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Perth Amboy

Competition is Fierce

Perth Amboy Applies for Transitional Aid

Topics of Discussion at 2/22/12 and 2/27/12 Meetings



B.A. Greg Fehrenbach



Council President Kenneth Balut

PERTH AMBOY - At the Special Meeting on 2/27, Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach gave a presentation of what conditions must be met by the City if they are granted Transitional Aid from the State. At the Council Meeting of 2/22 he said it took six people to fill out the transitional aid application. "The twenty-nine page memorandum includes state monitoring of contracts, hiring, etc. which the Mayor and Council would have no control over, if we are accepted for this aid," Fehrenbach stated.

Some of the focal points of transitional aid would include making a loan to the City. A grant is set up if certain conditions are abided by. There would be a placement of a monitor. Labor contracts in place cannot be touched. If contracts expire a monitor can participate in those cases. A monitor can preside over vacancies or new positions, salaries of non-union employees, capital improvement and budgets and modification of that services.

Fehrenbach stated that in some instances such as in Hoboken the State monitor raised taxes 45% without the local government body voting. The monitor is basically concerned is that the bottom line

is met.

In another instance the monitor stopped all services except for the police, fire and EMS.

"If we are accepted for Transitional Aid it would be for one year to provide for additional property tax relief. We are one of the ten most municipal property taxed towns," Fehrenbach stated.

The following towns such as Newark, Irvington, Paterson, Trenton and Asbury Park are always the prime candidates seeking this aid. Lindenwold was one of the towns applying for additional aid at the same time Perth Amboy.

The aid that Perth Amboy is requesting is \$2 million which would be applied towards the 2012 City Budget. Fehrenbach said that the introduced budget came in \$4.4 million below fiscal year 2010. "This is the first time in fourteen years that the tax levy has dropped. This budget is also \$1.5 million less than the 2011 budget. The decrease in property tax levy is \$1,187,000," said Fehrenbach.

The proposed Citywide 2012 municipal budget is in the total amount of \$70,787,201. Mayor Wilda Diaz stated this budget will stabilize property taxes by trimming the cost of government services. "There was a lot of unnecessary debt

created by the prior administration due to illicit mismanagement," Mayor Diaz stated. "This is something my administration has been dealing with and we have consolidated our resources within the Police, DPW and Fire Department which has reduced overtime, accumulated leave liabilities and responding quicker to emergencies dealing with public safety. Even with all of this going on, we still have a excessive debt."

One of the financial objectives is to look into the YMCA service agreement and obligations.

At several Council Meetings, the Council members and residents have voiced their concerns about the many change orders that have occurred in regards to the Public Safety Complex on New Brunswick Avenue. Some of those change orders have applied to the repairs, modifications, and upkeep to the swimming pools at the YMCA. The City has met with President and CEO of the YMCA Steve Jobin to resolve these issues.

Each city department head also presented their budgets to the B.A. at earlier hearings. Fehrenbach made suggestions when necessary to any department as to what additional information was needed for him to make a determination if there was a way they could consolidate or eliminate certain functions.

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach stated that the City had borrowed \$4 million initially to help pay off money owed to Middlesex Water and that is down to \$2 million.

The Parking Utility Surplus is to be used for structural improvements to the Jefferson Street Parking Deck.

Council President Kenneth Balut stated that it was the lo-

Continued on Page 2

Traffic and Street Lights Questioned at South Amboy Council Meeting



City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz



A Concerned Resident

by Joseph L. Kuchie

SOUTH AMBOY - In what is becoming a recurring theme, the traffic and street lights around South Amboy were once again discussed and debated at last week's council meeting.

Last month, business administrator Camille Tooker noted that there were 57 street lights out around the area, but the city was working with Jersey Central to fix the problem. At the last meeting, Tooker explained that she met with the lighting company and progress was being made.

"The city met with Jersey Central last week to discuss the lighting, and our issue is a priority on their list," Tooker said. "However, we are not the only town they service and they have to operate on a budget, so it's going to take time."

Despite the progress, resident Tom Cross was not satisfied with the work being done. Cross has attended a number of meetings in the past few weeks in an attempt to have something done about the lighting problem.

"We pay for this service in our taxes, and according to the bill list we are paying \$13,000 a month to light the city," Cross said. "Those lights are

consuming energy whether they are working at full capacity or not, so it doesn't matter how many times we report it if they don't fix it."

Resident Vince Mackiel also voiced his concerns on the lack of lighting in the area, questioning what has changed around the city since they first met with Jersey Central. Tooker was able to give him information, explaining the new upgrades to city hall and the firehouse.

"We met with Jersey Central about fixing Broadway, but we have already seen improvements to lighting near city hall and the fire house," Tooker said. "They have installed 'cobra lighting' on existing poles by the train plaza and have also fixed general lighting near the YMCA. Work is being done."

