Patrick's Day! If you have a group interested in being a part of this great tradition or for additional information, please visits the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade website at southamboyparade.com or you can contact the parade committee chairperson, Betty Sturgis at 732-261-7350 or rb-sturgis@optonline.net.

AMBOY SPOTLIGHT: VINCE MACKIEL

Resident Vince Mackiel Looking For Environmental Changes in South Amboy

SOUTH AMBOY - After years of living in South Amboy, resident Vincent Mackiel is looking to make big changes to the environmental status of the area.

Mackiel, who has lived in South Amboy for over 30 years, has consistently voiced his concern over the Amboy Aggregate area of South Amboy. He believes that the area is causing environmental issues such as dust mitigation and air pollution, and there are plenty of construction ideas that could better the town in the long run, including a sporting facility.

"The Amboy Aggregate area is large enough to support a minor league baseball complex, something that Sayreville has already started working toward for their city," Mackiel said. "We can have a facility used for baseball or soccer which would benefit the town in terms of public use and business possibilities."

H2M Associates Incorporated, a consulting engineer and architect company who assist in environmental projects, wrote a letter to the South Amboy planning board in 2010 about the status of the Amboy Aggregate area. H2M Vice President Stanley Puszcz explained, "The existing system of oscillating sprinklers on top of one stockpile is woefully inadequate" to dust control, and Mackiel believes it could eventually harm a number of people in South Amboy.

"Right now we have a very limited facility that has nega-

tive effects on neighborhoods with dust and other issues," Mackiel said. "I'm not looking for the moon, but I'm asking for a company to move toward a better solution or a settlement that will satisfy everyone and will be positive for residents, town officials, and the company itself."

Mackiel believes that all of these changes can be made to better the city of South Amboy, but only if the council has a political leader in place to move in the right direction. He does not question all the decisions of the town's officials because they have their own responsibilities, but thinks the status of the planning board needs to be addressed the best it can.

"We need to have a political leader in town that will help move in the right direction and make it clear that there is a problem with the environmental status of South Amboy," Mackiel said. "We need some sort of public pressure or voice that moves us because right now I see nothing moving us forward."

Mackiel has voiced his opinion at a number of South Amboy council meetings, questioning a number of resolutions passed and what the town is doing about fixing the environment. His display of passion for the residents of South Amboy was at a high point in January when he wore a dust mask out of town hall to protest the air pollution.

"I used a dust mask at the meeting to exhibit in my own

way without any public outburst or challenge to show the problem," Mackiel said. "It's a citizens right to stand up and sign their complaints, and I want to offer options to move the city into the future."

At that meeting, Mayor Fred Henry noted that South Amboy has always done what's best for the town's residents, and that things are moving along the best they can. However, Mackiel believes that more can be done to better the area.

"We all need to get working on the behalf of the town's residents, and I believe that certain politics shouldn't interrupt the path to future success," Mackiel said. "Anyone with a concern for South Amboy is responsible for the future, and everyone working together is a lot better than working against each other."

Mackiel announced that he would be running for 2nd ward councilmen this year in an attempt to bring change to the decisions in South Amboy. He believes that the residents in town trust his judgment and respect his effort to make things right.

"I have taken part in a number of town functions with a good amount of organizations, and I think South Amboy residents have come to respect me better and acknowledge the effort I'm making for improvements," Mackiel said. "I believe that I've spoken out with my concerns a number of times, and that our residents



know me better and know I'm doing what I can to protect them."

Mackiel will also be taking part in a film discussion called "Rescuing a River", which is a documentary about the decline of the Raritan River and

the efforts to restore it. A free showing of the film and following discussion will be held on March 22nd at the Perth Amboy YMCA Theater.

by Joseph L. Kuchie

Charity Chili Cook-off

WOODBIDGE - There will be a Charity Chili Cook-off on Sunday, March 4 from Noon to 2 p.m. at the J.J. Bitting Brewing Co. 33 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ. There is a \$20 participation fee to enter the competition and show off your chili skills! Get applications to participate at JJ Bittings or Woodbridge Town Hall. \$8 admission fee to sample some of the best chili our contestants have to offer! Entertainment and Door Prizes! Questions? Contact Kelly Reidy at 732-634-4500 x6494 or email Kelly.Reidy@twp.woodbridge.nj.us.

