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AMBOY GUARDIAN



• VOL. 2 NO. 47 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013 •

Night of Decisions and Not Controversy Comes with Adoption of New School Calendar



**Board Member
Maria Garcia**



**Board Member
Israel Varela**



**Dr. Janine Walker-
Caffrey**

PERTH AMBOY - There were several twists and turns during the February 21, 2013 Board of Education Meeting. There were two closed sessions. One session was preceded with the Board Attorney reading of the Doctrine of Necessity to discuss pending litigation. The Board Attorney read a list of Board Members who were in conflict because of relatives working in the school system and/or ethics charges brought against them by the Superintendent and those who were not. Those in conflict were as follows: Israel Varela (relative employed by school system and ethics complaint by Superintendent Caffrey), Ken Puccio (ethics complaint by Caffrey), Anton Massopust (relative employed by school system), Obi Gonzalez (ethics complaint by Caffrey) Milady Tejada (relative employed by school system and ethics complaint by Caffrey), and Dianne Roman (relative employed by school system). Only three Board Members were listed as having no conflict: Board President Mark Carvajal, Maria Garcia and William Ortiz.

Board Member William Ortiz made a motion that he wanted to end the litigation against Superintendent Caffrey.

Before they went into closed session, the Board Attorney asked Dr. Caffrey if Caffrey

wanted to waive her right to a Rice Notice. (A Rice Notice is a notification given to employees to discuss their job performance which is being evaluated. There is a 48 hours prior notice.) Caffrey waived her rights to the Rice Notice and wanted the Board to vote in public. The Board Attorney said that, "Pending litigation cannot be discussed in public," Board Vice President Ken Puccio made a motion to go into executive closed session. The motion made by Ortiz was rescinded by himself to end the litigation against the Superintendent.

When they came back from closed session, the following Board Members voted, "No," to rescind the Superintendent's suspension: Israel Varela, Milady Tejada, Anton Massopust, Obi Gonzalez. The motion passed. The Superintendent kept her position.

Board Member Israel Varela made a statement that he is very tired of the complaint that Dr. Caffrey filed against him which has not been resolved. He wanted this discussed in closed session and he was hoping for a resolution tonight.

Varela, in an interview with the Amboy Guardian over a year ago asked for the resignation of Superintendent Caffrey. She indicated that Varela asked her to place his friends

in positions of employment in the school system. Varela also said that he would resign immediately if she had information to back up her allegations. To this date Dr. Caffrey has not presented any information to back up the allegations towards Varela.

Varela also said that he was, "Sick and tired of the situation being handled by outsiders. I was hoping that these charges against me would be discussed in public in Perth Amboy - not by the State. People are believing a lie. I believe the State is doing nothing. It needs to be taken care of tonight instead of being kicked down the road."

Another controversy that came up was the new calendar. During the public portion several teachers came up and were visibly upset. One burst into tears and the others spoke with their voices crackling.

This had to do with a memo put out by Dr. Caffrey basing the calendar on how many people would be affected by days off. In the letter it made reference to the High Holy Days and there would be only a small group of staff members who would be affected.

Those teachers who spoke were of the Jewish faith and they felt that they were being singled out. One of the

Continued on Page 2

Dato Thanks Sponsors for Glass Slipper Project



Mayor Fred Henry, Councilwoman Christine Noble, Council President Joe Connors, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Councilman Mickey Gross, Councilman Donald Applegate

**Photo by Joseph L. Kuchie*

By: Joseph L. Kuchie
SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy council member Zusette Dato thanked local sponsors for taking part in the Glass Slipper Project during last week's council meeting.

The Glass Slipper Project was held at Old Bridge High School on Feb. 16 and 17 to assist high school students from Old Bridge and South Amboy prepare for prom. Local retailers and businesses donated new and slightly worn prom dresses, accessories, and discounted tuxedo rentals to the boutique.

"High school students were able to obtain proper attire for no cost or little cost," Dato

said in her opening comments. "We were asked by Old Bridge to participate and we did go down there on Saturday and Sunday. We did get donations from businesses in town and I'd like to thank them."

The following were the local South Amboy businesses that donated to the Glass Slipper Project: Fittings by Sheila, Carol's Beauty Shop, Kimber Dry Cleaners, My Greener Dry Cleaner.

Both Dato and councilwoman Christine Noble were thanked by the organization on the Glass Slipper Project Facebook page for their hard work leading up to the weekend.

Guide

Board of Education	Page 1,2
Police Blotter	Pages 2,8
Editorial	Page 4
Community Voice	Page 4
FEMA News	Page 6
Dominican Independence Day.....	Page 9
Stamping Thru History	Page 11
Tax Facts	Page 12
Movie Review	Page 12
Puzzle	Page 15
Classifieds	Page 15

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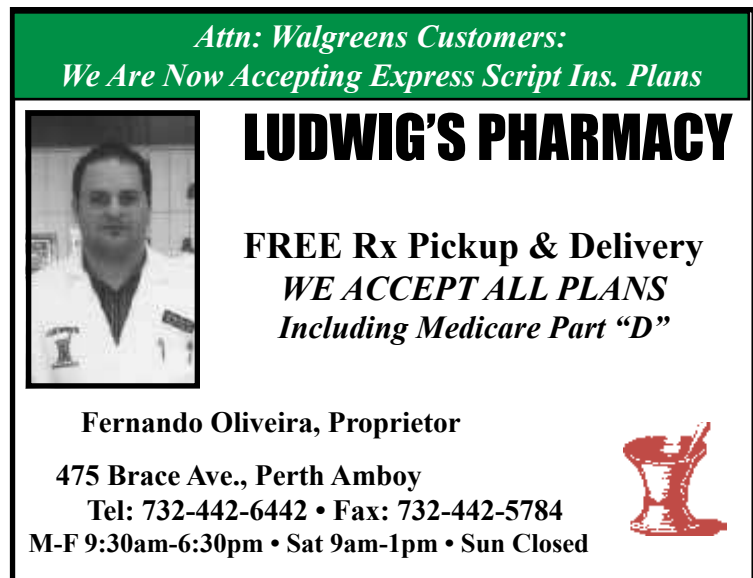


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Board of Ed

Continued From Page 1

teachers made reference to a poem. "Then They Came For Me." She recalled losing her relatives in the Holocaust and thought the days being singled out as Jewish were long gone.

Some of the comments made by the teachers were in reference to the professional days on the calendar. "One is a High Holy Day. The Superintendent is discriminating. She said that we can do this because it only affects 20 to 40 people. What group are we going to pull next? It's an outrage that we are counting heads."

Another teacher spoke, "I did not expect to get a letter asking how many Jewish teachers there are. The Superintendent said that there are lot of favorable comments about the school calendar, but that is because people were afraid to speak up. I feel strongly that I have been discriminated against."

Another teacher who has been in the school system for 23 years felt that she was being persecuted, "Because I am Jewish." She was upset about the memo. She burst into tears when she said that they (High Holy Days) may be eliminated from the school calendar, "But they are not eliminated from mine."

She apologized for breaking down into tears and at that point Board Member Israel Varela said, "We should be apologizing to you." He stood up and walked out of the auditorium.

The last school personnel who spoke about the situation said, "We are getting off for St. Patrick's Day but we can't celebrate our High Holy Days?"