"Cobra Lighting" is a type of LED light that can be placed on top of streetlights to improve lighting in the area. Most of these lights can illuminate an area for hours on one charge and can sustain an average lifetime of 100,000 hours.

Another issue raised at the council meeting was traffic lights, as resident Mary Bouchard questioned the tim-

Continued on Page 3

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Board of Ed Forum Meeting 3/3

PERTH AMBOY - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey presided over the community Board of Ed Forum Meeting held at the James J. Flynn School on Chamberlain Avenue. While the audience consisted mainly of educators and some former board members there was a very small group of residents in attendance from the neighborhood. Dr. Caffrey presented several slides outlining where students needed academic improvements in various subjects. The most glaring point of her presentation was that last year only 522 students graduated. At the beginning of their freshman year that class had over 700 students enrolled. The drop-out rate of over 200 students was a focal point of this meeting and many in attendance suggested solutions to this problem.

Board Member Obi Gonzalez voiced her concerns of the lack of parents who were absent from this meeting especially since it was held on at a Saturday at 10 a.m. Several of those in attendance agreed that many students drop out of school because they need to work to help out their families financially.

Gonzalez continued, "I was a high school counselor but social workers are needed more because they have more specialized skills. That's where the money should go. We need ongoing sustainable programs - not ones that come and go. (referring to the \$39 million from the state) Programs are needed where the parents and students can participate together. Let's open up the school libraries - especially on weekends so we can engage the parents social issues concerning them (for example housing and work issues). I am hoping with each subsequent Board of Education Forum Meetings that more parents will come out."

A concerned parent who is also a substitute teacher said, "We should reach out to the churches and have these announcements made about these meetings. A lot of parents are very religious and this is a good way to communicate to them the importance to come to the regular school board meetings and these community forum meetings."

Mr. Cilia who is the Principal in the Flynn School stated, "I am a product of the Perth Amboy School System as is my mother. An extended school year and day would be welcomed by parents." He offered up that he has been an educator for 29 years. "Our after-school programs has a waiting list. All of our activi-

ties presented in the evenings have a full house."

Dr. Caffrey agreed, "We need to make up a lot of ground and the summer slide is where our kids fail. Because of our economic background we need 200 school days - not just 180."

One teacher agreed with Cilia that we need to link with other schools to see what they are doing to have a large number of parents coming out to support their children in their after-school activities."

Many classes have a high number of students where as the Richardson School is under enrolled. Board Member Milady Tejada said, "We need community input to discuss challenges and what this \$39 million should be used for. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) needs to be emphasized and also students should be taught to respect one another. She stated that when her son was in High School that two days before school started there was a program put in place where students were taught how to interact with one another in a respectable way."

Educator Virginia Morales said, "There is something that happens to the students in the Middle School where they are growing up too fast. Fifth Grade is too young to be in a middle school setting and the students need to be monitored more closely. More parents are interested in prom issues instead of learning issues and I advise that more teamwork needs to be emphasized among the students."

A young woman by the name of Damaris (a former participant in a DARE program under Kenneth Puccio) has a young daughter of her own now. She also is a community organizer in New York. "There are so many social issues going on outside the high school which is affecting the students behavior in school." Damaris stated. "There should be more summer programs going on." She said, "When I graduated high school, two days later I was attending Middlesex County College. A lot of students come to empty homes after school. My six year old comes home bored and says she would rather have me teach her. I take my special Ed son to New York."

Tejada said, "My son is also special Ed and we must encourage them to do better instead of lowering the bar for them." To which Damaris agreed.

"There is an empowerment program in New Brunswick geared toward working toward special education student. They do a great job," Damaris

stated.

Board VP Kenneth Puccio acknowledged Virginia Morales and Damaris from when they attended the DARE program when both young women were students in the Perth Amboy School System. "I'm also a Juvenile Detective and it's heart-rending to see what kids deal with and school is their sanctuary. Teachers are the most important part of this equation. If students are coming from abusive circumstances you have to tell them that you care - even putting your arms around them."

Dave Benyola of the Department of Human Services in Perth Amboy stated that he knows how much kids worry about losing their homes because a lot of times when parents come into his office for housing assistance they were often accompanied by their children.

Virginia Morales agreed with Benyola. "There are also that a lot of parents are immigrants and they are afraid if they come into school about matters pertaining to their children's education they fear that they will be deported."

"You have to address personal problems that students have at home." Puccio chimed in. He used himself and Edwin Nieves, Vice Principal of the High School as prime examples of having teachers who cared so much about them that it turned their lives around for the better. *More Coverage of the meeting in the 3/21 issue of the Amboy Guardian*

Perth Amboy

Continued from Page 1

cal Financial Board that put us in this position by approving bonds requested by the prior administration that should never have been granted.

