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AMBOY GUARDIAN



• VOL. 3 NO. 38 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013 •

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Police Shooting of Dixon Rodriguez Discussed at Council Meeting 12/11/13

By Ron Miskoff and Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY - City residents, including a family member of a man who was shot last week, demanded Wednesday night that the City do more to improve the delicate situation that has evolved over the tactics used by police.

For one, some people who addressed the City Council asked strenuously that a security video of the incident be released, if not to the general public, then at least to the family of Dixon Rodriguez, 34, the victim.

Police said Rodriguez was special needs. He was shot by two police officers as he tried to lunge at them with a knife, cops said.

Police have released an audio tape of the call that Rodriguez' mother made to 911 in which she describes her son as "violent." But the video of the actual shooting was not made public as of the time of the Council meeting.

"I'm not here to say who is wrong, There was another shooting, but that person was shot in the stomach and survived. My main concern is that the video has not been shown," said Sandra, a spokesperson for the family, who described herself as Rodriguez' cousin. "It has been a week ago today (12/11/13) that he (Dixon Rodriguez) was killed. We are not faulting anyone but we need answers and we need peace. I'm asking for that - to see the video. Perth Amboy is not a bad city."

Resident Dot Daniel said, "In the past we used to have places for the mentally ill to go to." She faulted the late President Ronald Reagan for closing places like Marlboro State Hospital. "Now when we take the mentally ill to a facility, they are only for twenty-eight days. When something bad happens, it's always the police's fault. But that is not always the case."

Chief of Police Benjamin Ruiz made a statement, "I met with the family and this is a

tragedy for the whole City. Unfortunately in New Jersey, the County Prosecutor takes the lead. We cannot give out statements. We are prohibited. They are my boss. The Prosecutor gives evidence to the Attorney General which is their boss. We have met with all parties involved. The Police Chaplains cannot go to the scene. That is not their function. It is not my place or authority to respond to the media. We can't play up to the press. The initial video (audio part) were released for the community to have something."

That means the Perth Amboy police are precluded from

speaking about the investigation without the prosecutor's approval, he said. Ruiz tried to explain the system that the police must follow, though the audience was skeptical.

That, residents said, ratchets up the tension between the city and the police.

Other residents, while accepting the fact that police did, in fact, probably stop a potentially violent situation, contended that relations between citizens and police could be better.

"I've seen police stop people and frisking them with no rea-

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Shooting

Continued from Page 2

son,” said another speaker. “The prosecutor is under the same belief that they [the family] should see the tape,” Ruiz said.

While residents were speaking before the Council, Ruiz, got up from his seat in the audience to sit in by the Council next to the B.A. separating and made his statement from there.

Mayor Wilda Diaz, who was also in attendance at the meeting, did the same.

“There is a process,” Diaz said. “We don’t have control over the process. I know Perth Amboy is going through a difficult time. No Police Officer has intentions of anything like this happening. I met with the family and the officer’s families. We are not investigating. It is out of our hands. We need to respect the integrity of the investigation. We need to respect the privacy of all families and the City of Perth Amboy. Let the Attorney General and the Prosecutor do their job.”

But her comments did not ease the anger of some residents, particularly family, who attended the Council meeting. After the Council took a

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! Happy Winter Days! Has Political Correctness Gone Too Far?

Is it so hard to tell someone, "Merry Christmas?" Nowadays you offend someone if you don't say, "Happy Holidays." Last time I checked, December 25th was Christmas.

I understand the need not to offend people, but have we gone too far? In Frisco, Texas after an ordinance was passed in June 2013 the kids at the Frisco Elementary School were not allowed to say, "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" or, "Happy Holidays," at their "Winter Party" and not allowed to wear red and green or have a Christmas Tree. They were not even allowed to make any reference to any religious celebration.

Are we becoming a nation of drones? Are we so afraid of offending people? And do the people that we think we are offending really feel offended? Maybe a few do, but even if this is so, should this give the government the right to tell you what you can and can't say or do or don't do in public? How far will this go? Are we losing everything that our forefathers fought for because of the simple reason as to not offend someone?

America is supposed to be the land of the free, but how can we say we are free if we can't even say "Merry Christmas" anymore. I know plenty of people who are not Christian that do not take any offense to hearing, "Merry Christmas."

Last I checked you received, "Christmas presents" as a kid - not "Seasonal Gifts." Who are we offending? Back as far as the '70's the streets used to be decorated with "Merry Christmas" - not "Happy Holidays."

Even Halloween isn't the same as when I grew up - Is Christmas next? Even store owners or clerks used to say, "Merry Christmas!" They are now instructed not to offend anyone.

