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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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At Odds Councilmen Come Together

PERTH AMBOY - The 12/27/12 City Council Meeting was the last for Council President Kenneth Balut and Councilman Fernando Gonzalez who chose not to run for reelection. Balut and F. Gonzalez ran together with Wilda Diaz to defeat former Mayor Joe Vas in 2008.

In the four years that the two sat on the Council, they were at odds when it came to voting on tax increases. Kenneth Balut even said during the course of the meeting that he must have been the worst Councilman because of his tax increase votes.

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez, who is also a licensed realtor bemoaned the fact that homeowners were being hit the hardest. During their time on the Council, both were at odds in reference to city jobs being given to those who lived out of town.

Both Balut and F. Gonzalez fought against hiring those who are already collecting pensions for City jobs.

Council President Balut did make one exception when it came to B.A. Greg Fehrenbach. Balut said that Fehrenbach and City Attorney Blunda were worth every cent that they were paid. He hoped that they would be kept on by the new Council Members coming on board.

Councilman Fernando Gon-



The Last Council Meeting for Ken Balut and Fernando Gonzalez



(L to R) Mark Blunda, Elaine Jasko, Bill Petrick, Fernando Gonzalez, Ken Balut, Kenny Gonzalez, Greg Fehrenbach, Joel Pabon

*Photos by Paul W. Wang

zalez who bumped heads several times with B.A. Fehrenbach agreed with Balut in reference to the good job that Fehrenbach and Blunda did.

One of the controversial resolutions on the agenda of the 12/27/12 Council Meeting was Resolution R-581 which called for censuring Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez for conduct unbecoming

an elected official. This had to do with K. Gonzalez being charged with the misuse of a handicapped placard.

When it came time for the vote, Kenneth Gonzalez asked Mark Blunda if he would be allowed to vote. After Blunda gave his approval, the vote was: 2 for "Yes" to censure. -

Continued on Page 5

It's Unanimous - Massopust In

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Board of Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2012. Six Candidates (Anton J. Massopust, Junior Iglesia, Kenneth Balut, Scott Farber, Jeanette Gonzalez and Benjamin Salerno) were interviewed for the position to refill the vacancy left by Board Member Kurt Rebovich who resigned since accepting a position in the State Educational System.

Continued on Page 8



Tony Massopust who was chosen unanimously is sworn in as the new Board of Ed Member to replace Kurt Rebovich.

*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

Woodbridge Developmental Center Supporters Visit South Amboy

By Joseph Kuchie
SOUTH AMBOY - Some people look forward to holidays for gifts, others look forward to it for relaxation, but most people come home for the holidays to be with their loved ones.

However, despite Christmas being right around the corner, some families are not getting the chance to relax with the people they care about the most. Many supporters of the Woodbridge Developmental Center are working tirelessly to fight the state's decision to close the center down and displace many of their family members as early as next year.

The Woodbridge Developmental Center (WDC), opened in 1965, is a care facility for persons with developmental disabilities located in Woodbridge, NJ. According to the township's website, the total population of the campus was 370 as of 2010 and has an average age of 52.

A large support group of the WDC spoke during last Wednesday's South Amboy council meeting urging the council to draft a resolution to prevent the center from being shut down.

Led by President Joanne R. St. Amand, the Woodbridge Developmental Center Parents Association has already received resolutions and letters from five local governments urging Governor Chris Christie to reversing his decision to close the WDC. Amand spoke of her sister Rosemary, a 37-year resident of the WDC, who like many other residents cannot speak up and defend their homes.

"Back in August the Governor put a task force together and voted to close the cen-

ter down even though I presented survey results showing 96 percent of the families are opposed to going into group homes and strongly support the services at the developmental centers," Amand explained to the council. "75 percent of the residents can't walk and most can't speak...they don't adjust to change well. They will stop eating. They are a fragile and silent group that needs us to speak for them."

Rickie Cobb, a 30-year employee of the developmental center, also defended the residents and explained to the council that they are unable to defend themselves from this upcoming change. He added that the differences between the center and a group home were extensive and the damages could be severe.

"These individuals cannot defend themselves and stand up and say 'I've lived here for 30-40 years, don't take my home from me'," Cobb said. "I'm a 30 year staff member and it's my job to speak for them. I've been with most of them since the beginning and I would like to walk away knowing they are okay and will be okay."

A document in Amand's handout explained the difference between group homes and the current developmental centers that they are trying to defend. Although group homes play an important role in the lives of many individuals with intellectual disabilities, Amand explains that they do not offer enough professional services and oversight so needed by the severely and profoundly disabled residents of the WDC.

Perhaps the most shocking

Continued on Page 2

IF IT'S LOCAL IT'S HERE!

BINGO

EVERY Wednesday & Friday Night From 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.
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South Amboy

Continued from Page 1

statistic came from Rex Reid, the Political and Legislative Representative for Municipal Employees. According to studies done in California and Ohio, residents that are moved from developmental centers to group homes see an increase in death rate by 47 percent.

After the presentation concluded, Joseph Connors and the rest of the council supported the WDCPA and said they would talk to other government representatives to try to make a change. Each member also signed Reid's petition to prevent the WDC from being shut down and are expected to reach out to the state.

If you would like to learn more or help save the Woodbridge Developmental Center, you can visit www.saveourdevelopmentalcenters.org or call 855-786-8732.

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69A Smith Street (at corner of High Street across from Rite Aid) Perth Amboy,

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will be holding their 3rd Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 12, 2013 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall

228 High St., Perth Amboy

Adults \$8 Children under 5 - Free

Come out and support your local heroes!

Perth Amboy Budget Hearings: Department Heads Present Needs for Upcoming Year



Photo 1) Dept. of Public Works Frank Dann at the Hearings. Photo 2) B.A. Greg Fehrenbach, C.F.O. Jill Goldy go over Ed Scala from Code Enforcement's budget at the Hearings *Photos by Jennifer Lilonsky

By: Jennifer Lilonsky
PERTH AMBOY - City department representatives presented their 2013 budget proposals to Chief Financial Officer Jill Goldy and Chief Operating Officer Gregory Fehrenbach.

The representatives summarized and explained the monetary needs of their departments for the upcoming year, detailing each line item of their budget as directed by Goldy and Fehrenbach who then provided feedback and recommendations.

Superstorm Sandy impacted many of the budget proposals, some departments more than others, creating an obstacle for planning next year's expenditures.