AFT Board Attorney Brian Adams said that he was glad that these teachers spoke out about the calendar. He also said, "Board Vice-President Ken Puccio signature is on the AFT contract and the Board of Education violated this contract." Ken Puccio was the Chair of the negotiating committee for the Board of Education. The contract is an agreement with the BOE and AFT. The contract is ratified and was signed off by Board Secretary Derek Jess and the Chair Ken Puccio.

New Board Member Anton Massopust had previously attended a School Board Association Training Session. "We were taught at that session that the bargaining unit was there before we were Board Members, while we are Board Members and will be there long after we are gone being Board Members. We were told that the bargaining agent must be involved in all major deci-

sions. I have suggested to Dr. Caffrey that she include the parents and the bargaining agent in this decision. She told me that it would take a very long time to come to get a calendar. Now, one of my hobbies is making soup. One of my best soups is potato leak soup. But it is very labor intensive to make but the results are a very good soup. It requires several ingredients and a lot of time. Dr. Caffrey's calendar has a lot of good points and merit and so does the union calendar. I suggest that Dr. Caffrey be the Iron Chef and meet with the union and create a soup by combining the best of both ingredients and create a good soup for the Parent's Council to taste. Therefore I vote "No," to this Calendar."

Board Member Obi Gonzalez said, "Many parts of the new calendar are good, but I agree with Mr. Massopust. We need to have all stakeholders look at the calendar."

Board Member Israel Varela said that, "Individuals have told me that in the past that people have spoken up at the podium and where are they now? There is a fear factor, especially with staff members. I want to thank you from all the Board Members for speaking out."

New Board Member Maria Garcia said, "Although I am new to the Board, the Union should have their proposals in place, with the teachers when the Superintendent was working on the calendar. The Union protects and represents their rank and file. I am here to pro-

tect the students. I see nothing wrong with the calendar. It is good for the students and parents."

Board Member Milady Tejada brought up an issue that was discussed earlier. The school lost \$2 million because of the poor attendance at the High School.

Tejada wanted to know, "How many years has the old calendar been in affect?"

Board Secretary Derek Jess said, "The State changed the formula for school funding. This is the first time that school attendance was put into the equation."

When it came time to adopt the new calendar the votes went as followed: "Yes," Diane Roman, William Ortiz, Maria Garcia, Ken Puccio, and Mark Carvajal. "No," Israel Varela, Milady Tejada, Anton Massopust, Obi Gonzalez. The calendar was adopted.

After the Board Meeting was over Maria Garcia handed the Amboy Guardian an e-mail that she had sent out to different Middlesex Co. School Districts. This had to do with the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program. Some of the schools that she sent out memos to were to Edison, Woodbridge and Metuchen. She wanted to know if those school districts were participating in this program.

Robert Zega Superintendent of Schools of Woodbridge said that "Woodbridge Township does not participate in any Interdistrict Public School Choice Program."

Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

PERTH AMBOY - On Friday, 11 January 2013 members of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau were dispatched to Pfeiffer Blvd. on a complaint of marijuana smoking from an apartment inside of that building. Upon arrival, Detectives noticed a large gathering inside of one of the apartments where a strong odor of burning marijuana was coming from. Detectives in plain clothes then knocked on the door and one of the occupants opened it. Upon observing the large gathering of young individuals inside of the apartment, Detectives identified themselves as Police Officers. Upon observing the officers, one of the males inside was observed discarding a sandwich bag of marijuana into a nearby garbage can. Once the gathering was safely dispersed, the marijuana was retrieved from the garbage can and the male who was identified as Stephon Wilton, age 19 of 18 Cedar Hill Lane, Toms River, N.J. was placed under arrest. Wil-

ton possessed (5) additional pieces of marijuana separated into small paper pieces packaged for individual sale along with \$173 in U.S. Currency. After an investigation, a consent search was conducted of a 2004 Honda Accord belonging to Wilton that was parked outside where a silver and black colored FEG 9mm semi-automatic handgun loaded with 7 rounds of ammunition was recovered from the vehicle.

Wilton was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School Zone & Possession of Marijuana under 50 grams.

Bail was set by the Honorable Judge George M. Boyd at \$75,000.00 with no 10% option. The total street value of the CDS seized is approximately \$200.00. The investigation was led by Detective Sergeant Carmelo Jimenez Jr.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Sometimes You Have to Let Your Child Get Bruised No Matter What Age They Are

Playgrounds covered in foam padding so that children cannot bruise their knees. Children at play sometimes get hurt. I remember growing up I got bruised or scraped while playing, I would go home. My mom would clean the cut, put on an antiseptic and a bandage. If it hurt a little bit too much you would get a hug and a kiss until you stopped crying and then off you would go.

I was a bit of a tomboy and I loved to race, especially against the boys. I remember one particular time when I was racing with one of my neighbors and I looked back to see how close he was.

That was a big mistake because I ran right into a telephone pole. Yes, it hurt. But thank God it wasn't a very serious injury. I remember lying on the ground and people looking over me but I survived.

Our society has become so sue happy that it's surprising that we don't have our children walking around in a protective bubble.

We also are becoming a society where we are afraid to have our children experience failure. You cannot excel in everything that you try but when you do find your niche do the best that you can. Everyone is not good at everything.

One of my older sisters was very good in athletics. She became one of the head cheerleaders in High School and I was very proud of her achievement. On the other hand, when I was in grade school and about to enter High School I was not in the best of health. Gym was not my favorite activity.

I remember always being one of the last ones picked when they picking teams for volleyball. It really didn't matter to me because I was lousy at it no matter how hard I tried.

There are even parents today

who are overprotective of their adult children.

If you have an adult child who has a disability it is one thing, but those who feel they need to protect their child against criticism are not doing that child any good.

When I was around eleven years old there was one of my classmates who used to taunt me with a racial slur constantly. I remember one day crying in the coat room in school. When my other classmates asked me why I was crying, I told them about the comments made by this particular student. Those classmates who sympathized with me gave the taunting student a small beating. Nothing to hurt him bad, but he got the message. That was the end of that student calling me that very bad word.

Years later, when we were both attending Middlesex County College, that same classmate that used to taunt me would give me a ride home from college.

So if I as a twelve year old could rally my friends to help me out of a situation, your adult child should be able to take care of themselves, too.

People might say it was a different world back then, but some things shouldn't change.

If you fall once, that doesn't mean you can't get up, dust yourself off and start over.

If you've never experienced failure, how can you know what success is? The latest term for this is Helicopter Parents. They hover over their kids and do everything for them. How can these kids learn what to do when their on their own? They can't.

Are you one of these parents or another term would be Enablers?

So if you have to let your kids experience a small bruise once in while. Clean up the cut, put a band-aid on, a hug if needed and off they go.

C.M. & K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Racism & Bigotry

What is bigotry? What is racism? Is there a fine line that defines them or a deep crevice? Is it just as bad to be blinded

for something or someone as it is to be against something or someone? Should we feel remorse or celebrate only when our own ethnicity is involved? Is it right to have an organization include some at the ex-

pense or excluding another? Are we so consumed by hatred or just so overwhelmed by love? Just wondering . . .

