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AMBOY GUARDIAN



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Christie Got the Money Administration Mismanaged Funding But the Buck Stops With the Gov *Sandy Bill of Rights At Stake*



Staci Berger, Pres. & CEO
Housing & Community
Development Network of NJ



Mayor Wilda Diaz, Asm. John Wisniewski, Senate Pres. Stephen Sweeney, and Congressman Frank Pallone at Perth Amboy City Hall
**Photos by Carolyn Maxwell*



Mike McNeill, Chair NAACP
State Housing Committee



Sweeney, Pallone, and Berger listen as Perth Amboy Resident George Bonilla speaks of the challenges he has encountered after Superstorm Sandy hit.

PERTH AMBOY - On Wednesday 2/19/14, there was a press conference held at Perth Amboy City Hall. This conference was attended by Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Congressman Frank Pallone and Assemblyman John Wisniewski along with others who were there to talk about the Sandy Bill of Rights. Perth Amboy was chosen as a kickoff tour to explain this bill to the public.

This Bill is a result of helping residents who have been having problems getting needed funds to help rebuilding residences or finding permanent housing.

It has been 18 months since

these residents were displaced from their homes and they were at a standstill.

This Bill has in place a provision to help minorities. Some minorities reportedly were turned down for programs at a higher rate than others even though they were equally qualified.

The major bullet points of this Bill will help a quarter million NJ residents affected by the storm. The list includes individuals, businesses, and whole communities that suffered major damage.

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz made opening remarks. She spoke about the \$10 million worth of damage inflicted

by the storm and how it impacted the residents and businesses. She then introduced Senate President Stephen Sweeney.

Sweeney gave his explanation to why this bill is needed. "People are on a waiting list for assistance but have no idea of what number they are on the list. People were brought in from the outside who weren't knowledgeable on what to do. You can't blame the Federal Government for this. We got the money from them. A contractor was hired and then fired by the Christie Administration. This fired contractor was

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JCP&L Support Much Appreciated Snow Removal Discussed Again The Issue That Perseveres *South Amboy Council Meeting 2/19/14*



SOUTH AMBOY - Gerald Ricciardi, Area Manager for JCP&L Community and Customer Relations presents Mayor Fred Henry with a check to be spent on South Amboy's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.
**Photo by Mariyah Wojcik*

By: Mariyah Wojcik

SOUTH AMBOY- Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) made a donation to the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade, and city snow removal issues were addressed in greater detail at the city council meeting on Feb. 19.

Gerald Ricciardi, area manager for JCP&L community and customer relations presented Mayor Fred Henry with a check to be spent on South Amboy's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year, the company donated \$500 to the event, which will take place on March 8.

"JCP&L has been a true friend to the city," said councilman Mickey Gross. "It has become popular for politicians to take shots at our power companies, but I am proud of JCP&L's involvement in our community."

Henry also acknowledged the help of JCP&L.

"The St. Patrick's Day Parade is always a big event for the city, and we appreciate the help," said Henry.

Gross recalled the company's involvement in the Superstorm

Sandy recovery effort and stated that JCP&L was a great help in providing for the welfare of the residents of South Amboy.

"When the mayor and the council said that we needed ice and water for our residents, they said how many truckloads do you need? Not bags or gallons, truckloads," said Gross.

Conversation quickly shifted to the growing controversy over snow removal. The approval associated with the donation was replaced with outrage and anger both from the council and city employees as well as residents.

In a statement made before the meeting was opened to the public for comments, Henry referred to the city's snow removal response, which has been criticized heavily in recent weeks.

"It's not a perfect science," said Henry. "People shoveling snow into the streets and refusing to move their cars did not make this an easy job for city employees. They did a good job with the resources

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Sandy Bill of Rights

Continued From Page 1

given \$10 million to go away.” Sweeney thanked Pallone for getting Federal money.

“The problem is that the programs set up with this money has been mishandled by the Christie Administration. After all this time people are still on a waiting list for funds.”

Sweeney said, “About the contractors that were fired and given that \$10 million. They would have to sue me to get that money.”

Congressman Frank Pallone said, “Union Beach was hit very hard. Some people are getting money from non-profit groups because they are not getting it from the government. The money that the Christie Administration has been giving out has been mismanaged. We don’t know why that contractor was fired and who replaced them.”

Assemblyman Wisniewski acknowledged how quickly Mayor Diaz and Congressman Pallone took immediate action after the storm hit. “It’s been 18 months and the devastation is still there. This Administration (Christie) has not been able to give answers, but we have learned a lesson on what not to do.”

Others who were there to support the bill included: Mike McNeill (Chair of the NAACP State Housing Committee) and Staci Berger, President and CEO Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.

Some of the speakers relayed some of the complaints told to them by people applying for assistance. This included being told that they were disqualified for certain programs because they didn’t have proper documentations.

In another case, someone reported that they felt that they was being treated like a criminal when they applied to the state for assistance.



Riverkeeper Bill Schultz speaks to Senate President Stephen Sweeney
 *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

The greatest impression was from the speakers who spoke from their personal experiences.

Perth Amboy resident George Bonilla who lived on Front Street (one of the most devastated areas in Perth Amboy) for over 30 years has been out of that home for 18 months.

Bonilla told his of experience when he went to apply for different programs, “A lot of times they told me that I earned too much money. Fortunately, the long term recovery group was able to give me money to pay for a rental. We’re always giving money to other countries. But what about us? This should not be happening in America. I’m still paying on a house that I can’t live in. The insurance companies want their money regardless.”

There was a question and answer period.

Sweeney was asked if Christie were to blame. Sweeney said, “I don’t blame Governor Christie personally, but I blame his Administration. They used outside contractors instead of inside contractors and inside non-profits. He should have sued the contractors instead of giving them \$10 million after firing them. Funds were brought in, but are sitting on the sidelines.”

Congressman Pallone interjected, “It is the Governor who

is responsible for how his Administration is running these programs.”

Sweeney also said that, “Integrity monitors were put in place with this bill, which is something that we asked for a while ago. We have to get the money we have sitting here now to the people.”

Staci Berger said, “People who are renters and homeowners are vying for the same units.”

A question was asked about the money used for the commercials featuring Governor Christie with his family (Stronger than the Storm).

Staci Berger said, “We can’t recover any of the CDBG funds used for those commercials but we need money to help people get back into their homes.”

Sweeney also said, “We passed bills that the Governor vetoed but I’m pretty sure that the Governor will pass this Sandy Bill of Rights intact.”

Another problem was that literature printed in Spanish had inadequate information and misinformation.