"The challenge we're all going to have ahead of ourselves going into next year is going to be dealing with the costs of this storm and those costs will be reflected both in the actual

and out-of-pocket expenses the city has to make for which it will not receive a reimbursement," Fehrenbach said.

Fehrenbach also said that tax appeals and the new values that will be set based on the loss evaluation that took place along the waterfront would reduce the city's main source of revenue—property tax.

Human Services Director Kenneth Ortiz explained how the storm affected his department when presenting his budget, noting how it was a large factor in his proposal for next year.

"We're going to be more proactive this year and have more funding in place in case of any of these occurrences should happen again," Ortiz said. "We have to be more prepared."

The costs associated with relocating and housing residents are the most pressing issue for the Human Services depart-

ment, according to Ortiz, who said that there is no money left in their budget for this year to help families who need housing because of the storm.

And it's not just the effects of Sandy that are placing stress on the public assistance and housing budget. Ortiz said that families had to be relocated due to the fires that happened throughout the year as well as houses that were condemned by the Code Enforcement department because of violations.

Ortiz said that his department has relied on faith-based and nonprofit organizations to generate funding because the budget they have now fails to accommodate emergency situations that involve relocations.

The 2013 budget proposes a \$2,500 increase from last year's appropriation into the

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Tot Time & Storytime

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be Tot Time - (Ages 0-2) on Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and Storytime (Ages 3-5) on Wednesdays 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.

A. C. Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Knights of Columbus Council #299 is offering a trip to the Trump Taj Mahal on Saturday, Feb 2. Bus leaves at 1 p.m. from the Council at 228 High St returning at 11 p.m.. Donation is \$30 pp. Cash back \$20. Food and drinks provided. For more info call Edgar at 732-535-2562.

Free Throw Championship

PERTH AMBOY - Knights of Columbus Council #299 is sponsoring a Free Throw Competition on Sunday, January 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the YMCA on New Brunswick Ave. Divisions are Boys and Girls, ages 10-14 years old. Winning players receive a trophy, Participants receive a certificate. Snacks and drinks provided. Please bring parent day of event. For more info call Rui at 908-565-3086.



Attention All Certified Home Health Aids

Join us for an Open House
January 10, 2013 10AM to 2PM
At 285 McClellan Street Perth Amboy
Snacks, raffle prizes, and fun
Come by and apply in person
Many shifts available
Questions? Call 732-442-3370

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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Honoring
Mayor Wilda Diaz
Councilman

Fernando Irizarry
and

Councilwoman

Lisa Nanton

Saturday, January 19, 2013
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Mayor Wilda Diaz



Fernando Irizarry



Lisa Nanton

◇ Please reserve the following Individual tickets:

◇ Single ticket(s) _____ @ \$125, \$ _____

◇ I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____ in support of United for Perth Amboy.

United for Perth Amboy is registered with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission as a Joint Candidate Committee. The candidates are Mayor Wilda Diaz, Councilman Fernando Irizarry and Councilwoman Lisa Nanton.

Please return this card with your payment by
January 11 payable to **"United For Perth Amboy"**
P.O. Box 743, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The New Year

2013 is here and the new year lies ahead of us. There were parties welcoming in the new year with its hopes and dreams of better times to come. There will be new challenges to face us every day and let's not forget those New Year's resolutions.

I personally have 3 resolutions to make. 1.) to take better care of myself. People forget that if you don't take care of yourself you are no use to anyone else. How many people (esp. women) take care of everyone but themselves? 2.) Lose the weight. This is becoming a health issue so I better stick to this one. 3.) Get better organized. In this way I can budget my time to do what needs to be done and have a little time for me.

Resolutions like any promises, even to oneself are tough to keep. No two snowflakes are alike as no two people. All of our promises, no matter how similar they are, you still have to do what's right for you. Take time to and do things day by day and things will get done. That's the best

that one can expect from oneself. In the evening take time to think what you did that was positive and say, "That's good." and what you did that was negative and learn from your mistakes. Tomorrow is a new day.

As the years go by, hopefully we get wiser as we get older. What the future holds - no one knows. What will be, will be. It is up to us to face it.

The Amboy Guardian has gone through its growing pains in the past 2 years and the newspaper is still growing. Over the past 2 years we have launched a website - www.amboyguardian.com and have often included full color as a feature in special issues. There will be more to come. In 2013 we hope to keep up the quality work and focus on what is important in Perth Amboy and South Amboy. We will continue to cover local news in depth and cover community events.

Let's pray that 2013 will be a good year and hopefully keep at least some of those resolutions!
K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Fiscal Cliff "put in a much better perspective"

Lesson # 1:

- * U.S. Tax revenue: \$2,170,000,000,000
- * Fed budget: \$3,820,000,000,000
- * New debt: \$ 1,650,000,000,000
- * National debt: \$14,271,000,000,000
- * Recent budget cuts: \$ 38,500,000,000

Let's now remove 8 zeros and pretend it's a household budget:

- * Annual family income: \$21,700
- * Money the family spent: \$38,200
- * New debt on the credit card: \$16,500
- * Outstanding balance on the credit card: \$142,710
- * Total budget cuts so far: \$38.50

Got It ?????

OK now,

Lesson # 2:

Here's another way to look at the Debt Ceiling:

Let's say, You come home from work and find there has been a sewer backup in your neighborhood....

and your home has sewage all the way up to your ceilings.

What do you think you should do

Raise the ceilings, or remove the smelly stuff?

INEPTOCRACY (in-ep-toc'-ra-cy) - a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed, are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.

Robert Brown
Perth Amboy

Ken Gonzalez Resolution Response Letter

"I am grateful that the majority of the City Council agreed to vote against the resolution which I truly believe was brought solely for political reasons to try to embarrass me by an outgoing councilman with whom I have often been on opposite sides on various political issues. I am also grateful that review of the facts by the proper law enforcement agencies led to the dismissal of the parking ticket issued by Mr Siberry against me and that they further agreed that no other charges were warranted in this case. Hopefully the politics of negativity, destruction and division pursued by a small group of three or four people will be

left behind in 2012. With the swearing in of the second term of Mayor Diaz and the reorganization of the City Council coming on January 3rd, we are looking forward to getting back to the business of moving the City of Perth Amboy forward in a constructive manner with malice towards none and charity towards all."

