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Weekly Newspaper

AMBOY



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Perth Amboy

Board of Ed Votes to Move Elections to November

*Pro's and Con's: Audience Members &
Two City Council Members Voice Their Opinions*



**Board of Ed Member
Mark Carvajal**



**Board of Ed Member
Dianne Roman**



**Board of Ed Member
Kurt Rebovich**

PERTH AMBOY - At the February 8, 2012 City Council Meeting Fernando Gonzalez on the advice of Council abstained from voting when it came to changing the Board of Education Election Date to November. Councilmen Bill Petrick and Kenneth Gonzalez voted "no" to change the date to November while Joel Pabon and Kenneth Balut voted "yes". The resolution was not passed. This put the decision in the hands of the School Board.

At the February 9, 2012 School Board Meeting Dianne Roman, Kurt Rebovich and Mark Carvajal voted "no" to move the elections to November. Rebovich and Carvajal chose to elaborate on the decision. Carvajal stated, "As far

as the \$35,000 savings is concerned if the elections were moved, I researched other towns who did this. The cost in savings was actually little or next to nothing. By moving the elections to November we are telling the public when to vote and what to vote on. The bottom line is that this was pushed through much too quickly."

Rebovich read from a prepared statement. "If the Board of Education is going to work together we need to listen to the parents and community. We heard many community members speak. If we are going to work together like we stated at the beginning of this meeting, we would not move the election. I think of the elderly voters who work the

polls and need that money to eat and to live. Many of them have reached out to me. They wanted to know if the money is already budgeted this year - why would we move the elections?" Rebovich went on to say, "Money spent on our residents changes hands five times in our community before it leaves. I wasn't put here to serve the board for my own interest but to serve the people who elected me. The community has told us twice not to move the election."

Although Fernando Gonzalez abstained at the City Council Meeting on this matter, he urged his fellow Council Members to vote "yes" to change the Board of Ed Elec-

Continued on Page 2



PERTH AMBOY - The Board of Education went into a special emergency closed session to discuss issues related to the Senior Prom. Shown are some of the students who spoke that caused the Board to discuss this matter privately. See details on page 10.

photo by Carolyn Maxwell

Sayreville

South Amboy

Heroic Act Recognized After 8 Years Victory Bridge Flaws Still Have Not Been Corrected



PERTH AMBOY - The City of Perth Amboy and the 19th District Legislators Recognized City Resident Ronald Snipes. He prevented a young man from jumping off the Victory Bridge which connects Perth Amboy and Sayreville. Mr. Snipes is shown with the grateful sister of the man who he saved. *photo by Paul W. Wang*

Perth Amboy Council Meeting 2/8/2012

PERTH AMBOY - "Mr. Snipes saved more lives than the whole State has done. Even the Assemblyman should be embarrassed to be here. They wasted more time on drawing up the proclamation than on the safety of the bridge." These words were spoken by frequent Council Attendee Reinaldo Aviles. Aviles was referring to how Mr. Snipes actions brought attention to the problems associated with the Victory Bridge which has no real barriers to prevent people from attempting to commit to harm themselves by jumping off.

There was a large turnout of people, supporters and family members (Of Mr. Snipes and the troubled young man who Mr. Snipes saved) at the meeting.

This also prompted Resident Dorothy Daniel to comment about how it also puts our police, firemen and other emergency personnel in danger. "Whenever they go into the water to retrieve a life there

is a chance that they might be caught in a current. I don't want to lose "my guys". I used to speak to the previous administration about the suicide bridge. I am not sure about the numbers but I believe there have been about 23 attempts and 17 completions of people who took their own lives."

Council President Kenneth Balut said, "The Bridge that is up now is not the original design and it went over budget."

Mayor Diaz commented that she met with Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski in 2008 asking for help for improvements with the Victory Bridge. She also sent a letter dated October 27, 2011 to James Simpson, Commissioner of NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation) asking for funding for bridge improvements. *(See Page 10 for complete letter)*

There was a letter from NJDOT dated December 28, 2011 stating that at this time there was no available funding to help for improvements.

South Amboy City Council Meeting Tonight 7 p.m.

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Jeanette Gonzalez
April



Donna Stewart
April



Melvinia Knight
April



Councilman
William Petrick
April



Councilman
Fernando Gonzalez
November

Board of Ed

Continued From Page 1

tions to November. As he did at the Council Meeting, he brought up the \$35,000 savings at the Board of Ed Meeting on February 9, 2012. "I believe that you would get between 8000 to 9000 voters to come out compared to the pitiful 700 people who voted at the last Board of Ed Election. Let's not lose sight of what is important. Our people are smart. We are going to save money and increase voter participation."

Bill Petrick took the opposite position from Fernando Gonzalez when he spoke at the Council and School Board Meeting. "Let's not be fixated on numbers. In November you may have a large number of people coming out to vote, but they may not be engaged in voting for School Board Members. Mixing up the School Board with the General Elections is a bad move."

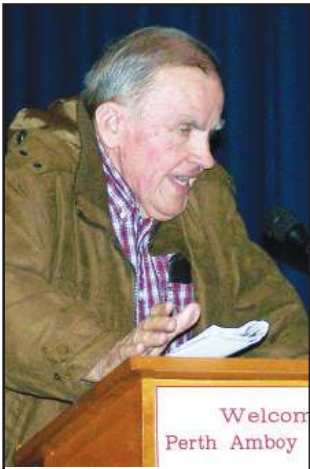
PTO Community Liaison Jeanette Gonzalez was against moving the School Board Elections to November. "We take these elections seriously and get a good caliber of people who run. The voters will not be able to vote on the budget and there are too many elections that will be going on this November."

PTO Vice President Donna Stewart states, "Because we are a minority School District that is why we lack a new High School. Stop playing with our emotions. No one has thought about our children except for three people. There is no follow up when we ask questions. I am hurt with the elections being moved to November."