If you ever seen the late comedian George Carlin's routine on Political Correctness (performed in the late 1990's up until his death in 2008) you know what I mean. Some excerpts from Carlin include, "Since when did toilet paper become bathroom tissue? And the dump a landfill?" His whole routine on soft language can be seen on YouTube.

Carlin's genius foretold the future. Look at us now at the end of year 2013. Everything Carlin said about political correctness and soft language has come to pass. Are we lying to ourselves when we soften language?

I know for a fact that we are lying to ourselves when we say that Christmas is not on December 25, and it's not Christmas Season - It's the Winter Holidays.

When I was visiting Newport, Rhode Island, my family took a tour of the Touro Synagogue. George Washington had visited there in 1790. On his visitation, Washington stated, "In the United States we are free to worship God in any way we want." This is in support of the First Amendment.

Have we forgotten this? Are we afraid to celebrate a holiday? Have we forgotten that we are free to celebrate a holiday in the United States in any way we want? At the next Christmas, Holiday, Winter Party I go to - I just may wear red and green - while it's still legal. *Merry Christmas!*

Katherine M. This Editorial has been wholeheartedly approved by Carolyn Maxwell and Paul W. Wang!

The Staff of the Amboy Guardian extends to everyone a very Merry Christmas and the best of 2014 to all of our advertisers, readers and contributors to the paper.



THE COMMUNITY VOICE

No Hard Feelings

It's the season to "Let Go! Let God! Give patience and peace a try. The years have brought about many conflicts in our lives which never seem to fade away. The old grudges, family feuds and misunderstandings stay with us because we don't take the time or are afraid to talk about the unresolved hurts from the past. Now is

the time to set about righting the old hard feelings. I assure you all parties will become away stronger, happier and with a better understanding of what really matters in life. Reach out. You will be amazed to learn that the other party has wanted to forgive and forget but was afraid to make the first move. Let Go! Let God. He will show you the way.

Respectfully:
Robert A. Brown

State Street & Maurer Road Train Tracks

Many of us traveled State Street to go between Perth Amboy, Woodbridge and Carteret. Many of us have experienced a problem while traveling the train tracks that enter Motiva. That is the fact that one set of tracks which are no longer in use are still sitting in the roadway and the pavement is breaking away from the tracks. The second set of tracks, there is a hole that has to be about three inches long and growing. The tracks are completely exposed and there are pieces of rubber sticking out of the roadway. One has to come to a complete stop, take their foot off the break and slowly creep over the tracks, and even when doing so, you

still wind up bouncing all over the place due to the fact that the holes are getting worse.

Now if you travel up the road a little one approaches Maurer Road. The pathway between one end of Perth Amboy to the other. There are a set of tracks there which are in such dismay no matter how slow you go, you end could end up with a flat tire or worse! The tacks have rail road ties and bolts sticking out of the ground, the wood is either rotted or is gone, and it's just a mess. Recently I wrote a letter two Woodbridge Mayor MacCormack, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz as well as Conrail. Conrail has yet to reply to my letters. In conclusion I feel that action needs to be done and we all need to contact Conrail and make them take action!

Brian Hudak

Local Kids Receive A Visit From Santa At The Boys & Girls Clubs Of Perth Amboy



Press Release - 12/11/ 2013
PERTH AMBOY — You can go ahead and keep the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy's name of the naughty list. "Toys for Joy" put smiles on over 100 children's faces.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy hosted "Toys for Joy" it's first annual toy giveaway in collaboration with Edison Jaquez who donated all the toys to bring joy and cheer to local children. The Holidays are a time for sharing, giving and not receiving and most importantly love our neighbors, said



Tashilee Vazquez Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy whose staff and students worked hard to pull the event together. Santa and his elf also known as Emmanuel Nieves and Newmynn Illaraza two BGCPA participants donated their time and said they do it to see the kids smile. They were joined by other BGCPA staff and students, B-Men participants and local volunteers who helped distribute toys and snacks, take pictures with Santa, and entertain the families.

Toys for Joy would not have been possible without the effort and giving spirit of Edison Jaquez, B-men founder and local Perth Amboy resident who collected and donated over 150 toys. Mr. Jaquez shared that as a child his Christmases may not have always been so bright had it not been for individuals who gave from their hearts and vowed to one day be able to give to others as others gave to him. Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy is honored to have advocates and partners that share our mission.

*Photos Submitted

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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.

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Community Calendar

- Perth Amboy**
MON. Jan. 6 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Jan. 7 Board of Education, 6 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
WED. Jan. 8 City Council, Regular 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Jan. 14 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. Dec. 11 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
- South Amboy**
WED. Dec. 18 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway



Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

Sponsors Needed

PERTH AMBOY - Please Join us for the Next Business Meet N' Greet will be Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at The Barge Perth Amboy. Free buffet. The last Meet N' Greet was very successful with over 60 business-people attending. The guest speaker was Milton J. Paris President Getting Ahead in Business. Looking for exclusive sponsors for the next Meet N' Greet for a onetime fee of \$500 for the year. For more info contact Milton at 732-306-0040 or e-mail: milton@gettingaheadinbusiness.com

Knitting Circle Kidz Wii Club

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.