Thank you,
Michael J. Rusznak

The Gun Control Scam

Some people believe that passing more "gun control" laws will increase safety and reduce the number of violent deaths by firearms. The passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act was followed by an increase in deaths by firearms. They also increased after the

1994 "Assault Weapon" ban. The paid lobbyists of Gun Prohibition can never claim otherwise, but they are skilled with using half-truths to fool their listeners.

As of 2011 there were 31,940 violent deaths by firearms, about two-thirds suicides (which are seldom reported in the media unless others are involved). It seems insane to call

for new laws when the existing laws don't work as advertised.

Our NJ legislature would best serve the people by increasing the standard NJ income tax exemption to match the Federal amount (about \$4,000 this year). It hasn't been raised since 1977!

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Five Hours of What?

On February 5, 2013 the Perth Amboy Board of Education held a five hour closed door meeting concerning the school Superintendent. But five hours long? What were they talking about? Her shoe size? But at the same time - those parents, students and the concerned citizens were left out in the cold. Now, what is so secret about Ms. Caffrey? What is she going to do write a book about

how the school system is run in Perth Amboy. I could see it - now the book cover "As Your Stomach Turns" by Dr. Janine Walker-Caffrey - New York Best Seller.

The book is about a three ring flying circus with high paying clowns and students that are confused with nowhere to go. Or maybe the School Board President should write a book called, "Johnny Can't Read, Johnny Can't Spell, That's Why Johnny is in the N.F.L." It's a book about a School System that don't want to listen to

the Concerns of the students.

But now there is a real book about the Public School System in Washington D.C. called "Radical Fighting to Put Students First," by Michelle Rhee who used to be a School Chancellor. But as of now she runs an advocacy group called, "Students First." I think the Perth Amboy School Board Members and Ms. Caffrey should read - This Book. A child without an education is a child without a future.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

The Post Office

I would like to remind my friends out there that the Post Office is part of the Federal Government. People complain about the 46 cent postage stamp but congress makes that decision. This is not like some gas station where you pay \$4 a gallon. The oil companies make that decision. Let us not forget that the 46 cent postage stamp can take your letter to any state in the good old U.S.A.

Saturday mail will be eliminated in August. This should not surprise anyone. They had this idea over 2 1/2 years ago. Sure, we used to have mail two times a day back in the forties and we did without that. Let me tell you about that fallacy. This was true, but only during certain holidays. People knew how to write and sent greeting cards back then. Cursive writing may soon be cut out in our schools. We don't need junk mail on Saturday. True! But you will get junk mail on the other five days and Macy's

and the other stores pay big money to advertise.

OK!!!! We cut mail delivery to five days. Why not four? Sure, the mail will pile up, but the mail carrier can handle that with an engine attached to his backside over the next 2 or 3 years. We could even cut down more and save a bundle. We really need this with the economy the way it is.

The Postal workers could go on the unemployment. Let's do away with Mail and Newspapers, too. This is the way the computer boys think. We will tweet you right out of sight. The Tweeters have Facebook, I-Phones and E-Mail. Land Phones, Snail Mail and Newspapers are a thing of the past. Let's get with it man!!! Wake up and smell the roses.

One of my favorite statesman in American History is Benjamin Franklin. I wonder what he would think about these Einsteins down here? E-Mail is the modern way to keep in touch and I have no use for it, but that is just me. I thank God that I learned to read and write in school.

I grew up with the mailman. He provides safe and reliable delivery right to my doorstep. I don't have to worry about my mail being hacked off like a light switch. I still receive and pay my bills by mail and they don't disappear into thin air. I can still put that paper bill on their fridge, so I don't forget to pay it.

NO POST OFFICE! NO MAILMAN! Thank God they are still alive and out there. We can't let them go. I look forward to my mail every day and my greeting cards will be in your mailbox so you have something to hold in your hand.

Yes, my Friends, there is a Post Office and a Mailman. They represent the United States of America and our way of life in this great country of ours.

Let us all remember this, "A House is not a House without a Mailbox on it and Home is not a Home without a Newspaper in it."

Thomas Francis Clark

THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

Published by Amboy Guardian LLC
P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862
(732) 896-4446 Email - CRLYNMXWLL@AOL.COM
(732) 261-2610 Email - KMASS514@GMAIL.COM

Carolyn Maxwell
Acting Editor, Publisher & Advertising Manager
Katherine Massopust Paul W. Wang Lori Miskoff
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Volunteer Firefighters Needed

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

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.

Monthly Book Club

SEWAREN - There will be a monthly book club at the Sewaren Library, 546 West Ave, Sewaren. For more info call 732-634-7571 or email sewarenlibrary@gmail.com. We are looking for adults to join a book club starting in November. Please fill out the attached form if you are interested in joining us. Day and time will be determined by interest. The first Book will be Defending Jacob by William Landay.

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

Community Calendar

- Perth Amboy**
WED. Feb. 27 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Feb. 28 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
MON. Mar. 11 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Mar. 12 Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
UEZ, 6 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
BID, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED. Mar. 13 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
- South Amboy**
WED. Mar. 6 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Mar. 20 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

**STAY INFORMED!
ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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Christie Administration Announces Extension of FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program

Sandy-Displaced Families Can Receive Assistance Through March 8, 2013

News Release
February 21, 2013
Contact Michael Drewniak or Kevin Roberts 609-777-2600
Trenton - The Christie Administration today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Program has been extended at the Administration's request for an additional 14 days to the end of March 8, 2013. The extension means eligible households can receive TSA assistance through March 8 with a check-out date of March 9, 2013.

"Many Sandy-displaced families have not been able to locate more permanent housing through no fault of their own," said Governor Christie. "We thank FEMA for recognizing this reality by again extending the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program. The extension will give these families additional time to work out a housing solution that meets their needs."

FEMA activated its Transitional Sheltering Assistance program in the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy at New Jersey's request. The program allows eligible survivors who cannot return to their homes because of damage caused by the storm to stay in participating hotels or motels until more suitable housing is available. Individuals and

households in the program had to register with FEMA for assistance; pass identity verification; and demonstrate that they are displaced from a primary residence located in a geographic area that is designated for TSA.

"For most of us, the havoc that Superstorm Sandy caused is over and life is almost back to normal. However, the lives of many families remain up-ended, and they continue to need assistance," said New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III. "We will continue to work with FEMA, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, the American Red Cross, and county welfare agencies in helping these families find more permanent housing."

In approving this latest TSA extension, FEMA set forth more stringent conditions for eligibility. Households are not eligible for extension if they have previously checked out of TSA hotels, their caseworkers recommend they not be extended, or they received housing assistance from a county program before Superstorm Sandy hit. Also, new families will not be eligible for the program unless FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer for New Jersey or his designee approves eligibility based on an extraordinary circumstance.

To help displaced families locate permanent housing, the DCA has partnered with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and with the non-profit organization Socialserve.com to frequently update and add new rental listings to the New Jersey Housing Resource Center, which is a free service at www.NJHRC.gov for people in search of affordable housing and for landlords who are looking to provide housing.

Owners of rental housing – be it furnished or unfurnished, with short-term leases or long-term leases – are urged to list available rental units on the Housing Resource Center. FEMA and relief workers are using the online site everyday to aid storm survivors locate housing. Landlords are also encouraged to adjust lease terms if needed to accommodate displaced families.

