

Perth Amboy Board Of Ed. Places Caffrey On Paid Leave Replaced By Dr. Vivian Rodriguez



Dr. Janine Walker-Caffrey (R) listens as Board of Ed President Sam Lebreault reads the list of 22 charges against her. *photo by Katherine Massopust

By Joseph L. Kuchie

PERTH AMBOY - After a one and a half hour private session and a fifteen-minute statement by President Samuel Lebreault, the Perth Amboy Board of Education voted to place Superintendent Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey on administrative leave until a further decision can be reached.

Despite five board members deciding not to vote due to conflicts of interest, the decision was made based on a majority vote. The board then voted Dr. Vivian Rodriguez, the assistant superintendent, as the new interim superintendent of schools in Perth Amboy.

President Lebreault cited over 20 different violations made by Caffrey in his statement, which included failure to communicate with the board on a number of occasions and publicly exposing issues about the school district to the local newspapers. Once the decision was made, Caffrey made a short statement and joined the audience for the remainder of the meeting,

"This has nothing to do with me, this is about a community that is at a crossroads, a community with a long history with corruption in government," Caffrey said. "I will not yield. A superintendent is in

charge of maintaining the dayto-day operations of schools and taking care of the hiring of staff. This is not about me, this is about our children and their right for a better education and future."

Due to the large crowd that attended the special Wednesday night meeting, the board allowed the public session to run past the usual sixty minutes. Parents, teachers, and administrators took the podium to express their feelings and concerns over the board's decision, and the responses carried on for over an hour.

Even with the recent controversy surrounding the Board of Education, the responses to Dr. Caffrey's leave were mixed. Some spectators believed that the Board made the right decision, while others like resident Bill Ortiz were strongly against the move.

"You made the correct decision by hiring Dr. Caffrey. Her resume was extensive and she wanted to help our kids," Ortiz said. "This was a political move and you backed off your decision when there was too much heat. You're making a huge mistake."

The city has been in negotiations with the state of New Jersey in an attempt to bring a new high school complex to Perth Amboy, something that



Dr. Vivian Rodriguez appointed Acting Superinten-

would solve the overcrowding problem that students are currently facing. Many of those in attendance believed that removing Caffrey would just push the city farther away from achieving its ultimate goal.

"The state has made it clear that if there is no unity, the school doesn't happen," resident Cecil Graham said. "This town stands to lose, and our kids will lose something we've been working on for ten years because we are allowing this nonsense."

Some residents also believed that Caffrey wasn't given enough time to prove herself to the city, and her removal from the board was unfair to the newly hired superintendent. Although she was brought on for a three-year term, Caffrey has only served 10 months with the City of Perth Amboy.

"We all worry about teacher and student morale, but the morale was already at the bottom before Dr. Caffrey got here," PTO member Donna Stewart said. "You gave her three years, but she's only been here ten months. Change takes time."

Despite this, there were still a good number of teachers and parents who supported the

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Emotions Still Run High Regular Board of Education Meeting - 4/26/12



Board of Ed VP Kenneth Puccio



Ron Snipes new security guard



Board of Ed Member Israel Varela

PERTH AMBOY - Emotions ran high at the BOE Meeting of 4/26/12 but it was not all due to the previous night's suspension of Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey. The PAHS Debate Team was honored for their excellence in achievements as was the PAHS Odyssey of the Mind Improvisational Group who will represent Perth Amboy at a competition in Iowa. There was also a performance by the Jazz Assembly Band. Lauren Marrocco, a 4th grade teacher at the Edward J. Patten School was the recipient of the 2012-2013 District and Middlesex County Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Joyce Richardson-Melech delivered a very poignant speech hon-

oring her father, the late Dr.

Herbert N. Richardson. (see

editorial)



Stanley Sierokowski

Those in the audience who spoke included resident Stanley Sierokowski who questioned the Board of Education about the lack of transparency when it comes to some of the items listed on the agenda. He specifically focused on items that said, "attachment included" where there were none available to the public.

Board Secretary Frank Jess said the attachments are available to the public upon request which led Sierokowski to reply, "In that case they should be on the same table where the agendas are displayed."

The specific item that interested Sierokowski was a trip that was listed. "All trips should have the purpose of the trip, the cost, who is going

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Caffrey Suspended 4/25/12 Special Board Meeting

Continued From Page 1

Board's decision to remove the superintendent, and many approved of Dr. Rodriguez's temporary promotion. Linda Nagy, a teacher in the Perth Amboy school district, discussed a situation where Caffrey "bullied" her in a closeddoor session and told her to keep quiet about certain things and stop hanging around certain teachers.

"I was pulled into a closed door meeting and was told I can't do things that I'm granted in the constitution. I was told to keep quiet about certain things and to stop hanging around with certain people," Nagy said. "I work at a public school, not a business, and this has become a 'do as I say, not say as I do' environment."