Concerned parent Melvinia Knight stated, "A bigger turnout does not mean that they will vote for the Board of Education. The \$35,000 savings of moving the election is not going to make much of a difference in my taxes. We should keep the election in April to stay focused on the Board of Ed Issues."

Resident Reinaldo Aviles had strong opinions about keeping the Board of Ed Elections to April. At the February 8, 2012 Council Meeting he agreed with Mr. Petrick that people don't always vote in all elections. "If you vote 'yes' on moving the School Board Elections you take it out of the hands of the School Board Members. The people should decide on term extensions which is sacred." He reiterated at the School Board Meeting, "When I voted it was a specific term for the people to serve. You want a sovereignty to the Board of Ed Elections. The Council was divided when they voted. The voters will be confused if you

move the School Board Elections to November. I urge the Board Members to vote "no" for this move."



Ron Mascenik



Greg Diaz

Besides the School Board Election Issue another topic that was on the minds of some of the audience members had to do with getting a new High School. Ms. Jeanette Gonzalez, Ms. Knight and Ms. Stewart were very adamant that a new High School must be built. "The High School that we have now was originally built for 1200 students. We must have close to 2500," said Ms. Knight. "When we had the High School Graduation inside the seating was very limited. Many family members of the graduates could not attend. You should spend money on a bigger place whenever you have to move the graduation inside."

Jeanette Gonzalez said, "We need a new High School. There is money for a new school! Talk to our legislatures about talking to the Board! This is a Civil Rights Issue when it comes to the need for a new High School!"

"The Buildings and Grounds Committee should get involved about getting a new High School and fixing existing schools," stated former BOE Member Greg Diaz.

Former Board Member Ron Mascenik noted that his daughter a Junior in College was a Freshman in High School when the new High School was first discussed. "You can't always depend on the State. Sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands to get things done. We had a building program in this district in the past. Every year it gets worse."

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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.

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.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Election 2012 Perth Amboy

I must say I am truly looking forward to the November 2012 Elections coming up. Recently the Board of Education decided to move their elections from April to November. The pro’s and con’s of doing this was discussed at the Perth Amboy Council Meeting on 2/8/12 and the Board of Education Meeting on 2/9/12. The biggest sticking points were the savings of \$35,000 and the anticipation of the possibility of more voter participation.

Several speakers said that the Board of Education should remain in April to keep the focus on Board of Education matters and that perhaps people would be confused by so many names and items on the November Ballot.

I personally love to vote in both the Board of Education and General Elections. If both are held at the same time that means I would vote for the Board Members and the people running in the General Election. So either way if the Board of Education kept the date in April I still would have voted. Some people made the argument that inclement weather might be a deterrent for people coming out to vote in November. Let’s face it, even in very good weather we have had low voter turnout. Since November is going to be a very hot election, especially with the Presidential Race taking place I have a feeling (and I hope it comes true) that there will be a larger voter turnout. The argument has also been raised that there are people that just want to vote in School Board Elections and not the General Elections and Vice-Versa. Perhaps when those people are behind the curtain com-

mon sense might say to them, “While I’m here why don’t I just vote for the Candidates running in the General Election and the School Board and make my voice heard not only locally but nationally. MY VOTE DOES COUNT.” That would make sense.

As a former poll clerk I feel that having so many different elections is a waste of money. Why should money be spent on poll clerks, overtime police and City Officials for an election that brings out so few voters? By moving the elections to November there will be greater voter turnout and more interest in politics. Some people only come out to vote once every 4 years for the Presidential Election. Now Voters are forced to be aware of other elections which affect them.

Another suggestion since it is Primary Election time. Every four years instead of having State by State Primaries. I believe that candidates should be given time to tour the entire United States. At the end of June have ONE DAY that is a Super Primary Election Day throughout the United States. In this way Iowa or New Hampshire or whatever State has an early primary will not influence the other States who will be having their Primaries later in the year. This would be more fair to the candidates and be a more of an even playing field for all involved.

C.M. & K.M.

P.S. We would love to have our readers weigh in on this matter. Send in those letters!



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Have We Lost It?

I am not infallible by no means. I make errors and mistakes and if you think otherwise you probably need help.

My thoughts on Coach Joe Paterno may differ with some readers out there. I met Joe after the first Liberty Bowl in December of 1959. The game was played in freezing weather at Soldier’s Field in Philadelphia. Penn State beat Alabama that day 7 - 0. Joe was the assistant coach to Rip Engle. Joe and I were still kids. I remember telling him that I threw baseballs down in Tuscaloosa and he told me that he threw footballs up at Brown. I had no idea where Brown was and I don’t think Joe knew where Tuscaloosa was. There were two coaches on that field on Dec. 1959 that would become legends. Paul Bryant became the most winning coach in college football and Joe Paterno broke his record. I’ve read in some local newspapers that Joe Paterno was not greater than Penn. State University. They came up with the same fairy tale about Bryant. There are still people down in Alabama that believe that Bear Bryant could walk on water. I decided to ask him about this one day. He said, “Tome (Southern accent) I have never tried it but I can’t swim a damn stroke.”

Another local resident was upset because someone said that College Park was only a Cow Town until Paterno became head coach in 1966. This lady graduated from Penn. State in 1962 if my memory serves me right. I decided to check this one out with a friend of mine that works at the Alumni Office at the University of Alabama. She was born and raised in College Park, lived near the Paterno’s, went to grade and high school there and is a Penn. State Graduate.

Beaver Stadium seats over 100,000. She told me that the parking area that surrounds the stadium used to be a cow pasture. You can still see barns in the distance. The lady that once lived near Joe Paterno now lives in North Port, Alabama near Nick Sabin. She says his football players listen to him but his dog won’t come back when he calls him. Before the Alabama- Penn State game this past year, Sabin said, “I will be proud and honored just to put my arms around Joe Paterno.”