Fehrenbach told the governing body had exactly four weeks and two days from February 27, 2012 (when the special meeting was held) to get this budget together.

Any amendments to the budget must have a public hearing by April 4, 2012.

Correction

In the 3/7/12 issue of the Amboy Guardian the 2nd Paragraph of Jack M. Dudas' letter should read: Apparently Veridian Partners, with no input that I know of from the public (how about a question and answer session or forum, or perhaps a referendum?) has been approved to develop a E-port Facility at and around the greatly contaminated National Lead Site.

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South Amboy

Continued from Page 1

ing patterns of the light on Washington Road and Feltus Street. She believed the light coming from Washington Road was changing too quickly and South Amboy residents were suffering.

“The light on Main Street and Feltus coming from Washington Road is 20 seconds, yet if you’re driving down Main Street the light is a minute and a half,” Bouchard said. “I think South Amboy residents are the one’s who are being taken because it takes at least four lights to get across these roads.”

Bouchard was also concerned about residents being able to cross the busy street, explaining that 20 seconds was not nearly enough time for senior citizens to get across the road safely. She told the council she had looked into it before, but was told it was not a city issue but a state issue.

“I don’t think 20 seconds is enough time for a senior citizen, myself included, to walk across Main Street safely,” Bouchard said. “I was told that this wasn’t South Amboy who was in charge of the street lights and that it was a state issue, but I still think it should be looked into.”

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Fireworks

With the fireworks coming back into town this is a great opportunity for Perth Amboy put their best face forward. Think of all the out-of-towners that the fireworks would attract. I would make sure that all entrances into the City are thoroughly clean even if that means getting volunteers to make sure any trash is put into the garbage receptacles and also make this a very patriotic celebration by having red, white and blue streamers or balloons displayed by the businesses on Smith Street. If the weather is nice I'm sure all of the dining areas that were approved to have outside seating will attract those from others to come back to visit our City long after the fireworks are over.

An opportunity like this does not come very often but when it does you have to take full advantage of it. The waterfront is one of Perth Amboy's greatest assets. and the City has to take full advantage of it at every possible turn. You would be surprised how many people are not aware of our waterfront, even those out-of-towners who are not that far away are amazed by what they see. I remember when

an acquaintance of mine came into town and I decided to take them to a local restaurant at our waterfront. Even though they had been to Perth Amboy several times they have never been to that area but told me that they would definitely be back specifically to go to the waterfront and next time bring their friends with them.

I am hoping that the fireworks display will be a continuation for many years to come because it not only brings the community together and all ages enjoy that spectacular sight but it also puts Perth Amboy in a positive spotlight.

I miss fireworks in Perth Amboy. It brought business and happiness to the faces of Perth Amboy and surrounding residents. People from all around came to Perth Amboy. It was always a welcome sight every July. This year fireworks have returned to Perth Amboy and I for one am happy. The fireworks bring a touch of class to Perth Amboy

It was nice and fun and I'm glad the City is having them again. It helps to generate revenue for businesses in town.

C.M., K.M. P.W.



**KEEP THOSE
LETTERS COMING**

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The Applicability of the Bill of Rights

Those who attack part of the Bill of Rights as "no longer applicable" are foolish. Claiming the ban on quartering soldiers in peacetime is not needed is wrong when this very ban prevents it from happening. Given that the right of the people to keep and bear arms is need-

ed for their security, how can anyone claim this right is ever obsolete? Will they attack the right of the people to freedom of speech and of the press? Or the right of people to assemble and to demonstrate their concerns? What about the ban on unreasonable searches of people, their houses, papers, and effects? Or taking private property without just compensation?

Before the 1968 Gun Control Act many high schools and colleges had rifle teams as part of their sports activities. There

were no criminal shootings in schools before the 1970s. There were no terrorist attacks either. Is there still a need for security in a free state by keeping and bearing arms? The statistics report an increase in crime and violence after the 1968 Gun Control Act became operative. Maybe political oppression is one cause of crime and violence, not inanimate tools.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

The Perth Amboy Community Development Corporation

Since moving to Perth Amboy about five years ago, I have noticed that the City administration repeatedly launches large initiatives with the objective of organizing a group of volunteers to come together and create a non-profit entity to be in charge of, and fund, the project. This formula is effective up to a certain point. Some recent examples that come to mind are the 325th Anniversary Gala of Perth Amboy, the establishment of the Ferry Slip Museum, the creation of the Arts Council (charged with creating a city-wide arts plan and managing the Arts Gallery), the restora-

tion of a vibrant Tennis Program and management of the new tennis complex and, the largest one to date, the \$10M fundraising project for the restoration of our public library.