This Bill would also impose fines on anyone who violates any clauses in the Bill.

The Amboy Guardian was given a draft of the Sandy Bill of Rights by Staci Berger. The Bill can be found at: ftp://www.njleg.state.nj.us/20142015/A1000/818_11.PDF

South Amboy

Continued From Page 1

that they had to work with.”

Ken Feeley, a resident, disapproved of the mayor’s comment and made compelling statements based upon his personal experiences during the most recent storm.

“They (city workers) do as good a job as they can, but it’s still a bad job,” said Feeley. “My street was like a hockey rink, my neighbor had to get out his plow on his time to clear snow, and I had to help push people’s cars down the street because they were stuck and sliding.”

Although Feeley alleged that no salt had been placed on the city streets, James Charmello, a city employee, disagreed with the statement.

According to Charmello, all of the city streets had been salted in the middle of the night, but the salt is only activated with sunlight, and therefore had little effect until morning. The rate of snowfall, as well as the small number of crew members involved, all contributed to what residents thought was a lack of action.

“The crew did the best they could, and that’s what they did,” said Councilman Donald

Applegate, who agreed with Charmello.

The meeting came to a close without any agreement between the council, Charmello, and Feeley.

With snow in the forecast for the coming weeks, residents will soon find out if better snow removal policies or larger, more efficient crews will be implemented.

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 Meetings
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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 732-72 1-6060.

E-Book Classes

SOUTH AMBOY - There are free E-Book Classes on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY - The St. Ann's Society of Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption sponsored Gift Auction will be held on Sunday, March 2 at Assumption Catholic School Auditorium, 380 Meredith St., Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. and auction starts at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$6. Cake and coffee are included. Great prizes will feature Sony Blue Ray DVD player, Raffles and more. The kitchen will be open for lunch, featuring cabbage & noodles, kielbasa & sauerkraut. Tickets are available in advance from St. Ann's members or at the door. For more information call the rectory, 732-826- 0767.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The Plight - 3 Points



Point 1 - As I was listening to the speakers at the Wednesday, 2/19/14 Sandy Bill Kick-off Tour at Perth Amboy City Hall, there was a gentleman from Seaside who spoke. He said, "My main residence was not affected by Superstorm Sandy, but my rental property was." What about those people who run into roadblocks when that secondary property is destroyed?

What many people forgot is that a person's rental property may be their only source or a major part of their income. It will be a hardship on them. So what list would they be put on? Will there be programs geared to them specifically? This is something to ponder.

I know people who have lost their summer homes which they would rent out part time. Some of those people have told me, "Thank God I still have a roof over my head." Even though they will miss their home away from home, but they have other income to fall back on.

Point 2 - It's not only outsiders who are unscrupulous. As I was listening to Senate President Sweeney he mentioned an outside contractor that was fired by the Christie Administration and was given \$10 million to go away.

I could understand Sweeney's frustration and agreed with him that the State should have not given that contractor a cent.

What is even more disturbing is when local contractors



take advantage of people during disasters such as this. They charge huge sums of money to cleanup people's property after disasters.

I was talking to a friend who said someone he knew paid \$17,000 to a local contractor to have debris removed from their property after the storm. This contractor dumped the debris into the street in the city where they resided. That city wound up discarding that garbage. The contractor knew that homeowners were desperate and would pay any price for cleanup. That was disgraceful.

Point 3 - We have to thank the outsiders who came to our rescue. This includes utility workers and even school kids who traveled from the South to bring much needed supplies to Sayreville.

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn and came with volunteers from Habitat for Humanity from other states who joined the local chapter to help rebuild New Jersey. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Regarding BID Letter

Regarding Virginia Lugo's Business Improvement District (BID) letter of a past Guardian issue, I would like applaud her effort to rectify

the BID purpose and functioning mechanisms. Ms. Lugo's analysis also expresses that the BID structural rules are clear - yet violated. Whether this state of affairs is a lack of understanding or with intent, it is sad either way. The BID

is meant to be a local, unified business promotional association, so needed in Perth Amboy.

Tracy Jordan, Resident,
Perth Amboy

The Fireman's Museum

The Fireman's Museum is a rather active place. Every Tuesday night, unless there is a fire, several firemen get together and work at the Museum. In the past 5 years, we have restored a 1926 Ahren's Fox Pumper that is the centerpiece of the museum. The Fire

Dept. has had collections at ShopRite and has held 3 spaghetti suppers. Through the generosity of the Odd Fellows, the Estate of the late City Historian, Jack M. Dudas and donations by interested citizens we have been able to organize our collections at the museum. Display cases have been donated. We have been able to start the gold leafing of the Ahren's Fox. The "Fox" has

already participated in the Memorial Day Parade and Christmas Parade. The Museum was open during the Fireman's Open House. We hope to be open to the public in the near future.

I am disappointed that MOPA wasn't aware of our activities.

Anton J. Massopust
City Historian
a.k.a. Lt. A.J. Massopust PAFD

Statement from Proprietary House on Dissolution of M.O.P.A.

Mr. Ward recently wrote a letter listing the accomplishments of M.O.P.A. and noted its dissolution. I am the current head of the Proprietary House Association and in that capacity I had attended several M.O.P.A. meetings between February and June of 2013. This is the reason that I had contacted the City administration to inquire about the rumor that the group had been dissolved and to ask what happened to their funds. I was advised that it was the position of the administration that M.O.P.A. was an independent body and that I should contact them. I sent a letter to their mailing address 260 High St. A short time later I received an e-mail from the administration informing me that a meeting was going to be held to dissolve M.O.P.A. I would have liked to attend the meeting but as with most of their meetings it was held in the afternoon.

I would first like to point out that Mr. Ward is a past president of the Association, but he was removed for cause and has not spoken for the Association in a number of years. In his letter Mr. Ward stated that he liquidated M.O.P.A.'s bank account and sent token payments of \$1.00 to each of the three museums in the City. I have received his check for \$1.00 and a copy of a bank statement showing a balance of approximately \$59.00 for December 2013.

The reason that I inquired about the finances of M.O.P.A. is that on two separate occasions they solicited donations stating the intended purpose of benefiting the Proprietary House and or the Association.

A request for donations was made on City stationary with the City seal and with the mayor's name to support a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the building of the House. As I had stated previously the City states that they are an independent body and indeed they are a New Jersey Non-Profit corporation. It would appear to me that City stationary was used to create the belief that this was a City sponsored organization. I must also point out that there was no yearlong celebration.