Many years ago I had a Sport’s Club in East Brunswick. I was getting some good sports figures to speak at the club. One year Alabama came to the Meadowlands to play Rutgers. The Scarlet Knights almost won that game. I invited both Paul Bear Bryant and Frank Burns to speak at our next meeting. Frank was able to make it but the Bear sent me a wire. It read: “Tome - Thanks for the invitation but I still have one game left to prepare for. Give my regards to Frank.” Signed Paul Bryant. Paul Bryant came back to build a football program at his home in Tuscaloosa. He came back from Texas A&M and his famous Junction Boys. The first time I ever met Coach (there were about 58 coaches but if you said coach there was only one) was in the Athletic Department. I was borrowing 25 Cents from one of the basketball players. Bryant asked me my name and why I needed 25 Cents. I told him, “It ‘s for a book.” He gave me a quarter and I thank him. I tried to repay him later but he would never take the 25 Cents.

I lived near the football field and during football season those lights would be on well after midnight. Paul Bryant was building a major football program and Tuscaloosa would be more than just a bus stop. The last time I saw Paul Bryant was in 1974. My son was four years old. I took a picture of the Bear and Johnny at half time of a game against Rice. That is some of my thoughts on the past or yesterday.

I have been criticized by some for thinking about the past but we are a product of the past

and only a fool refuses to learn from past experiences. I wrote a syllabus in 1975. My study explained how the nervous system can effect health especially if you are already trying to cure an illness. It certainly shows the healing process down.

Check with your doctor and they will tell you the same thing. Yesteryear the boss or Big Boys thought about the other guy or that employee who has put many years of his life into his job. You treat that guy the same as you would want to be treated. Yes my friends, I didn’t go to school to learn this in a sand box right in my backyard. The new line of thought by the Big Boys is different. They say, “Let’s see what we can do to get rid of this long time employee.” I doubt if these big boys ever played in a sandbox.

Joe Paterno has to be the ultimate of all cases. I believe he did the right thing by reporting the incident to his superiors. The Big Boys or trustees made a huge mistake. They needed a big name so let’s go after the quarterback. They give him a phone call and tell him, “You are fired.” They hit a below the belt and they hit a guy that was already down. I think that he was treated shabbily and like dirt. They could even asked him retire early. Do I think this tension killed him while battling lung cancer? It certainly didn’t help him recover. Knute Rockne and Paul Bryant will always mean Notre Dame and Alabama to me and now Joe Paterno will always mean Penn State to me.

Thomas Francis Clark



Tears in My Heart

Those tears of love, sorrow and laughter
I SAVE IN MY HEART
The love I had for your, from the start
I SAVE IN MY HEART
Even though we may have to part
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Tears, Tears, Tears in My Heart

Dioris Arlequin



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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.

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For more information or group reservations, call (732) 826-5527.

Kearny Cottage Open

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

ADS SELL! CALL CAROLYN 732-896-4446

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

TODAY. Feb 15 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
UEZ, 6 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
BID, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Feb 16 Municipal Court, 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
TUES. Feb 21 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
WED. Feb 22 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

TODAY Feb 15 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

Amboy Guardian Subscriptions are only \$65 per year for 50 issues mailed to anywhere in the U.S.A. For more info Contact Carolyn at 732-896-4446

STAY INFORMED!

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

WOODBIDGE VETERINARY GROUP AND HOSPITAL 424 AMBOY AVE., WOODBRIDGE • 732-636-5520



Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 am-7:30 pm
Friday 8 am-6 pm • Saturday 8 am-Noon
www.woodbridgevetgroup.com

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

Warriors Of Light Photography Exhibit

**Lent Fish
Frys**
SOUTH AMBOY - There will be Lent Fish Fries every Friday at the South Amboy ELKS, 601 Washington Ave. from 2/24/12 to 4/4/12 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost ranges from \$8 to \$15. Dinners offered from Haddock sandwich to Fried Seafood Combo. Chicken Fingers and Kids Meals also available. Eat in or Take out. Call 732-727-7170 for more info or to place an order.

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 - 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 a the next step and getting results.

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...

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 form the Division of Integrative medicine for a day or renew, relax, breathe, and connect. Open your heart and lighten your spirit though mediation, music, movement and energy practices. Cost is \$60 per person. To register or more information, call 1-800-362-8677.

KKK Riots of 1923

PERTH AMBOY - Channel 34 is rerunning the documentary, The Ku Klux Klan Riots Of 1923. It is a saga of how the good people of Perth Amboy battled the Ku Klux Klan during June & August of 1923 on the streets of old Perth Amboy. Against all odds, the citizens of Perth Amboy stood alone against a very powerful 6 million person strong Klan. Perth Amboy was one of the first communities in the United States to oppose the KKK during a time when the Klan was at its peak. Check out Channel 34 & Fios 47 at the end of the City Block Of Events, and the estimated daily times are about 10:15am, 2:15pm, & 11:15pm. It is scheduled to run for the next 5 days. Please tune in & enjoy a forgotten part of our great history!

Annual Fish & Chicken Fry Dinner

PERTH AMBOY - The Holy Spirit Rosary Altar Society is holding their annual fish & Chicken Fry Dinner on Wednesday, March 21 at the Holy Spirit Church Basement on Hazel and Brace Ave., Perth Amboy. Back by popular demand from our previous years Thistle Catering. Take out time: 4:30 p.m. Open for enjoyment of dinner atmosphere socializing 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$15 Adults, \$7 for Children under 10 yrs. Advanced tickets are sold at weekend mass or rectory during the week. For more info call 832-826-4859. Price at the Door \$16 Adults, \$7 Children under 10 yrs.

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.

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.

February PARA Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - At the February PARA meeting, PARA staff and several commissioners were present, including Mayor Wilda Diaz, Chairperson. The meeting began with all aforementioned parties expressing their sincere and "bittersweet" thanks to Helga Van Eckert, who held several positions in the City's government, and who recently tendered her resignation. Ms. Van Eckert has accepted a new position in Florida. She was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her years of service.