I would like to suggest another approach. The City should create a permanent nonprofit entity called the Perth Amboy Community Development Corporation to handle community development initiatives. These are serious projects for both our quality of life as well as resulting economic activity. In the current format, many volunteers join multiple initiatives and end up feeling burnt out or overwhelmed, and the project could lag in spite of everyone's best efforts. It could be more effective to create one organization, one leadership structure, one overall community and economic plan, one grants management office and one system that manages all of the towns volunteers. This

more unified and organized approach would produce more "bang for the buck" for each grant received, each volunteer work hour spent, each college intern utilized, each fundraising event or initiative held, each marketing/promo effort made, and the desired improvements would be realized sooner. Plus, the same funders would not have to decide between competing municipal community projects for their limited donations. When you consider the fact that the positions of Community, Economic, Redevelopment, Urban Enterprise Zone and Business Improvement District Director are all vacant, serious consideration should be given now to the formation of the Perth Amboy Community Development Corporation by our municipal leaders.

Thank you,
Tracy Jordan

Rome The Eternal City

Watching the elevation of the 22 cardinals including Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Church in Rome, Italy, brought back happy memories to me of when I used to visit Rome quite frequently back in the early 1960's.

My employer Airlift International of Miami, Florida made regular flights from New York to Rome, Italy with a stop at Milan. We had just converted from propeller aircraft to jets. As navigator in Douglas DC-8 four engine aircraft I was thrilled to be a member of the crew. It was much more exciting - and romantic- than toiling in dull and stuffy offices or courtrooms.

At that time an ecumenical council presided over by Pope John XXIII was convened at the Vatican in Rome. A few thousand clergymen from all over the world arrived to take part. I was one of the

many spectators. This was a council which brought about many changes in the Catholic Church. Among these the priest facing the congregation during the service, the service being conducted in the people's language and not in Latin and the Priest greeting the people as they left the church. Later as I left the church I remarked to the priest, "Father, you preached a wonderful sermon. I woke up refreshed." He smiled. He also had a sense of humor!

When my mother's fellow bingo players at local churches heard of my trips to Rome they asked that I bring them back some souvenirs. I was glad to comply. The shopping stand at the Vatican was where I purchased pockets full of rosary beads. The nuns were very friendly. To them I was known as Signor Pietro!

At the games my mother passed the beads to her friends. No charge! Shucks! They were cheap enough in those days. However divine help or prayer has not affected games



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of chance. Later when I attended the wakes of some of them I noticed some of those beads were entwined on the wrists of the deceased ladies. I feel confident St. Peter passed them through the Heavenly Gates without the aid of those beads.

Rome, the eternal city, is more than this short piece. That comes later. Meanwhile I treasure those happy memories.

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WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.....	52 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FAR.....	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS.....	99 MAIN ST.
114 MAIN BAGELS.....	114 MAIN ST.
REO DINER.....	392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE.....	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.
WOODBIDGE VETERINARY GROUP.....	424 AMBOY AVE.

Kidz Wii Club

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

Volunteer Firefighters Needed

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

Tea Room Open

PERTH AMBOY — The Tea Room at the historic Proprietary House, Kearny Avenue, is open on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

For \$7 per person, visitors can enjoy assorted teas and delicious homemade desserts served by hostesses Helen, Dorothy and Kathy. Take a tour of the only remaining Royal Governor's Mansion in the U.S.

The Proprietary House, which was built between 1762 and 1764, and is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is owned by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Parks & Forestry.

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

Kearny

Cottage Open

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

**ADS SELL!
CALL CAROLYN
732-896-4446**

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

- TODAY Mar 14 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m.,
Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
- THURS. Mar 15 Board of Ed. Forum, 6:30 p.m.
Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Ave.
Municipal Court, 6 p.m.,
Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
- TUES. Mar 20 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
Board of Ed. Forum, 6:30 p.m.
McGinnis School, State St.
- WED. Mar 21 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m.,
Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
- THURS. Mar 22 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.,
Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

- MON. Mar 19 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
- WED Mar 21 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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**Neighborhood Business Meeting
in Perth Amboy Photos by Carolyn Maxwell**



**Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446**

Movie Time
SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a movie "The Muppets" Rated PG at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 26 at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

**Family
Communion**

Breakfast
HOPELAWN - The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary Church is having its annual Family Communion Breakfast on Sunday March 25, after 8:30 a.m. mass in the Holy Rosary Auditorium on Florida Grove Road, Hopelawn. Donation for adults is \$8, Children under 12 are \$4. For tickets please call 732-826-9466.

Bridal

Showcase
WOODBIDGE - There will be the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce Bridal Showcase on Sunday April 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, 515 US. Highway 1 South Iselin NJ. ADDMISSION IS FREE. Brides, grooms, families are all welcome. To register contact the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce at 52 Main Street Woodbridge NJ. 07095 or call 732-636-4040 or e-mail woodbridgechamber@comcast.net.

**Save Money This
Tax Season
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Taxes Done
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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.