As of today, approximately 1,080 Sandy-displaced New Jersey residents are being housed through the TSA program.

Individuals who have questions regarding their eligibility should contact the FEMA helpline at 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA).

To register with FEMA, call the phone number listed above or visit www.disasterassistance.gov on the Internet.



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Stay In Touch With FEMA To Continue Temporary Housing

News Release
February 21, 2013

TRENTON - Hurricane Sandy survivors need to complete the application for continued temporary rental assistance and avoid interruptions of funds for an apartment, house or other temporary home.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency mails forms to survivors receiving temporary rental assistance that must be completed and returned to remain eligible. Survivors can request new forms by calling 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-877-8339 if the original is lost.

Temporary rental assistance may be provided while displaced survivors are working to find a permanent housing solution. Although it is not automatic and available in three month increments, assistance may be available up to 18 months from the Oct. 30, 2012 federal disaster declaration or the program maxi-

mum, whichever comes first. That's why it is important for survivors to develop permanent housing plans. Returning to a permanent home is a significant recovery milestone.

The application for continued rental assistance must be filled out completely, signed and returned along with the following documents:

- A copy of the lease agreement signed by the applicant and applicant's landlord
- Rent receipts showing that the funds have been used for rental assistance
- A current income statement, such as a paycheck stub or bank statement

Survivors should mail packets to:
FEMA, National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055

They also can fax requests to: 800-827-8112

The registration and disaster numbers should be clearly visible on each page.

www.amboyguardian.com



Call for Special St. Patrick's Day Rates

Carolyn: 732-896-4446
Katherine: 732-261-2610
Joe: 732-277-1993



FEMA Specialists Provide Free Repair And Rebuilding Advice

News Release
February 19, 2013
TRENTON - Getting free advice on how to repair or rebuild your home to minimize future disaster damage is as easy as visiting your local home improvement store. Specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will offer their expertise on building techniques that can help protect your home, business or other property.

This free service also offers information and publications on topics such as:

- Ridding a home of mold and mildew.
- Understanding flood- and wind-resistant building methods.
- Knowing the benefits of flood insurance.
- Elevating or anchoring utilities.

FEMA specialists are available daily from Tuesday, Feb. 19, to Friday, Feb. 22, from 8

a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the following home improvement stores:

- Cape May County—Lowe's, 3171 Route 9, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
- Hudson County—Home Depot, 440 Route 440, Jersey City, NJ 07302
- Monmouth County—Home Depot, 3700 Highway 35, Hazlet, NJ 07730
- Ocean County—Home Depot, 1722 Route 88, Brick, NJ 08724
- Ocean County—Lowe's, 1375 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753
- Ocean County—Lowe's, 297 Route 72, West Suite 30, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
- Union County—Lowe's, 1721 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083

For additional information on rebuilding stronger, visit fema.gov/SandyNJ and click on "Mitigation Resources."

Women's Open Center

PERTH AMBOY - The Women's Open Center meeting will be held on: Tuesday February 26th at 6 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, 1st Floor Conference Room. We are looking forward to seeing you. This is an opportunity to form relationships, share ideas, and receive information.

Pierogi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 404 Division St., Perth Amboy is having a pierogi sale on Monday, February 25th to Friday, March 1st. Call 732-826-7067 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to place your order. All gourmet items. Handmade. Therefore call early before maximum sales quota is reached. Potato pierogi price - \$7. Pick up your orders Tuesday, March 5th and Wednesday, March 6th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thank you for your order!!!

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Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public

Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library will be meeting on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy. Discussed will be library renovations, plans for a new website and future plans for the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info call 732-293-1090.

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Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY - Sunday, March 3, 2013 at Assumption Catholic School Auditorium on 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ Doors open at 12 noon and auction starts at 2 p.m. Admission \$6. Cake and coffee are included. Great prizes featuring 4 Prize Levels, I Pad Mini, 32" Flat Screen TV, Money Raffles and more. The kitchen will be open for lunch, featuring cabbage & noodles, kielbasa & kraut, sausage & peppers and more. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call the rectory 732-826-0767

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Spring Programs begin March 24th

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- Little Ninjas
- Intro to Gymnastics
- Youth Ballet
- YMCA Coed Tee Ball League
- Y Preschool Afterschool Program
- Holiday Care
- Y FIT!
- SNAP
- Martial Arts
- Y-Fashion Show
- Expression Dance Class
- Kids Night Out
- Advanced Martial Arts
- Swimming Lessons
- Y School Age Afterschool Program
- Families Fit Together Program

Adult Programs:

- ZUMBA!!!
- Kickboxing
- Personal Training
- Boot Camp
- Swimming Lessons
- Group Exercise Classes
- Martial Arts
- CXWORX
- Small Group Training Club
- TRX Suspension Training
- Private Sessions:
 Boxing, Self Defense and Karate

Senior Programs:

- Movie & Lunch Day
- Aqua Fitness
- Group Exercise Classes
- Personal Training
- Swimming Lessons
- SilverSneakers Fitness Program

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FOLLOW US on Twitter at www.twitter.com/RBAYMCA

Royal Garden Club Open House

PERTH AMBOY - Come on Wed. March 6, 2013 at 7:30 pm St. Peter's Rectory, 188 Rector St. Perth Amboy. An official civic consultant of the City of Perth Amboy St. Peter's Rectory at 183 Rector St. Perth Amboy. This meeting is to learn all about the activities of the Royal Garden Club. We are a very different gardening club as we design, plant and maintain several large public gardens throughout our city. Come learn all our work - no prior gardening experience necessary. We welcome all. For more information, post a question to our page: Royal Garden Club Open House on Facebook.

Republican Convention

EDISON - The Middlesex County Republican Organization (MCRO) is holding its convention on Saturday, March 23rd, 2012, at the Royal Albert's Palace, 1050 King Georges Post Road in Edison with featured speaker: Governor Chris Christie.

If someone is interested in registering, contact Sharon at 732-442-3162 or 877-203-3599. There is a \$10 registration fee and this fee is non-refundable and not transferable. Registration deadline is: March 9th, 2013.

Please note, you must be a registered Republican in Middlesex County by February 22, 2013 to vote at the convention as a Delegate. All registrations for the convention are due on March 9th by 2 p.m.

Friday Lenten Dinners

PERTH AMBOY - February 15: Breaded Flounder with mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables, March 1: Spaghetti with tomato sauce, garlic bread and salad, March 8: Baked Salmon Steak with rice and salad, March 15: Cabbage Noodles, March 22: Breaded Flounder with roasted potatoes and coleslaw. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served with each dinner. The dinners are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Magyar Reformed Church Center, Corner of Fayette Street and Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. Cost is \$13 per person or 6 dinners for \$70 (one dinner for each week) paid in advance. Reservations required. No tickets sold at door. Call: Pat 732-442-0224 or Pam 732-257-7182.

Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Tuesday, 22 January 2013 members of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau arrested David Irizarry, AGE 45 of Zambory Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. during a motor vehicle stop for several outstanding warrants. A subsequent search and investigation revealed him to be in possession of (980) decks of heroin. Two other occupants of the vehicle were also arrested, Juan Guzman-Nieves, age 39 of Amboy Avenue, Perth Amboy, N.J. for Possession of a Hypodermic Syringe and Outstanding Warrants and Richard Santiago, age 45 of

Market Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. for several Outstanding Warrants.