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

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City Council Meeting - Perth Amboy - 12/11/13 - *Continued From Page 3

**Photos by Paul W. Wang & Ron Miskoff*



Some of the Rodriguez family members and supporters sat in the Council Chambers.

(L) A Spokeswoman for the family of Dixon Rodriguez speaks. (R) 2 Council Members, the B.A. and Police Chief Ruiz listen as comments are made about the shooting.

break to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters which included a raise for Ruiz, Diaz was confronted by the Rodriguez family outside the Council Chambers during the closed session.

It was a late starter ordinance of the first reading affecting salary ranges and increments for officers and employees of the City of Perth Amboy Police Chief/Director. The vote was three to two, with Council President Joel Pabon and Councilman William Petrick voting against the measure.

After the meeting when Petrick was asked why he opposed the ordinance, which

cited the police chief position but did not name Ruiz, he answered, "I still need more information."

When pressed to answer whether it was because he had a philosophical disagreement with the ordinance, he said, "I won't go there."

City Business Administrator Gregory Fehrenbach said the old salary for the chief topped out at \$159,475 a year. The new ordinance places the top possible salary at \$161,068, he said.

Whether Ruiz will be paid that amount, Fehrenbach said, is up to the Mayor. The council, he said, only decides the minimum and maximum

amounts; the Mayor's job is to set the actual salary within that range.

He repeatedly said that he did not want to respond to media criticism over the shooting, apparently over the release of the video tape. The tape was apparently shot from a nearby security camera, police said.

Resident David Caba used the moment to criticize the police in general. Caba told the Council, "A tragedy happened on Wilda's Street. I'm disappointed as a resident. Leaders only come out when things are okay. I'm also talking to you. (Gesturing to the Council) Leadership starts at the top. I am not questioning the police

department. but there might be a few bad apples there, too. If the prosecutor's office is handling this, they are in cahoots. They should ask for a thorough investigation. This is going to be a civil rights violation. Where are the Police Chaplain Corps at this tragedy? No one from the Council took a stand. No one came out to comfort the City. If someone shot the police there would be a big news conference."

Ruiz said there are actually 56 leaders of worship in Perth Amboy.

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said to the Council, "We need in this community the police and ad-

ministration to let the community know that they are here to protect them. There are so many unanswered questions. Why weren't other methods used such as batons?" Fernando Gonzalez continued that he used to meet with this young man several times when he would come into a club where Gonzalez was a member. "He (Dixon Rodriguez) was never aggressive. We need to put together a community based group so this could never happen again. This is a bad reflection on the City. A mother seeking help for her son, and the kid gets killed. No matter how you look at it, there is something wrong there."

**CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

IMPORTANT RECYCLING INFORMATION

DATES	GARBAGE	RECYCLING
Christmas Day/Dec. 25	No Collection	No Collection
Thursday, Dec. 26*	Regular Area Collection	Place next to trash
Friday, Dec. 27*	Regular Area Collection	Place next to trash
New Year's Day/Jan. 1	No Collection	No Collection
Thursday, Jan. 2*	Regular Area Collection	Place next to trash
Friday, Jan. 3*	Regular Area Collection	Place next to trash

*** DO NOT MIX/Place recycling and trash containers next to each other.**

RECYCLABLE HOLIDAY MATERIALS

Wrapping Paper • Cardboard Tubes • Gift Boxes • Brown Boxes • Toy Paperboard Boxes • Other Paper Packaging.

Note: DO NOT throw this paper in the garbage.

You may use your left over brown paper leaf bags to place holiday paper recyclables.

For additional information, please contact Department of Public Works at: (732)-826-2010.



Season's Greetings GIFT GUIDE 2013



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---	---	--	---



Diane, owner of Sipos Bakery, Smith Street, Perth Amboy is shown holding 2 of her special holiday cakes. Come in and see other special creations for the holidays.

*Photo by Katherine Massopust

Cookie Walk

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's the Baptist Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy is having a Christmas Cookie Walk on Sat. Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John's Church Hall, Division St. Assortment of Ethnic and Christmas Cookies. Price is \$10 a pound.

Santa Fly-in

Press Release
PRINCETON - Thirty-eight years ago, the idea of having Santa fly into the Princeton Airport for the area children to watch was brought to life. Throughout the years, this has evolved into a wonderful annual event for families and those less fortunate.