**"Tip a Pint" at the Munkee-Bar in South Amboy
March 8, 2012
Photos by Aaron Beers**



Do you or someone you know have Old Photographs or Documents?

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

A.C. Trip

SAYREVILLE - The Sayreville Historical Society will have an Bus Trip to Atlantic City to Showboat Casino on Sunday, March 26. \$30 Slot Cash Back, Bingo, 50/50 and snacks on the bus - movie on trip home. Bus leaves Sayreville Senior Center Parking Lot at 10:45 a.m. Returns approximately 8:30 p.m. Cost \$35 (A \$10 Deposit required by 3/17/12). To sign up contact Art at 732-525-3208 or leave a message at the museum 732-390-7048.

HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday, Mar 19 at 6 p.m. Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the hospital's Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

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

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.

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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.

Tricky Tray

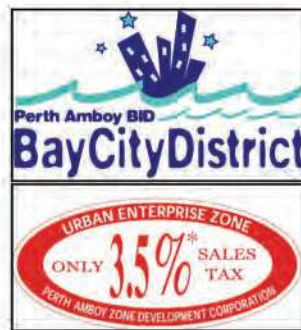
PERTH AMBOY - The women of the Moose Annual Tricky Tray will be Sunday March 18 at the Moose Lodge, 989 Convery Blvd., Perth Amboy. Doors open at 12 noon.

Pop-Up Art Exhibit

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Pop-Up Art Exhibit from March 13 - 19 at the Perth Amboy Gallery, 339 Reade St. (Reade St. & Fayette St.) featuring NJ Emerging Artists, curated by Vivianna Acuna-Francisco. Opening Reception Thurs - March 15 from 6 p.m. to - 8 p.m. Gallery Hours - Monday- Thursday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and by appointment. Free and Open to the Public. For more info call: 732-826-1690 ext. 4235.



Mayor Wilda Diaz
The UEZ and BID Programs
cordially invite you to the
2012 Neighborhood Business Meetings



The objective of these meetings is to bring government into the businesses. We want to provide business owners an opportunity to network in small groups, voice their concerns, and to speak directly to City Directors which will help us improve the delivery of our services. Business owners please join us in one of our upcoming meetings.

SCHEDULE - HORARIO

DATE/FECHA	TIME/HORA	LOCATION/SITIO	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Thursday, March 15 th	9:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Corner Restaurant	175 Hall Avenue
Wednesday, March 21 st	9:00 a.m.	Superior Diner	464 Smith Street
Wednesday, March 28	12:00 noon	The Barge Restaurant	201 Front Street
Wednesday, April 11 th	12:00 noon	Karini II Restaurant	299 New Brunswick Avenue
Wednesday, April 18 th	5:00 p.m.	Latin Grill	586 Amboy Avenue
Wednesday, April 25 th	5:00 p.m.	El Taco Loco	308 State Street



LA ALCALDESA WILDA DIAZ
Y LOS PROGRAMAS DEL UEZ & BID
Invitan cordialmente a todos los
residentes y comerciantes

A la serie de Reuniones – “2012 Neighborhood Business Meetings”

La alcaldesa de la Ciudad de Perth Amboy, Wilda Diaz, el Programa para Mejoramiento de Negocios del Distrito (BID) y la Zona Urbana de Desarrollo (UEZ), este año nuevamente coordinan una serie de reuniones con los propietarios de negocios en varias áreas de la ciudad. Le invitamos cordialmente a que participe.

El objetivo de estas reuniones es establecer una mejor comunicación entre los funcionarios del municipio, los comerciantes y vecinos de Perth Amboy a fin de explicar los servicios que la ciudad dispone, así como el trabajo de los diferentes departamentos.

El principal interés del municipio, del BID y del UEZ es escuchar los comentarios y recibir sus ideas y opiniones que ayuden a mejorar los servicios que actualmente ofrece la ciudad.

Para obtener mas información, favor de llamar UEZ/BID al (732) 442-6421 o al correo electrónico: rtroche@perthamboynj.org.

Employment Forum

PERTH AMBOY - The NAACP Perth Amboy Branch in collaboration with The City of Perth Amboy, Dept. of Human Services presents an Employment Forum, “Searching for Employment”, “Resume Writing”, “Interview Readiness” on Saturday, March 31 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Raritan Bay YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. *Vendors Welcome* For more info contact Sandette - 908-305-8519 or access www.naacp-perthamboynj.org

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



**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: 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"

**Celebrate
Earth Day –
Plant a Seed**

SOUTH AMBOY - Kids, mark your calendar for a fun event at the Dowdell Library: "Celebrate Earth Day – Plant a Seed," which is an Earth Day program which will be presented by South Amboy Community Gardens on Monday, April 23rd from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Parents, introduce your child to planting a seed for a lifelong love of gardening!