In January of 2013 a letter was sent out seeking donations for repairs to the damage done to the Proprietary House by Sandy so that the museum could be reopened. There was no damage to the House and the Museum was never closed. Mr. Ward did send a letter to the state offering to pay for some needed repairs to the building, none of these repairs were required by Sandy and all repairs have been made without any assistance from M.O.P.A.

Mr. Ward also stated that grants were made to all three museums in the City. Since we knew of no such grant to either the Association or the state I asked Mr. Ward what he was talking about. He stated that over \$600.00 was spent on a lobbying effort for the passage of a bill that would bring state monies to the Association. The issue of the bill is much too

complicated to get into here. I have no idea what these lobbying efforts consisted of.

The February meeting which I attended had a treasurer's report and a statement from Mr. Ward that several thousands of dollars were raised as a result of this letter about Sandy damage.

I am seeking to find out what happened to the money raised in name of the Proprietary House, because we had not seen any of it.


One last point I would like to make is that Mr. Ward stated that M.O.P.A. was responsible for the renewed ceremonial ringing of the Liberty bell on the Fourth of July. He is clearly very mistaken. The ringing of the bell was revived in July of 2001, at the request of Mr. Livingston a descendant of one of the signers of the Declaration. The first few years of this ceremony was a small affair done by myself and Pastor Wayne Brady and grew as time went on.

In 2009 when M.O.P.A. became involved I was un-invited from participating.

As a representative of the Proprietary House Association I would like to know what happened to the money raised in our name and have not received a satisfactory answer to that question.

If there is anyone who would like to know more about the Proprietary House Association or have questions about what I have said, please contact me at davidszilagyicomcast.net.

Sincerely,
David Szilagy
President Proprietary House Association.



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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.

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

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.

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 or 732-324-3505.

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.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

- WED. Feb. 26 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED. Mar. 5 Planning Board, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Mar. 6 Board of Education, 6 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
• Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
MON. Mar. 10 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Mar. 11 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.
THURS. Zoning Board, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

- WED. Mar. 5 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Mar. 19 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
MON. Mar. 24 Board of Education, 6 p.m.
SA Middle/High School, Harold Hoffman Pl.

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Red²

PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy Gallery is proud to launch the 2014 Winter Programs with an exhibit dedicated to LOVE. Red² opening reception will be on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Exhibit runs from Feb. 13 to Feb. 28 at the Perth Amboy Center for the Arts, 339 Reade St., Perth Amboy. For more info call 732-826-1690 xt. 4325.

Sweetheart Dance

PERTH AMBOY - Never too late to celebrate! Moose Lodge Sweetheart Dance Friday, February 28, 7 p.m. \$50 couple. Let's keep it local. Dinner and dancing all night. 989 Convery Blvd. Call 732-826-7876 or 732-442-2827 for more info and tickets.

Kick the Habit: Tobacco

OLD BRIDGE - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a free stop smoking support program "Kick the Habit: Tobacco" Monday, March 3, 5 to 6 p.m., at the medical center's Old Bridge location, 3 Hospital Plaza. For more information and to register for the program, call 1-800-DOCTORS.

Friday Lenten Dinners

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be Friday Lenten Dinners every Friday starting March 7th and Running Through April 19th at South Amboy Elks #784 at 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Takeout orders are available For more info call the Lodge at 732-727-7170.

Don Bosco Prep Announces Area Honor Roll Students Perth Amboy Youth Honored for Academic Achievement During 2013-2014 School Year

News Release 2/21/2014
RAMSEY, N.J – Don Bosco Prep has announced the students who have been named to the Honor Roll for the second marking period of the 2013-2014 school year.

"Students who achieve Honor status are recognized for their outstanding academic performance," said Principal John Stanczak. "We are proud that so many of our students have earned this designation, and applaud their dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence."

The following grade averages must be maintained to be placed on the honor roll: Principal's List requires a weighted average of 96 with no grade

below 93; First Honors requires a weighted average of 93 with no grade below 90; and Second Honors requires a weighted average of 90 with no grade below 85. All of the students listed have achieved Second Honors level or above.

Marcus Valdez of Perth Amboy, a freshman, has earned First Honors.

Don Bosco Prep, founded in 1915, is a private, Catholic college preparatory high school for young men, grades 9 through 12. Dedicated to empowering young men, the school provides rigorous academics at the AP, honors and college prep levels, and encourages participation in extracurricular activities, clubs,

athletics and arts. Administered by the Salesians of St. John Bosco, a religious order of priests and brothers, Don Bosco Prep is solidly founded on Catholic philosophy. Accredited by The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Don Bosco Prep is a member of The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, The National Catholic Education Association, The National Association of Secondary School Principals, The National Honor Society, The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and The Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League.

Pallone, Menendez Announce \$10.8 Million for Continued Middlesex County Utilities Authority Projects

News Release 2/11/14
WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) and U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) announced that the Middlesex County Utilities Authority will receive more than \$10.8 million in federal funding for continued projects as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The funding is being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) via the Sandy aid package Pallone fought for in Congress.

"These grants help to lessen the financial hit that our local governments still face as communities continue to recover from Sandy," said Congressman Pallone. "As we continue to rebuild, we have a unique opportunity to improve our public infrastructure so it is stronger and can withstand future storms. I am grateful that FEMA recognizes the impor-

tance of these ongoing efforts in New Jersey."

"This funding will help rebuild a critical public facility severely damaged by Sandy," Sen. Menendez said. "I remain committed to ensuring our state continues to receive the resources necessary to ensure New Jersey maintains its path to full recovery, better and stronger than before the storm."

The Middlesex County Utilities Authority will receive \$10,801,817.51 in federal funding for continued repairs to the Sayreville pump station that was damaged as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The Sayreville Pump Station was inundated by floodwaters rising nearly four feet above ground level in October 2012. While over 50% of repairs to the damaged facility have been completed, there are repairs that still need to be made

to ensure that the station can withstand future storms. The work to be done includes repairing all large pumps, replacing small pumps, cleaning, lubricating and repairing all switchgear, removing and replacing actuators, and completing the replacement of all wiring and motor control centers.

This grant is in addition to the \$2.4 million that the Middlesex County Utilities Authority received in 2013 to repair the damaged pump station, provide bypass pumping for the Sayreville sewage treatment plant, and install and operate a surge diversion facility to minimize surges to the pump station in the event of a future storm. The Middlesex County Utilities Authority pumps sewage from 30 municipalities in Middlesex and Somerset Counties.