Irizarry was charged with Possession of Heroin, Possession of Heroin over 1/2 ounce with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Heroin with the Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School Zone.

Bail was set by the Honorable Judge George M. Boyd at \$75,000.00 with no 10% option with the requirement of a bail source hearing.

The total street value of the CDS seized is approximately \$5,000.00. The investigation was led by Detective Mabner Terron.

Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday, 01/24 January 2013 members of the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office Narcotics Task Force with the assistance of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau executed a Superior Court Search Warrant on a residence located at Silzer Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. Arrested was the owner of the residence, Thomas S. Anastasio, age 29. Discovered inside of the basement of that location was a fully operational marijuana growing facility. Approximately (33) large full grown marijuana plants were seized from the basement (10 plants amount to 1st. degree charge), along with a sophisticated lighting and ventilation system that is essential in the operation of a growing facility. Anastasio was also in possession of (56) Oxycodone pills.

Anastasio was transported back to Perth Amboy Police Headquarters where he was charged with Maintaining a Narcotic Operating Facility, Possession of over 1 ounce of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School Zone, Possession of Marijuana over 50 grams, Possession of Prescription Legend Drugs & Possession of Prescription Drugs with the Intent to Distribute.

Bail was set by the Honorable Judge Allen Comba at \$250,000.00 with no 10% option.

The total street value of the narcotics seized is approximately over \$50,000.00. The investigation was led by Investigator Donald Carruth of the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office Narcotics Task Force.

Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday, 17 January 2013 members of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau while conducting an investigation in the area of Division Street & Barracks Street, came into contact with an individual named Robert Malave, age 20 of Division Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. Malave was found to be in possession of (5) baggies of marijuana individually packaged for sale. After a subsequent investigation was conducted, a consent to search his apartment was granted. (75) additional baggies of marijuana

individually packaged for sale, digital scales, and empty baggies for packaging were recovered.

Malave was then charged with Possession of Marijuana over 50 grams, Possession of Marijuana over one ounce with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School Zone & Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia.

The total street value of the CDS seized is approximately \$820.00. The investigations was led by Detective Carlos Rodriguez.

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Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Tuesday, 15 January 2013 members of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau conducting an investigation at 163 New Brunswick Avenue (BP Gas Station) after receiving information along with complaints of CDS dealing from that establishment. A narcotic transaction was observed between two males identified as Ely Cruz, age 28 of New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, N.J. & Jovan Olivares, age 25 of Elm Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. Cruz in turn walked over to a juvenile female who was waiting nearby and handed her a baggie of Marijuana. At this time, Detectives arrested all three individuals involved. A book bag was recovered from inside of the gas attendant's booth where the exchange between them was observed, which contained a clear plastic freezer bag with approximately (76) grams of marijuana, another clear plastic freezer bag containing (82) smaller baggies of marijuana pack-

aged for individual sale (approximate weight 60 grams), \$3,093.00 in U.S. Currency, a digital scale, and numerous empty baggies for packaging marijuana.

Both Cruz & Olivares were both charged with Possession of Marijuana over 50 grams, Possession of Marijuana over 1 ounce with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School Zone & within 500 feet of a Public Park & Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana. Olivares was additionally charged with Possession of Ecstasy.

Bail was set by the Honorable Judge Maria Del Valle-Koch at \$50,000.00 with no 10% option for both.

The juvenile female was charged as a juvenile with Possession of Marijuana under 50 grams and released to the custody of a parent.

The total street value of the CDS seized is approximately \$2,100.00. The investigation was led by Detective Sergeant Carmelo Jimenez Jr.

Police Blotter: Drug Arrest

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Tuesday, 05 February 2013 members of the Perth Amboy Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau while conducting an investigation in the parking lot of the 7-11 at 553 Sayre Avenue observed a hand to hand narcotic transaction between two individuals. Corey Gomez, age 27 of Sayre Avenue, Perth Amboy, N.J. was observed handing over (20) bundled decks of Heroin to Matthew Gehring, age 23 of Main Street, Sayreville, N.J. in exchange for \$200.00. Detectives then approached and affected the arrests on these two individuals for the transaction that was observed. A search of Gomez's person revealed the \$200.00 along with an additional (80) bundled decks of heroin.

\$1,713.00 in cash, numerous paraphernalia utilized to package heroin as well as a small amount of loose raw heroin was recovered from the apartment. Also recovered from the apartment were (51) Winstrol capsules (a form of anabolic steroids).

Gomez was charged with Distribution of Heroin, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Heroin with the Intent to Distribute, & Possession of Anabolic Steroids (synthetic drugs).

Bail was set by the Honorable Judge Maria Del Valle-Koch at \$50,000.00 with no 10% option.

Gehring was charged with Possession of Heroin with bail set at \$25,000.00 with no 10% option.

The total street value of the CDS seized is approximately \$1,000.00. The investigation was led by Detective Mohamed Mohamed

We are on the web!!!!
www.amboyguardian.com

**Dominican Independence Celebration -
Flag Raising at City Hall & Reception - Olive Street - February 24, 2013 *Photos by Bob Ned**



Politicians and Leaders of the Dominican Community at City Hall



An introduction to the Dominican Culture



The Dominican Community Celebrates



A Dominican Leader speaks



Congressman Frank Pallone speaks



Mayor Wilda Diaz presents a proclamation



A group photo



The Cake



Juan Pablo Duarte



Dominican Dancers



**Bridal
Showcase**

ISELIN - Bridal Showcase hosted by WMCC at the Renaissance Hotel 515 US Highway 1 South, Iselin March 3, 2013 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the Chamber to register as a vendor or come to view our vendors and plan your wedding All are welcome. For details call 732-636-4040 or Email barnes-karenwmcc@comcast.net

**Civil War
Round Table**

WOODBIDGE - The next meeting of The Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey will meet on Monday, March 4th at the Woodbridge Public Library at 7 p.m. The speaker for the evening will be Bill Stypke and his topic will be "McClellan's Other Story" All are welcome.

**Focus Group
Meeting**

PERTH AMBOY- Focus Group Meeting to provide insight and a more diverse approach on the concerns of our current parks system as well as the improvements that need to be made. The information received from this Focus Group meeting will be used by the New Jersey Local Planning Services, which will be analyzed and refined for the development of the City's Recreation Plan.

In order for this upcoming project to be successful, complete participation is not only needed but essential. Your input on the topics that will be presented will be an integral component to the overall success of this project. Please join the City of Perth Amboy for the Focus Group Meeting on Saturday, March 9 at the Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center. Residents interested in attending, please contact Raquel Gonzalez at: 732-826-1690 ext. 4306 or rgonzalez@perthamboynj.org.

**ADS SELL!
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446**

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.

Soup Kitchen & Clothing Giveaway

PERTH AMBOY: Soup Kitchen at the Faith Community Worship Center, 310 Sutton St., Perth Amboy. February 27, March 27, April 24, May 29 and June 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info call 732-376-1711.