Also, meet "Sisters in Crime" author, Chelle Martin at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy! Sisters in Crime will celebrate 25 years of working with librarians and booksellers in support of women writing crime fiction and will celebrate with a special event on Saturday, April 21 at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library of South Amboy from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Chelle Martin will experience life as a librarian, so feel free to stop by and ask her about mystery writing or "Sisters in Crime!"

Don't forget to ask about the children's and young adult art contest taking place through April 30th.

Need homework help? Don't forget to ask the librarians. Free online resources on the library's web page make report writing easy!

The library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School off O'Leary Blvd. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10 am – 8 pm; Wednesday and Friday 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday 12 noon – 4 pm. Directions: www.dowdell.org

For additional information, contact the library at comments@dowdell.org or 732-721-6060.

South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade 3/10/12

Photos by Aaron Beers



Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade 3/11/12

Photos by Katherine Massopust



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St. Pat's Story Time

SEWAREN - St. Pat's Story Time will take place at the Sewaren Public Library, 546 West Ave., Sewaren from on Friday, March 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, story & snack. Ages 2 to 9 appropriate. Families from all towns welcome. Registration required. 732-634-7571.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration & Luncheon

PERTH AMBOY- St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration with a Mass at 12 NOON followed by a Corned Beef and Cabbage and Pasta with Chicken luncheon on Saturday, March 17 in the Church Hall at 104 Center Street. Monsignor John Gordon is being honored as the "Irishman of the Year." The price is \$25 per person. For information and reservations, contact Millie at 732-826-0282 or Eleanor at 732-261-7462.



photos by Aaron Beers

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Reflections On The Great Beds Lighthouse

Artwork From The Accelerated High School And Adult High School Students Of The Adult Educational Center In Perth Amboy At The Raritan Bay Coffee Company

PERTH AMBOY Students from Visual Art classes were asked to create a composition of the Great Beds Lighthouse. They researched its history and geography using their creativity to come up with their own designs. The Great Beds Lighthouse was one of the earliest cast iron towers in New Jersey. It is located in South Amboy and can be seen from the Perth Amboy waterfront by the Raritan River.

The exhibition in the Raritan Bay Coffee Company is located at 233 Smith St, inside the historic Perth Amboy train station. The opening reception is March 15, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. free parking after 6:00 p.m. For more information please call at 848-203-3432 or to art teacher Olga Bautista at 732 376-6244. Exhibition is free and open to the public.

Photo of artwork courtesy of Olga Bautista

Fashion Show

PERTH AMBOY - Join the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) and the Health Oriented Youth (HOY) Program as we commemorate National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. with an afternoon of fashion. Saturday, March 17 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at PRAHD 100 First St., Perth Amboy. Tickets \$5 in advance \$7 at the door. Show your support - wear your RED HEELS!! For more info contact Samarie at 732-442-1081.

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.

Babysitter Safety Class

PERTH AMBOY H- Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring this interactive class designed for babysitters, ages 10-16, and focusing on first aid, household safety and the fundamentals of child care, including hands-on manikin training. Cost is \$15 and includes a take-home safety manual. Friday, March 23 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy.

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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.

Please be advised that this assistance is **NOT** available for Public Housing or Section 8 programs.

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.**



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Ethnic Buffet Night

Perth Amboy-St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, Saturday April 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The dinner will take place in the church school cafeteria, 490 State St. Advance ticket sales until April 14 - \$12. After April 14 - \$14 Under 10 yrs - free. Menu includes Soup, Salad, Potato and Cheese Pierogi, Meatless Baked Ziti, a Taco Station, Coffee, Tea, Soda and Desserts. Call Brian at 732-589-4981 for more info.

Cruise Inn Show at Alameda Care Center

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a One Night Only Cruise Inn Show on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Alameda Care Center, 303 Elm St., Perth Amboy. Come and enjoy the best music from the '50's '60's & '70's. Everyone is welcome at our Cruise Night! Trophies, Good Food and Family Fun. For more info call Richie at 732-525-0412 or 732-442-9540.

Free Breakfast

EDISON - There will be a free breakfast at the Pines Manor, 2085 State Rt. 27, Edison on Thursday, March 29 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a full Breakfast. Free will offering. Your donations will benefit battered women. RSVP ASAP Charisse 732-271-3450.

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

Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446

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@jeffsaxonmusic.com or call the Barron Arts Center at 732-634-0413. or email BarronArts@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

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AMBOY SPOTLIGHT: THE LINDBERGH CASE & TENNIS CENTER

The Case That Never Dies-The Lindbergh Kidnapping

by Vilma Novak

It was on March 1, 1932, a night of gloom and rain, at the Lindbergh estate, located on a long dirt road's end, in Hopewell, NJ, that Charles Lindbergh, Jr. (Charlie), 8 months old, was found missing by the maid.