Resident Leslie Rodriguez also believed that Caffrey should be replaced, citing the long list of allegations as grounds to remove her from



Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez agreed with the Board of Education decision

her post. She praised Dr. Rodriguez and hoped that any of the upcoming investigations would be available to the pub-

"When someone comes in and does what she has done, that alone is grounds for what happened here today," Rodriguez said. "I respect the decision made today... and I hope



PTO President Cecil Graham, Caffrey supporter

this investigation is made public."

The decision to permanently remove Caffrey from her position will not be made until the Board can further discuss the situation, and the two sides may still enter mediation. Until then, the superintendent will remain on temporary administrative leave with pay.

Perth Amboy BOE 4/26/12 Meeting

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and why,"stated Sierokowski Board Member Israel Varela started to explain to Sierokowski about the Sisters Under Sail Program which had nothing to do with the trip that was listed on the agenda.

There was some confusion when it was stated that the BID was contributing money towards the trip listed but were asking to be reimbursed by the Board for the money they were donating.

Another hot topic for discussion had to do with how open job openings are filled in the school district. Sierokowski wanted to know, "What do you call cronyism? When you want to help someone who is down on their luck and a resident of the City?"

Another resident came up to the podium who said, "You always want to fill a position with the best candidate regardless of whether or not they are a resident. An application always needs to be filled out even if an applicant is down on his or her luck."

The suspension of Dr. Caffrey was mentioned by several speakers who also spoke at the Special Meeting the previous night. Resident Alan Silber made reference to Board Member Dianne Roman who believed she should have been censured for making a statement at the special meeting supporting Dr. Caffrey after she abstained from voting. He said to Roman directly, "You should not have spoken."

PTO Members Bob Kennedy and Donna Stewart showed their support for Dr. Caffrey and their disdain for the Board members who voted for Caffrey's suspension. Kennedy said, "There were a lot of passionate words spoken on the Special Meeting on Wednesday, but only three people talked about the children. They were Donna Chiera, Maria Garcia and Dr. Caffrey." He hoped that Dr. Rodriguez can put the same passion in him as Dr. Caffrey did. "We need to get back to basics because education of our children should be foremost." Looking directly at the Board, Kennedy said, "You are embarrassing at times."

Donna Stewart stated, "I am my children's first teacher and coach. I am disappointed by what happened last night. My daughter said we need change and we needed it for a very long time."

Teacher Linda Nagy from the Richardson School applauded the Board Members for their actions and she welcomed Dr. Rodriguez whom she considers more qualified than Caffrey and she is proud to have Rodriguez as her boss. "Rodriguez is bilingual and is familiar with the community. Many teachers left the system due to bogus charges contributed to Caffrey. If allegations are true, Caffrey can be fired and the Board does not have to pay. The Board did to Caffrey what she did to them. If Caffrey is right she should be given her job back."

Another resident, Linda Cruz said, "I am a taxpayer



Alan Silber

and born and raised in Perth Amboy. The new suspension policy has been in place for ten months. What happened last night was an embarrassment. We need to fix it and talk through it and get it right. Our taxes are too high."

After two days of criticism toward at the Board. Board VP Ken Puccio and Member Israel Varela felt a need to respond.

Before Board Vice President Kenneth Puccio spoke towards the end of the Board Meeting he stated, "Perhaps the Board Attorney should sit next to me because of what I'm about to say. I got elected three years ago and have not missed one Board Meeting. This is not my real job. I have been in law enforcement 29 years with 22 years in the juvenile division and I see what is going on. I was born, raised, educated and am a taxpayer in the City. It's a damn if we do or don't and the Board Members don't get

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Andes Festival

PERTH AMBOY - The Festival en Celebration of the Culture and Heritage of the Andes is looking for arts and crafts vendors, musicians, dancers, writers and performing artists representing the culture and heritage of the Andes on Saturday, June 23, 12 noon to 6 p.m. with a rain day on Saturday June 30th at Fink Park located at Smith Street and Madison Avenue. This event is free and is part of the Business Improvement District and City of Perth Amboy City event series. It will feature continuous folk music, folk dancing, arts and crafts, theater and native clothing of Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Chile. For more information please call 908-510-8181

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Determination



Dr. Joyce Richardson-Melech

At the public portion of the 4/26/12 Board of Education Meeting. Dr. Joyce Richardson-Melech of the A.V. Ceres School addressed Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Lebreault and the honorable members of the Board of Education. She is the proud recipient of several awards - A.V. Ceres School Teacher of the Year, Master Music Teacher (NJ), recipient of the NJ Governor's Award for Arts Education, and Fulbright scholar.

She became very emotional when she talked about how proud she was of her late father, Dr. Herbert N. Richardson. He was the first black teacher hired in Perth Amboy. She now teaches general music education at the Dr. Herbert N. Richardson 21st Century School.

The reason she became very emotional is because there is a proposal to make the Richardson School into a Magnet School for Math and Science. Her father was a Master Music Teacher and you could see all the awards, plaques and recital programs in the school lobby that were related to his passion for music. She also said, "You would not see beakers, slide rules, or protractors in my house when we were growing up. He was a very accomplished visual artist using charcoal drawings, pastels and sketching's, including them in art instruction books." Richardson-Melech felt it a slap in the face and dishonor to her father's memory to have a Magnet School bearing his name for math and science, "When this is not what he was known for and the only choice should be a Magnet School in his honor for Visual, Fine and Performing Arts."