Easter Festival

WOODBIDGE - Get ready for a fun-filled Easter Celebration Saturday, March 30 at Parker Press Park, 400 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Egg Hunt 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Easter Parade & Pictures with the Easter Bunny from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wear your pretty Bonnet, dress up in your Fancy Clothes and join us at the Park. Prizes will be given. Pictures sponsored by Walgreens. We hope to see you there. For more info call the Woodbridge Recreation Dept. at 732-596-4048. For weather updates call 732-602-6045.

Spring Tryouts for Newark Bears

NEWARK - Attention all future stars and veteran baseball players, the Newark Bears will be holding their annual open Spring Tryouts on April 13, 2013, as we prepare for the 2013 championship campaign. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and tryouts may last until 2 p.m. Looking for players who would fill key roles by adding value to the Newark Bears team, on and off the field. The Spring Tryout pre-registration fee is \$50 and is \$60 for walk-ups. On April 13th, exclusive call back invitations for the following day, April 14th, will be given to chosen players for a closer look. A nearby hotel will offer a discounted rate for overnight plans, either nightly or multiple nights for those who plan to arrive early and/ or wish to stay overnight. Details will be provided shortly after registration has been completed. For more info email info@newarkbears.com or call 973-848-1000.

Summer Employment Opportunity

SAYREVILLE - Applications are being accepted from January 2, 2013 thru February 28, 2013 for Summer Camp Park Counselors. Applicants must be 15 by the start of the Summer Program to qualify. Please return all applications to the Recreation Office by February 28, 2013. No applications will be accepted after this date.

Edison AARP Chapter #3446

EDISON - A trip to the Brownstone will take place on March 20. Call Angie at 732-738-0759 for more information.

Reservations are being taken for a trip to Indian Head Resort in New Hampshire on June 24-28. Call Bob at 732-885-1789 for details. Canned food for M.C.F.O.O.D. and misc. items for veterans, nursing homes, & hospitals will be collected at the meeting

City of South Amboy Notice



SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a public hearing held in South Amboy City Hall, located at 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, New Jersey, on Monday, March 4, 2013, at 4:30 p.m., concerning proposed projects for the Fiscal Year 2013 Community Development Block Grant Application. The hearing is open to the public and formal action will be taken

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

PERTH AMBOY-Blessed John Paul II Parish will have a St. Patrick's Day Mass at 12 Noon at St. Mary's Church followed by a luncheon to be held at St. Stephen's gym on Saturday, March 16. Corned beef and cabbage will be served along with a chicken pasta dish, beverage, Irish soda bread, coffee and dessert. For tickets please contact Mil-lie at 732-826-0282.

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Stamping Thru History - Olive Street 2/23/13

**Photos by Bob Ned & Noelia Colon*



Mayor Diaz with Seniors



Mayor Wilda Diaz speaks



Unveiling the Rosa Parks Stamp



The Academy for Urban Leadership pose with City Officials



The Rosa Parks Stamp



Clarence McKnight, Philately Specialist



Jackie Quiles, Mayor Diaz, Rev. M. Lester, Rev. D. Brown



Seniors pose with the Rosa Parks Stamps

Grand Re-Opening Design Hair Salon - 2/21/13

**Photos By Paul W. Wang*



The Blessing of the Business



Cutting the ribbon

Neighborhood Business Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Wednesday, February 27 at 9 a.m. at Don Manuel Restaurant, 287 State St., Perth Amboy. Come join Mayor Diaz with a one-on-one dialogue with business owners. Topics for discussion are: Security, Recycling, Outdoor Dining and Economic Development Updates. For more info call Roxana at 732-442-6421. Sponsored by the UEZ/BID and City of Perth Amboy.

Kidz Wii Club

SOUTH AMBOY - The Kidz Wii Club will meet every Friday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SAYREVILLE - There will be a St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 16, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main St., Sayreville. The price is Adults:\$10, Seniors/Students/Children under 12: \$8. The menu consists of Corned Beef or Spaghetti & Meatball, Boiled Cabbage & Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Bread, Beverage and Dessert. For questions and tickets please contact Christine at (732)613-8768.

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EDISON - You may qualify for FREE TRAINING. Includes FREE Public Transportation, Books, Childcare, Uniforms (Scrubs) and Medical Kit. Programs throughout the year. Phlebotomy Technician, EKG Technician, Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Computerized Medical Office Program. Success starts here. For more info call 732-906-7735 or email NNJHPC@middlesexcc.edu

Fashion Show

PERTH AMBOY - Join the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) Health Oriented Youth (HOY) Program as we commemorate National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with an afternoon of style on Saturday, March 9th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD), 100 First Street. Perth Amboy. Tickets: \$5. At the door \$7. For more info contact Samarie Rivera at (732) 442-1081. Sponsored by PRAHD, Sense of Style Botique and Dots.

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review: Argo

By: Anton Massopust III
"This is what I do. I've never left anyone behind."

What does the Iranian Hostage Crisis, a CIA fake movie, and make-up master John Chambers all have in common? They are all part of the Oscar-nominated movie, ARGO. Ben Affleck plays a CIA agent who worked on the Iranian Hostage Crisis in the late 1970's/early 1980's. He is also the director of this film. A group of Americans escaped secretly from the American embassy in Tehran, taking shelter at the Canadian embassy, while Iranian students stormed the compound and took the remaining embassy staff hostage. To get them out of Iran, the Department of State teamed up with the CIA to develop a plan to rescue them. Many plans were offered, including disguising them as teachers and agricultural inspectors, but none of the plans were plausible. Ben Affleck's character develops a plan inspired by his son, who was watching the movie BATTLE FOR PLANET OF THE APES. He goes to make-up master John Chambers (played by John Good-

man) and a movie producer, who tells him that to make a good movie, you need a budget, a script, and a good team to make the film come alive. The name ARGO was chosen for the movie, based on a bad CIA joke (which I will not repeat here), which is essentially a science-fiction movie set in a Middle Eastern location. Affleck goes to Turkey and gets fake documents and ID's for the hostages trapped in the Canadian embassy so they can get into the airport disguised as a film crew shooting on location.

Does the plan work? You will have to go to see the movie to find out! ARGO is a spy thriller, but Ben Affleck's character is an ordinary man; he is no James Bond who gets multi-million dollar gadgets to get the job done, but rather has to rely on his own wits. It will make you think about faith, freedom, the American spirit, and above all else, trust. I like the way Affleck set the tone of the movie, set on a story-board style, describing Iran prior to the 1980's. I also like how the character is a full hero, but really just wants to spend time with his wife and son.



Alan Arkin is great as a producer who knows the game, and John Goodman does an excellent job portraying John Chambers; both have some of the best lines in the movie, such as: "Do you want to come to Hollywood and make a fake movie, and act like a big shot while doing nothing? You'll fit right in!" By the time this article is written, this movie will either win or lose at the Academy Awards for Best Picture – I think it should win. It is one of the best dramas I've seen in a long time and I love the pop culture references from the late 1970's/early 1980's. This movie is available on DVD and on On-Demand – be sure to check it out!

