

Perth Amboy

Towing Woes, Parking, Illegal Housing & **Qualification of Inspectors Questioned** 4/23 & 4/25 Caucus & Council Meetings



Councilman Joel Pabon

PERTH AMBOY - Scenario: An owner of a vehicle parks in a private lot. The car is towed. When the owner goes the following day (less than twelve hours time) to retrieve the vehicle he finds he has to pay a two day storage fee. Why is this so?

That is one of the questions brought to the forefront by Councilman Fernando Gonzalez addressing the plight of many Perth Amboy residents. These residents were complaining of inconsistencies of various towing companies. Fees can range anywhere from at least \$30 to \$120 to unhook a vehicle that has been lifted off the ground from a private lot. It was also reported that one woman did not have the original amount of money demanded by the tow company. He eventually released her car for whatever money she could

There were also reports of predatory actions by private lots. The owners of the lots will have someone watching for patrons that leave the premises for other businesses so they can quickly swoop down and get those vehicles

Some private parking lot owners warn patrons with signs stating the vehicle will



Councilman William Petrick

be towed if you go anywhere Once you patronize another business the owners deem that you are parked in their lot illegally and have your car towed.

Deputy Police Chief Benny Ruiz stated, "The Council can draft an ordinance to prevent predatory actions (having someone watch drivers park in a private lot and go elsewhere to patronize another business then calling the towing company to have that car towed). Ruiz said that "We have met with the Towers Association Group and after that meeting some of them brought their towing fees down."

Councilman Joel Pabon said that some towing companies are setting their own fees (pertaining to private lots). They have a practice of putting locking devices on the wheels until the owners of the vehicles can pay up.

Councilman Bill Petrick said, "Private lots are supposed to be under the same regulations as the City's public lots and this is not being done.

Council President Kenneth Balut said, "The police department should make sure that this being done."

Councilman Bill Petrick also stated, "It's also a shame that



Councilman Fernando Gonzalez

residents that have parking decals can't park in the spaces that are numbered on the streets." At a previous meeting Petrick had said, "A lot of the numbered spaces at one time had meters there. It is a stupid law that the residents are now getting tickets for parking at previously metered spaces in their neighborhoods. I also saw that there were spots on Madison Avenue that are numbered which were not there before. Right now the law is stupid restricting residential parking to metered spaces only."

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach said, "There will be more digital meters instead of pay stations. Three spaces on Hobart Street are needed to provide parking for customers going to nearby businesses."

Petrick also brought up concerns about parking in the hospital section. "The signage has to be made clear so that drivers understand that they have to move their vehicles to another spot after two hours. Many people assume if you just keep feeding the meters you are okay. But they are getting tickets."

In response to that, Fehrenbach stated, "It was the resi-Continued on Page 2

South Amboy

Businesses and Housing Discussed at South Amboy Council Meeting

By Joseph L. Kuchie

In what turned out to be a relatively long meeting last Wednesday, many South Amboy residents came out to raise questions about the business and housing plans that are being discussed in the area.

There have been a number of business closings in the city over the past few years, mostly due to the economic downturn but for other reasons not many people can explain. Resident Vincent Mackiel of Augusta Street expressed his concerns about local business and asked what the city was doing to help fix the problems.

"I've used many of the businesses in this area and there seems like there is some sort of struggle," Mackiel said. "Are we attempting to attract business...like Woodbridge... so people can stay local and do their shopping in South Am-

Mayor Fred Henry acknowledged the businesses closing down but also reminded residents that the city is always working to attract new businesses to the area. Although the economy still isn't back to normal, South Amboy has continuously listened to business ideas for the future.

"We support businesses in town, but we've had no idea don't know why certain businesses close. Most of the time people can't afford the rent and we don't know how much we can help them because that could cost taxpayers money," Henry said. "Anyone who wants to come to us with a plan, we listen to them...if they have something viable to offer we see what we can work out."

Resident Mary Bouchard of Fourth Street remembered a few years ago when real estate



Mayor Fred Henry

agent Amber Noble came to the council and asked to meet with them to discuss future business plans for the area.