Not a sound, no baby's cry disturbed the night. A ladder was discovered perched outside the nursery window. Bruno Richard Hauptmann, determined to be the sole perpetrator, was arrested 2 ½ years later for kidnapping baby Charlie. Hauptmann was eventually convicted and sentenced to death by electric chair. He was executed April 3, 1936.

How was it possible for one person to climb a ladder, enter the Lindbergh baby's nursery and, while holding the baby, descend the ladder to escape undetected?

Why were the Lindberghs

at their Hopewell estate that Tuesday night? They were normally there only on weekends. Was Charles Lindbergh ever implicated in the kidnapping? Why were there no curtains on the Lindbergh windows since Charles Lindbergh had a dubious relationship to fame and wanted extreme privacy. Why did the Lindberghs restrain baby Charlie by securing his blanket with large pins to the bed at night?

Why was Agatha Christie inspired by the Lindbergh case to write "Murder on the Orient Express"?

Why was Perth Amboy's own David Wilentz, New Jersey's Attorney General, appointed by Governor A. Harry Moore to be the prosecuting attorney? Why did William Randolph Hurst pay Ed "Death House" Reilly, a flamboyant bon vivant from Brooklyn, to defend Hauptmann?

Why did the ransom notes contain symbols of interlock-

ing circles and wavy lines?

Why was J. Edgar Hoover suspicious of Charles Lindbergh?

Why did Al Capone offer to help solve the case?

These and many other fascinations surrounding the Lindbergh kidnapping were presented by Lloyd C. Gardner, Ph.D., author and Professor of History at Rutgers University. The event was on sponsored by Perth Amboy Ferry Slip Museum on March 4 at the Raritan Bay YMCA Theater. Some of these questions can be answered and more curiosities discovered in Dr. Gardner's book "The Case that never Dies-The Lindbergh Kidnapping" and on his blog at: casethatneverdies.blogspot.com

There are so many things to wonder about the Lindbergh kidnapping and the Hauptmann trial it's no wonder that the case has yet to die.

**photos by Vilma Novak*



Don Katz and Dr. Lloyd C. Gardner



Dr. Lloyd C. Gardner and Donald Peck

Public Input Valued and Incorporated into The New Tennis Community Center Plan

By Tracy Jordan

PERTH AMBOY - Ken Ortiz, Director of Human Services and Superintendent of Recreation, opened the "Tennis Anyone? Public Comment Session" by stating the goals for the rebuilt tennis complex: to offer tennis, to teach discipline, manners and etiquette through the program and to restore the glorious days of Perth Amboy when it had a robust and well-respected program with 23 tennis courts total. Other services at the center would be homework assistance, art activities and anything positive to deter the use of drugs, tobacco or alcohol by children.

The 3200 sq ft building, partially constructed already, will have one large community room (with seating for 200 people), public restrooms, a small office and a concession stand. Director Ortiz will be seeking a United States Tennis Association (USTA) organization, in the form of a branch club of USTA with a 501 (c) 3 status, to run the center as well as collect dues, fundraise, apply for USTA grants and provide instruction. The full scope of the club's responsibilities is still not determined.

The Phases of the project are: 1) construct the building (with insurance monies, completed by end of April 2012); 2) build the East courts (East of Brighton Ave.) planned as

two adult and three child-sized courts and start tennis play there by Sept. 1, 2012 and 3) restore the surrounding gardens that were fire damaged, beginning in Sept. of 2013. Phases 1-3 are not tax-payer based and incur no debt. The third phase (Est. 83K) will be a team effort of the project engineer and the Royal Garden Club.

The 4th phase is economically challenging – build five adult sized courts on the West side of Brighton Ave. The estimated cost is 290K. Public questions abounded about the Board of Education entering into a reciprocal agreement and assist with some funding – this process had been started but not completed. Engaging the BOE will be researched and pursued. Citizens were encouraged to attend BOE meeting and raise this topic. "You 'young guys' organizing and pushing for this would make a huge difference," said Councilman Joel Pabon. "Ask to meet with the BOE Athletics and Co-Curricular Committee. Going in as a group is healthy: we don't want to have to wait 3-4-5 years for the West courts."

At this point, the public stated it would actually be better to complete the West courts first as more people could utilize them and play sooner than by completing the East courts first. A discussion ensued, a vote was held and Director Ortiz stated the West courts will

be completed before the East. It was refreshing to see how welcome community knowledge was and how it influenced public space decision-making for the benefit of all.

Jonathan Lopez, Perth Amboy resident, stated that "The BOE needs to step up". He added, "I play a lot of tennis. All sports are equal but so much focus is given to football and baseball and these are not lifelong activities, as is tennis." Donna Patel reminisced about how "We would all go on a bus to the US Open for years and years." Captain Howard Yellock, local USTA Team, urged speed as "I am being pushed out of USTA – they won't send matches here because our courts are so bad." Dr. and Mrs. Wolf from town spoke about how much talent is here and how hosting competitions is so important. "These kids could be super stars; they need exposure."