Board Vacancies: Volunteer Opportunities

PERTH AMBOY - The Following Vacancies Currently Exist For The Following City Boards: Board of Adjustment 1 Regular Positions, 2 Alternate Positions; Planning Board 1 (Class II) Position, 2 Alternate Positions; Rent Levelling Board 2 Regular Positions, Business Improvement District 2 Regular Positions. Some key responsibilities include: consistent attendance at regular board meetings; participation at the meetings as an active member, participation in the general activities of the organization and preparation in advance before regular board meetings by reading and studying materials regarding key actions

the board may take at the official meeting. Please be advised that these are strictly voluntary positions. Residents interested in becoming members of a specific board must complete and return the Citizen Service Application to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy. The application is available on the city's website: www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us. To learn more about the duties and responsibilities of each board, refer to the Administrative Code (E-Code/Ordinances) of the City of Perth Amboy which is also available on the city's website. Applications Are Due: Monday, March 18, 2013.

Cake Sale

WOODBIDGE - Woodbridge Calvin Hungarian Reformed church, School Street will be having a cake sale. Nut, poppy, and prune rolls @ \$15 ea. Order by Saturday, Mar. 10 & pick up is Friday, Mar. 22 between 12 noon and 5.00 p.m. For more info Call Flo at 732-636-2868.

Colombian Club Fitness Classes

SOUTH AMBOY - Colombian Club Fitness Classes, Mondays: Booty Camp 7:20 p.m. - 8:20 p.m., Light weights and mat required, Tuesdays: Yoga 6:30 p.m. - 7:20 p.m. Mat required, Thursdays: Zumba Fitness 7:20 p.m. - 8:20 p.m. Mat required. Price: \$60 for 8 classes. Part of the proceeds benefit the Colombian Club Council No. 426. Location: Knights of Columbus council No. 426, 308 Fourth Street, South Amboy. If you have questions or for registration information please email zumbasayreville@gmail.com or call Denise 732-525-9536.

Tax Facts

New Law Gives Mixed Tax Results For Capital Gains And Dividends

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanaka

The new tax law passed as the country teetered on the edge of the fiscal cliff – the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) – generally extends favorable tax rates for capital gains and dividends. But the news isn't good for all taxpayers. Some upper-income investors will have to pay a higher tax than other individuals.

Background: Under prior law, investors were taxed at a maximum 15% rate on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends, reduced to 0% for taxpayers in the two lowest 10% and 15% ordinary income tax brackets. These tax breaks, which had been extended several times, were set to "sunset" after 2012. At that point, the maximum tax rate for long-term capital gains would have increased to 20%, or 10% for the lower-income taxpayers, while qualified dividends would have been taxed at ordinary income rates as high as 39.6%.

Now ATRA permanently preserves the lower maximum rates for most investors. However, for single filers with taxable income above \$400,000 and joint filers with taxable income above \$450,000, the maximum rate for long-term gains and qualified dividends jumps to 20%, beginning in 2013.

The other tax rules for capital gains and dividends continue to apply. For instance, you must hold assets for longer than one year to qualify for a long-term gain on a sale, while capital gains and losses are still "netted" at the end of the year. The definition of "qualified dividends" still covers most dividends paid by domestic corporations when you've held the stock more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date.

Summary: Another key tax factor might influence upper-income investors in 2013. A new 3.8% Medicare surtax may apply to a portion of net investment income. Consider all the tax implications as you make investment decisions this year.

IRS Releases Inflation Adjustments To 2013 Tax Numbers

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanaka

The tax law requires that certain tax numbers be adjusted for inflation each year. Here are some of the 2013 tax numbers you'll need to use as you get started with this year's tax planning.

- The standard mileage rate for business driving increases to 56.5¢ per mile for 2013. The rate for medical and moving mileage increases from 23¢ per mile to 24¢ per mile. The general rate for charitable driving remains at 14¢ per mile.

- The maximum earnings subject to social security tax increases to \$113,700. The earnings limit for those under full retirement age is \$15,120. For those at full retirement age, there is no earnings limit.

- The "nanny tax" threshold remains at \$1,800 for 2013. If you pay household workers more than this amount during the year, you're responsible for payroll taxes.

- The "kiddie tax" threshold increases by \$100 for 2013. If your child under age 19 (under age 24 for students) has more than \$2,000 of unearned income this year (e.g., dividends and interest income), the excess could be taxed at your highest rate.

- The maximum individual retirement account (IRA) contribution you can make in 2013 increases to \$5,500 if you're under age 50 and to \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.

- The maximum amount of wages employees can put into a 401(k) plan increases to \$17,500. The 2013 maximum allowed for SIMPLE plans increases to \$12,000. If you are 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$23,000 to a 401(k) and \$14,500 to a SIMPLE plan.

- For 2013, the maximum amount that can be contributed to a health savings account (HSA) increases to \$3,250 for individuals and \$6,450 for families. Those 55 and older can contribute an additional \$1,000.

- The alternative minimum tax exemption for 2013 is \$51,900 for singles and \$80,800 for couples filing joint returns.

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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.

Scholarship Gala

NEW BRUNSWICK - There will be a Scholarship Gala, New Brunswick Lights Shining Bright on Saturday, March 2 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick. Mayor James Cahill '72, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and New Brunswick Tomorrow will be honored. For more information visit www.mcc-foundation.org or call 732-906-2564.

RED

PERTH AMBOY - This exhibition focuses on the colorful and dynamic ideas of love, passion, and lust. RED highlights the work of 12 local fine artists and photographers that were inspired with the color and the allegories on the theme of love. New visions of romanticism and modern love will adorn the walls of the gallery. exhibition runs from Feb 14 to March 4. The gallery is located at 339 Reade St., at the corner of Reade and Fayette Streets.

Picnic Park

Rental Requests

SAYREVILLE - Beginning January 2, 2013 requests will be accepted at the Recreation Office for picnic park rentals at Burkes, Jackson & Bailey Parks. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. More info at www.sayreville.com. Picnics are on a first come, first served basis and take about 4 weeks to get approvals. Please submit all paperwork to the Recreation Office on time. Picnics are rain or shine - no rain dates. Picnic grounds are available from April to September.

Zumba Class

PERTH AMBOY - Here is what you have been waiting for... We have started a brand new Zumba class every Monday at 7 p.m. and will be taught by one of the best Zumba instructors in our area. So, we invite you and all your friends to come work-out with us every Monday night. There is no better way to start of the week than burning some calories, losing weight and eliminating stress while having fun! Admission: \$5 per person. Address: 189 Fayette St., Perth Amboy (Entrance by the Administration building). For questions call: (732) 709-0129

Story Time with Emily

SEWAREN Mark your calendars for Fall 2012 - Spring 2013 Children ages 3- 7 and their accompanying adult can enjoy a story, crafts, games, snack, and so much more on the second Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. at the Sewaren Free Public Library, 546 West Ave. in Sewaren. Our Story Time sessions will be held on: March 9th. Sign up is required for each month. Stop by or call the library at 732-634-7571. This FREE event and all Sewaren Library activities and usage is open to families of all towns, not just Sewaren

Woodbridge International Dance Festival

WOODBIDGE - The 5th Annual Woodbridge International Dance Festival will be on Sunday, March 3 at 1 p.m. at the Woodbridge Middle School, 525 Barron Ave., Woodbridge. Featuring the top local dance schools and professional soloists. Flamenco, Chinese, Bollywood, Mexican, Broadway, HipHop, Irish, Salsa/Mambo, African, Belly Dancing, Ballroom and more. Admission: \$5 - ages 12 and above. Tickets at the Door or in Advance. 732-662-9353 or go to www.dressingroomboutique.biz. Visit Dressing Room Dancewear, 1010 Amboy Ave., Edison. Proceeds Benefit the Woodbridge Committee for the Arts.