Pallone Announces \$9.4 Million in Federal Funding for New Jersey Schools

News Release 2//21/14
WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) announced that low-achieving schools in the state of New Jersey will receive \$9,485,864 in federal funding through the Department of Education's School Improvement Grants (SIG) program. New Jersey is one of nine states across the country that will receive more than \$71 million in funding through the SIG program.

"Our children and our communities should not have to wait for better schools," said Congressman Pallone. "I am pleased that the Department

of Education has selected New Jersey to receive this federal grant and given our state the opportunity to improve the schools that need it most. It is our responsibility to improve the education of all students and give every child the best chances for the future."

These grants through the SIG program are awarded to state educational agencies (SEAs) that then make competitive

subgrants to school districts that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to substantially raise the achievement of students in their lowest-performing schools. Under the SIG program, an SEA must allocate at least 95 percent of its school improvement funds directly to the school districts.

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



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.

Amboy Guardian Subscriptions are only \$65 per year for 50 issues mailed to anywhere in the U.S.A.
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 There will be Saturday Night Trips to A. C. on the First Sat. Night of Each Month at 9 p.m.
 Bus leaves from 252 Smith St., Perth Amboy

Mon. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. to Sands Casino, Bethlehem, P. A.
 Pick-Up locations
 For Atlantic City/ Sands Casino, Bethlehem, P. A.
 Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Fortis, Sayreville, Old Bridge

Xbox Galaxy
 SOUTH AMBOY- Xbox Galaxy at 3 p.m. on Mondays at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Meet NFL All Stars
 PERTH AMBOY - Meet NFL All Stars Evan Rodriguez of the Buffalo Bills and Kashif Moore of the Pittsburgh Steelers. They will be appearing at the Perth Amboy YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy on Thursday, Feb. 27th at 7 p.m. Open to the public. Time to make a change and get inspired. For more info call 732-324-2114 ext. 128.

Get in the Game
 SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Branch YMCA is starting an Adult Basketball League (Ages 18+) beginning February 14. The weekly games will be played on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with times determined by the number of teams that are registered. Scores and standings will be recorded online and games will be refereed. The teams can have 5-12 players each and teams must submit a roster prior to start of the season. The cost is \$700 per team (\$100 deposit due at registration). Balance due before your first game (*includes team shirts and ref fees). If you have any questions please contact Mike Manfre, Physical Director at 732-316-8208 or mike.manfre@ymcaofmews.org.

Spring Auction
 EDISON - Our Lady of Peace School's Annual Spring Auction: "40 and Fabulous" will be held Saturday, March 29. Our Lady of Peace Parish Center, 656 Amboy avenue, Edison. Doors open at 4:00 p.m...Calling starts at 6:00 p.m. Admission Tickets \$15 in Advance and \$20 at the Door. Admission includes 1 sheet (25) small prize tickets, unlimited coffee and desserts. Bring your own food & drink. (soda & water available for purchase) NO ONE UNDER 18 WILL BE ADMITTED. Seating is reserved...tables seat 10. Prizes include Disney Hopper Passes, theater tickets, NY Skyride, and a whole lot more!!! For tickets and more information call Meaghan DiCarlo 732-343-4372 or email meaghandicarlo@gmail.com

NJ on Shuffle Concert Series
 WOODBRIDGE - Friday, March 7 - Jazz - the Tim Horner Quintet at 7:30 p.m. at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. FREE admission for all events - \$5 Suggested Donation. In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be held indoors and seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis. Call 732-634-0413 for Reservation Information. This program is funded in part by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex Co. Cultural and Heritage Commission with assistance thru a grant provided by NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State.

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.

Fundraiser
 PERTH AMBOY - The PTO of Perth Amboy High School is having a flapjack fundraiser breakfast at Applebees, Woodbridge Center on Saturday, March 15 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$10 pp. Meal includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage (coffee, orange juice, soda or tea). Tickets valid for pancake event only. Applebees menu items are not included as part of purchase. For more info call 732-376-6030 ext. 23800 or e-mail pahs-pto@paps.net

Free Blood Pressure Screenings
 PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing free blood pressure screenings Tuesday, March 4, 9 to 11 a.m., at Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy, NJ. High blood pressure is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of this free screening to know your pressure levels and basic steps to regulate and maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

Historical Exhibit: Hooked on the Presidents
 WOODBRIDGE - February 8-27, 2014 at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Fiber artists Nola Heibredner and Linda Pietz present a series of 44 rugs depicting the men who took the oath of office as President of the United States. Heibredner & Pietz present the presidents as people rather than names we memorize out of history books. Learn more about the likes, dislikes, pets & other fun facts about the Presidents. Available for school or group viewing. For more info Call (732)634-0413.

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15th Annual Shrove Tuesday

Potato Pancake & Fresh Kolbasz Supper
 Hosted by Missions
 Tuesday, March 4, 2014
 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Magyar Reformed Church Center
 Cor. Fayette St. & Kirkland Place
 Perth Amboy, New Jersey
 Donation \$10
 Reservations required
 For more information call:
 Pat: 732-442-0224 or Pam: 732-257-7182



LENTEN DINNERS
 EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT
 SERVED FROM 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 Magyar Reformed Church Center
 Cover of Fayette Street and Kirkland Place
 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
 Dessert, Coffee and Tea will be served with each meal.
 Dinners are as follows:
 Friday, March 7, 2014 - Breaded Flounder
 Friday, March 14, 2014 - Shrimp Scampi
 Friday, March 21, 2014 - Stuffed Shells (Spinach & Cheese)
 Friday, March 28, 2014 - Spaghetti and Cheese Balls
 Friday, April 4, 2014 - Breaded Flounder
 Friday, April 11, 2014 - Cabbage Noodles
 Donation - \$13 per dinner
 6 Dinners for \$70 (One dinner for each week)
 Children 12 and under - \$6
 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
 NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR
 For More Info and Reservations Please Call:
 Pat - 732-442-0224



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.

Healthy Heart Education
 WOODBRIDGE - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a healthy heart education event Saturday, March 8, 12 noon to 4 p.m., at the Woodbridge Center Mall, 250 Woodbridge Center Drive.

Officer Henry Rodgers Honored by PRAHD

PERTH AMBOY - Officer Rodgers is a product of Public and Catholic Schools in Perth Amboy. St. Michael's Catholic School influenced Rodgers, making him aware of culture, religion and family.

While attending Perth Amboy High School, he became interested in sports (football and wrestling) which taught him teamwork, sportsmanship and how to persevere.

Rodgers was introduced to the NJROTC by a retired Naval Officer, Commander Paul. The NJROTC helped Rodgers in building his character.