"As to the comments made by Leslie Dominguez Rodriguez at the last City Council meeting, they clearly border on slanderous. As to the merits of her statement, I have already stated that I was texting with Kurt Rebovich while I was sitting in the audience during the last Board of Education meeting. Ms. Dominguez Rodriguez came from across the auditorium to sit down next to me and watch me text. I made no effort to hide my texting because I knew I was doing

nothing wrong. When Board Secretary Jess came to speak with me, I showed him my cell phone to confirm my texts but I did agree to stop texting however simply to avoid any further conflict. Both Mr Jess and Mr Rebovich can confirm the veracity of my statements. When I stated this publicly, Ms Dominguez Rodriguez inexplicably changed her story to say that someone next to me and others in the audience were the ones texting. Ms Dominguez Rodriguez has stated her intent to run for City Council in 2014 and is obviously attempting to start her campaign early by attempting to malign one of her anticipated opponents."

Ken Gonzalez

Hurricane Sandy Update from Sayreville, NJ

Friends,
We in Sayreville, NJ, were devastated by Sandy. Like any other community in NY, NJ and CT affected by the hurricane, we KNOW that there will not be sufficient government funding from the state and federal governments to put things back to the way they were before. In Sayreville, NJ, alone 240 homes were damaged by this unprecedented

storm, and 39 of these homes had their foundations collapse. We have several homes teetering, just waiting for the next rainfall before they fall into the ground.

I beseech your help in providing ideas for private funding to help cover the gap between the funding we will receive with government money and the REAL price tag. If anyone has ideas on sources of private funding, we would greatly appreciate it. Also, if anyone has a connection to Oprah or Ellen, we would like to get our story out on the air to as many people as need to hear it. Thanks for reading. Be safe. Have a joyous holiday season,

and May God Bless Us All and God Bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Richard Bednarz
Sayreville

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HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday's 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.

**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

**Accepting
Registrations**

PERTH AMBOY - Assumption Catholic School is accepting registrations.

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Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
MON. Jan. 7	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
	Board of Education, 6 p.m. Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Ave.
WED. Jan. 9	Municipal Court, 1:30 p.m., Court House, New Brunswick Ave.
	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.

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Council at Odds

Continued From Page 1

Fernando Gonzalez and Kenneth Balut. 3 for "No" - not to censure - Kenneth Gonzalez, Joel Pabon, Bill Petrick.

Pabon voted "No," because he said, "Nobody found any wrongdoing during the investigation."

Petrick voted, "No," because he felt that this resolution was brought about to cause embarrassment. "Middlesex County Investigators, the Police Department and our Legal Counsel found no wrongdoing."

F. Gonzalez who initiated the resolution said his mother-in-law was handicapped but he never used the decal when she wasn't in the car.

Balut said, "This town has put blinders on and people have been afraid to do anything. Mr. K. Gonzalez violated the law."

Resident Alan Silber said, "The suit brought against Mr. K. Gonzalez, which had been initiated by resident John Siberry was thrown out of court because of the stature of limitations. Mr. Gonzalez admitted using the handicapped

decal on more than one occasion. This would be a fine of \$250 or more. He could have applied for new a new placard for the other handicapped person." Silber said to the council before they voted, "This is a vote on your integrity, not just on K. Gonzalez's"

Resident Leslie Dominguez said, "As an elected official, the Mayor holds high standards. During the BOE meeting, Mr. K. Gonzalez was texting his wife." (who was a candidate waiting to be interviewed in isolation with the other candidates.) Candidates were in isolation in order not to give preference to anyone.

Councilwoman-elect Lisa Nanton wanted to know the price tag for this investigation. "Were any other council members censured in the past? I consider this move petty and the stature of limitations was up when the investigation took place. I came to congratulate Balut and F. Gonzalez, but this stains your reputation."

John Siberry called for K. Gonzalez's resignation.

LIVESTRONG at the Y Starts January 9

News Release

SOUTH AMBOY - The Y and LIVESTRONG have joined forces to create LIVESTRONG at the YMCA, a research-based physical activity and well-being initiative designed to help adult cancer survivors achieve their holistic health goals.

The South Amboy Branch YMCA will be kicking off its next session on January 9, 2013. Throughout the free 12-week session, LIVESTRONG at the YMCA participants work with Y staff trained in sup-

portive cancer care to safely achieve their goals. These include building muscle mass and strength; increasing flexibility and endurance; and improving confidence and self-esteem. By focusing on the whole person and not the disease, LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is helping people move beyond cancer in spirit, mind and body.

For more information about LIVESTRONG, please contact Debbie Martinez at 732-316-8223 or livestrong-southamboy@ymcaofmewsa.org.

Statement by Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez

I recently became aware of the fact that a resolution was being sponsored by Councilman Fernando Gonzalez to censure me at the special meeting of December 27, 2012. After discussions with other members of the Council and our City Attorney Mark Blunda, I am submitting this letter to rebut and to more fully respond to the allegations that have been made. This is particularly important given the fact that the proposed resolution itself speaks only in generalities and does not especially accurately or fairly correspond with the conclusions of the investigation by various parties into the above matter.

First and foremost, as far I can determine from reading the proposed language, there are two different but related allegations being made. First, that I attempted to steal paid parking from the City of Perth Amboy on several occasions by parking my car in a handicap space and secondly, that I unlawfully misappropriated the placard of another for my own personal use. I will attempt to address each of these concerns.

At the outset, I wish to point out that I have always paid for my parking in the parking deck on a monthly basis for the past several years. This has been confirmed by both Mr. Blunda and the Perth Amboy Police Department based upon records obtained from the Parking Utility. Accordingly, I have no reason to not park my car in a space that I have already paid for in advance. This issue aside, over a period of two months from May until June of 2012, a private detective retained by a private citizen followed myself and members of my family on a regular basis. This private detective prepared a report alleging that on seven occasions he observed either my own personal vehicle or the vehicle of my wife parked in a handicap space with a handicap placard displayed in the windshield. To be ex-

act, he alleged that my personal vehicle was parked in a handicap space but did not see me operate the vehicle at all. Of the remaining six instances that he alleged that he observed my wife's vehicle to be improperly parked, he alleges that he observed me operate that vehicle on one occasion. Based upon this allegation, the citizen personally issued one parking ticket against me which was heard in Woodbridge Municipal Court and subsequently dismissed. No other tickets are pending.