"We did meet with Amber Noble as a group and we went over certain things with business people," Business Administrator Camille Tooker said. In response to this Bouchard said, "If we could ever get a Trader Joe's into this town, that would be the best thing to get into South Amboy."

Resident Brian Rutkowski wondered what happened to old South Amboy businesses and what exactly was happening with the new housing developments in the area. He noted that there were more signs and people then there were businesses in the city.

"What happened to places like Hank's Garage...South Amboy Glass...they pushed out," Rutkowski said. "There's no construction going on, just signs. We are going to have six million people and no businesses."

Tooker was able to respond to Rutkowski, addressing both the businesses and future housing plans for South Amboy.

"You're right, you could see those signs all through the city. Three years ago the bottom

Continued on Page 2

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Kick-off for Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Campbell's Soup Company Teams With National Association of Letter-Carriers 20th Anniversary



PERTH AMBOY - (L to R) Councilman and Postal Employee Joel Pabon, Letter Carrier Bill Clark, Mayor Wilda Diaz, and Postmaster Tim Hunt standing outside of Perth Amboy Post Office. On Saturday, May 12, 2012 will be the nation's largest single day food drive benefiting Feeding America. This is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. The food drive at the post office in Perth Amboy which is No. 457 of the National Associations of Letter-Carriers will be participating in collecting food on that day. Besides the post office dropoffs the carriers will also be collecting nonperishable food items on their routes. The food collected in Perth Amboy and Hopelawn will be distributed to Perth Amboy food pantries. Food collected in Fords and Keasbey will be distributed to food pantries in Woodbridge Township. Campbell's Soup and the NALC are asking all to participate in making this a larger food drive than last year when there were 70.2 million pounds of food collected. Make sure to look for the Campbell's Soup Stamp Out Hunger container at your local post office.

*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

Perth Amboy

Continued from Page 1

dents who live in the hospital area who drew up a petition asking for something to be done because of the lack of parking for them."

Local resident and businessman David Caba said he and other City residents were concerned about illegal housing. "This has been around since previous administrations (dating back to Otlowski) The City hired two new inspectors. What are their experience in the inspection field? What kind of knowledge and training or schooling do they have since they work for the taxpayers." He was very impressed by the inspector in Fairfield, New Jersey who knew every aspect of the job including electrical work. Caba continued, "In talking to two new hirees by the City of Perth Amboy, they were not knowledgeable when I asked them various questions. They came from Public Works with no inspection background in their history. As a realtor myself, I have to be knowledgeable in my field."

"They did not know code compliances or the difference between a smoke and a carbon monoxide detector. This is a big safety issue."

"One landlord was fined

\$4000 because they was not given the correct information on what they had to do to come in compliance with the law."

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach said, "The inspectors that were hired are being given on the job training. Their initial training dealt with sanitation regulation, property maintenance and illegal housing. One of the inspectors is an auxiliary police officer. They are not yet licensed for uniform fire safety and they are under guidance of a regular inspector."

Fehrenbach continued, "When someone purchases property they are advised by an inspector what spaces are deemed uninhabitable but sometimes they ignore that request. Judges base fines on what they believe are appropriate. When we find illegal housing, we try to correct it and find that and hope it does not happen again."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said, "There are some people that believe that they are being abused by housing inspectors. I would be glad to meet with Mr. Caba on this matter because we were both realtors and I need to research this matter."

Council President Kenneth Balut said, "There is a serious fire hazard with old housing infrastructure and I've seen how Carteret handles this. Some people (city residents)

South Amboy

Continued From Page 1 fell out of everything...People who were all ready to go got calls from the banks telling them they had to pull their money," Tooker said. "As for housing in South Amboy, I can tell you that construction sales have tripled in April and development is moving up again."

Rutkowski also questioned the recent activity going on near the South Amboy YMCA, where there are currently just the beginnings of construction. Mayor Henry acknowledged the improvements and discussed the future plans.

"As you're going down toward Frog Hollow, on the right hand side will be Venetian Healthcare buildings and on the left will be more townhouses," Henry said. When asked about the extent of the work, Henry said, "There are obviously certain things that need to be replaced [during construction] but that's all apart of the progress."