The next item on the meeting's agenda was the Bill List, which totaled \$63,000 from 10/5/11 to 2/7/12. Ms. Van Eckert, in her role as Executive Director, gave the following report: First, Bunzl Distribution has moved into the Perth Amboy Business Park on the Matrix site. Second, a green engineering firm will be demolishing and remediating some property on 2nd St., with the intention of building new offices and moving in. The property is owned by Hampshire Properties. They are seeking design approval for a project that will be powered by solar energy.

In his report, City Attorney Mr. Maraziti mentioned that a review of the contract with Viridian energy will take place in closed session. City Engineer Tom Herits also stated that his report on the Viridian situation will take place in closed session.

The public portion of the meeting began with Ken Balut, City Council President, asking why PARA was not suing the developer JBW for contract violation. This developer transferred ownership of a piece of city property to developer European Homes, without informing the City. A substantial amount of legal fees have been incurred as a result of being caught between the two developers. City Attorney Maraziti stated that he would look into the matter.

Billy Delgado, a current

Mayoral candidate next had a question concerning the Landings construction project. Mr. Delgado asked Ms. Van Eckert what role PARA had in the problems homeowners have faced with water leaks and faulty construction in their homes. Ms. Van Eckert responded that the matter was a warranty issue for homeowners to take up with the developer.

The Board President of one of the project's buildings, Eric Horne, then spoke, pleading with the City to force the developer to take some action to remediate the ongoing problems homeowners have faced. Mr. Maraziti stated the PARA has no legal role in this matter. Landings Board Member Neil Hunter stated the PARA has a moral obligation to support the Landings residents in the myriad difficulties they are facing, as well as make the best decision on the project's future for all of Perth Amboy.

Regarding the completion of the project, which has stalled, Mayor Diaz stated, "Conversations are taking place on designs; designs which do not financially hurt the City." Recent comments made by Jared Kushner, son of the developer in charge of the Landings project Charles Kushner, would seem to contradict the City's position on the project. Jared Kushner, in remarks to the Star Ledger, stated the plans for completing the Landings project, "have been submitted, will create jobs, tax revenues and revitalize the waterfront." He also stated that the plans are "shovel ready, with financing in place."

City Attorney Maraziti stated that there had been no meeting of the minds on the Landings project and that many questions remained. He also stated that Mr. Kushner had submitted not one piece of additional information on the completion of the project since providing conceptual drawings last August.

by Tracy Jordan

Public Meeting for Tennis Interest Meeting

PERTH AMBOY— Mayor Wilda Diaz invites you to attend our first Community Tennis Interest meeting in recent past on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center, 1 Olive Street. There will be a discussion on the restitution of the City's tennis program as well as mention of future recreational plans and goals.

We look forward to all our residents of Perth Amboy attending. Now that we're building the new community center are welcome to join the discussion.

"Whether you have never picked up a racquet or have been playing for years, the sport of tennis provides more than just physical benefits. Tennis helps to instill core values such as, respect, sportsmanship and responsibility in players of all ages," said Kenneth Ortiz, Director of Recreation

Your attendance and feedback are appreciated. For more information, please contact the Office of Recreation at: (732) 826-1690 or relead-er@perthamboynj.org. For additional information about the City of Perth Amboy, please visit: www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us.



ATTENTION
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY RESIDENTS!

.....
As a reminder,
on the following day the city offices will be
closed there will be

NO GARBAGE COLLECTION

in observance of President's Day
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012.

Garbage will be collected on your next
regular scheduled pick-up day.

Questions or concerns?
Please contact the Department of Public
Works at: (732)-826-2010.



SOUTH AMBOY - Saverio Sagliocco donates blood at Sacred Heart School Cafeteria. The Blood Drive was sponsored by the Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women in conjunction with the NJ Blood Services. They also had their annual Soda Bread Sale.

photo by Aaron Beers

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Housing assistance programs are available for Perth Amboy residents who meet HUD-CDBG or HOME income eligibility and program criteria.
Walk-ins welcome. No appointments necessary.

.....

For applications and more information contact:
Department of Human Services | Office of Housing & Social Services
1 Olive Street 2nd Floor
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Office: (732)-826-4300 | Fax: (732)-826-6192

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- For **ALL** owner-occupied residents.
- Home insurance policy must be current.
- Municipal taxes, water and sewer bills must be paid to date.
- Maximum assistance per recipient is up to **\$24,999** for qualified homeowners.

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- First-time homebuyer only.
- Must occupy the property as a principal residence and whose family qualifies as a low/moderate income family at the time of purchase.
- Down payment assistance **\$8,000.**

EXTERIOR PAINT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

- For **ALL** owner-occupied residents.
- Municipal taxes, water and sewer bills must be paid-To-date.
- Program available from March 1st - September 30th
- Maximum reimbursement is **\$400.**

Amboy Guardian
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anywhere in the U.S.A.
For more info
Contact Carolyn at
732-896-4446

Perth Amboy Caucus Meeting February 6, 2012

PERTH AMBOY - At the caucus meeting of Feb. 6, several directors spoke on their departmental budget needs: Police: Replacement of vehicles, 3 SUV's in 2012 and 3 in 2013. These are consumables and cannot be paid for through bond issues.

Jefferson Street Parking Garage: A 3.2M proposal is being re-examined to consider repair versus demolition of some portions. The City also wants to insure enough revenue comes in through increased parking rates before commencing construction this summer.

Fire: The specifications that will go in the bid for a custom-made Fire Engine are being finalized. Delivery time is to be 12 months. A new thermal imaging system purchase was also discussed. Repair of the present system is not feasible, per the manufacturer.