This is only a small portion of the three page statement that she read. The full content will be posted on the Amboy Guardian Website.

The reason I am reporting on what Ms. Joyce Richardson-Melech said is to tie it into another group that has the same determination that she has and that group is the Perth Amboy High School Debate Team. I will admit that I have not personally seen the Debate Team perform. The only thing I know is that they have won major debates against very tough competition. They have been invited to debate at the U.N. amongst other venues. The reason I mention them is because of all of the drama involving the suspension of Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey.

We've all heard the people who support Dr. Caffrey and those who support the Board of Education's decision. What I found most disturbing are those who are saying because of what happened to Dr. Caffrey means the end of a new High School being built.

This may upset some people but if that is what you believe maybe you think that the sky is falling and perhaps you should just go home, go to bed, put the sheets over your head and let those who are determined to get a new school built take over. I nominate the Perth Amboy High School De-

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Still Outrageous Response

My whole point is that children should not pay for the sins of their fathers. I am not a politician and never will be. My business is law but if you ask anyone, I spend my life helping people and work-

ing harder than any politician could ever or do. I take pride in thinking that I can walk throughout the City without a dime in my pocket and have a meal and a regular comfortable life through the gratefulness of people I have helped. If you want to go around blaming people for the mishaps of this world then go ahead. It is your business. Local politics is of little interest to me so without any animosity but

with a sense of poignant reality I will respond to your comments by quoting my favorite composers/singers/rockers (the Beatles hoping that you get the point: "Try to realize it's all within yourself no one else can make you change and to see you're really very small, and life flows on within you and without you." Go on.

Eralides E. Cabrera, Esq.

To Build a School

Where to build a high school? The BOE needs to wake up. Put the high school where it will do the most good. Where it has room to expand. You build schools where it is so congested. (Hall Avenue between start and dismissal). If an emergency arrives traffic is stopped.

Start thinking about the future. What's going to happen no one knows. Come to BOE meetings. They should go to planning and zoning board meetings so we don't have high density housing.

See why there are so many rentals so the tenants can take care of the early learning centers. Put the playing fields next to the schools. We'll cut down on the busing, build a new school, do away with the street (Wilentz) - rehab the school, do away with rec areas - parking for Richardson and Shull. The current high school has no parking for the teachers. Although certain ones are privileged - they have

their own key and drive and park between the school and trailers.

The vocational school has only a small lot for staff. Everyone else parks on the street. Ah for the old days when we walked to school and we had no problems. Just win the war!

E.F. Jensen

P.S. At least if it snowed I could walk the tracks to the Copperworks when there was no work.

Perth Amboy BOE 4/26/12 Meeting Continued from Page 2

paid. I spend 25 to 30 hours a week doing this. I get stopped by taxpayers and children all the time and I know what I got myself into. In 22 years as a juvenile director I've also done crisis planning for the Middle Schools and High School. Make no mistake - it is about the children. I am a human being whatever happened last night wasn't easy. We all deeply care about the children."

Board Member Israel Varela also made a very emotional statement. With a raised voice he stated, "I am one of the individuals accused. If you have proof that I asked anyone for a job for any friends of mine (in reference to the allegations by Caffrey) - then you are a liar!"
With that he took off a strap
that was hung around his neck
with the words Perth Amboy

with the words Perth Amboy
High School on it, slammed
it on the table to back up his
words.

Earlier in the evening Ron-

Earlier in the evening Ronald Snipes was approved as a Security Guard which he publicly thanked the Board and those in attendance. He had applied for this job for several years and was grateful for the position and said he hoped to also be a role model and father figure for the students. Snipes had been honored earlier in the year by the City Council for saving the life of an individual who attempted to jump off the Victory Bridge.

Board Member Varela apologized to Snipes and fellow Board Member Ken Puccio for not realizing that Snipes was the individual on the agenda as the new hiree for the security guard position. Varela had wondered why another security guard who had been in the school system longer was paid a less amount than the new hiree. Varela said he did not realize the qualifications that Snipes which allowed him to come in at the higher salary. Snipes had applied for this position several years ago and was finally called.

Board Members Obi Gonzalez and Mark Carvajal were absent at the 4/26/12 meeting.

YMCA Of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy Announces New South Amboy Branch Board Members

News Release

SOUTH AMBOY – Five community leaders have joined the South Amboy Branch Y Board of Managers, helping to create an expanded, more diversified board. The new branch board members include Paul Christopher Kulakis, Internship with Carmen F. Spezzi and Maliszewski Funeral Homes; Yaw Ofori-Behome, MD, Adom Family Medicine in South Amboy; John S. Misiewicz, DC, Sayreville Chiro-

practic Practice; Rebecca Wallentine, Owner of Green Earth By Beck in Sayreville; and Casey Woods, Legal Specialist State of New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities.