On a side note, Henry urged residents to conserve water due to a significantly dry winter and spring in order to have an ample supply for the upcoming summer months. The next South Amboy council meeting will be held on May 16th, 2012 at 7:00 PM.



David Caba

who buy houses are given regulations as to what they can do to their homes but choose to ignore them."

Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez said, "He is sensitive to people who are struggling and need extra income which is why a lot of them take in extra tenants. When people purchase properties they may have to sign an affidavit to have attics not used for living spaces. If they ignore that affidavit and take in tenants illegally sometimes they are given a small fine. Say a fine of \$500 or less it is worth it to them to violate that ordinance compared to the rents that they collect."

Councilman Bill Petrick said, "Safety and health issues are involved here and we don't want deaths occurring due to safety violations in their homes, apartments, etc.

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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.

Andes Festival

PPERTH AMBOY - In celebration of the Andes Festival, we are seeking the following vendors: musicians, dancers, writers, arts and crafts and performing artists representing the culture and heritage of the Andes. The Andes Festival will take place on Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at Fink Park located at Smith Street and Madison Avenue, feature continuous folk music, folk dancing, arts and crafts, theater and native clothing of Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Chile. In the event of rain, it will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2012. This event is free, co-sponsored by the City of Perth Amboy & Business Improvement District and made possible by a grant from the Middlesex County Culture and Heritage Commission. Interested vendors or for more information please contact: 732-826-0290 ext. 4012.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

It Bears Repeating

works are coming back to Perth Amboy which will be in conjunction with the City of South Amboy. I am looking forward to this and hopefully it will become an annual event like it has in the past. Perth Amboy's Waterfront has always been mentioned as the "Jewel of the City". I've often gone to the Waterfront during all four seasons especially on a beautiful sunny day. In the late spring and summer is when all the businesses are open. The marina comes alive with all kinds of activities.

The mixture of established older businesses that have been there for a long time and the seasonal businesses opening up are a win/win situation for the Waterfront area. You see each business really have to depend on each other.

Perth Amboy has a large mixture of different economic and social backgrounds. You have to have a mixture of businesses in the Waterfront area that can cater to this diversity and these businesses do so.

Most owners of large businesses started out working in entry level jobs in their chosen professions. That experience and knowledge that they gained enabled them to own and expand their own businesses.

The Concerts by the Bay also draw a large audience and that also should help all businesses no matter how large or small.

The Ferry Slip Museum has been utilized several times with exhibitions, (e.g. World War II) and also programs with historians speaking on many diverse topics. This would include facts pertaining to important local historical figures, places and events.

The Ferry Slip has also hosted weddings.

This is just a small sampling

The Independence Day Fire- on how the Ferry Slip Museum on Front Street has been utilized.

> Some eateries in the Waterfront may think of themselves as competing with each other when in reality they are not as I find that each one has their own niche and personality and I have eaten at all of them.

> Some of the establishments have facilities for large parties while others have more intimate settings. You never know when someone comes in from out of town to an affair at one establishment and will see the diversity that is offered at the Waterfront. Remember that sometimes word of mouth can help promote businesses, too. We always want to make sure that your business is located in a section of town that will attract people from all walks of life. This is one way for businesses to grow.

> So the point is never wish for your neighbor's misfortune (although sometimes that may be hard to do). You never know, they might be the ones sending patrons to you.

> So I hope to see you all on July 3, 2012 for the Independence Day Fireworks. I'm sure all the businesses will love to see you there too. So come on and patronize them so we could all have a good night.

> So visit the Jewel of the City which is our Waterfront and see what it has to offer. You may be pleasantly surprised.

> You may also be able to purchase a piece of history.

> You have a choice of either catching your own dinner or sitting down and ordering it. Come dress to the nines or in jeans and T-shirts you will find a place where you will be comfortable either way. That is what I call catering to all.

C.M.

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Kangaroo Court

When I attended the special meeting of the Board of Education I never expected it to turn out to be a Kangaroo Court. As defined in Webster's Dictionary as a mock court in which the principles of law and justice are disregarded or perverted and a judgment or punishment fine outside of legal procedure.