The other allegation appears to be that I used the placard of a deceased person in my car. As I have already publicly stated, the placard was obtained by my wife's grandfather for his use and for the use of his wife both of whom were disabled. My wife became their primary care giver over time and was the person who transported them both around. Upon the death of my wife's grandfather, his wife came to live at our home and we continued to use the placard when transporting her. It was my understanding that the placard was issued for both of their uses and so my wife and I continued to use it for that purpose. At the insistence of the same private citizen referenced above, the issue of the use of the placard has now been investigated by the Perth Amboy Police Department, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the City Law Director. All three have concluded that no law was broken by the usage of the placard to drive around my wife's relative. However, I have also advised the Perth Amboy Police that my wife and I have ceased using the placard and shall make a direct application to the Motor Vehicle Commission for a new placard that will in no way be attached to her grandfather's name so that there shall be no future confusion on this issue.

I hope that this addresses the Council's concerns as to this issue.

Sincerely,
Kenneth L. Gonzalez

MOPA gives Grant to Ferry Slip Museum.

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - At its regular December trustees meeting the Museums of Perth Amboy voted to give a sizable grant to the FSM. The money is to be used for clean-up and restoration after Super-storm Sandy. Just as the storm approached Mayor Wilda Diaz insisted that the valuable collections of the museum be removed for safekeeping. Volunteers from the Ferry Slip and MOPA were able to take these precious items away from the storm's wrath. Later volunteers returned to salvage and clean the interior of the buildings. The structure of the Ferry Slip remains sound and the City will be replacing electrical and heating elements damaged by the salt water. We hope the museum will be up and running in early February. 'We were very pleased to be able to do our part and to fulfill our mission at MOPA' said Tom Ward, MOPA's current president. In the past MOPA has given grants to other historic sites in Perth Amboy and has been actively seeking major funds from the State to help preserve the Royal Governor's Mansion.

Project Fleece Blanket

Press Release 12/21/12

PERTH AMBOY, NJ— Mayor Wilda Diaz will join the students of the Dr. Robert N. Richardson 21st Century Elementary School on Saturday, December 22, 2012 afternoon to receive 80 blankets for the families affected by Superstorm Sandy.

"We are grateful for this caring donation of blankets made by our very own students," said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

Project Fleece Blanket was presented by Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Darian Llopis and was thereafter incorporated into the daily lesson plans of the school teachers. Donations for 252 yards of fleece were collected by the school staff and each classroom [800 students] made two blankets for a boy and girl.

"It was an excellent opportunity to teach community service and paying it forward to the Hurricane Sandy victims," said Karen Moffatt, Interim Principal.

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Students of Assumption Catholic School Help the Victims of Hurricane Sandy



PERTH AMBOY - Superstorm Sandy was truly an event that was both eye-opening and humbling. The loss of life and destruction of property was without precedent. The situation right here in our hometown of Perth Amboy was dire, but thankfully our school and parish suffered relatively minor damage compared to some of our neighbors. In the spirit of sharing, the Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ and our School Association (FSA) decided we needed to do something to assist local families in need. It was decided to send a portion of our Christmas Bazaar receipts to a charitable organization. At the same time, our pastor, Father Ivan Turyk was also looking for a way to help our neighbors in need. Together, the parish and school sent a check in the amount \$1,200 to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen to be used as they saw fit to help those who suffered most because of the storm. Pastor - (L to R) - Fr. Ivan Turyk, Mr. Michael Szpyhulsky - Principal, Sr. Yosaphata, MSMG- Vice Principal and Financial Administrator and one student from each grade. Photo Submitted



PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library presented the Kearny Cottage with the Cottage's half of the proceeds from sales of the historic calendars at the Cottage Christmas Tea. (L to R) Barbara Sottilaro, Toni Gianfrancesco, Katherine Massopust, John Solowinski, Vilma Novak, Arlene Fogarty and Alice Kidney.

*Photo by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library presented three checks from: the proceeds of the 3rd Annual Taste of Perth Amboy, the Jug Collection and donations from members to the City of Perth Amboy totalling \$8978.56 earmarked for the renovations of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library.

*Photo by Paul W. Wang

Send Your Events to
Carolyn at
Crlynmxwll@aol.com and
to Katherine at
KMass514@gmail.com

Perth Amboy Budget Hearings

Continued from Page 2

public assistance and housing line item of the budget, a value that both Fehrenbach and Goldy said is not enough to cover the department's needs.

But Ortiz expressed his concern saying that no realistic budget has the capacity to account for the high costs of relocating families.

"Unless you're willing to commit \$10,000 or \$20,000 a week we are never really prepared for this," Ortiz said. "That's why we are going to have to reach out to some other organizations so we can have something in place so we can draw some funds from somewhere else."

The Fire Department's expenses were also affected by the storm.

The department is over budget in the personnel appropriation but is hoping to be reimbursed, according to Fire Chief David Volk.

"We've made a concerted effort over the course of the last three years to really reduce the accumulated leave time and get that down to where it's really contractually supposed to be," Volk said. "If it wasn't for the storm, we're

right on line with what we had requested for this year which was \$260,000."

This is the third year in a row that the fire department is requesting a reduction in overtime, Volk said.

Other city departments had to reevaluate priorities for the upcoming year because of the storm.

The Finance department planned on purchasing a new software system for their payroll system, according to Goldy, but will probably have to omit the item from the budget.

"Realistically, with all the things that have taken place in the last few weeks have put us a little bit behind on the normal day-to-day operations of the city," Goldy said. "It's not likely we are going to be able to achieve this at this point."

Fehrenbach said that the total financial implications from the storm are still unknown.

"It's not clear what all of the impacts are going to be from the storm. And we may not really know that well into the middle or toward the end of next year," Fehrenbach said.

Another influence in some of the department's budgets was

allowing residents to make online payments for various services.

The Human Services department's recreation division is one area of the city that believes an online payment system would be cost-efficient and create more convenience for residents.

"Being that our department is so diverse and provides so many different programs and our staff is stretched as much as it is, we have researched a way to have online registration and that would allow our consumers not to have to come into the office and register for programs," Ortiz said.

Ortiz also said that the online payment system would allow his department to keep normal working hours and not have to expand them for registration purposes.

But Goldy was concerned with the fact that other agencies within the city do not have the ability to make online payments, except in the Municipal Court.

"I want to make it clear that I'm all for automation however if we're going to do this for recreation we should do it for everything else and we have not approached that subject as of yet," Goldy said.