"Our existing branch board has a goal of increasing the board with twenty community leaders from different business areas to enhance our capabilities in serving the communities of South Amboy, Sayreville, Morgan and Parlin," said MEWSA Y President-elect Lucinda Florio. "The branch

board has done a great job in recruiting five impressive branch board members this year, each with various leadership capabilities, experiences and demonstrated commitment to serving their communities."

For more information about volunteering, building skills, strengthening, giving and getting back even more than you give, call Executive Branch Director Sherrill Rudy at 732-553-9622.



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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.

Kearny Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

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.

ADS SELL! CALL CAROLYN 732-896-4446

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

TODAY May 2 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

THURS. May 3 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

MON. May 7 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.

TUES. May 8 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

WED May 9 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave. City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

THURS. May 10 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

South Amboy

TODAY May 2 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

City Hall, N. Broadway

MON May 14 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.

City Hall, N. Broadway fay 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

WED May 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

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Editorial continued from page 4

bate Team to meet with those who are in charge of determining if Perth Amboy should get a new High School built. This meeting should only be between the students and the representatives from the State Education System. Adults coming in with their own agenda who may try to influence the students are not needed. Just let the whole student body get a chance to say what is on their minds. They will be the best spokesmen to influence the state to build a new High School.

I wonder if Dr. Richardson-Melech was a debater growing up. After hearing her speak at the meeting I believe she won her argument hands down. I personally would not want to go against her because in this case she is spot on and there is no counter argument to be made.

C.M.



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

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A Night of Storytelling With Vic Henley, Mark Riccadonna & Car LaBove

WOODBRIDGE - Live at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge on Friday, May 11. Showtime: 7:30 p.m. (seating begins at 7:00 p.m.) Ticket Price: \$20 advance / \$25 day-of For Tickets Call (732) 596-4048 or go to http://www.woodbridgeartsnj. org. For Interview Requests: pryanmusic@gmail.com (Pat Ryan). For Hi-Res Photos: lostbrothersbooking@gmail. com (Franklin Marcus)

Civil War Round Table

WOODBRIDGE - 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: 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"

Perth Amboy Holocaust Commemoration Film Series:

Raritan Bay YMCA Auditorium located on 357 New Brunswick Ave.

Schindler' List (195 min) May 6 2:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Parade Scheduled for May 28, 2012 News Release

PERTH AMBOY— Mayor Wilda Diaz invites the residents of Perth Amboy to honor and remember military personnel who gave their lives while serving our country during this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony to be held on Monday, May 28th.

"We would like to welcome and look forward to the participation of local churches and other Perth Amboy organizations to join our efforts in recognizing the men and women who have served the United States," said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact Lissette Martinez at: (732)-826-1690 ext. 4307 or lmartinez@perthamboynj.org by Friday, May 18th. PARADE: Monday, May 28th at 10 a.m. Begins at the Public Safety Complex Parking Lot (365 New Brunswick Ave.) and will proceed to Sadowski Parkway. CER-EMONY: Monday, May 28th at 11 a.m. at the Veterans' War Memorial on Sadowski Park-

As a reminder, the City of Perth Amboy offices will be closed Monday, May 28th and there will be no garbage collection on Memorial Day. Trash will be collected on your next regularly schedule pick-up day.

Art Exhibit

PERTH AMBOY - Kearny Cottage Historical Association will feature the artwork of local award-winning artist Sharee Daniel at a reception Sunday, May 6, 1p.m.-4p.m. at Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ

Ms. Daniel, winner of the Expressions of Courage art contest sponsored by Ortho McNeil Neurologics, Inc., in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation.

Ms. Daniel has never let epilepsy stop her from pursuing her quest to express herself through art. She graduated from Gibbs College with an Associate's Degree in Visual Communications. Her works are multi-media: computergenerated graphic design, sculpture, pencil sketch and oil paint. Some of her works will be on display at Kearny Cottage during the month of May. Ms. Daniel will be present at the reception on May 6, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come and meet the artist and join us in refreshments and fellowship.

Inspiration Art Show RBMC - 4/19/12 photos by Bob Ned



Art Teacher Marcella Massopust with Gifted & Talented Students' Art Work from PAHS



Gloria Rebovich, Mayor Diaz, Anton Massopust, Marcella Massopust, Joyce Signorile



Hospital Staff preside over the show

Odyssey of the Mind *photos by Carolyn Maxwell





PERTH AMBOY - The PAHS Odyssey of the Mind team placed 2nd at the State Finals on April 21 and will be representing PAHS in the World Finals in Iowa. The team and their coach were given recognition at a recent BOE meeting by the Board and those in attendance at the meeting for a job well done.

Happy Cinco de Mayo!





SOUTH AMBOY - On Sunday April 14 Rachael Abadie, Megan O'Donnell and Tanya Andersen all participated in a Rebel Race which took place in Manchester, NJ. The race is designed as a 3.1 mile run with 24 obstacles, several taking place in mud, built to challenge the runner. It was a beautiful day and the three were excited to complete the race as team SABY (South Amboy Branch YMCA).