Resident Gina Jernick added that "Police presence is crucial or it won't be controllable." Councilman Joel Pabon added that "Programs with adult supervision reduce crime. Mayor Diaz is adamant on police presence." Resident Maria Garcia summed it all up: "People who have played tennis here love it – the view, the breeze. We can bring this back on a grand scale if we concentrate."

If you wish to be a part of the tennis movement in Perth Amboy, contact Ken Ortiz at 732-829-1960.



Plans for Tennis Community Center

Knitting Circle

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

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. New books have arrived! Mystery, Classics, Popular Authors! Book Dealers Welcome. For more info call 732-826-2600. There are also books for sale at Raritan Bay Coffee Company (at the Historic Train Station)

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.

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: 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.

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.

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.

Lent Fish

Frys

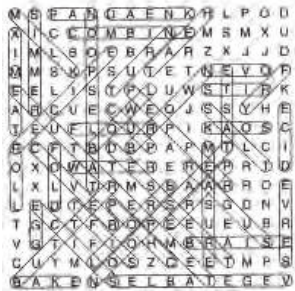
SOUTH AMBOY - There will be Lent Fish Fries every Friday at the South Amboy ELKS, 601 Washington Ave. from 2/24/12 to 4/4/12 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost ranges from \$8 to \$15. Dinners offered from Haddock sandwich to Fried Seafood Combo. Chicken Fingers and Kids Meals also available. Eat in or Take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

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. The price of the trip is \$150 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 (732) 727-7639.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Parker Castle circa early 1900's. From Glass Negative. The Castle was surrounded by gardens. It was used for balls, dinners and parties during the Revolutionary War. Parker added a section made of wood. The British Army used it for a barracks and hospital. The American Army used it as a hospital during the war. Like St. Peters it was used by both sides throughout the war. Photo courtesy of Stephen Michael Dudash

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

TODAY Mar 14 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
 • Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
 • St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
 THURS., Mar 15 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
 MON., Mar 19 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
 TUES., Mar 20 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 • Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
 WED. Mar 21 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
 • Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
 • St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
 • Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone Sts.

South Amboy

TODAY Mar 14 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
 MON., Apr 2 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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The Barge

On The Waterfront in Historical Perth Amboy

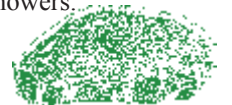
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The Barge

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.thebarge.com

Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - RBMC's Cardiac Club will meet Mon., Mar 19 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.

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

All You Can Eat Filet Mignon Dinner

SOUTH AMBOY - The Old Bridge Sayreville Rotary is hosting its 4th Annual Ultimate Beefsteak on Friday, April 21st. Proceeds from this all you can eat filet mignon dinner will benefit area food banks. The event takes place at Sacred Heart Memorial Hall, located at Main Street and Washington Ave. in South Amboy. Dinner is served promptly at 6:30 and the menu, catered by The Brownstone from "Real Housewives of New Jersey", includes cold antipasto, sliced beef tenderloin, penne in tomato basil sauce, french fries, ice cream cake, coffee, tea, and soda. BYOB. Cost is \$40 per person and tables of 10 can be reserved. A comic and DJ will be on hand for your evening's entertainment!

Advance ticket sales only, and space is limited. For more information, or to purchase tickets call Glenn at (732) 921-1468, or Jeff at (732) 921-1466. Tickets may also be purchased at Pride Landscape Supply, 350 Ernston Rd., Parlin.

Gallery

After Hours

PERTH AMBOY - Join us as we celebrate International Women's Day with poetry, music and so much more! Thursday, March 8 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Gallery 339 Reade Street, Perth Amboy.

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.

Central NJ Prom & Sweet 16 Expo 2012

SOUTH AMBOY - Central NJ - MCS Productions, JerseyFashionista, and Club Pure have collaborated to bring New Jersey residents their first Central NJ Prom & Sweet 16 Expo. The event will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 1 p.m. to at 8 p.m at Club Pure, 1970 US Highway 35, South Amboy. (732) 952-2628. Admission is free and open to the public.

The expo will feature the very best New Jersey has to offer in first class transportation, baked goods, fine and international cuisine, designer gowns and party dresses, accessories, top notch salon services and much more.

For info on showcasing in the fashion show or on the red carpet, please contact Lillie Morales-Torres at 908-279-9125 or info@jerseyfashionista. The fashion shows will be hosted by Miss National Miss American Coed NJ, Kayla Marie. Special guests include Quinceanera Magazine and Vinny Buzzetta of WeTV's 'Staten Island Cakes'.

For more information on the event visit www.MyMCSEvent.com. To become a vendor or sponsor contact Cassandra Alvelo at 732-925-4935 or plan@mymcsevent.com

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

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