The tradition will continue this year on Tuesday, December 24th, when the Nierenberg family, owners of the airport, will open the hangar doors to children awaiting Santa's arrival. Santa is planned to arrive at 11 a.m. Parents are advised to bring the children prior to then, as the Princeton Airport Flying Tigers will be serving cocoa and cookies, and local folk singer Pat McKinley will be leading the audience in holiday songs during the wait for Santa.

Once Santa's plane lands, he will head into the hangar, along with all the participants, to distribute each gift individually. In fairness to all, Santa will distribute the gifts in the order in which they are received at the airport. Children will also have the opportunity to take a picture on Santa's lap. Usually, distribution is completed by 1 p.m. and Santa continues his journey.

There is no charge for this event. The Princeton Airport is located in Montgomery Township, 3.5 miles north of Princeton on Route 206. The full address is 41 Airpark Road, Princeton, N.J., 08540. For further information, call 609-921-3100 or visit www.princetonairport.com.

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•WALNUT
•PRUNE
•CHEESE
•APRICOT

BABKA
•Cheese
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Season's Greetings

Season's Greetings

From the Perth Amboy Democratic Organization



Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez - Chairwoman
 Victor Collado - Vice Chair
 Barbara Sottilaro - Secretary,
 Linda Lester - Treasurer,
 Milady Tejada & Anthony Bermudez - Sgt. at Arms.

Paid for by the Perth Amboy Democratic Organization

Toy Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks #784, 601 Washington Ave. South Amboy, is Collecting Toys for Families in Need. New unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the lodge between the hours of 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. each day of the week. For more info contact the lodge at 732-727-7170. Please Help Us Help Others!!



Christmas Tree Sale

SOUTHAMBOY - South Amboy Elks #784, located at 601 Washington Avenue, South Amboy, will again sell beautiful Christmas Trees (Fraser Fir and Douglas Fir). Grave Blankets will also be on sale. Sale begins Friday, Nov. 29th. Please come and get your Christmas Tree. All monies raised will be donated to the Elk Sponsored Charities, i.e., Brain Injured Children, Veterans, etc. Selling Times: Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fridays 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sundays 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., For more info call 732-727-7170.

Merry Christmas!
 Wishing Everyone the Best in 2014
 From The Republican Organization Of Perth Amboy
 Paid for by the Perth Amboy Republican Organization

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 Wishing Happy Holidays!
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Season's Greetings




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Season's Greetings

Happy Holidays



*Mayor Wilda Diaz & Family
Wilda, Greg, Samantha, Greg Jr.*

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I want to send a message of hope and encouragement, while still appreciating the great things that unite our City, like giving back and spending time with our loved ones. Together, we have reached many milestones and I look forward to the future plans we have in 2014 for our great, historic city. On behalf of the City of Perth Amboy and our City Council, I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Wilda Diaz

Council President Joel Pabon

Council Members

Kenneth L. Gonzalez

Fernando Irizarry

Lisa Nanton

William A. Petrick




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INCLUDES:
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New Year's Eve Party

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Elks will hold a New Year's Eve Party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Elks Lodge, 601 Washington Ave. South Amboy. There will be a hot buffet dinner and dancing, with music provided by Rambo Productions. Tickets are \$50 in advance, no tickets will be sold at the door. To purchase, visit the lodge or call Joyce at 908-614-8139.

Handel's Messiah

Music at Saint Mary's annual performance of Handel's Messiah has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m. Come and experience this wonderful oratorio in beautiful Victorian Gothic surroundings, surrounded by the glow of candlelight. Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy. This concert is free, with donations gratefully accepted at the door. For more information, please call 732-721-0179.

Holiday Train Show Exhibit

WOODBIDGE - The 23rd Annual Holiday Train Show Exhibit at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave. will be from November 30 to December 29. M -F 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat & Sun 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Closed December 25) Opening Reception, December 5 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring Santa, Mrs. Claus and many other surprises. For more info call 732-634-0413. Train show refreshments by Wegmans Food Market.

2nd Annual Breakfast With Santa

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, December 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Office of Recreation Community Room, 1 Olive St. Perth Amboy. In honor of the upcoming holidays, FSC in collaboration with the Recreation Office is hosting a Breakfast with Santa for Middlesex County Families. The event will center on family togetherness and community unity. Families will be able to meet and take pictures with Santa FREE of Charge! FSC will also be providing breakfast and beverages and family activities free of charge to the community. Come join us and share your holiday spirit! Limited seating available, REGISTRATION REQUIRED! 732-324-2114 ext. 128

Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy Healthy New Year!