*photo courtesy of Tanya Andersen



MAYOR WILDA DIAZ THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT





Celebrating el "Cinco de Mayo"

Business Improvement District: "Shop Locally ... Ent locally" Visit out restaurants

> CARVAUNE \$19 Coodein Sheet

COPA DE ORO 300 Smith Street

EL Tago Loco 306 State Street

ERMERALDA 347 Smith Street

Garibaldi 287 Smith Street

LA CASA DEL MARIACHI 318 Smith Steet

La Tableira El Rescon 301 Fayete Street FRIDAY, MAY 4th 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Fink Park -Smith & Madison Rain Location: 1 Olive Street

- "Mariachi Real de Mexico"
- ♦ DJ and Solo—David Luna
- Typical Mexican Dancers
- · Mexican food and more.



Thanks to our go-sponsors:

Perth Amboy Merchants Association — Mexican Association of Perth Amboy International Mexican Food in Red Bank — Western Weer in Perth Amboy WellCare Health Plans of NJ - United Health Care of New Jersey

This program or territe is funded to part by Middlesex County Board of Chasen Freeholders Middlesex County Cultium! S. Heritage Commission with published the American of State New Jersey State Countil on the American of State



For information call.

Roxana Troche, BID Manager - 732 442 6421

Blanca Guerrero at PRAND 732-412-1981

HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday, May 7 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.

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.

Tricky Tray SAYREVILLE- The Music

Association for the Visually Impaired Students of New Jersey will be holding a Tricky-Tray fundraiser on Friday, May 18 at the Sayreville Senior Center, 423 Main St., Sayreville. The doors will open at 6 p.m. with drawings beginning promptly at 7:30 p.m. There will be a great many prizes. Admission is \$8. Adults only. Complimentary cake and coffee will be served during break. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more info call 732-254-4795.

New Jersey 101.5 Dennis & Judi Broadcast Live at Pantagis 4/27/12 photos by Paul W. Wang & Al Jackson



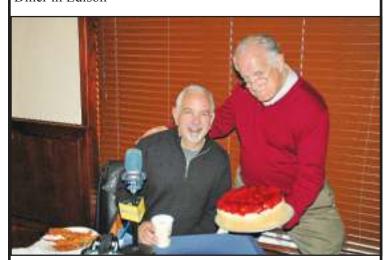
Patrons outside line up to purchase merchandise and to receive free giveaways and a chance to win prizes



Dennis Malloy and Stephen Pantagis, owner of Pantagis



Judi Franco and Dennis Malloy broadcast live at Pantagis Diner in Edison



Dennis receives another cheesecake from Nick



Judi and Dennis show their appreciation for the warm hosptiality, great food and dessert provided by the Pantagis family

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo! Viva La Raza



Mark Anthony Carvajal Perth Amboy Board of Education Member

Carvajal Mexican Restaurant 319 Goodwin St. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 732-826-9700

We are on the Web! www.AmboyGuardian.com



MAYOR WILDA DIAZ
The Office of Housing
and the



Business Improvement District

Invite you to a FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS FAIR

Thursday, May 3rd

ow that the housing prices are the lowest in decades, learn how to apply and qualify for

- \$9,000 grant for down payment
- . Up to \$25,000 grant for home repairs—rehabilitation
- . Low interest rates

[™]ome join us so you can:

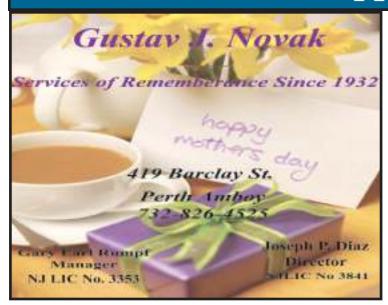
- Speak with a modgage specialist in get more for your money.
- I see from Real Estate expens and banks the many options you have see.
- Cive your DREAM of owning a house a chance!



Thursday, May 3rd 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Alexander Jankowski Center 1 Olive Street Perth Amboy, New Jersey

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (732) 326-4300 - (732) 442-8424. VIA EMAL: CECNYOLA ((PERTHAMEOYN), ORG

Happy Mother's Day!



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.

Vendors Wanted

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 5 (Rain or Shine) at the Perth Amboy High School (Main Campus) Cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$10 per space/ \$15 space with table/\$20 for 2 spaces with tables. Interested in renting a space /table/have questions? Please contact the Perth Amboy High School PTO: Jeanette's-emailjmghi@aol.com or (732) 233-3397.



Rutgers Spring Flower Fair

NEW BRUNSWICK - The 20th Annual Spring Flower Fair at Rutgers Gardens, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 112 Ryders Lane off of Rte #1 South will be on, Friday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sunday, May 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a Children's program. For more info call 732-932-8451 or Fax: 732-932-7060. Remember to bring your wagon to carry your plants!



Send Your Events to Carolyn and Katherine at AmboyGuardian@gmail.com



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Happy Mother's Day!



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Wishing all moms a Happy Mother's Day



"My Reverse Mortgage gave me monthly income to cover my expenses"



Happy Mother's Day!