Redevelopment: The County site plan is done and values are being finalized by the city appraiser for right of way purchase for the connector road between Rt. 35 to Amboy Ave. near the old fire station, across from Delaney Homes property. However, there is no definite schedule for any construction since this schedule is controlled by the County.

Recreation: The most important items for the Rec Dept. are lights for the tennis court and the building for the Youth Complex which is under construction on Brighton Avenue at Sadowski Parkway. A Green Acres grant is being pursued.

That concluded the requests.

These requests exceed \$5 million in new debt which does nothing to lower the City's debt by 3.3M, which is the target set by the City for its budget, by Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach.

Next, it was noted that a letter had been received by Mr. Al Jacobs, whose term just ended on the Port Authority Board. A few of the councilmen voice their approval for Mr. Jacobs and hoped that he was able to stay for a new term.

Discussion was carried out regarding the pros and cons of moving the Board of Education election from April to November. The Pros include reduced expenses for poll workers and a perception that holding the election for the Board would increase the perception of its importance perhaps increase voter turnout. The main Con was having a very crowded ballot with so many elections occurring on the same day, resulting in a difficult and confusing ballot. Also, debate transpired over whether the Board of Ed or the Council should make this decision, since both bodies are authorized to do so.

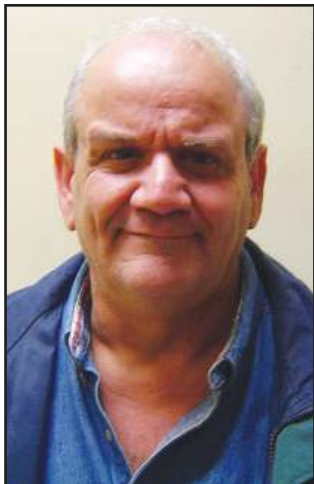
During the Public Comment: Michael George, Chairman of the Port Authority (Marina) board stated his opposition to repairing the piers before the bulkheads along the waterfront. "That's like building the house before the foundation," he said. He also asked why the City is waiting to do this in summer when we are having a mild winter? Mr. Fehrenbach stated he wished he could have delegated the job to Mr. George, but he can't. George's reply was "I

wish you had, it would have been done already." Mr. Fehrenbach stated that it's being done as quickly as possible under FEMA and DEP procedures. George also asked why we couldn't we go green in regards to the purchase of 3 SUV's? Dep. Chief Ben Ruiz stated that the outside shells may look the same, but inside, these vehicles have good gas efficiencies.

Ricky Aviles addressed the process of advertising board and commission openings, collecting resumes and applications, reviewing these and even having public interviews of candidates. Volunteers cannot just be granted new or extended terms. Regarding the BOE election, his view was it's their (BOE) election, let them decide to move it or not and take the subsequent "heat".

Police Chaplain Greg Diaz also stated his opinion that the BOE should be the party to decide how to handle their elections.

Alan Silber presented the



Police Chaplain
Gregory Pabon



Chairman of Port
Authority Marina
Michael George

opposite view, that the City Council should not shirk its duty and make the BOE election decision, or at the very minimum, not be inconsistent in the Council's opinion statements, which have vacillated among various members. He read conflicting councilmen statements about the benefits and detriments of both keeping and moving the election.

At the end of the public portion, Greg Fehrenbach read a statement which he had prepared regarding "false allegations" that are a deterrent to his use of time dealing with the real problems of the city. An example of this is his having to deal with the placing of a metal sheet on the Veterans Memorial at the waterfront to cover up all of the committee names by Parks and Grounds staff. Fehrenbach stressed that no contractor has been hired, nor purchase order released, for this work - Park staff did this.

by Tracy Jordan

African-American History Celebration

PERTH AMBOY - The NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch & the City of Perth Amboy Dept. of Human Services presents an African-American History Month Program Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Jankowski Community Center, 1 Olive St. from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free Admission. African Percussion & Dance, Spoken Word, Gospel, Interpretive Dance, Refreshments and Vendors. For more info call Calvin Knight at 917-971-1849 or e-mail: cknight59@comcast.net or go to www.naacp-perthamboyarea.org

Comedy Night

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Comedy Night featuring Otto & George and Johnny O. to benefit the Perth Amboy Happy Home Shelter on Friday, March 9, 2012. at the Knights of Columbus, 228 High St., Perth Amboy. Buffet at 8 p.m. Show at 9 p.m. Cash Bar Available \$25 per person. Adult Themed Entertainment. No one under 18 admitted. For more info call 732-826-1124. Come Show Your Love!

A Reunion of Old Friends

PERTH AMBOY - We will be having a reunion celebrating old friendships and those "Good Old Days!" We would like to see you again and reminisce over the good times we had back in the day!. Plenty of Good Food, Music, Company and Good Times! Join us on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 7 p.m. to Midnight at the ZPA Hall, 281 Grace St., Perth Amboy. Cost \$45 pp. Mail Check or MO made out to CASH in memo: Reunion of Old Friends. Mail to: Evelyn McCoy Wooten, 415 Fayette St. Apt 10-B, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. All Payments must be paid in full by Feb. 28, 2012. Reunion Committee - Evelyn McCoy Wooten - 732-697-1124, Mary Frances Graham Brighton - 732-442-1511.

DO YOU HAVE A WOUND THAT WON'T HEAL?



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

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

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



Raritan Bay Medical Center
Center for Wound Healing
WWW.RBMC.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/MYRBMC



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

Ron Snipes Receives Proclamations from Mayor Diaz, Assemblyman Craig Coughlin and the Perth Amboy Police Department

photos by Paul W. Wang



Fifth Pastoral Anniversary Concord Missionary Baptist Church

EDISON - Concord Missionary Baptist Church, Perth Amboy will celebrate the Fifth Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Fred E. Sharp and First Lady Carol Sharp with a luncheon on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rosewood, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. Edison, N.J. Sunday, February 19. 10:30am worship service with guest Preacher rev. Ernest Jackson and 4 p.m. service. With guest Preacher rev. Dr. Ronald. L. Owens, new Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen, N.J. Contact (732) 826-9290.