Pierogi/Cake Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church is having a bake/pierogi sale. Pick up your orders at: 404 Division St. Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861. Call 732-826-7067 to place your order between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ALL ITEMS ARE HANDMADE! Pierogi - Potato, Cake - Poppy seed/nut/apricot/raspberry/prune - \$10. The order date is February 27 to March 2 for pierogi and cake. The pick-up date is March 6 and March 7. Thank you for your orders

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Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- TODAY, Feb 8 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., Feb 9 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON., Feb 13 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES., Feb 14 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Feb 15 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., Feb 16 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- TODAY Feb 8 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON., Mar 5 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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Vatican Replica Shroud of Turin Exhibit

PERTH AMBOY - During the first 2 weeks of Great Lent, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 684 Alta Vista Place will host an exhibition of an authentic replica of The Shroud of Turin. This is the 9th replica of the Turin Shroud sanctioned by the Vatican. The exhibit will be from Saturday, February 18 (after 5 p.m. Liturgy) through Saturday, March 3. The Church and Exhibit will be open on Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be two presentations on the Shroud of Turin: Monday, February 20 at 7 p.m. in Ukrainian by Fr. Ivan Turyk and on February 23 at 7 p.m. in English by Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan. For more info call 732-826-0767 or visit www.philashroud.org

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: 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.

Open Mic

PERTH AMBOY - There will be an Poetry and Music Open Mic Night every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Gallery for the Arts, 339 Reade St., Perth Amboy. Come show off your talent. For more information contact 732-826-1690 ext. 4325.

Rolling Stones Lecture

WOODBIDGE - There will be a lecture: "On the Road and at Home with The Rolling Stones" given by author Bill German A Multimedia Lecture on The Rolling Stones' Rise to Superstardom. Q&A and exclusive book signing Wednesday Evening March 21, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barron Art's Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Admission Free, Reservation Required. For more info call 732-634-0143.

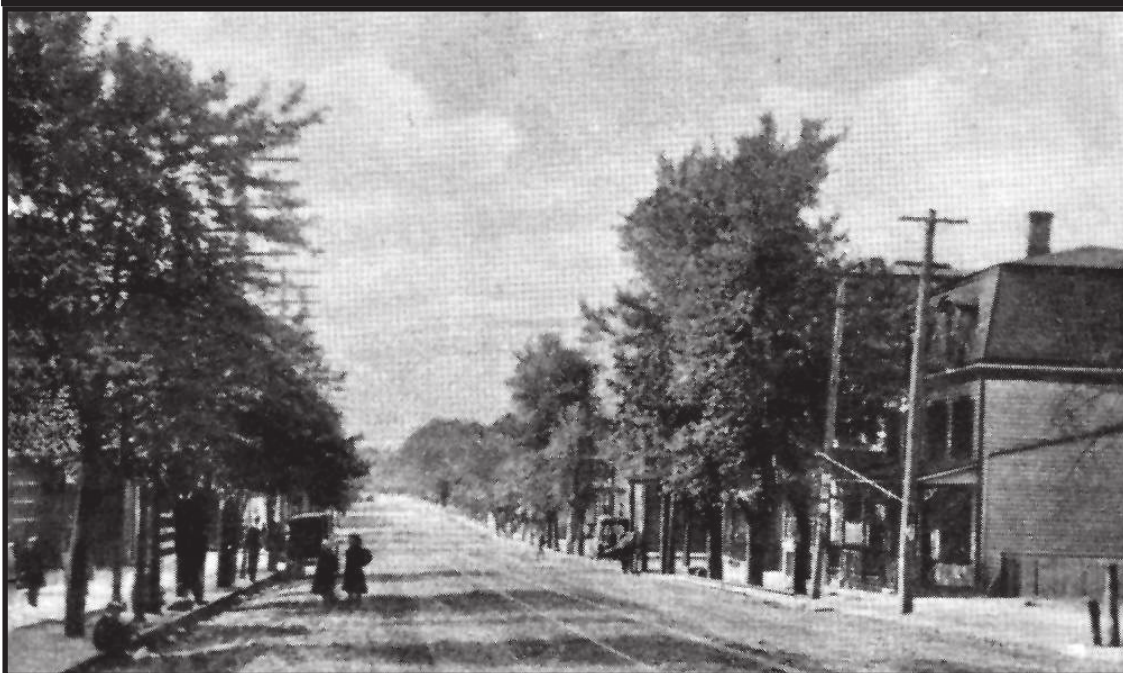
Medieval Castles Lecture

WOODBIDGE - There will be a lecture: "Medieval Castles of England and Wales" given by Ian C. Burrow Ph.D. RPA. An introduction to castles as represented by the many surviving examples in England and Wales. A chronological survey emphasizing changes through time, and what to look for when visiting a castle. Wednesday Evening February 29, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barron Art's Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Admission Free, Reservation Required. For more info call 732-634-0143.