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 OPEN PREMIUM BAR
 CHAMPAGNE TOAST
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 APPEALING APPETIZER
 SALAD
 ENTREE
 CORNUCOPIA COMBO MEDLEY
 Consist of U.S. Choice Black Anguse Boneless Short Ribs, Salmon with Dill Sauce & Chicken D.J., PARTY FAVORS
 FIREWORKS & CRUISING TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
 (Fireworks Weather Permitting)

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Merry Christmas GIFT GUIDE 2013

2014 NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

**TWO DJ'S!
DUAL DANCE
FLOORS!**

SALAD (select one)

- Ensalada Terrazza
- Ensalada Caesar
- Caldo Gallego

APPETIZER (select one)

- Empanadas Matancera
Crispy homemade Empanadas stuffed with picadillo
- Camarones Al Ajillo
Pan-seared shrimp, fresh garlic, spanish olive oil, smoked paprika

ENTREE (select one)

all entrees are accompanied by rice, black beans, and tostones

Pernil

slow roasted pork shoulder

Ropa Vieja

Slow braised beef, tomatoes, bell peppers, onions, petite peas, and dry sherry

Pollo a la Plancha

Grilled Organic Chicken breast topped with onions, peppers, white wine, and garlic

Churrasco Argentino

Grilled skirt steak with classic "chimichurri" sauce

Pescado Al Ajillo

Filet of Sole sauteed in a white wine, garlic with a hint of lemon

DESSERT (choice of one)

- Flan con caramelo
- Sorbet & Gelato

Complimentary choice of wine for every couple

- Veuve Du Varney Brut (Champagne)
- Mondavi Private Selection (Chardonnay)
- Santa Rita Reserva (Merlot)
- Mark West (Pinot Noir)



**DJ VEGA
&
DJ EDDIE D**



SEATING IS LIMITED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

\$75/PERSON



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Girl Scouts Christmas Caroling

**Photo Submitted*



PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Girl Scouts spread Christmas cheer as they caroled at the Amboy Care Center and also at Arista Care at Alameda Center, two of the City's nursing homes over the past two weeks, over 50 girls participated at each event.

Winter Festival In Sayreville

**Photos by Aaron Beers*



SAYREVILLE - Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow! The snow was falling and Sayreville had the PERFECT Winter Festival! The train toured Kennedy Park with children on board, the carolers' sang, and the park was full of people celebrating this wonderful event. The falling snow only added to the excitement and everyone was in a festive mood. The groups that put the event together did a great job! Everyone had a good time celebrating the upcoming holiday season.

RBMC Perth Amboy Auxiliary - Proprietary House

**Photos by Carolyn Maxwell*



Some of the members pose for a group photo before tea, scones and sandwiches are served



Fundraiser/Committee Member Ana Marie Zevallos



Some of the longtime members enjoying the tea



Tea for Two



Director of Volunteer Services, RBMC Susan Pasternack and Aux. President Carol Ann Bilas

PERTH AMBOY - The Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Auxiliary Celebrated their 125th Anniversary. A High Tea Celebration was held at the Proprietary House on November 23rd. About 50 Auxiliary Members were in attendance. Director of Volunteer Services, Susan Pasternack gave a brief history of the Auxiliary's History and the money raised by the organization to provide funds for various equipment and necessities in RBMC. Some fund raisers included vendor sales, holiday raffles, gift auctions and geranium sales. The Auxiliary begins the Christmas season with a Tree Lighting with Santa Claus and singing of Christmas Carols by Assumption Catholic School children in the lobby of RBMC Perth Amboy.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Branch YMCA will feature a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. The games will be tipping off at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 21st. Teams must wear the same color shirts and will be set up depending on number of teams. Members \$15.00 and Non-Members \$20.00.

Please visit the Welcome Desk of the South Amboy YMCA to register. For more information, contact Mike Manfre at 732-316-8208 or email him at mike.manfre@ymcaofmews.org.

Family Movie Night

PERTH AMBOY - Wednesday, December 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy. Movie Showing: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." FSC invites Middlesex County families for a family movie night at the local YMCA theater every third Wednesday of the month. FSC will provide families with popcorn and drinks free of charge.

Lego Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library of South Amboy is looking for donations of LEGO's for future programs! We are asking that anyone that wishes to donate any regular model making size pieces to please drop them off at the library during our regular business hours. The library is located at 100 Harold G Hoffman Plaza off of O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to the High/Middle school. For hours and directions please visit our website at www.dowdell.org.



Enjoying the Perth Amboy Christmas Parade

**No Paper Next Week
See Your Jan. 1, 2014**

Amboy Spotlight: Amboy Bank

125 Years Later And Still Going Strong

By: Beverly Samuelson and Carolyn Maxwell

SOUTH AMBOY - Amboy Bank is one of the finest financial institutions located in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. The bank started out 125 years ago in South Amboy NJ. It has survived the Great Depression of the 20's and 30's, two World Wars, and past recessions.