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!

AIDES and Health Awareness Day at PRAHD - February 7, 2012

photos by Paul W. Wang



PAMA Valentine's Day Dance - February 9, 2012

photos by Paul W. Wang



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).

Congressman Frank Pallone Visits the Mascenik House

photos by Paul W. Wang





Student Brandie Jimenez

Prom Issues

PERTH AMBOY - Several Students including Ms. Brandie Jimenez (see photo (left)) spoke before the Board. They found out that the Principal of the High School was imposing an age restriction on anyone bringing a date age 21 or older. The main issue is that this was brought to the attention of the students late in the year. Ms. Jimenez who is an "A" Student and also works

says she has already paid for a lot of expenses associated with the prom plus expenses associated with just being a Senior that involves paying for your yearbook, class ring, cap and gown and other activities. She wanted this issue resolved asap. "There is no law saying that there is an age cap. I work hard for my money. I should not have to be here."

Another student, Christina Meliksetian said, "The Prom

is a once in a lifetime event. We have the uniforms which we bought. We are not able to go out to lunch. There is no alcohol being served at the Prom. Maybe a permission slip for parental approval can be given. Listen to us for once."

There was a emergency closed session to discuss this matter. No decision was made when the meeting resumed.



Student Representative Angelique Burgos and Board of Ed Members listen attentively while the Students Speak



Students perform at the Board of Ed Meeting



City of Perth Amboy

Wilda Diaz, Mayor

October 27, 2011

Commissioner Jim Simpson
NJ Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

Dear Commissioner Simpson,

I am reaching out to you regarding a serious matter that both the City of Perth Amboy and the Borough of Sayreville are dealing with. When the Victory Bridge was first designed, there was fencing on both sides to prevent people from jumping from the bridge. In the interest of economy, this part of the construction was abandoned, and the bridge was built without the high fencing.

The entire bridge officially opened in September of 2005, and since then, there have been 17 reports of fatal and near fatal occurrences. These horrific incidents required the full attention of both Perth Amboy and Sayreville's emergency personnel. This involved not only the respective Police Departments, but the Fire Departments, First Responders, Police and Fire Boats. In addition, all traffic on the bridge is halted and all rail service on the Conrail bridge is stopped until the conclusion of the incident.

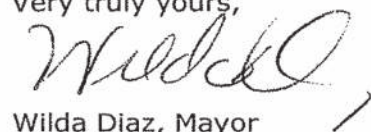
Our Police and Fire Departments are well trained to handle all situations that occur, but in these instances, our men and women are put at serious risk for their own lives in order to search for and retrieve a suicide victim - when they know that the proper fencing could have not only prevented the suicide attempt, but could have saved them from putting their own lives at risk. Also, how do we explain to the families and friends of the suicide victims that their death could have been prevented by building the bridge as originally designed. These are the people that I am deeply concerned about, because the installation of fencing could eliminate the hazardous conditions to our emergency personnel and victims.

The signs listing the suicide prevention hotline have done nothing to prevent people from jumping- in fact, they have been ignored.

Not installing the preventive fencing is a serious lack of compassion and regard for the safety and care of our emergency responders, and I am asking that this matter be reviewed as soon as possible so that we can stand behind our men and women to make sure that everything possible is being done to prevent future life threatening episodes.

I am asking that we meet at the earliest possible time to address this most serious lack of safety on the Victory Bridge.

Very truly yours,


Wilda Diaz, Mayor

260 High Street • Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861
732-826-0290 • Fax: 732-826-1160

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..

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.

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!

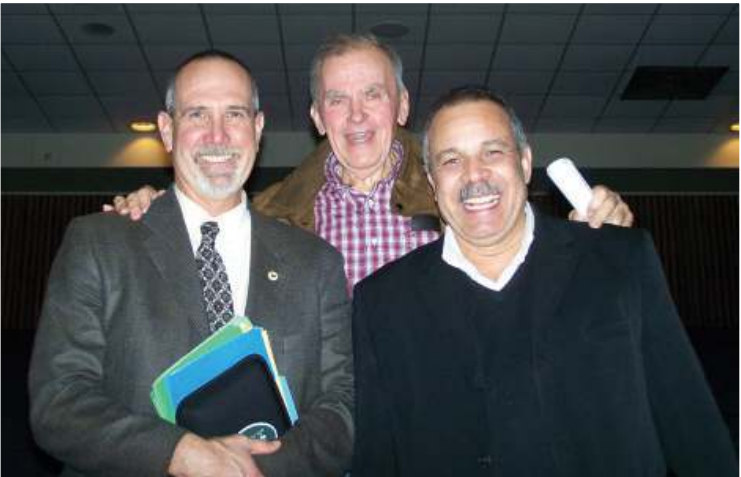
Perth Amboy Board of Education Meeting 2/9/12
photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey and Board of Ed President Samuel Lebreault congratulate the Teachers of the Year