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



SOUTH AMBOY - IS THIS REALLY BROADWAY?- Looking north on Broadway, South Amboy, in this undated photo, one readily can see that it has changed from primarily residential to a mixture of uses, largely commercial in nature. Parking obviously was much less of a problem then, and pedestrians could leisurely stroll without worrying about vehicular traffic.

Photo courtesy of Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, South Amboy

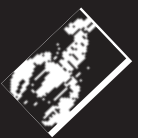
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A.A.R.P.

Meeting

SAYREVILLE - The Sayreville Chapter #4853 of A.A.R.P. Meetings are held at the Sayreville Senior Center (Main St.) on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 12 NOON. There are different informative speakers at each meeting. Food and coffee are offered at reasonable prices. Membership is \$5 per year. New members are welcomed at every meeting. Come and make some new friends.

Songwriting

Class

WOODBIDGE - There will be a songwriting class in the Barron Art's Center, Rahway Ave., Woodbridge taught by Veteran Music Instructor and Recording Artist Jeff Saxon. The Class starts on Saturday, March 10 and will run for 6 consecutive Saturday afternoons. The class is appropriate for songwriters of all levels as well as those who simply are curious how songs are written. Saxon has taught songwriting classes at music schools, colleges and universities from coast to coast. His video of his latest single, "High Time for a Hero" is a finalist in the 2012 NJ Film Festival for best music video. Class cost is \$120 which includes a 35 page songwriting booklet written by the instructor. For more info and the class registration form email Mr. Saxon at info@jeff-saxonmusic.com or call the Barron Arts Center at 732-634-0413. or email BarronArts@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

**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.

**Veteran
Employment
Services**

MILLTOWN - The Jewish Family and Vocational Service Of Middlesex County is offering Veteran Employment Services. Qualifications - You must be a Military Veteran between the ages of 18 to 64 and a Resident of Central NJ and have Documentation of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (Defined as an injury to the brain, caused by external physical force such as a fall, physical violence, car accident or sports injury). For more info call Phone: 732-777-1940 or Fax: 732-777-1889 Email: office@jfv.org. The Jewish Family and Vocational Service Of Middlesex County, 32 Ford Avenue, Second Floor, Milltown, New Jersey 08850 or go to WWW.JFVS.ORG. This program is funded by a grant from the Kessler foundation

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Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. **G.T.A.**

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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.**

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| Prayer To St. Claire | For Employment | Prayer To St. Jude |
| Prayer To Blessed Mother | Prayer To Holy Spirit | Novena To St. Anthony |
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| 12 Untidy pile | 37 Twosomes | 59 Was in glee club | 11 Hoses down |
| 13 Stiffly proper | 39 None | | 16 Pro votes |
| 14 Hurry | 40 On | DOWN | 17 Entertainer |
| 15 Coincidence (2 wds.) | 42 TV oldie: "F ____" | 1 Finger-to-lips noise | Shore |
| 18 "____ It Be" (Beatles song) | 44 Glove leather | 2 Pod veggie | 20 King of the jungle? |
| 19 Parts of a chain | 47 ____ Paulo (Brazilian city) | 3 Baseball player's topper | 21 Killer whale |
| 20 It's got Seoul | 48 Crude thing, said in a nice way | 4 An ____ a day... | 22 Sluggers' successes (abbr.) |
| 23 Feds (hyph.) | 54 Not bright | 5 Small quarrel | 23 Collection |
| 25 Spherical body | | 6 Circle segment | 24 Brief note |
| 26 "No problem!" | | 7 London's | 27 Unravel |
| 28 Like a Bohemian | | | 29 Divorce town |

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



SOUTH AMBOY - Beautiful house, "move-in" condition, nice kitchen, wood floor, and also big, nice yard. Buyer is resp. for C/O and all inspections. **\$139,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Well kept house. Plenty of living space with 2 lg. bdrms. Parking for 2 cars, nice clean basement and a 2 yr old furnace. Refrigerator, washer and 2 Windows AC included. **\$160,000**



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**



PISCATAWAY - Big colonial great potential, full basement, 2 detached garage, close to all shopping locations. This is a CASH or FHA 203k transaction only. **\$105,000**