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank is a full-service commercial bank. It has 23 offices located in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties.

Amboy Bank prides itself on quality service and responsiveness to the communities they serve. Amboy Bank has been voted "Best Bank in Central Jersey" for the past 16 years in a row.

This is all due to dedicated employees who are proud to be part of such a distinguished financial institution. Amboy Bank trains their employees to be customer focused, so that each and every customer has the professional customer service they expect.

Employees have pride of ownership. 25% of the bank is owned by employees through the ESOP program.

Dennis Kane, Marketing Director, Sylvia Rapoport, Marketing Department, and President of Amboy Bank, George Scharpf Sr. and his son, George Scharpf Jr. were interviewed for this article.

Three generations of the Scharpf's have been employed with the bank for a period over 70 years.

George Scharpf Sr. said, "When my father started with the bank, they had \$4 million. When my father left, it was between \$150 to \$160 million. Now the bank has over \$2 billion. \$40 million alone in South Amboy."

George Scharpf Jr. said, "Mortgages that originate here are kept here. We do not sell them off. The person who approves your mortgage will probably be there for you long term."

George Scharpf Jr. continued, "Some of the programs the bank offers are financial literary books handed out to 30 schools, where many of the teachers request them. This an important learning tool for the students."

During the interview there was mention of how Superstorm Sandy affected some of their clients.

"It was important to take



the stress off of our customers and to work with them in situations such as these. Although some of our employees were affected by Sandy, they took time to volunteer to rebuild houses. 35 people volunteered to help rebuild homes through different projects due to the destruction of the storm offered and we had to narrow it down to 10 employees."

"The bank has been involved in programs dealing with drug abuse and pregnancy counseling and with ARC to help provide housing for them through grants and loans to get them built. We also have been involved with senior citizen building financing. One such project was the affordable Gillette Housing Apartments in Sayreville."

The bank considers itself not part of a big bureaucratic organization. It's not unusual for a customer to call and talk directly to the Bank President.

Employee loyalty has been a keystone of the bank. "18% of the employees have been employed here over 20 years," states Dennis Kane. "One such employee is Peggy Dembowski who has been employed here for 53 years, starting during her senior year of high school."

Peggy was also interviewed. She talked about growing up in the Melrose section of Sayreville. She described South Amboy as "A quaint little town."

When she attended St. Mary's High School, one of the Sisters sent her to work at the then South Amboy Trust Company which had a work program for students interested in finance. Peggy said, "After Superstorm Sandy, my house had over 4 feet of water. 40 years of my life went into the garbage. But I came to work the next day because I had work to do there. -

That's how I was brought up."

How did this bank survive when so many other failed? The bank looked at the communities they serve. Their business decisions are simple. Provide services that best benefits the customer, offer value, quality and constant understanding of the customer's needs.

That includes EVERYONE, the small business owner, the blue collar worker, the homemaker, students, investors, big business and the list goes on.

George Scharpf, President and the Board of Directors have the knowledge and business sense to recognize that by holding onto your base your will succeed.

Over many years Amboy Bank has donated to many causes, participated in community events and projects. Their generosity has helped people, businesses and communities grow and prosper.

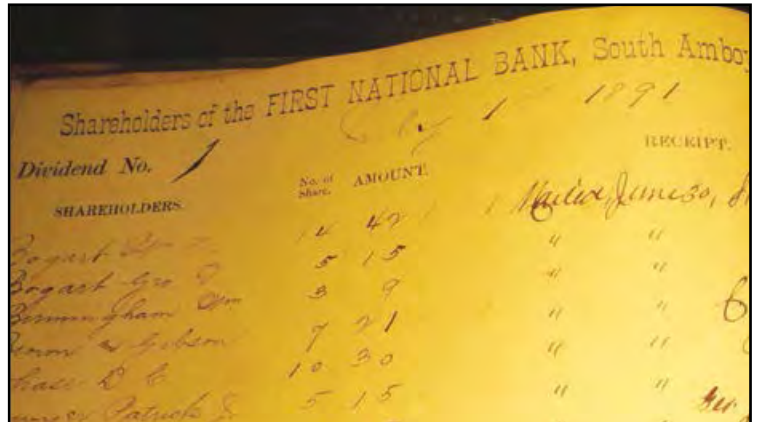
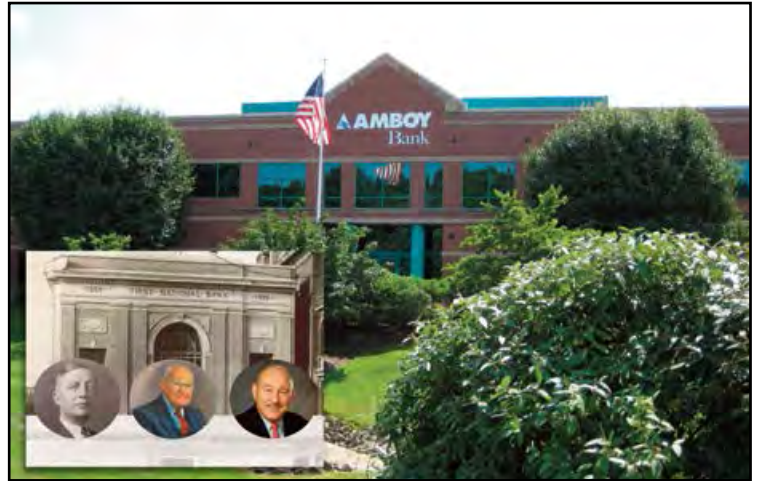
Some of the organizations that Amboy Bank has supported include: Elijah's Kitchen in New Brunswick, the local libraries and YMCA, the Collier Youth Services and the Bankers Build Initiative