The meeting began after a closed session - one hour and thirty seven minutes leaving a crowded auditorium to fidget and fuss. Upon return, the board members took their assigned seats which had bottles of water placed before each seat. If some had gin or vodka

I would have appreciated a shot or two. Years ago we had a council member who was a known tippler. Yet he performed better than his fellow sober members!

The Board President sonorously impressing in effect or style delivered 22 charges against Superintendent Caffrey which had the gravity of capitol offenses. Yet in analyzing these charges none are sustainable in a court of law. Still in a Board of nine members four hid behind conflict of interest and did not vote. Clearly a miscarriage of justice! I credit Superintendent Caffrey with standing by her principles and bowing out with grace and dignity! And she has a good case at law!

We voted for this present Board of Education to remedy the mistakes of the past Board and the past Superintendent - their legacy is the Delaney Homes Debacle. Before obtaining the money for a new high school over 200 families were evicted. This present Board with its Caffrey suspension is no better! How I regret not moving to Woodbridge Township when the former mayor is now a guest of Uncle Sam and his allies were in

Thank you for your courtesies. Very truly yours,

Peter Book, a.k.a. Pedro Libro



The Best **Kept Secret**Let me tell you about the best

kept secret in Perth Amboy.

This last January I was taken by ambulance to Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division, because I had a high fever and a strange condition whereby my left leg was swollen fever and a strange condition whereby my left leg was swollen at least three times its usual size. I thought it might be phlebitis or a blood clot. But it was something much worse called necrotizing fasciitis. This disease is set in motion when flesh eating bacteria becomes active in one's body.

Necrotizing fasciitis is a disease which, if not treated medically in timely fashion, most likely will cause death. I was told by a physician that if I had waited two or three more days before calling the ambulance I would have died. In short, this was nothing that could be treated lightly.

After three operations on my leg and three weeks stay in the ICC and CCU, I was discharged and transferred to a unit in the hospital building on the second floor known as LTach. This unit his housed within the hospital, but is an independent entity. "When you are a patient at LTach, you

are their patient and not a patient of the hospital. With no offense intended against the hospital, I have never received in the high degree of professionalism and care given to me at that facility. If not for the wonderful care I received at LTach, the three surgeries would not have mattered. Healing is an essential part of the process, such as having to learn to walk again.

My post-surgical status was such that I required a great deal of attention and care. I literally had a hole in my leg that one could make a fist and fit in inside. And, of course, I was on IV antibiotics for weeks. LTach ensured that I received my medicines in a timely manner, made sure my meals were nutritious in order to help the healing process, and tended to my bandages, which had to be changed frequently because of the accumulation of various bodily fluids from beneath.

Everything that could be done was done in order to prevent re-infection and to promote healing. And as mentioned above, I had to learn to walk again, and physical therapy was provided through LTach, which was successful again, but LTach made sure I went home walking instead of being taken away on a stretcher. I should also mention that the hours are long; there were only

two shifts, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. To me, it's remarkable that nurses and other medical personnel can work 12 hour shifts. And some of the specialists treating me actually made to time in their day to see me at 2 a.m. or thereabouts.

In short, the personnel at LTach care for their patients. They are not just statistics to them, as the to the bureaucrats at the hospital who want to rush you out as soon as possible because their ability to make a profit from a long-term stay decreases with each passing day. At LTach, which is also pressured by Medicare and other health providers, only release you if you are truly able to function, if you are on the road to full recovery.

I would like to thank everyone who cared for me by name, but ther is always the chance that one or two names are accidently omitted. So let me thank everyone from the LTAch unit, the most efficient medical facility operating in the City of Perth Amboy, and the most professional and caring institution in the city and county, if not the entire state. Very truly yours,

Jack M. Dudas, Esq. Former City Council Member, City of Perth Amboy

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

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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.

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Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

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

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

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

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

MON. May 14 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

TUES. May 15 Municipal Court, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

WED May 16 Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m.,

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

City Hall, High St.

THURS. May 17 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.,

Court House, New Brunswick Ave.