Ortiz believes that an online payment system would not

only create efficiency within his department, but would also be more convenient for residents who may not be able to get to the office in time before they close because of their work schedules.

"I did include it in my budget because I think it would provide us an expansion of service without expanding the staff," Ortiz said.

Fehrenbach suggested that Ortiz conduct more research on how online payments work in other municipalities and to project any savings that would result from it.

Tax Collector Nancy Martin also told Goldy and Fehrenbach that she wants to start offering online payment capability to taxpayers.

"I think it has a lot to do with young versus old. A lot of young people just pay all their bills online," Martin said. "I just think it's just moving with the times."

Martin said that an online interface would make it easier to track payments for residents who own more than one property, avoiding situations where the tax collector's office does not know which blocks and lots to apply a taxpayer's payment to. It would also make it easier for residents to view their balance and the status of their account.

Goldy agreed with Martin but still reinforced the idea that if they are going to permit one department to accept online payments, they need to implement it for all departments. She also said that it is an issue that needs to be addressed citywide.

The program would cost \$1,200 annually and customers would also pay a service fee between \$1 and \$2 to the company that runs the system, according to Martin.

The tax collector's office plans on installing a drop box for payments near or attached to the building but is still working out the details of its installation.

Martin also incorporated a \$50,000 request for renovations to the tax collection office that would increase security.

The renovations would include installing bulletproof windows, similar to the atmosphere of a bank where cashiers can collect money and communicate with customers through a glass barrier.

Fehrenbach asked Martin to conduct more research on the actual costs of the renovation from an expert being that she estimated the cost of it herself.

Continued on Page 11



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Perth Amboy Board Of Education Interview Questions 1-6

1.) What is the Role of Charter Schools?

Anton J. Massopust: Charter Schools are nothing new: There are Catholic Schools, Jewish Schools, etc but they don't have the resources that Public Schools have. Everything a student needs to learn is here. When I was a teacher here, every student had their own equipment.

Junior Iglesia: Charter Schools should be an alternative to Public Schools. What is important is that a student gets a quality education.

Ken Balut: I don't have the facts I need on Charter Schools, have to be evaluated. Can be used as a workshop.

Scott Farber: Charter schools should be an alternative and a choice for students.

Jeanette Gonzalez: I am not against Charter schools, but I have a problem with how fund are being used. I went to Catholic Schools as a child but transferred to public schools and chose to put my children in public schools

Benjamin Salerno: I view Charter Schools as a laboratory. Chase Public Schools because of programs offered. People are doing research on Charter Schools.

2.) What is the Role of a Board of Education Member?

Anton J. Massopust: To be the eyes and ears of the community, to give pats on the back for children to succeed, to talk to teachers and to see how they are doing.

Junior Iglesia: Board Members should be policy makers to protect the students and to prepare and ready a student to succeed.

Ken Balut: I was one of the first students in this school. Communication lacks between the Board and the Superintendent, etc. There are millions of tax dollars being spent but it's not needed if we have more communication.

Scott Farber: Board Members should help students, and to understand the needs of each school. The Board has to make students understand how important education is.

Jeanette Gonzalez: Board members should be policy makers and collaborate with the Superintendent but should not run the school system. We should have a pulse with the community.

Benjamin Salerno: Set policies and procedures to make sure requirements are met. To work with the superintendent and teachers.

3.) What do you feel is the most pressing issue that the Board of Education faces?

Anton J. Massopust: Children having children is a terrible thing.

Junior Iglesia: To provide students from K to high school and to prepare them to be ready for college.

Ken Balut: Over-crowding and lack of communication. All around communication is needed. As a cop, we stopped fights before they began. Money does help but we need more communication instead of fighting. There are too many personal clashes. Even if only 10% of my ideas are good, use it.

Scott Farber: Low test schools. Curriculum may need updating.

Jeanette Gonzalez: Test scores are the biggest concern and student discipline. We should be one Perth Amboy School System. Sense of the community is lacking.

Benjamin Salerno: Test scores are lacking (need improvement) sometimes we get a bad rap. Discipline is also a problem.

4.) What is your personal experience?

Anton J. Massopust: I've taught every grade. My mother taught in Perth Amboy High School. 40 people in the Perth Amboy Hall of Fame were my former students.

Junior Iglesia: I came here at the age of 13 to this country without speaking English. I am also a 3rd Grade bilingual teacher. Education is my career and life.

Ken Balut: I've spent 25 years as a police officer. I am born and raised in Perth Amboy.

Scott Farber: I have a young look and fresh ideas to modernize schools. I have fresh and young ideas as a recent graduate.

Jeanette Gonzalez: I am an active parent of two Students and have a lot on the organizational skills. Have had 100 people underneath me. I deal with clients and employees in my husband's law firm. They don't teach today the way were taught.

Benjamin Salerno: Diversity of the Board is important. I have 25 years of law enforcement, involved in the community thru different organizations.

5.) What changes would you make in this district?

Anton J. Massopust: Some of the programs that are going on are being pushed too fast.

Junior Iglesia: To motivate students. They have the potential but we need to set policies to make sure students have what they need. I know the students needs and make sure everyone gets what they need. I have 3 students who know no English and I have to work with them so they don't fall behind.

Ken Balut: We have 10,000 students. Everyone broke into their own groups and there are too many personality clashes. More communication is needed.

Scott Farber: I would change how students are taught. Computers and iPads should be used.

Jeanette Gonzalez: You have to be positive. I read from the Book, "The Secret." We need to stop bickering amongst Board Members and we need to change dialogue between students, administrators and Board Members. Some students I feel are left out.

Benjamin Salerno: I like to change some activities. There needs to be some cause & effect. I want to challenge students' minds and work with students hidden talents. Give them real life experiences.

6.) What would you do to improve staff morale?

Anton J. Massopust: Why weren't teachers here for the presentation tonight for the students who were given awards outstanding academics?

Junior Iglesia: The problem is that we need to listen to the administrators and teachers and stop pointing fingers and work as a team.

Ken Balut: The Board should have open communications. Sit down with parents, administrators and students to resolve problems.

Scott Farber: Give incentives, Christmas parties, give stuff. Student academics and award dinners.

Jeanette Gonzalez: We need casual, informal workshops with administrations and teachers.

Benjamin Salerno: Underlining and root problems. Can't make everyone happy. Come to a half-way meeting. People are happy when they are part of the decision making process.