He studied Elementary Education and Child Psychology while attending the Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Rodgers decided that Law Enforcement is what he wanted to pursue.

His father, Rev. Henry Rodgers II was a role model. Henry looked up to his dad, who had a 31 year career with the NJ State Dept. of Corrections.

After joining the Perth Amboy Police Dept. in 1992 Rodgers became involved in many community programs. Some of them include the D.A.R.E. Program, Don't Talk To Strangers and Bicycle Safety to name a few.

He has also taken courses to deal with terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. These courses are sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Justice for Domestic Preparedness.

Rodgers has been recognized for his work in the community by the following organizations: the Perth Amboy NAACP, the PBA Local 13, the FOP Lodge 80, the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce, PRAHD at their annual Roberto Clemente Gala and PAMA.

Rodgers is a member of the Cathedral International Church, Perth Amboy NAACP, the National Black Law Enforcement Officers and the NJ National Latino Law Enforcement Association.

The Rodgers family includes his wife: Nitzaliz Lopez-Rodgers and their children Summer Joy and Evan Henri Yosiah.

**Information for this article was taken obtained from PRAHD*

PRAHD Honors Henry Rodgers - Perth Amboy 2/21/14

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



PRAHD Staff Maritza Rodriguez, CEO Yvonne Lopez, Dir. of Dev. Juan Carlos Nordelo, Honoree Officer Henry Rodgers, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, NJ Center for Hispanic Policy, Research & Development, Exec. Dir. of Hispanic Affairs, Abraham Lopez



Police Officer Montalvo, Henry Rodgers and Chief Ben Ruiz



Proud Parents Rev. Henry Rodgers II & Min. Pinkie Mae Jackson Rodgers



Yvonne Lopez presents Henry Rodgers with the Arturo Alfonso Schomburg African American History Month Award



Officer Henry Rodgers with children: Summer Joy and Evan Henri Yosiah



Officer Henry Rodgers with his family, colleagues and other supporters listen as speakers pay tribute to him

Dominican Flag Raising - Perth Amboy City Hall Circle - 1/23/14

**Photos by Eric Salvary*



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Call Carolyn
732-896-4446**

Teach To One” Open House

PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday, February 27, 2014 McGinnis Middle School will be having a *rescheduled date*: “Teach To One” Open House. Teach To One is a newly designed program from this school year. The open house will take place in the “Teach To One” classrooms at the William C. McGinnis School from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. The Purpose is to expose the public and parents to the newly equipped classrooms and to explain the philosophy of the “Teach to One” program.



A Legacy of Resilience 2

PERTH AMBOY - This has been postponed to Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Perth Amboy YMCA Theater, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Program by Kearny Cottage Historical Association. A Legacy of Resilience 2: Celebrating Ethnic Diversity and Heritage. Light refreshments will be served.

Murder Mystery Dinner

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Fire Dept. 125th Anniversary Committee presents Whodunit at the Disco? An Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner! A night for thrills, chills and laughs! 70's Attire Optional and VERY WELCOME! Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Sacred Heart Annex; Washington Ave., South Amboy. Cost: \$40 pp. Seating is limited. Ticket includes Hot Buffet Dinner, Dessert, Beer, Wine, Soda, Interactive Theater Performance. Tickets on sale now! Contact Anne Marie Trapp: 732-207-2848 or Mike Geraltowski 848-250-9903 or email: SAFD125th@gmail.com or visit www.southamboyfd125thanniversary.com

Our Lady of Peace School Tours

FORDS - Our Lady of Peace School Tours, Amboy Ave, Fords - Available starting Monday, March 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come experience the magic!! Come See your Future at Our Lady of Peace School....Before and aftercare available. Early Childhood Education ...Prek3 & Prek4 available thru 8th grade. Full size gym and cafeteria. Monthly First Friday Masses...Religion for all grades. Spanish, Art, Music, Computers. Advanced Math and Language Arts for Middle School Grades. Sports Programs ...including basketball, bowling, cheerleading, softball, and track! Our Lady of Peace School...serving the children of Woodbridge and the Surrounding Communities for 80 Years!!! For more info Call #732-738-7464 today to set up your personal tour of our recently update classrooms and school campus.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration Update

PERTH AMBOY—Blessed John Paul II Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 15 with Mass at noon at St. Mary's Church, 104 Center St. It will be followed by a luncheon at St. Stephen's cafeteria, 490 State St. Our honoree this year is Dianne Mansmann. The menu includes traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage or Chicken and Pasta, Irish Soda Bread, cake and coffee. The price of a ticket is \$20. Call the parish office at 732-442-0039 or Millie at 732-826-0282 for reservations.

Favorite Foods and Libations of Presidential Families

WOODBIDGE - Put aside partisan political views and look at the lighter side of the presidential office. Learn about some of the favorite foods and beverages of past presidential families. Learn how the Presidents entertained at State dinners and how they entertained family and friends. Did you know that George Washington loved honey, and Martha had a great fondness for cake? A favorite beverage of President Garfield was tea; he even had his own recipe for an herb tea that included catnip. Thomas Jefferson never invited more than 12 guests for dinner. Come learn about other past presidential families and their favorite fare. Presented by Food Historian Judith Krall-Russo. Limited Seating - Reservations Required 732-634-0143, Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge.

Civil War Roundtable

WOODBIDGE - The next meeting of The Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table will be held at the Woodbridge Public Library on Monday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Paul Martin and his topic for the evening will be “Star-Crossed Generals at South Mountain.” All are welcome.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

SOUTH AMBOY - 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, March 8th at 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the Parade Committee and help organize and present this wonderful event should contact Councilman Mickey Gross at 732-721-5031.

Trip to Disney's Aladdin

WOODBIDGE - There will be a trip to Disney's Aladdin on Thursday, March 6. Sponsored by the Woodbridge Township Recreation Department, 600 Main St., Woodbridge. Bus leaves the Community Center at 4 p.m. Show starts 8 p.m. \$80 pp. Space is limited! There are no refunds once payment is received. For more info call 732-596-4048 or email RecreationDepartment@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

Reading Fundamentals/Book Reading Club

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library & Good Shepherd Parish Family Ministries invite all children Pre-K through Grade 8 for Reading Fundamentals/Book Reading Club on Sunday, March 9th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Spirit Church Hall. This event encourages children to read and empowers parents by learning reading fundamentals. Reading aloud with children inspires them to read on their own and become better readers, better listeners and better students.

Registration is necessary. Please contact the Parish Office at 732-826-4859 or e-mail friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com by March 5th.