PERTH AMBOY - Top photo - Congratulations to the PAHS Debate Team on a job well done! Bottom photo - The PAHS Jazz Assembly Band performed at the BOE Meeting of 4/26/12 *photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - RBMC's Cardiac Club will meet Mon., May 21 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.

Music on Main Street

WOODBRIDGE - There will be a concert of Ari Hest, Thursday May 10 at the The Barron Arts Center, 532 Rahway, Ave., Woodbridge. www.WoodbridgeArtsNJ.org Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at door.

Hunger Games

SOUTH **AMBOY** Dowdell Library Proudly Presents its First Annual Hunger Games- Every Thursday In May at 6 p.m.!! You've read the book! You've seen the movie! Now put yourself to the test!! Jeopardy challenge, Cornucopia challenge, Nerf Gun challenge & more! Winning team gets a prize!! "Happy Hunger Games, and may the odds be ever in your favor!" Must Sign Up to participate!! Comments(a) dowdell.org For more info call 732-721-6060. Ages 10 to 17.





Movie Time

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a movie "New Years Eve" Rated PG at 5:45 p.m.. on Tuesday, May 8 at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.



PERTH AMBOY - Dennis Marrocco with his daughter, Lauren Marrocco, a 4th grade teacher at the Edward J. Patten School. Lauren Marrocco is the recipient of the 2012-2013 District and Middlesex County Teacher of the Year Award.



David's Touch Day WOODBRIDGE

Join us for David's Touch Day Mini-Golf Fundraiser at the Woodbridge Community Center Skyline Mini-Golf, 600 Main St., Woodbridge on Friday, May 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Receive \$2 off general admission with your donation of a new, unwrapped toy. Regular Adult Admission \$7, Regular Child Admission \$5. For more info 732-596-4170 or go to www.davidstouch.org

Volunteers Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Domestic Violence Response Team needs volunteers! Team members work in conjunction with the police to provide victim support, information and referral at the time of a domestic violence crisis. Training will be provided at no charge by the Perth Amboy Police Department. For more info contact Det. Liza Capo, Perth Amboy Police Dept. at 732-324-3815 or Det. Sgt. Joseph Breyta, Perth Amboy Police Dept. at 732-324-3819.







Mother's Day Cruises

Brunch - Boarding -11am, Sailing -11:30 am, Returning -1:30 pm Consisting of omelets, salad bar, chicken, fresh fish, carving station, pastries and more... \$39.95 plus tax & service fee

Lunch - Boarding -2:30 pm, Sailing -3pm, Returning - 5pm Featuring prime rib carving station, salad bar, and more... \$39.95 plus tax & service fee

Dinner - Boarding - 6pm, Sailing -6:30pm, Returning-9:30 pm Includes elegantly prepared full course dinner, and more... \$64.95 plus tax & service fee

Sailing From Perth Amboy, NJ

OFFICE: 401 RIVERVIEW DRIVE, PERTH AMBOY

For More INFO CALL 732-697-9500 to RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!!!

Movie Time

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a movie "Lady and the Tramp" Rated PG at 6 p.m.. on Tuesday, May 22 at the 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 BIN-GO! This event will be on the 1st Friday of every month at 7 p.m. from October through May. The remaining date is: 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.

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.

Dog Walk & Pet Fair

WOODBRIDGE - The Woodbridge Animal Shelter is sponsoring the 5th Annual Dog Walk & Pet Fair on Sunday, May 20 Registration starts at 10 a.m. Rain or Shine! All leashed pets welcome! Walk Starts 11 a.m. Walk starts at Alvin P. Williams Park, Cliff Road, Sewaren and ends at the Woodbridge Animal Shelter, 195 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge. There will be raffles, food, vendors, dog contests, live music. Meet adoptable animals and more! For more info email krisehlers@comcast.net. All proceeds benefit the Woodbridge Township Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption

TAX FACTS

Changing Jobs Can Have Tax Consequences

Courtesy of Tom Ploskonka

Taxes may be the last thing on your mind when you're changing jobs, but overlooking their impact could mean missed tax-saving opportunities. Issues to consider include the following: • Your retirement plan. Distributions from retirement plans are generally taxable and may also be subject to an early withdrawal penalty. The penalty would also apply to amounts withheld for income taxes. When you leave a company, any outstanding 401(k) loan is also considered a taxable

distribution if you don't repay the loan according to the terms of your plan.

Planning Tip: Have the money in your retirement account transferred directly into another qualified plan or an IRA. A direct rollover avoids automatic income tax withholding and income taxes.

• Job-hunting expenses. You can deduct the costs of looking for a new job in your present line of work, even if you don't get the job. Typical expenses include travel to job interviews, resume costs, and employment agency fees. You must itemize your deductions, and

your total miscellaneous deductions must exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income.

 Moving expenses. If you meet two tests, you can deduct the costs to move your household and personal effects, including your in-transit travel expenses and storage expenses.