Perth Amboy Board Of Education Interview Questions 7-9

7.) What programs would you change?

Anton J. Massopust: Quantum learning is a waste of time. Money should have been spent elsewhere.

Junior Iglesia: My students are doing well and a dual language program works well but needs to be expanded

Ken Balut: Can't answer. Not familiar with new programs.

Scott Farber: Do not know the new programs - can't answer.

Jeanette Gonzalez: I am not privy to all programs. I'm not happy that we have children in different schools. It takes children out of the community environment. Schools are not run unilaterally. We need to go back to the drawing board. Go to the community, mayor, politicians or go to the governor and the SDA.

Benjamin Salerno: I'd like to change some activities. There needs to be some cause and effect. I want to challenge students' minds and work with students' hidden talents.

8.) What do you feel about School Safety?

Anton J. Massopust: I've attended Federal Safety Schools, know about chemical warfare, bombs and have seen many cases.

Junior Iglesia: Security is a big issue, especially with current events. We should look at the structure we have in place to make sure there are no dangers.

Ken Balut: Working with the police department. Have teachers or security go with police to identify students causing problems and where they go. Sit down with parents and administrators with the students to resolve the problems.

Scott Farber: I would go over security and update if necessary.

Jeanette Gonzalez: I'm asked for ID when visiting the schools, it's annoying but I understand it's because its for the safety of our children.

Benjamin Salerno: I like when visitors coming in have to be signed in and escorted, but it is not consistent in all schools. Would like to see a vendor list of people coming into the school and metal detectors. There are grants available to purchase metal detectors.

9.) How do you feel about the Bilingual Program

Anton J. Massopust: Thomas Jefferson wanted an educated society - Not a trained society. Most people I know are bilingual. I teach a lot of foreign students and most are proficient in English.

Junior Iglesia: Dual language should be expanded . My son who is in the 2nd grade is doing 3rd grade work. There is a lot of work to do when you are learning another language.

Ken Balut: When you walk out of High School and you don't have command of English it will keep you down. You need English to give students the tools to move on and to get good jobs.

Scott Farber: Dual language is excellent program and on the right track.

Jeanette Gonzalez: Some students come over here as older students. I am not privy as to how the program works so I can't make a judgment. Students learning English and Spanish is important.

Benjamin Salerno: I would like to see it expanded if children want to learn a second language.

Prayer Vigil for Newtown Victims 12/19/12 at Perth Amboy YMCA

Photos by Eric Savory



Y President and CEO Steve Jobin



The community turned out for the service



Mayor Diaz offers words of comfort



Y CEO Steve Jobin with Clergy

Sayreville Auxiliary Police Looking for New Members

SAYREVILLE/SOUTH AMBOY - Attention Sayreville / South Amboy Residents: The Sayreville Auxiliary Police are seeking new members to join its volunteer force. Interested applicants must be 18 years of age or older, be able to pass a criminal background check and possess a valid New Jersey driver's license. Interested applicants can download an application from: www.sayrevillepoliceaux.org, or send a letter of interest to: Sayreville Police Department, Attn: Auxiliary Police, 1000 Main St., Sayreville, NJ 08872. Include your full legal name, address, phone number and a brief summary about yourself. Thank you.

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Assembly Members to Tour Superstorm Sandy Devastation in Middlesex & Monmouth Counties

Friday Tour Followed Recent Ocean County Assembly Tour & Eight Assembly Hearings on Sandy Impact

News Release

TRENTON - Assembly leadership on Monday announced New Jersey General Assembly members on Friday, Dec. 21 toured parts of Middlesex and Monmouth counties that have been devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

The tour will be second taken by Assembly members to see Sandy damage and hear first-hand from residents, business owners and local officials on what needs to be done to rebuild. The Assembly toured Ocean County damage in late November.

Assembly committees have also held legislative hearings on Sandy's impact on the insurance, higher education, education, utilities, the economy, legal services, transportation and human services.

"The Assembly tour of Ocean County was an invaluable experience, allowing the members to witness first-hand what needs to be done to recover from this devastating storm," said Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver (D-Essex/Passaic). "I expect the tour of Middlesex and Monmouth counties to be no different. We'll meet directly with residents and business owners impacted by the storm and get a look at the challenges we face together as we ready a legislative response."

"The trip legislators took to Ocean County was emotional, but very informative," said Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-Union, Morris and Somerset). "Speaking with local officials and residents provided an insight as to what challenges they face in their recovery effort. I am sure our visit to Monmouth and Middlesex Counties will be just as productive in helping legislators understand the needs of the affected communities. The Legislature is unified in helping towns rebuild from this catastrophe."

This tour departed from the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21.

Assembly members traveled via buses led by the New Jersey State

Assembly tour of Superstorm Sandy Devastation in Middlesex & Monmouth Counties 12/21/12

**Photos by Carolyn Maxwell*



In Perth Amboy, the Barge is making great progress



A local Perth Amboy Front Street Resident discusses his damage



A note to Sandy



Destruction on Union Beach Waterfront



One of the neighborhoods flattened by Sandy's wrath in Keansburg



A deck is uprooted in Keansburg



Highlands Mayor Frank Nolan greets the media



Seabright, NJ had 100% damages to businesses and homes

Toy Giveaway by Renovation House Olive Street, Perth Amboy 12/21/12

**Photos by Eric Savory*



Thanks for the toys!



Donations from Renovation House

Perth Amboy Budget Hearings

Continued from Page 7

Vehicle maintenance was another area of some of the budget proposals that caused some discussion.

Code Enforcement Director Ed Scala said that vehicle maintenance was a concern directly influencing his department's budget.

"The vehicles are getting older and it's much more difficult to calculate or estimate what repairs we're going to need in the upcoming year but we seem to need more servicing," Scala said.

Scala said that the cars are between nine and 12 years old and money needs to be put aside to maintain them.

Scala also requested an \$18,500 increase from last year's appropriation to purchase a new car to add to their nine-car fleet.

The fire inspectors are using the vehicles more often because the volume of fire inspections have increased compared to last year—increasing the need for maintenance, Fire Official Frank Marrero said.

Goldy said that she understood the department's needs in regard to vehicle maintenance but also suggested that the city think about moving to a fleet management system where all cars from the city's departments will be monitored and stored in a central location.

"In order to maximize and to have some economy of scale and in addition to make sure that somebody monitors a maintenance schedule for the vehicles, we might be able to get more usage out of them ultimately if they're maintained better," Goldy said.