Books will be available for reading or you can bring your favorite book. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the parish food pantry. The church hall is located at 580 Hazel Ave. in Perth Amboy.

Our Lady of Peace Soup Can Donations

*Photos Submitted



FORDS - A “Soup Can Drive” was held this month at Our Lady of Peace School in Fords. A grand total of 738 cans of soup were collected in all !!! The class who collected the most cans were treated to a “nut day”...which is an out of uniform day at OLP School. That honor went to Ms. Kristina Olenchak's 2nd grade class whom collected 147!!! The 8th grade students packed up the soup cans to be delivered by Mrs. Theresa Borg to the St. Cecilia's Food Pantry. Mrs. Borg has a long history with Our Lady of Peace School. Her daughter Kristina Borg not only attended Our Lady of Peace School but has been a long time 6th grade teacher at OLP.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SAYREVILLE - There will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main Street, Sayreville on Saturday, March 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost: Adults \$10 Seniors/Students/Children under 12 \$8. Dinner Includes: Corned Beef or Spaghetti, Boiled Cabbage & Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Rye Bread or Roll, Beverage and Dessert. For questions or additional tickets, please contact Christine Glace at (732)613-8768.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

WOODBIDGE - Flag Raising Ceremony at Town Hall is March 9 (starts at 9 a.m.) Parade is March 9 at Woodbridge High School (steps off at 1:30 p.m.) Ends at Woodbridge Town Hall. 2014 PARADE HONOREES - Grand Marshal : Frank Darcy; Irish Man Of The Year : Larry Miloscia; Irish Woman of the Year : Nancy Egan; Miss American Irish : Jessica Jacko; Lady In Waiting : Rebecca Gardner. For more info go to www.amerirish.com/id4.html.

Progressive Careers Institute Grand Opening - Hopelawn 2/22/14 *Photos by Joe Bayona



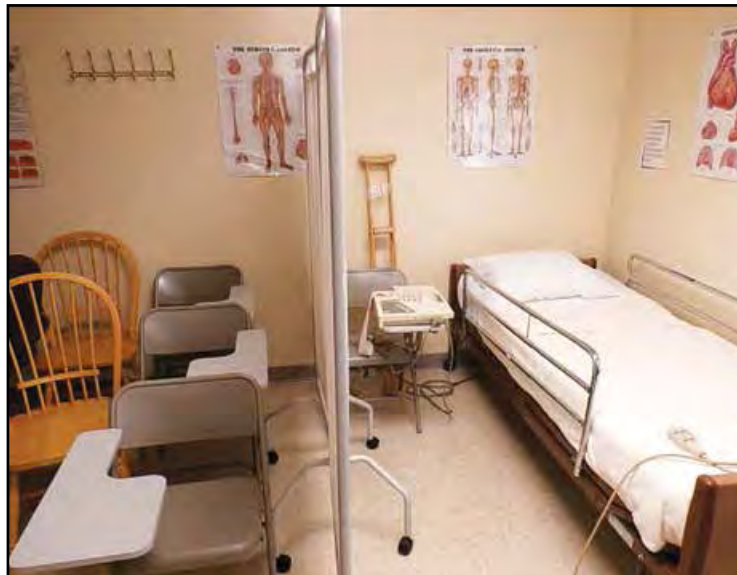
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 "I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become" Carl Jung
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 Email: progressive.careers.institute@gmail.com
 Visit us: www.progressivecareersinstitute.com
 40 New Brunswick Ave. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

HOPELAWN - A new state of the art medical career training facility opened its doors on Saturday, February 22, 2014. It is centrally located and close to all major highways and public transportation.

Progressive Careers Institute LLC opens on New Brunswick Ave. in Hopelawn.



Dr. Qaiser Rana director of Progressive Careers Institute, and wife Bushra, look on as their sons, Uzair and Taha, help Woodbridge Mayor McCormac cut the ribbon.



Progressive Careers Institute has state of the art teaching facilities.



Dr. Qaiser J. Rana with his wife Bushra Qaiser Rana and their two sons, Uzair and Taha.



Some of the guests at the grand opening.

NJ Flower & Garden Show - 2/14 - 2/16/14 Raritan Center Expo Center - Edison

**Photos by Carolyn Maxwell & Katherine Massopust*



EDISON - The Groundskeeper located in Matawan, NJ won Best in Show for the 14th consecutive year



Creating a light in the design of the Mets' colors for a customer

**NJ Flower Show
 Raritan Expo Center
 2/14 - 2/16**



Snow knocked out the first day of the show, but it once you stepped inside the doors, it was springtime.



The I EXCEL CHILD CARE LLC, announces the sponsorship of the **Child Care Food Program**. This program is designed to provide meals to children in child care centers, recreation programs, etc. Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 and under enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and are served without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

ELIGIBILITY INCOME SCALE		
Effective from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014		
Family Size	Free Yearly Income	Reduced Yearly Income
1	\$14,937	\$21,257
2	\$20,163	\$28,694
3	\$25,389	\$36,131
4	\$30,615	\$43,568
Each Additional		
Family Member	\$5,226	\$7,437

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is operated in accordance with the USDA policy, which does not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability in the meal service, admissions policy or use of any Adult Food Program facility. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call, toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice), (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (Relay Voice Users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Beth Mordecai's Homecoming Weekend

PERTH AMBOY - Register Now! at www.bethmordecai.org. March 14 - 16, 2014 Featuring special guests: Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz, Cantor Avima Rudavsky Darnov, Rabbi Melinda Zalma. A Saturday Night Gala Schmooze Cruise... and it's Purim. Don't Miss the boat! For more info please call: 732-442-1373.

NJ on Shuffle

WOODBIDGE - NJ on Shuffle Concert Series at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Featuring the Tim Horner Quintet. Friday, March 7th at 7:30 p.m. Admission is FREE. Reservations Required Call: 732-643-0413. Jazz Percussionist Tim Horner offers his knowledge and skill as one of NJ's in-demand jazz drummers.

Wellness Through Tai Chi & Qigong

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Division of Integrative Medicine is providing a free introductory Wellness Through Tai Chi and Qigong class Monday, March 3, 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy, NJ. Tai Chi is practiced as a complete system of therapeutic movements. Qigong is the study and practice of nurturing life energy. Both include meditation and emphasize a calm mind and spirit and deep, slow even breathing, relaxation correct posture stability and balance. To register or for more information, call 1-800-DOC-TORS, (1.800.362.8677).