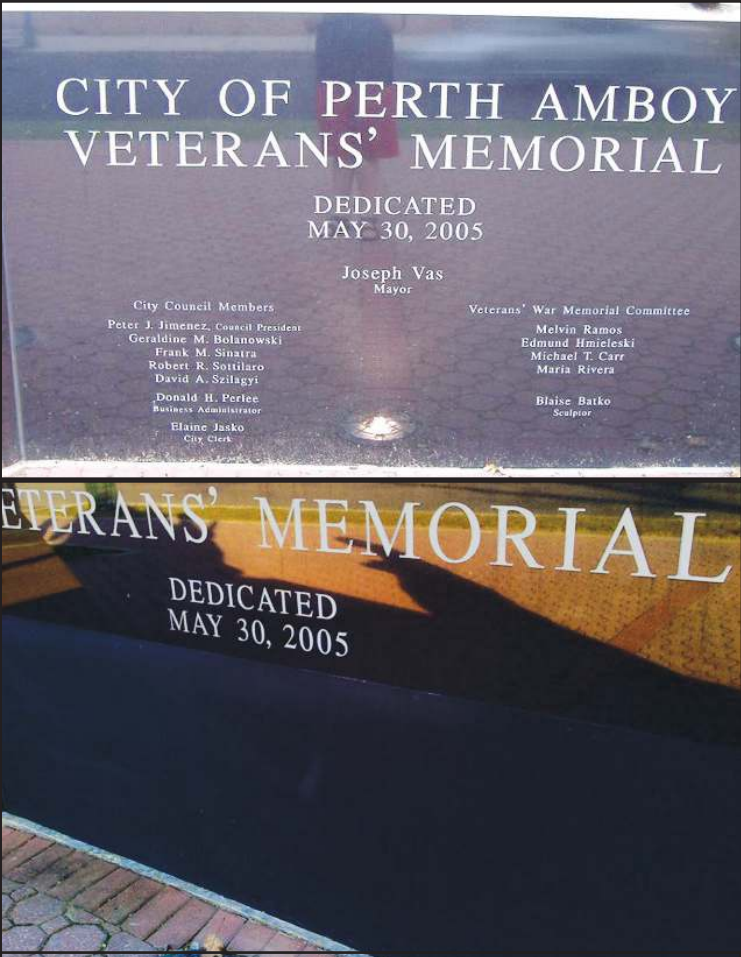


Awards for the Teachers of the Year



Coach Greg Vicarro is congratulated on his retirement by former Board Members Ron Macenek and Greg Diaz

Before and After
Photos by Alan Silber



PERTH AMBOY - The Veteran's Memorial on Sadowski Parkway, Perth Amboy recently had the names of former Mayor Joe Vas and his administration's names removed from the fascade. This was done as promised by Mayor Diaz to the Veteran's who voiced their displeasure of having the names of politicians who did not serve in the military.

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 Complex 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.

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 ZumbaTonic. 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. ZumbaTonic 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.

City Hall Walls Project
Photos by Noelia Colon



Photos - Top Left - Local Artist Tom Ward painting the stairwell. Top Right - Foyer - City Hall. Bottom - MOPA Committee Members, Paul W. Wang, City Clerk Elaine Jasko, Council President Kenneth Balut, MOPA Member Lisa Nanton, Martijn Fock (Commercial and Business Development Mgr. of VOPAK, MOPA, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Member Leigh Anne Hindenberg, and Artist Tom Ward

Revisiting the Past

PERTH AMBOY— Mayor Wilda Diaz announces the completion of Phase 1 of the Perth Amboy City Hall Wall Project initiated by the Museums of Perth Amboy committee (MoPA).

MoPA's committee efforts have gathered to unite all historic society groups in Perth Amboy to form a historic tourism committee and to assist in preserving Perth Amboy's 329 years of existence and its foundational importance in the history of the United States.

The committee's first official project began with backdating the Market Street foyer entrance of City Hall to fit the historic character of the building. Built in 1717-1718, the structure is known to be the oldest City Hall in continuous use in the United States and where the State of New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

This project was supported by Vopak, Perth Amboy's newest industrial resident, the world's leading independent provider of bulk liquid storage facilities. During a welcome meeting in last July, Ralf van der Ven, Director of Business Development for Vopak North America presented Mayor Wilda Diaz with a \$2,500 check to fund the City Hall Wall Project.

"I look forward to Perth Amboy becoming a New Jersey historic destination as it is one

of oldest cities in the State. These beginning efforts for our MoPA committee are significant to the overall goal of preserving our City's history and displaying it for all to visit and enjoy," said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

Committee members, lead project coordinator, Kathy Depow representing the Ferry Slip Museum and Ralf van der Ven will be officially recognized during a March Council Meeting and ribbon cutting ceremony for their efforts on the completion of this unique restoration, including the installation of an old-fashioned chandelier, a retro-fitted directory, the re-painting and stenciling of walls and stairwell by local, artist Thomas Ward and framed lithographs of historic Perth Amboy, one of which was donated by Municipal Clerk, Elaine M. Jasko.

Since its establishment, MoPA has worked toward locating State funding from the 2009 Historic Preservation Fund, where an assembly bill was prepared to in order to restore several historic sites in Perth Amboy, including the Proprietary House, the Royal Governor's Mansion located on 149 Kearny Ave. In addition to these plans, a MoPA member will be included in the Surveyor General's Building museum conversion project soon to be executed later this year.

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review: War Horse

Based on the children’s novel by Michael Morpurgo which is set before and during World War I, *War Horse* was brought to the stage in 2007 by Nick Stafford. Richard Curtis and Lee Hall wrote the screenplay to the movie version of *War Horse* and the film is directed by Steven Spielberg.

An Irish Farmer, Ted Narracroft (Peter Mullen) purchases a feisty thoroughbred colt instead of a more practical and much needed plow horse. Ted Narracroft’s son, Albert “Alfie” Narracroft then trained the horse himself developing a special bond with him who he calls “Joey”. Despite Albert and Joey’s efforts to plow the fields, the crops

fail and Ted is forced to sell Joey to the British Calvary on the onset of World War I.

In the British Calvary Joey befriends another horse, Topthorn and the two horses are taken to the front line in France. The British Officer that purchased Joey is killed in action and the horses change hands several times between German soldiers who are shot for desertion and a young French Girl, Emile (Celine Buckens) who takes them in. They are then taken again by the German Army and forced to pull heavy artillery. Can Joey make it back home to Albert?

For the film, 14 horses were used to play Joey and 4 horses

played Topthorn. In one scene over 280 horses were used .

The acting is first rate from Jermey Divine as Albert (in his first major film). Emily Watson delivers some of the strongest lines as Albert’s mother, Rose.