But Goldy was not in complete agreement with the director's request to purchase a new vehicle.

"I understand logistically you have issues but I just wanted

to bring it up again because I think that instead of buying an \$18,000 vehicle you can make due with what you have," Goldy said. "You just have to use it more efficiently."

The Police Department is also asking for an increase in their vehicle maintenance budget. The budget request is \$15,000 more than last year's appropriation, Fehrenbach said.

The overall budget is \$181,000 over last year's authorization, an increase that Ruiz attributes mostly to replacing vehicles that are cycled through a five-year rotation.

"What we're looking to do is maintain the four patrol vehicles that we normally cycle through and there's an additional four unmarked vehicles which wouldn't be to the extent of the patrol," Ruiz said.

The department is attempting to streamline the types of vehicles they purchase, something that Ruiz said will save money because they will be able to use the same parts for their entire fleet and buy a lower amount of parts in general. Otherwise, the department is forced to order a multitude of different parts for all the different kinds of cars they have.

The increase in the total budget request is also related to the rising cost of ammunition, training 20 new officers, sending them to the Police Academy and providing them with uniforms and equipment.

Contrary to other divisions in the city, the Fire Department is requesting a decrease in their vehicle maintenance budget.

Fire Chief David Volk said that the decrease is directly related to the acquisition of a new engine that they expect to be delivered late January.

"It's straightforward to maintain where we've been over the last two or three years.

There's no new expenditures identified in there," Volk said. "I think that our requests over the past two years have been fairly dead-on with what we spent."

Volk also said that they cut down on labor costs associated with vehicle maintenance because some of the firefighters work on repairs for the fleet instead of sending them out to a mechanic.

Public Works director Frank Dann said that his department's budget would not have to change that much from last year's appropriations.

"We started with our 2012 budget and we looked at each individual division and our remaining balances our rate of expenditures and we came to the conclusion that except for the additional money we will need for contract janitorial services we are going to be fine with the amount of money we had in 2012," Dann said.

But Fehrenbach thinks that the department may be overfunded.

"I get the distinct feeling from things that I've heard from various people in the department that unlike other departments in the organizations, the level of flexibility that exists in this budget far exceeds what exists in almost any other budget in the city," Fehrenbach said.

Fehrenbach said that there is too much money in their budget that can be used on expenditures at a whim and are not planned for ahead of time.

Dann said that they have a lot of money leftover from the previous year because they did not have time to finish the traffic light replacement project, something he hopes to complete this year now that most of the legwork has been completed.

Fehrenbach urged Dann to go over the budget again in more detail and make sure that they are requesting the lowest appropriation possible.

SBA Extends Deadline for Hurricane Sandy Survivors in New Jersey

News Release 12/20/12

ATLANTA – U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Karen G. Mills has approved an extension of the deadline for Hurricane Sandy survivors in New Jersey to return their disaster home and business loan applications for physical damage to January 30, 2013.

"The extension will allow the homeowners, renters and businesses additional time to submit their SBA disaster loan applications and obtain the funding they need for disaster related repairs and replacements" said NJ District Director Al Titone. "The key to rebuilding is to access all of the available resources and not wait for insurance to be settled. SBA's disaster loan program is unique and loan amounts, terms and conditions can be adjusted if insurance is received after the loan is approved."

For those reluctant to file an SBA disaster loan application, SBA's Customer Service Representatives are available at every Disaster Recovery Center and Business Recovery Center to help with the process, answer questions and can also refer business clients to our Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, the Women's Business Center or the Veteran's Business Center for assistance in preparing the financial statements needed. Homeowners and renters unable to obtain an SBA low-interest disaster loan may be referred to FEMA for grant

consideration.

"SBA's disaster loan program has several unique features: loan terms can be as long as thirty years; the interest rates can be as low as 1.688 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses; and requests can be made for additional funds for mitigation (protective improvements) such as elevation or relocating utilities to prevent future damage" added Titone.

Applicants may also apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Additional details on the locations of recovery centers and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be returned to a recovery center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is now January 30, 2013. The deadline to return economic injury applications is July 31, 2013.

I Started By Calling FEMA. Why Did I End Up With The SBA?

News Release

TRENTON - Some Hurricane Sandy survivors who ask for disaster assistance wonder why they receive applications for loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Receiving an SBA loan application is part of the process that begins when survivors register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help after a disaster.

Applications of those registering with FEMA are evaluated, based on the information they supply, for available disaster assistance. This includes money for essential repairs or replacement of homes and personal property, such as automobiles, lost as a result of

the disaster.

Those found to be eligible for SBA's low-interest, long-term loans are sent applications. The applications for SBA loans must be returned by Jan. 30, 2013.

Filling out and returning the SBA documents does not obligate the survivor to accept a loan, if offered. But completing the application is a necessary step for those needing money for more than housing assistance.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program can provide grants to repair or replace personal property items such as clothing, furniture, cars or appliances damaged or destroyed in the disaster.

Help Available For Sandy Survivors Stressed By Holidays

News Release 12/29/12

TRENTON - The holiday season can create its own stress. This stress can be especially trying for those recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

Free help is available just a phone call away for New Jersey survivors who feel overwhelmed during the holidays.

The New Jersey Disaster Mental Health Helpline at 877-294-4357 or TTY 877-294-4356 is open from 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. Hours for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All calls are free and confidential.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also supports a Disaster Mental Health Helpline run by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration where counselors are available 24 hours a day including New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The number is 800-985-5990.

Rest, exercise and healthy eating help the body deal with stress. But disaster-induced mental distress may include:

- Sleeping too much or too little.
- Stomach aches or headaches.
- Worrying a lot of the time; feeling guilty but not sure why.

- Lack of energy or always feeling tired.
- Severe disorientation or confusion.
- Overwhelming sense of guilt.
- Depression, sadness and feelings of hopelessness.
- Increased use of substances like drugs or alcohol.

Disaster survivors may doubt that happiness will ever be possible again. Talking about those feelings with friends or counselors can help.

Talking to someone can help survivors keep perspective. Eventually, these out-of-balance times will improve. In the meantime, it is important to connect with others.