Chili Cook-Off

WOODBIDGE - 7th Annual Woodbridge Charity Chili Cook-off Sunday, March 2 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., J.J. Bitting, 33 Main St., Woodbridge. Sample the best chili Woodbridge has to offer. \$8 Admission. Enter to Win \$600 in prizes. Door Prizes. Live DJ. \$20 Participation fee to enter the competition and show-off your Chili skills! Applications available at the Woodbridge Community Center, Recreation Dept. or at the Brewpub. Questions? Contact Niven Raghbi at 732-596-4047.

Vegetarian Lifestyle & Going Green

SOUTH AMBOY - Vegetarian Lifestyle & Going Green - Tuesday, March 25th at 7 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, Adjacent to the South Amboy High School off John T. O'Leary Blvd. A diet that is high in plant based proteins and organic, non-GMO foods has many benefits for healthy living. Join Susan Rose retired executive, who will cover the basics to help you transition to a compassionate chemical free diet including nutrition and meal planning. She will also present a simple meditation technique that can be practiced at home by young and old. Susan has been a vegetarian and has been meditating for over 40 years. She has conducted numerous talks and workshops on the vegetarian diet and the vegetarian lifestyle around the world. For more info call 732-721-6060 or email: comments@dowdell.org

Poet's

Wednesday

WOODBIDGE - March 12 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Workshop 7 p.m. Featuring Edwin Romond & Martha Silano. Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more info call 732-634-0413.

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

WOODBIDGE - The Annual Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Join us in support of the Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission & The Barron Arts Center. A Traditional St. Patrick's Day Feast. Reservations Required. Call (732)634-0413.

The Affordable Health Care Act & Your 2013 Taxes

PARLIN - Saturday, March 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Rd., Parlin. Join Glenn Bartram of Accredited Tax and Financial Services, LLC of East Brunswick, NJ to learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act for individuals, families, and small businesses as it relates to the bottom dollar impact on taxes. Questions on deductions, and taxes, faced by individuals, and small employers will be answered. If you have any questions or would like to register, contact Alaina at 732-727-0212 ext. 25 or email her at alainad@lmax.org. Adults only, please.

KOC Membership Drive

FORDS - The Knights of Columbus Council 9199 is currently holding an open membership drive. The Knights of Columbus Council at Our Lady of Peace in Fords was chartered in 1986 and ever since has been a supporter of our parish, church, school, ministries and other groups within. With over 200 members already listed, they are a very active council and run a variety of fund raisers to help support these endeavors. They are always looking for new members to join and share their ideas to make our parish stronger. Contact our Membership Chairman Tom Robinson PGK at 908-510-9653 or Grand Knight Mike Chundak PGK at 732-221-0976

Tax Facts

Use IRS Adjusted Numbers For 2014 Tax Planning

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka

Certain tax numbers are adjusted by the IRS for inflation each year. Here are some of the 2014 tax numbers you'll need to use as you get started with this year's tax planning.

- The standard mileage rate for business driving decreases to 56¢ per mile for 2014. The rate for medical and moving mileage decreases from 24¢ per mile to 23.5¢ per mile. The general rate for charitable driving remains at 14¢ per mile.
- The maximum earnings subject to social security tax in 2014 increases to \$117,000. The earnings limit for those under full retirement age is \$15,480. For those at full retirement age, there is no earnings limit.
- The "nanny tax" threshold increases to \$1,900 for 2014. If you pay household workers more than this amount during the year, you're responsible for payroll taxes.
- The "kiddie tax" threshold for 2014 remains unchanged at \$2,000. If your child under age 19 (under age 24 for stu-

dents) 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 2014 remains at \$5,500 if you're under age 50 and at \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.
- The maximum amount of wages employees can put into a 401(k) plan remains unchanged at \$17,500. The 2014 maximum allowed for SIMPLE plans remains at \$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 2014, the maximum amount that can be contributed to a health savings account (HSA) increases to \$3,300 for individuals and \$6,550 for families. Those 55 and older can contribute an additional \$1,000.
- The alternative minimum tax exemption for 2014 is \$52,800 for singles and \$82,100 for couples filing joint returns.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church takes Ash Wednesday to the Perth Amboy Train Station

News Release

PERTH AMBOY - On Ash Wednesday, March 5, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, will be offering "Ashes to Go," a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, from 6 am to 9 am at the Perth Amboy Train Station.

St. Peter's, a community that has been worshipping in Perth Amboy since 1685, is joining the nationwide movement that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to repent of past wrongdoing and seek forgiveness and renewal.

In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. For centuries, Christians have received a cross of ashes on the face at the beginning of that season as a reminder of mortal failings and an invitation to receive God's forgiveness. Ashes to Go provides the opportunity

to participate in that tradition for people who have lost their connection to a church, or have never participated before.

"Ashes to Go is about bringing the important traditions of our faith out from behind church walls and into the places we need them every day," says the Rev. Emily Mellott, who maintains the website AshesToGo.org with resources and stories about this ministry. "As people get busier and busier, we need the church in new and non-traditional ways. We especially need reminders of forgiveness in the tough places of our working lives. The people who accept ashes on the street are often people longing to make a connection between their faith and the forces of daily life, and Ashes to Go helps them feel that connection."

Contact Rev. Anne-Marie Jeffery/ ajeffery@stpetersepisopal.com/ 732 826 1594 for more information about this event. More information about the Ashes to Go movement can be found at www.AshesToGo.org

Are You At Risk? Find Out With A Free Test on American Diabetes Association Alert Day - March 25

By: Dr. Reema Patel

The American Diabetes Association Alert Day® is a one-day “wake-up call” asking the American public to take the Diabetes Risk Test to find out if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes, a condition characterized by high blood glucose levels caused by either a lack of insulin or the body’s inability to use insulin efficiently. Type 2 diabetes develops most often in middle-aged and older adults but can appear in young people.

Held this year Tuesday, March 25, the Diabetes Risk Test asks users to answer simple questions about weight, age, family history and other potential risk factors for pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes. The test can be taken by visiting www.diabetes.org/are-you-at-risk/diabetes-risk-test/.

Preventive tips are provided for everyone who takes the test, including encouraging those at high risk to talk with their health care provider. For

every test taken, Boar’s Head Brand® will donate \$5 to the American Diabetes Association starting March 25 through April 25, up to \$50,000.

Diabetes occurs because of the inability of the body to either make or properly use insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas which helps in the absorption of glucose from the blood stream. Deficiency in the amount or action of insulin results in high blood sugar levels, a tell-tale sign of diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, in 2011 close to 20 million people in the U.S. were diagnosed with diabetes, and an estimated seven million still remain undiagnosed.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic leg amputations, new cases of blindness, and a major cause of heart disease and stroke. Asian Americans, African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are high-risk ethnic groups for develop-

ing diabetes.