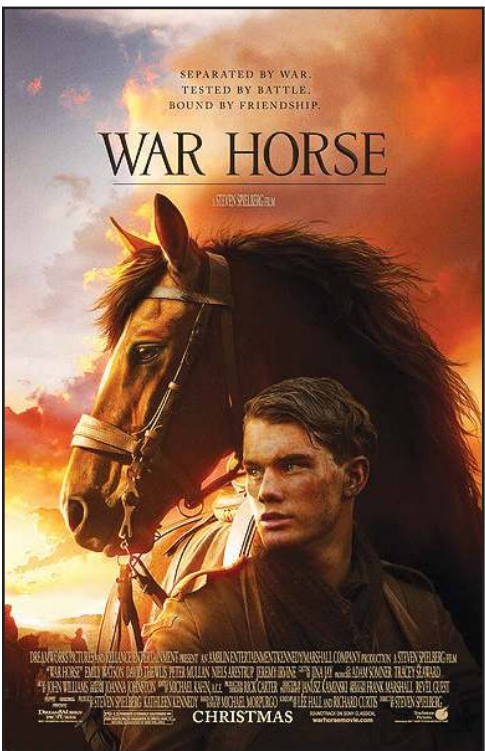
The book, play and film all give a different perspective of the same story. The novel tells the story from Joey’s point of view and the play and film are from a narrative point of view.

Filmed on location in Dartmoor, Devon, *War Horse* is an emotionally charged tear-jerker. The Cinematography is excellent filled with beautiful scenery that is pleasing to the eye. Nominated for 6 Academy Awards including Best

Picture, Best Cinematography, and Best Original Score (John Williams) *War Horse* is well worth watching.

The film is packed with enough emotion to make the staunchest critics cry. If the movie wins the Oscar for Best Picture it is well deserved. *War Horse* is not to be missed.

by Katherine Massopust



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.

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.

Blood Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Blood Drive on February 28th at the South Amboy ELKS, 601 Washington Ave. from 4 p.m.-9 p.m. We need everyone’s support...one of our Active Members needs a Full Blood transfusion.

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.

Six Royal Garden Club Members to be Docents at NJ Flower and Garden Show

EDISON - Six Royal Garden Club members will be docents at the NJ Flower and Garden Show (Nicole Engel, Alice Kidney, Jeannette Miller, Rita McKeon, Tracy Jordan and guest/representing our club Nona Henderson).

The Annual New Jersey Flower & Garden Show will be held at the New Jersey Convention Center in Edison, NJ, from February 16 through February 19th, 2012, entitled “Movie Magic”, featuring a Horticulture Division, Design Division, and Special Exhibits Division. Floral designs will interpret movies such as “Star Wars”, “Grease”, “A Star is Born”, “Casablanca”, “Edward Scissorhands” among others. Horticulture, photography, educational exhibits and youth exhibits will also be judged. There will be over 100 vendors featuring the latest in plants, flowers, garden tools and methods. Lectures and demonstrations by noted authorities are open to all. For more information, go to the Garden Club of New Jersey’s website: www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com

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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.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy
TODAY, 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.
MON., Feb 20 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
TUES., Feb 21 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
• Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
WED. Feb 22 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 23 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy
MON., Mar 5 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
WED Mar 14 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

**Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15**



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Opening Day 8/13/1976 of the New Transfer Station - dedicated by Mayor Alexander Jankowski and Mayor George J. Otolowski on 8/12/1976. Designed by Michael Carr of Carr Engineering. The Transfer Station Crew: (L to R) Ken Schwartz, Dave Troche, Vic Roman, Ron Raji & George Yavor.

photo courtesy of Gary A. Muska

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St. Jude Novena

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of difficult cases, of things almost despaired of, Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Intercede with God for me that He bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly - (make your request here) - and that I may praise God with you and all the saints forever. I promise, Oh Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor granted me by God and to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen
M.S.K

Veteran’s Memorial Application

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

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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.

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

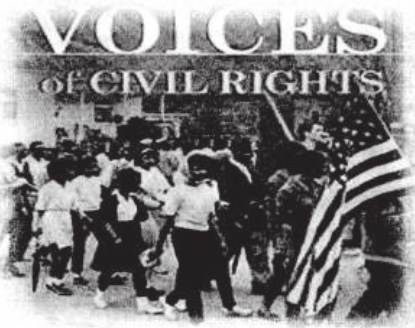
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38. TASTE

39. TEASPOON

40. TEMPERA-

TURE

41. TURN

42. VEGETABLES

43. WATER



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OLD BRIDGE - This is 55 and older, great condition.
\$800/mo rent



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful top floor unit, 3 skylights and a balcony to enjoy the night and water view. Bring offers. Buyer resp. for all repairs and certificates. The Best view to the Waterfront. Unit is #74. Price and commission subject to bank approval. **\$145,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Do not miss this opportunity to open your own business in this 4000 sq. ft. space with restaurant equipment included or your choice to open business upon landlord agreement. **\$3,500/mo rent**



PERTH AMBOY - This is a must see impeccable condition property. Beautiful finished basement and attic. Plenty of Land for many cars parking. Roof is only one year old and many updates. Show it and bring offer. Owner motivated to sell. **\$319,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Great starter home, within walking distance to hospital, YMCA and public transportation. Buyer is resp. for C/O, termite cert. and all repairs. **\$139,000**



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



PERTH AMBOY - Add'l Lot Short Sale. House being sold "as is". Buyer is resp. for C/O and all repairs. Subject to bank approval. Commission split subject to 3rd party approval. **\$99,000**



PERTH AMBOY - First time home buyer and investors do not miss this opportunity. This is not a short sale and owner is very motivated to sell. Bring offers. 24 hours notice to show. Buyer resp. for C/O and any repairs. **\$145,000**



PERTHAMBOY - Move in condition. This property was totally renovated a few years ago. Great colonial 4 large bedrooms, large side lot and more. **\$139,000**