Amboy Bank Volunteers for Bankers Build Initiative

As part of the NJBankers "Bankers Build" Initiative, Amboy Bank employees volunteered their time rebuilding a Manasquan home that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy and is being restored by Coastal Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to employees volunteering their time, Amboy Bank made a \$1,000 contribution to Coastal Habitat for Humanity to help them restore the dozens of homes that they are working on along the Jersey shore.

Amboy Foundation Assists Collier Youth Services with Grant



Wickatunk, NJ (April 2012) - Amboy Bank's Erica Muskar, Branch Manager of the Aberdeen Office and Vice President, Joe Mullane present Sr. Debbie Drago with a check for \$10,000 on behalf of the Amboy Foundation. The grant will sponsor camperships for disadvantaged children to attend Kateri Day Camp this summer.

Activities include adventure hikes, nature games, frog-

catching, sports, arts and crafts, special events, daily swim lessons as well as activities and lessons to improve reading skills. It provides a safe, supervised setting, while offering new experiences and helping to develop skills.

Amboy Bank has many services to offer to a variety of customers with specific needs. For more info go to www.AmboyBank.com.

Colombian Club Fitness Classes

SOUTH AMBOY -Various Fitness classes at the Knights of Columbus in South Amboy, 308 Fourth Street, are ongoing. Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.-7:20 p.m. Yoga, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Tabata (Boot Camp) and Thursdays 7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Zumba. 8 classes for \$60. Part of the proceeds benefit the Colombian Club Council No. 426. Pre-registration is required. Please call Denise 732-525-9536 or email zumbasayreville@gmail.com

Charity Basketball Game

SOUTH AMBOY - On December 21, 2013 the Friends of South Amboy will be sponsoring a night of charity basketball and a dinner buffet to benefit Samantha Carey and Kaitlyn Kehoe, two local children who have been diagnosed with cancer. The basketball games will feature teams from Cardinal McCarrick and South Amboy high schools. The event begins at 4 pm with a boys' JV game, followed by girls' varsity at 6 pm and boys' varsity at 8 pm. All games will be played at Cardinal McCarrick high school located at 310 Augusta St. in South Amboy. The dinner will be sponsored by the South Amboy AOH and will run from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the AOH hall located at 271 Second Street. All proceeds from the games and dinner will go to the Carey and Kehoe families. For tickets and information on donations please contact Tom Reilly at 732-721-0853.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- WED. Dec. 18 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.
- THURS. Dec. 19 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Dec. 23 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Jan. 7 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Jan. 8 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. Jan. 9 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Jan. 6 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Jan. 8 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

Please Submit Community Events 2 Weeks in Advance!

Perth Amboy Historic Calendar 2014



2014 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 Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy City Hall, High Street, Ludwig's Pharmacy, 475 Brace Ave. and Fertigs Dept. Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave. For more info call 732-293-1090.

Civil War

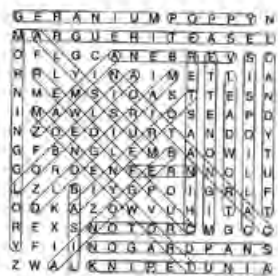
Roundtable

WOODBIDGE - The next meeting of The Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable will be held at the Woodbridge Public Library on Monday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. This month's speaker is Bill Hewitt and his topic will be "Prelude to Gettysburg." All are welcome.