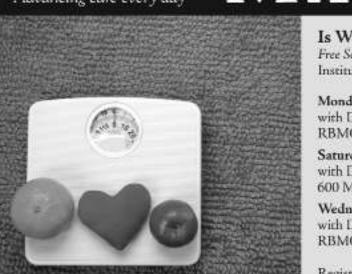
First, the distance from your old home to your new work-place must be at least 50 miles farther than the distance from your old home to your old workplace. Second, you must work full time in your new location for at least 39 weeks during the 12 months following your move. The time test doesn't

apply if you're laid off from your new job or later transferred for your employer's benefit.

• Residence sale. You can exclude from taxation up to \$250,000 of gain (\$500,000 for joint filers) if you own and occupy a home as your principal residence for at least two of the five years preceding its sale. If you sell your home due to a change in employment, you can still exclude part of the gain even though you don't meet the ownership and use tests.

To discuss the tax issues relating to a job change, call us. We are here to help.





Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?

Free Seminar - Learn about surgical and medical weight loss options at the Institute for Weight Loss.

Monday, May 14, 7 to 8 p.m. with Dr. Oluseun A. Sowemimo RBMC Old Bridge, One Hospital Plaza, Ferry Rd.

Saturday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 12 noon with Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri 600 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri RBMC Old Bridge, One Hospital Plaza, Ferry Rd.

Registration required, call 855.TIME.4.ME.

Integrative Medicine Wellness Sampler

Learn a variety of simple, effective techniques to calm and clear your mind. Cost is \$10 per class.

Wednesdays, May 2: Reiki; May 9: Qigong; May 16: Massage; May 23: Meditation; and May 30: Energy Medicine. 7 to 8 p.m.

Massage for Couples: A Mother's Day Gift

Learn massage techniques to relax your partner and yourself and improve your quality time together, presented by a Certified Massage Therapist. Cost is \$95 per couple.

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 8 & 9, 7 to 9 p.m. Raritan Bay Area YMCA

357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.



Dr. Sam. Gordon Berkow Maternity Pavilion Tour and Family Health Open House

Learn about the maternity unit's modern comforts designed to provide a calm and relaxing birth experience. Get information on child car seat safety, guided imagery and body mechanics training for use during labor. Nutritional information, how to pick a pediatrician and an infant CPR demonstration will also be provided.

Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m., RBMC Perth Amboy 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration suggested, call 1-800-DOCTORS.



For more information about Raritan Bay Medical Center's services and for a complete schedule of events visit rbmc.org.



OLD BRIDGE - PERTH AMBOY | WWW.RBMC.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/MYRBMC



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.

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.

Volunteers Needed

PERTH AMBOY - Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen Connections Program is looking for both men and women to participate in one-to-one activities and become a mentor to the youth of Middlesex County and Franklin Township. For more info call Jeanette at 732-738-1323 or email jnadonley@ccdom.org.

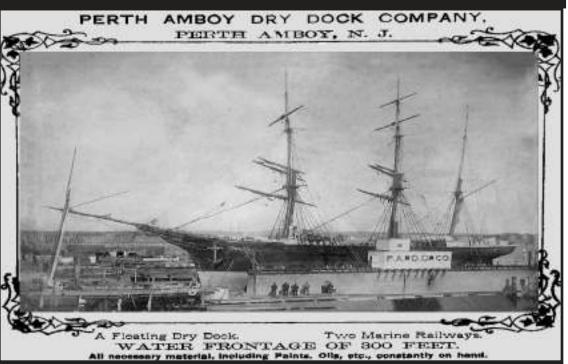
Job Search & Networking

SAYREVILLE - There will be a Job Search and Networking techniques program at the Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Road, Parlin. Wednesday, May 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dr. Colleen Georges will share her tips for successfully searching for a job in this tough market. For more info call Alaina at 732-727-0212 ext. 25.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - This unique advertising print shows the Perth Amboy Dry Dock. (Stanley Stahon grandfather to Leonard Witkowsky) was a watchman at the Dry Dock.

*photo courtesy of Leonard Witkowsky This photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

TODAY, May 2 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., May 3 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m.,

Family Life Center, Madison Ave. MON., May 7 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m.,

Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.

TUES., May 8 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.

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

WED. May 9 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., May 10 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Ukrainian Assumption Church, Alta Vista Pl.

South Amboy

MON. May 7

WED. May 9

St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

South Amboy Seniors, noon,

Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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A.C. Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - The Office on Aging is offering a trip to Caesar's A.C. on Friday, May 18. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. from the A.J. Center returning about 7 p.m. Cost is \$19 pp. Cash back \$25. Money Orders Only. For more info call 732-826-1690 ext. 4307 & 4326.

Circus in Town

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Fire Department Anniversary Committee will have a Circus on Saturday, May 19 at 1000 Rte. 9, Parlin. For more info call 732-856-0307. Bring flyers that are in businesses around town to the Texas Roadhouse of Old Bridge on Thursday, May 10 between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. and 10% of each bill in its entirety will be donated to the South Amboy Fire Department Anniversary Committee.