South Amboy

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

City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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Contact Carolyn at
732-896-4446

ADS SELL! Call Carolyn 732-896-4446

Test Prep Service

SOUTH AMBOY - Free college and career test prep service at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, Starting June 1st. For more info call 732-721-6060 or Email: egaber@dowdell.org

Resume Workshop PERTH AMBOY - The Hous-

PERTH AMBOY - The Housing Authority of the City of Perth Amboy, will be offering a Resume Workshop on Friday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 881 Amboy Ave., Perth Amboy. Come learn what employers are looking for. Workshop is Free! Call Delilah to reserve a seat. 732-826-3110 xt. 624.

Dress for Success

PERTH AMBOY - The Housing Authority of the City of Perth Amboy is having a Dress for Success Workshop on Thursday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 881 Amboy Ave., Perth Amboy. Learn how to make a good first impression and obtain the job you want. Call Delilah to reserve your seat. 732-826-3110 ext. 624.

HIV Support PERTH AMBOY — Raritan

Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday, May 14 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.

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.

Healthy Kids Day Perth Amboy YMCA 4/28/12









Mind Your Own Business - April 2012











Live Burn Demonstration at the Fire Academy, Sayreville

*photos submitted





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)
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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 email 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.

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)

Art Exhibit

PERTH AMBOY - Kearny Cottage Historical Association will feature the artwork of local award-winning artist Sharee Daniel at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Avenue, Perth Amboy.

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.

Open Mic PERTH AMBOY - There will

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.

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)





City of Perth Amboy

2012 FREE Summer Lunch Program

The City of Perth Amboy, Office of Recreation, will be participating in the 2012 Summer Food Service Program from July 2, 2012 through August 31, 2012.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Services, United States Department of Agriculture. This program provides all children 18 years of age and under with free lunch meal during the summer months in accordance with a menu approved by the state agency regardless of race, color, national origin, sex disability or age.

Any organization that will be operating a summer program or day camp who would like to participate in this program should contact the

City of the Department of Human Services, Office of Recreation at 732-826-1690 ext. 4306 or 4303. Or you may contact us at

KOrtiz@perthamboynj.org or RGonzalez@perthamboynj.org



Recollections

Good-bye to a Great Friend - An Interview with John's Auto Owner John Singh



Allie Clark

by Beverly Samuelson

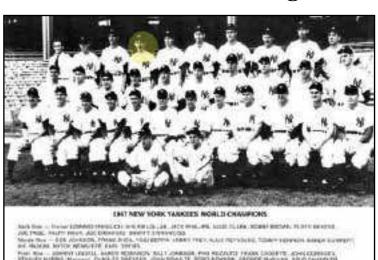
SOUTH AMBOY -

Q. So John, how did you meet Allie Clark?

A. I met Allie Clark in January 2008, the day I opened my business on Stevens Avenue. I remember we were moving in the equipment and getting ready to open when he walked up to me and introduced himself. He was very friendly and told me he lived next door.

Q. Was he a regular customer? A. Yes, he and his whole family would drop off their cars for service and repairs.

Q. Did he talk about baseball? A. Oh, boy did he! He told us many great stories about the good ole days. He spoke of all the great players he had the honor to be on the same team with, like Joe DiMaggio, the feeling of winning a game, and the celebrations afterwards. He loved the game and being a part of it. How the team members were all friends and all the families would get together often. How being a Yankee was being a part of one





(L to R) Al (from John's Auto), Former Yankee Allie Clark (South Amboy's favorite son), John Singh, owner of John's Auto in South Amboy, and Chris (from John's Auto) *photo submitted

big family.

Q. Did he come over and hang out with the guys at the station?

A. Yes, all the time. We all enjoyed his company and the great stories he told. He gave me

several pictures of his days with the Yankees and I have them hanging in my office. This picture was the last picture he took with us before moving to McCarthy Towers. Q. What was his favorite say-

A. "Never mind, don't worry



PERTH AMBOY - Special Recognition: Student representatives from the Apostles of Mercy prayer group of Perth Amboy Catholic Upper School, together with their principal, Felician Sister M. Rebecca Piatek, were featured at the seventh annual Divine Mercy Conference at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, NY, as an unprecedented school club. One of the highlights of the event for the Perth Amboy group was meeting Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who greeted each student individually and joined the group for a photo.