Mother Goose

SOUTH AMBOY - Mother Goose from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 19



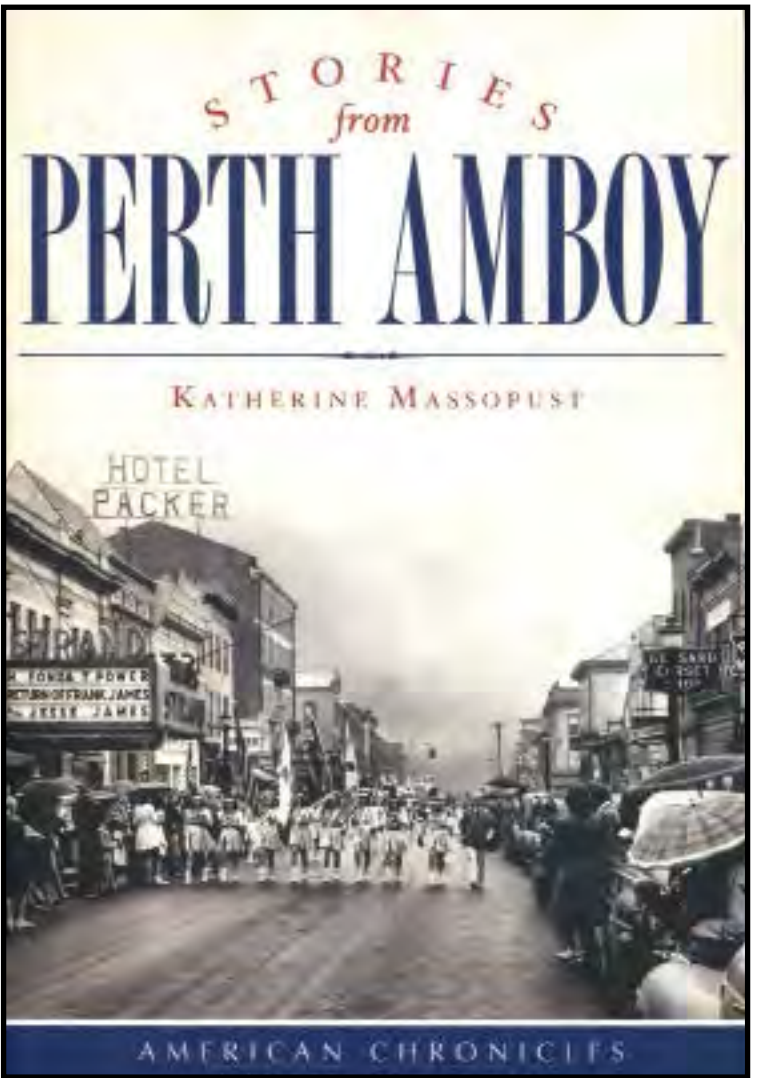
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Blizzard of 1888

*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



Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy. For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - A Great Gift!

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will be holding their 4th Annual

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\$150 sell \$40 732-324-
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**A Petition to
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father of Jesus and guardian
of His mother Mary, I confi-
dently 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, es-
pecially family needs. Good
St. Joseph, I know with confi-
dence, that your prayers on my
behalf will be heard by God
and that He will grant my re-
quest, 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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Please circle one prayer, and return
form with check or money order to:

**The Amboy Guardian
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Perth Amboy, NJ 08862**

May the sacred Heart of
Jesus be adored, glori-
fied, 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 nev-
er been known to fail. Pub-
lication must be promised.*

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

Prayer To St. Claire

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

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Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

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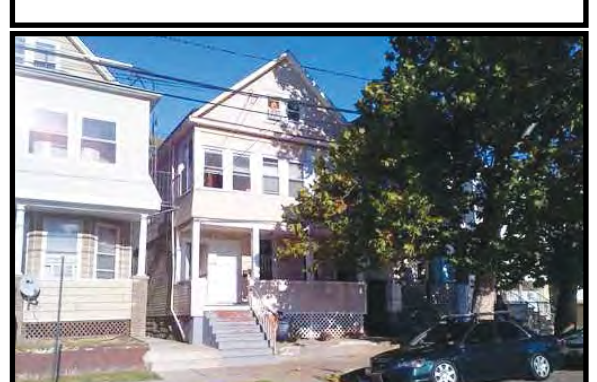
PERT AMBOY - Short sale subject to 3rd party approval. Buyer responsible for all inspections issues & c/o. **\$89,000**



PERTH AMBOY - This Property is in the heart of Perth Amboy, great potential needs some TLC, is being sold in "As IS" condition. **\$189,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Very nice move in condition property. This is a short sale transaction and commission will be half of bank approval if there are any changes. **\$199,000**



ELIZABETH - Great little gem to live in or use as investment. Short Sale with 2 very eager sellers, present all offers. **\$139,900**



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PERTH AMBOY - Great single family house located in a cul-de-sac, 3 brs, large living room, 1.5 bath, full basement off street parking. It will not last!! **\$169,900**



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