90's Birthday Bash

OLD BRIDGE - The Middlesex County Office of Aging & Disabled Services Cordially Invites Seniors, 90 and over to a celebration of life in their honor. Wednesday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Old Bridge Senior Center, George J. Bush Center, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge. For more info call 732-721-5600 ext. 6600. RSVP by April 11 by calling 732-745-4267. Sponsored by the Middlesex Co. Office of Aging & Disabled Services. Hosted by Old Bridge Township Senior Cen-

Pierogi & Cake Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John the Baptist Orthodox church is having a pierogi and cake sale. Call 732-826-7067 to place your order between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All items are handmade. Pierogi - Potato -\$7, Cake - poppy seed, nut, apricot, raspberry and prune - \$10. The order date is Tuesday, April 30 to Friday, May 4. Pick up date is Tuesday, May 8 and Wednesday May 9. Pickup your order at 404 Division St., Perth Amboy. Thank you for your order.

Classroom In Need **Donations** Accepted

CARTERET - Ms. C. Costa teaches an Autistic Program in Carteret School District. Due to NJ budget cuts and limited funding, her program is in desperate need of materials and a new work table for students. Her students are a wonderful bunch of children who need a lot of special attention and materials due to their disabilities. She has created a project proposal through a nonprofit organization called Donors Choose. Attached below is the link to learn more about her students and her project. She and her students would greatly appreciate it if you would consider making a donation to this great cause. Any small donation will be accepted and GREATLY appreciated. http://www.donorschoose.org/ ms.costa

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CUARDIAN

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If you wish to publish a Novena in The Amboy Guardian, you may use this coupon.

A Petition to St. Joseph

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

Prayer To St. Claire

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

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For Employment

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

A Petition to St. Jude

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

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

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

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protection

25 Make swollen

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30 British tavern

(abbr.)

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52 Jacob's brother

Sessame (abbin.)

53 Lost forever

54 Main and

51 Zero

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• Change Oil Filter · Complete Chassis

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Dry Cleaning

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- All Work Done On Premises
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Landscaping

McKeon's Materials LLC.

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Total Property Maintenance

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Tree/Shrub Removal Landscape Design Sod/Seeding, *Excavation

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Mediation Consulting R.T. McCRAY ASSOCIATES

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website http://www.mccrayassocs.com

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Child Care

Affordable Childcare in my South Amboy home. Baseball Card Set -Topps Excellent references 732-553-9443 5/2

For Sale

Used - \$45 - 732-254- Rugs - Burgundy 4 x 7 -

Refrigerator - 1 Counter LoveSeat 63 inches - light

Wooden Coffee & End Dyson Vacuum Cleaner

Dual Electric Range - \$25 line for kids \$30. Car seat sell" - \$25 - 732-826- 4.5 hp. Pear Bager Mow-

fine - \$50 Weedner Ski working condition \$75 Exercise - \$20 - 732-257- 732-566-2945 8062

Oil Stock Certificates - Exercise Bike - perfect Chinese Rhinos - U.S. condition - asking \$75 -Echo Gas Chainsaw 14" Confederate Currency 732-634-3589 732-713-0536

> 1950's Women's Mink Fur Shawl - looks brand new \$50 - 908-561-9033

For Sale

1985 Complete Mint Set \$65 - 732-727-8417

Tires 4 245-40-ZR20 Ventus 95V \$75 - 732-721-7186

\$50 Ivory Runner with 3 x 5 \$75 - 732-675-6989

Dark Wood Entertainment Center \$50, Treadmill \$75 -732-634-0239

Table Set. \$40 Lawrence - Upright Model DC07 -Mint Condition \$75 - 732-72.1-4477

Like New small Trampo- - vaccum cleaner "Bis- Sears Leaf Vacuum. \$75

Sears Treadmill works Dehumidifier in good

for dozen. 732-548-4317

Ads Sell Call Carolyn 732-896-4446





ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ
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PERTH AMBOY - On the Majestic Kearny Avenue you will find this beautiful 4 bedroom. A "must see" to appreciate the quality of home building of the past. Private alley way, car garage, hardwood floors. Lots of potential being sold strictly in "as is" condition. Not a short sale. **\$159,000**



FORDS - Great starter home. Close to shopping distric and all major highways. Needs some TLC. Buyer is resp for C/O, termite cert. and all repairs. \$134,900



PERTH AMBOY - Great starter home, 1 block from the waterfront. **\$179,000**



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



PERTH AMBOY - 3 bedroom, 2 full bath, 1 garage A "must see" property to see its potential. \$249,000



PERTH AMBOY - Very good two family, close to parks and public transportation. It is being sold strictly in "as is" condition. Buyer is resp. for C/O, termite cert. and all repairs. \$159,000



EDISON - Ready to move in, very good location & close to schools, transportation and shopping malls. \$125,000



PERTH AMBOY - Completely renovated, new roof, electric, plumbing, heating C/A, new upgraded kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops, LR, formal dining room, finished basement, French drain, laundry room, 3 car garage. A must see! \$279,900



PERTH AMBOY - Investors dream. Collect rent and run the business, 3 apartments, plus 1 store, 3 car garages, parking space for 7 cars. Grocery store gross monthly income approx. \$30K. apt 1 \$1,200, 2nd \$950 and 3rd \$700 all mo/mo **\$650,000**