Senior Scene

Happenings

- Perth Amboy**
 WED. Feb. 27 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
 • Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
 • St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
 THURS. Feb. 28 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
 MON. Mar. 4 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
 TUES. Mar. 5 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 • Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
 WED. Mar. 6 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.
- South Amboy**
 MON. Mar. 4 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
 WED. Mar. 13 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Woolworth's Five and Dime Circa 1940's
 *Photo courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Public Library
 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.

Atlantic City Trip

HOPELAWN - Bus trip to Trump Plaza sponsored by Hopelawn V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary every second Tuesday of every month. Bus leaves Hopelawn at 12:30 p.m., arrives at Trump Plaza between 2 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. Bus leaves Trump Plaza at 8:30 p.m. Arrives home approximately 10 p.m. For more info call Yolanda at 732-826-1595

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732-896-4446**

Blood Drive

PARLIN - Our Lady of Victory Knights of Columbus is holding a blood drive on Sunday March 3rd from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 pm. The K of C is located at 775 Washington Road, directly across from the Parlin post office. If you have any questions, please call the council home at 732-257-2061.

Raritan Yacht Club Open House

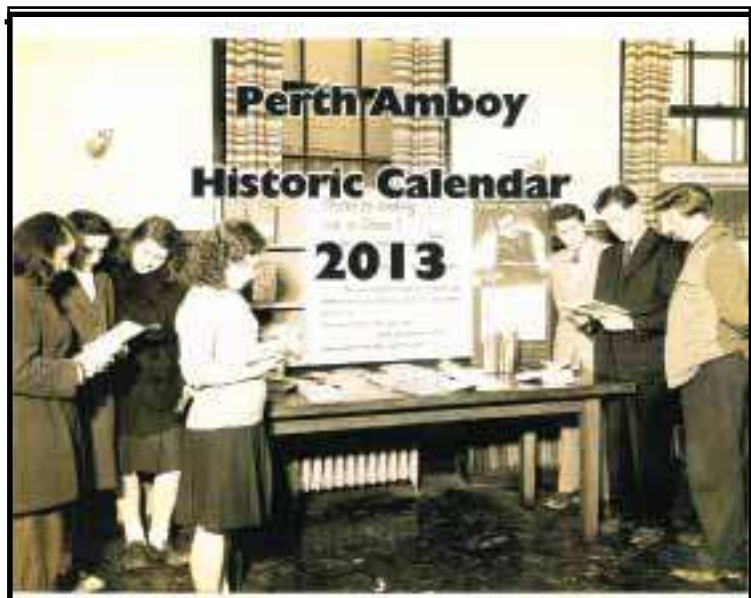
PERTH AMBOY - There will be Raritan Yacht Club Open House, at the RYC, 160 Water St., Perth Amboy on Sunday, March 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Discover how you and your family can begin to enjoy all that the RYC has to offer. Special presentation by Mayor Wilda Diaz. Youth and adult sailing programs, cruising programs, one of the best racing programs in the New York/New Jersey area, full service galley, moorings available for the 2013 season! ... and much much more! For more info call 732-826-2277.

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



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.

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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.*

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

- | | | |
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| 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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Across

- Drenches
- Keyboard keys
- Judy Benjamin's rank (abbr.)
- Brightness
- "Nasty" Nastase
- "___ the land of the free..."
- Ceramic piece
- Baseball bosses (abbr.)
- Opposite of SSW
- Liza of Yes, Dear
- Marcy Walker, on Guiding Light
- Squeeze by
- Dr. payment plan
- Waterston of I'll Fly Away
- Young of The Rogues
- Chueless actress Donovan
- Cough up
- Kerry's party (abbr.)
- Carradine of Suddenly Susan

Down

- Ernie Bilko and Joe Friday, e.g. (abbr.)
- Ken of L.A. Doctors
- Roly-
- Downs and Beaumont
- ___ Service
- Shriek
- Monk's disorder, for short
- Shirt size (abbr.)
- Michael of Broken Arrow
- Neville Brand Western
- Early Edition's Panther, e.g.
- Archie Bunker's stand on the ERA
- Film ___
- 1860 alliance (abbr.)
- Tampico coin
- Rustic hotels
- Lazer ___ Academy
- Cable option
- Gas station sign, once

- Bo Svensen, on Here Come the Brides: Big ___
- Linc's actor (2 words)
- Math course (abbr.)
- Word in the Ben Casey intro
- ___ Street
- Ping-___
- "___, vidi, vici"
- Forest plant
- Heart test (abbr.)
- Stylist on America's Next Top Model
- Librarian's command
- He sells Bart Squishees at the Kwik-E-Mart
- Brittany Snow, on American Dreams
- Flyaway-hair calmer
- ___ Got a Secret
- Mr. Magoo could hardly do it
- Joan Van ___ of Knots Landing
- Command to Buttermilk
- The Six ___ Dollar Man
- Predicament
- Org. for Nicklaus
- Claire of My So-Called Life
- Sgt. Bilko
- Part of CPA (abbr.)
- I Dream of Jeannie agency
- Doe's mate
- Ages and ages
- Uproars
- Roughly (2 words)
- Recipe amount (abbr.)



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PERTH AMBOY - Well kept property by family for generations. Come and see this nice house where only one family proudly occupied. This is an estate sale, sold "as is" no questions asked. Buyer resp. for any repairs, C/O and Smoke Cert. Show and bring offers. Seller willing to negotiate. Fully insulated attic. **\$189,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Grocery store on 1st level is leased for \$1,260 with a 5% increase per year. 2 years remains with 5 years option. 2nd flr. apartment is rented for \$1,400. Mo to mo. owner pays for water, sewer and heat. Approx. \$4,200 annually. Buyer is resp. for code compliance, Termite Cert. and all repairs. Short Sale. **\$189,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Nice multi-family with many upgrades. Close to public transportation, couple of blocks from the train station. **\$339,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Great 3 family in the heart of Perth Amboy. Close to everything, public transportation, shopping and public schools. Fully rented. All separated utilities. Water yrly \$2,800. Ins. 2,400 and electricity \$180. **\$265,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Huge reduction in price. Great deal, a turnkey operation. Great location. Lots of upgrades. State of the art spray booth, 1 tow truck are also included; all equipment and hand tools, with 100K owner is willing to hold the mortgage. **\$299,900**



SOUTH PLAINFIELD - This is a family haven you will adore this dramatic beautiful ranch. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood flrs, full finished basement, sun room, "move-in" condition and much more, "a must see." **\$295,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Hospital section, income producing property, nice . . . Live in one unit & have the other unit help pay for your investment. **\$249,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Location, location. "Move-in" condition. This 2 fam will captivate you as soon as you see how charming it is. Featuring 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and 1.5 bath on 1st flr. One bedroom, bath, living room, bath & kitchen on 2nd flr. Rented for \$850 mo to mo. **\$230,000**