*Photo courtesy of Perth Amboy Catholic Upper School

about it".

Q. What did you most like about him?

A. Allie was a very friendly guy, he never said anything bad about people. He loved baseball and had great stories. Everyone at John's Auto will miss his smile and friendship. He always made our day better. He was a great friend and we will miss him very much.

KidTech Day

Article Submitted

PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy High School was one of 10 participants in the Sixth Annual Kid Tech Day. The New Jersey Department of Education hosts the event to give students a chance to show how their innovative activities and projects use technology to support and enhance learning.

On April 18, 2012, students, Cheri Crespo, Cesarina Garcia, Kiana Inoa, Julissa Miranda, Priscilla Valenzuela, and Zyania Zavala and teachers Rebecca McLelland-Crawley and Jaime Fazzina staff tables at Department of Education headquarters in Trenton and responded to questions from invited guests and members of the public.

Students' projects included blogging, vlogging, tweeting, skyping and podcasting

Pay It Forward



South Amboy Lodge 784 presents Perth Amboy High School teacher Carol Blumhof with a SMART Response XE interactive response system for her classroom on May 4, 2012. Pictured left to right: Perth Amboy High School Teacher Carol Blumhof, Michele M. Rutter, Elks Lodge #784 'Pay It Forward Weekend Holiday Extravaganza' Chairperson.

*Photo submitted

Friday to benefit our teach-

Article Submitted SOUTH AMBOY AND PERTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 presented Perth Amboy High School Teacher Carol Blumhof on May 4, 2012 with a SMART Response XE interactive response system. This system gives teachers the ability to instantly assess student learning through informative and summative assessments - increasing student engagement and participation and improving learning outcomes. SMART Response XE helps keep students interested, involved and participating in lessons by giving them a way to individually respond to teacher questions. Students answer questions with their handheld remotes, and once a question is complete, they instantly and confidentially know if they answered correctly. The class results are also shown anonymously, so students can compare and learn from each other's answers. South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 also granted wishes to several other High School teachers over the past several months. The Elks held a 'Pay It Forward Weekend Holiday Extravaganza' this past December.

ers in the classrooms raised \$6200. The Lodge hosted an open house on Saturday and Sunday for our youth included entertainment, educational materials, activities, giveaways and breakfast with Saa for the younger children. All youth who brought a charitable donation were admitted free of charge. During the weekend, South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 collected 12 cartons of toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. They collected and donated 8 cartons of food to area food banks, 14 cartons of clothes and coats were delivered to local organizations, and they collected and delivered cell phones to Verizon's Hopeline program that benefits victims of domestic violence. Holiday greeting cards were also created by elementary students and delivered to our veterans at Menlo Park Memorial Home and sent to troops overseas. This 'Pay It Forward' weekend, made up of Elk volunteers and local area high school students, was a "win-win" community event and taught our youth about helping others and strengthening our communities.

to identify the water quality of the Raritan Bay and its effects on the environment (ultimately drinking water). They interacted with members of the community to teach fishermen at the local piers about the dangers of eating Blue Claw Crabs. They created video podcasts on their research and posted it on the class website and ITunes U. Prior to implementation of the program, no student received three or greater on the AP exam. Since implementation, 30-40% of all

The Tricky Tray held on

participants received three or higher on the AP exam.

The Department of Education launched Kid Tech Day in 2006 to recognize the important role that technology plays in 21st century learning. Since its inception, more than 345 students from 82 schools have participated in Kid Tech Day.

To learn more about New Jersey's efforts to support educational technology, visit: http://www.state.nj.us/education/techno.



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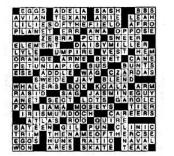
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Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



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.

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.

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.

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Smith Street circa 1900's.

Photo courtesy of Stephen Michael Dudash

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 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.

MON., May 14 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m.,

Fellowship Hall, Commerce St. TUES., May 15 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m.,

Church Hall, Brace Ave. Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m.,

Presbyterian Center, Market St. WED. May 16 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m.,

Williamson Hall, High St. Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.

Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m.,

Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone Sts.

St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St. THURS., May 17 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

TODAY May 9 South Amboy Seniors, noon,

Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

MON. June 4 St. Mary's 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.

Hunger Games

SOUTH AMBOY -The 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@ dowdell.org For more info call 732-721-6060. Ages 10 to 17.

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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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.

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60 Samoyed's 101 Groan smile? producer 61 Hungarian 102 Healing place dance 107 in good shape 63 Nobel, for one 106 Umberto Eco

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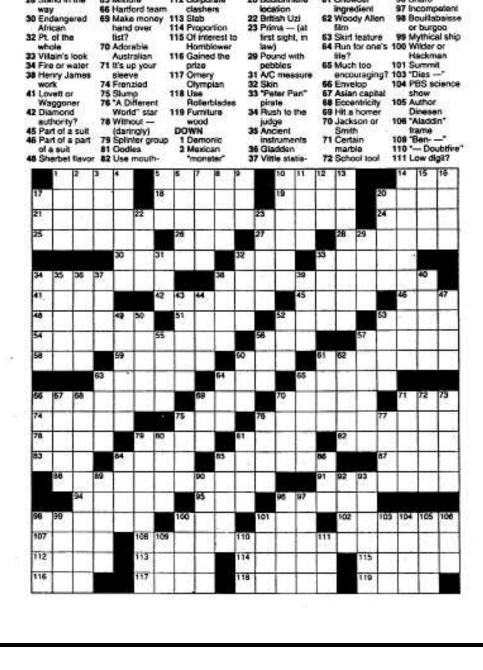
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Mother's Day Gifts

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MAURICE "MOE" DAY Agent

Congratulations to
Maurice "Moe" Day
for being the #1 Agent
for the Month of April

Happy Mother's Day from Petra Best Realty!





BEST REALTY

329 SMITH STREET • PERTH AMBOY (732) 442-1400 • (732) 442-1480 fax

The Real Estate Team With Dedication, Vision and Results!

FOR MORE OF OUR FEATURED LISTINGS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PETRABESTREALTY.COM

YOU HAVE OPTIONS! LET PETRA BEST REALTY FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR YOU!

AVOID FORECLOSURE!

CONSULT A SHORT SALE EXPERT. CALL TODAY! LET OUR EXPERTS HELP YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS OF SELLING YOUR PROPERTY! IN THIS CHANGING MARKET, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU WONDERED HOW MUCH *YOUR* PROPERTY IS WORTH?

CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!



COLONIA - Great potential needs some TLC, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and much more. Buyer is resp. for Smoke Cert, Termite Cert., and all repairs. **\$229,000**



SEWAREN - WOW! Beautiful 3 bedroom ranch you'l feel like the king of the Ranch. Stunning hardwood floors finished basement central AC, Florida room, beautiful private yard. HURRY! **\$275,000**



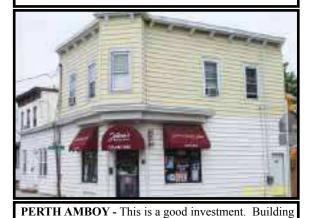
PORT READING - Nice neighborhood, great school district, half of a house, basement & plenty of yard space for summer cookouts. \$1,500/mo rent



PERTH AMBOY - Nice house with a good location, 3 bedrooms, sold "as is". Buyers are resp. for C/O and all repairs. There is an underground tank that is filled. Short sale. Subject to bank approval. \$179,000



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



fully rented. Brand new gas furnace. Just present an offer. Seller very motivated. Month to month rental. Don't miss this one. Show after 5 p.m. on weekdays. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. Bring offer. \$249,900



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment. All apartments in excellent condition. \$279,000



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful house, hardwood floors, 3 big bedrooms, finished basement perfect for your holiday parties. You have 2 new furnace - 1 in bsmt and 1 in attic. Wood fireplace, nothing to do - just move in. Close to all major hywys. Quiet nbhd. There is an oil tank underground. The owner is going to take care of it. **\$270,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great 2 family. Everything separate down to the water and sewage. \$278,000