Historic Perth Amboy Calendars For Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library and The Kearny Cottage Historical Society have teamed up to create Historical Calendars with never before seen photos of Historic Perth Amboy. Calendars are \$10 each and are available at the Raritan Bay Coffee Company at the Historic Train Station, Perth Amboy City Hall, High Street, Fertigs Dept. Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave, and the Reo Diner, Woodbridge. For more info call 732-293-1090.

Fire at Delta Gas Station

PERTH AMBOY - On Saturday Night at around 7 p.m. the Delta Gas Station on Hall Avenue and Amboy Avenue caught fire. The fire started due to a spark from a car on a lift.

**Photos by Joe Bayona*



JANUARY EVENTS



Maternity Pavilion Tour and Family Health Open House

Information about child car seat safety, guided imagery used during labor, infant CPR and the medical center's facilities and services.

Wednesday, January 9 - 7 p.m.
RBMC Perth Amboy, 530 New Brunswick Ave.
Registration suggested, call 732-324-5300.

Breast Cancer Support Group

For women currently in treatment, or who have completed treatment, to share experiences and tips dealing with everyday issues.

Thursday, January 17 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Medical Pavilion at Woodbridge, 740 Route 1 North, Iselin, NJ
Registration suggested, call 732-324-5135.



Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?

Monday, January 14 - 7 to 8 p.m.
with Dr. Oluseun A. Sowemimo

Wednesday, January 23 - 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
with Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri
Institute for Weight Loss
3 Hospital Plaza, off of Ferry Rd., Old Bridge
Registration required, call 855.TIME.4.ME.

One-day Childbirth Education Class

Facilitated by a registered nurse with special training in labor, delivery and childcare. Cost is \$125 per couple.

Saturday, January 19 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Raritan Bay Area YMCA - 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy
Registration required, call 732-324-5300.



Babysitter Safety Class

An interactive class for ages 10-16 focusing on first aid, household safety and the fundamentals of child care, includes hands-on manikin training. Cost is \$30, includes take-home safety manual.

Saturday, January 19 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Raritan Bay Area YMCA - 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy
Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.

Birthday Parties at the S.A. Y.

News Release
SOUTH AMBOY - Relax and let the Y host your child's next birthday party! No fuss, no mess, no worries... Parties can be almost totally customized by you. Try a Y! Party for younger children featuring games, mat play and parachute, or a Make-Believe Sleepover Party for older children with PJs, sleeping bags and a favorite movie. Of course, most children love our Swim/Gym Parties with an hour of swim time, followed by an hour of sports play in the gymnasium. All parties include pizza and party hosts. Dates are booking quickly for 2013, so reserve your child's birthday weekend today! For more information on Birthday Parties, please contact Sherry at 732-553-9622 or sayparties@ymcaofmews.org.

Novena to St. Anthony

O Holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and Gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (*mention your request here.*) Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. Amen **M.S.K.**



Visit rbmc.org for information about services and a complete schedule of events.



New Jersey Disaster Recovery Centers Assist Hurricane Survivors

News Release 12/28/12

TRENTON- If you're a Hurricane Sandy survivor and have questions about a letter you received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, need help finding a place to stay, or have any concerns about your recovery, a visit to a disaster recovery center can help.

FEMA staff is available at centers throughout New Jersey to provide clarification to your letters, assist you with finding a temporary home if your primary residence was damaged or destroyed, check on the status of your application for assistance, or refer you to other agencies that may provide additional help.

Also, you can consult with U.S. Small Business Administration customer service representatives about low-interest disaster loans to repair or rebuild your home and FEMA mitigation specialists about cost-effective rebuilding and repair techniques to reduce property damages in future disasters.

New Jersey centers will continue to provide assistance for survivors during the holiday season. Normal center hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday until Saturday, Dec. 29. Centers will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on New Year's Eve. They will be closed New Year's Day. Normal hours will resume Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013.

To find the nearest center, the following options are available: Text DRC and a Zip Code to 43362 (4FEMA), and a text message will be sent back with the address. You also can visit www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers.

You should register for disaster assistance before visiting a center. You can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or via smartphone or tablet at m.fema.gov. You also can register by phone or 711/VRS by calling 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585. The toll-free numbers operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice.

Returning Campers are Invited to a Camp S.A.Y. Reunion

News Release

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Branch YMCA will be hosting a 2012 Camper Reunion for all children who attended Camp S.A.Y. this past summer. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, January 12th from 2-4pm at the YMCA located at 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd in South Amboy, NJ.

Join us for games, crafts, swimming and refreshments. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your summer friends and camp counselors! Parents will be able to share their ideas on how to make this summer more fun for their children. Special pricing for all returning campers that register for 2013 Camp during the reunion.

For any new families that are interested in learning more about our Summer Camp, please attend an Open House to learn more. Open House Dates are scheduled on Tuesday, January 29 from 5:30-7:30pm, Saturday, February 23 from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, February 26 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Register for our Camp Reunion online at www.ymcaofmews.org, by calling Mike Tonzola at 732-316-8205, or emailing Mike Manfre @ mike.manfre@ymcaofmews.org. Our 2013 Camp Brochure will be available at www.ymcaofmews.org by January 2, 2013.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- MON. Jan. 7 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Jan. 8 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 - Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Jan. 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.
 - Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St
 - Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St
- THURS. Jan. 10 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

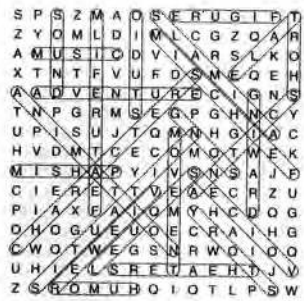
South Amboy

- MON. Jan. 7 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Jan. 9 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Attn: If Your Club changes Your Schedule due to the Holidays Please give us two weeks notice! 732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610

www.amboyguardian.com

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



CAMDEN - New Year's Eve 1950s - The Harry Kahn Orchestra, Harry Kahn, conducting. Brother David Kahn on trumpet, to the right of the singer. Brother Alfie Kahn on tenor saxophone, second from right.

*Photo courtesy of Dale Morris

This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

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Prayer To The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). **K.M.**

Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

Prayer To The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). **J.K.**

Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

Saint Jude Novena

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

Prayer To Saint Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. **M.P.**

Prayer To Saint Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. **J.K.**

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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 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.**

Cost \$10. Pre-payment required.

Name _____

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Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to:

**The Amboy Guardian
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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. Claire | For Employment | Prayer To St. Jude |
| Prayer To Blessed Mother | Prayer To Holy Spirit | Novena To St. Anthony |
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