Symptoms of diabetes can include increased thirst and frequency of urination, feeling tired, weight loss, blurry vision, tingling/numbness in the hands or feet, and wounds or cuts that heal slower than usual.

Reema Patel, M.D., is on staff at Raritan Bay Medical Center, with offices in Old Bridge and South Amboy, NJ. She is board certified in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism and Internal Medicine. The medical center recently became an affiliate of the Joslin Diabetes Center, the world’s preeminent diabetes research and clinical care organization, to provide the latest advances in diabetes treatment, patient education and support services. Dr. Patel is fluent in English, Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu. To make an appointment, call 732-360-4070 or 1-800-DOTORS.

Three Good Reasons To Share Dinner with Your Family Tonight

By: Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri

Many young people struggle with excess weight. Almost 1 in 3 children ages 5 to 11 is considered to be overweight or obese. Weighing too much increases the chances that young people will develop some health problems — now and later in life.

During March, National Nutrition Month and throughout the year consider eating dinners as a family. A study in the journal Pediatrics shows that sharing regular family meals improves children’s nutrition, reduces the risk of childhood obesity, and encourages healthy eating habits.

The results show children and adolescents who share at least three family meals per week are more likely to be a healthy weight and less likely to have disordered eating (an early sign of potential eating disorders) than those who shared mealtimes less frequently.

Overall, families that eat five or more meals together have children who are 25% less likely to encounter nutritional health issues than children who eat less than or equal to one meal with their families.

Shared family meals seem to operate as a protective factor for overweight, unhealthy eating, and disordered eating, helping children build important habits for later life.

As a parent or other caregiver, you can do a lot to help your child reach and maintain a healthy weight. Healthy eating and physical activities are necessary for your child’s well-being.

Sit down together for dinner tonight and take an important step to help your child — and your whole family — learn healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Dr. Adeyeri is a board-certified and fellowship-trained laparoscopic, bariatric and general surgeon and serves as medical director of the Institute for Weight Loss at Raritan Bay Medical Center. The Institute provides individualized medical and surgical solutions and support for individuals seeking weight loss, including nutrition and lifestyle counseling. For more information or to attend a free bariatric surgery seminar, call 855.TIME.4.ME.

Tax Facts

Tax Time Is A Good Time To Talk Finances With Your Spouse

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka

Losing a spouse can be hard enough, but losing a spouse and not knowing how to manage the family’s finances can lead to despair. As you gather your tax records this year, take a few extra steps to help your spouse avoid added stress after you’re gone.

In many households one spouse takes care of the finances, such as paying bills, filing important papers, and tracking investments. It’s essential that the other spouse at least knows the location of these papers and how to access the assets. To provide structure to your records, start with a balance sheet listing of all bank accounts, insurance policies, and investment hold-

ings, including applicable online passwords. Also list your physical assets and the location of ownership titles.

Having a complete record of assets is important, but so is knowing how to manage those assets. Make a list of things you consider important that your spouse might not know about. This might include such things as how to manage retirement distributions and estate issues. You might also list the names of people who should be notified of your passing. Simple things, like routine chores to perform at the vacation home or recreational vehicle, might provide comforting guidance. Educating your spouse on financial matters can also be a satisfying social opportunity.

Join with other like-minded couples to establish an investment club where everyone participates in the decision making. Such venues often lead to important conversations about managing money - discussions not always easy when it’s just you and your spouse.

Candid conversations about family finances are sometimes better facilitated in front of a trusted financial advisor. Including your advisor will not only provide another set of eyes, but can help provide structure and documentation that the other spouse can rely upon in an emergency. Our office stands ready to assist you with this important financial matter.

Novena to St. Anthony

(For Any Need)

St. Anthony, you are glorious for your miracles and for the condescension of Jesus Who came as a little child to lie in your arms. Obtain for me from His bounty the grace which I ardently desire. You were so compassionate toward sinners, do not regard my unworthiness. Let the glory of God be magnified by you in connection with the particular request that I earnestly present to you. *(State your request here.)*

As a pledge of my gratitude, I promise to live more faithfully in accordance with the teachings of the Church, and to be devoted to the service of the poor whom you loved and still love so greatly. Bless this resolution of mine that I may be faithful to it until death.

St. Anthony, consoler of all the afflicted, pray for me.

St. Anthony, helper of all who invoke you, pray for me.

St. Anthony, whom the Infant Jesus loved and honored so much, pray for me. Amen.

R.K.B.

Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God’s grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. *(Mention your request.)*

Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.

Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each.

K.M. & C.M.

We Keep You Moving

OLD BRIDGE - The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a free “We Keep You Moving” Total Joint Replacement Education session Wednesday, March 5, 8 to 11 a.m., at the medical center’s Old Bridge location, 3 Hospital Plaza. Sessions will be presented by clinical specialists. Registration required, call 732.535.4746

Pierogi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy is having a pierogi sale from Monday, Feb. 24th to Friday, Feb. 28th. To place your order Call 732-826-7067 between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All gourmet items are handmade. Potato Pierogi - \$7. Pickup date is Tuesday Mar. 4th to Wednesday Mar. 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pick up your order at 404 Division St., Perth Amboy.

Comedy Night

SOUTH AMBOY - Mechanicsville Hose Company #1 South Amboy Fire Department will have a Comedy Night on Saturday, March 1 at Memorial Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 531 Washington Avenue, South Amboy at 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Donation: \$40 pp. Includes: Buffet, Beverages - Beer, Wine /Soda - 2 Comedians / DJ For Tickets Call Bob: (908)-296-4254. Seating Is Limited. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**Remember
to Say
Your Novenas!**

Gone But Not Forgotten - Harold G. Lincoln

By: Jerome Billings

PERTH AMBOY - When you think of Black History one cannot ignore the fact that Mr. Harold G. Lincoln, his late wife Mrs. Ethel K. Lincoln and hundreds of dedicated citizens, club members fought for housing, jobs education, health and against discrimination. It was not an easy task.

He was President of the Perth Amboy Colored Democratic Club. Later becoming President of United Democratic Clubs until his

death on January 22, 1980. Harold helped anyone that needed help. He gave his last to help the needy when they fought for the first Black Police Officer, the late Walter Gibson, First Black Fireman, George, etc. He always stressed - put 100% in any job, help open the doors for others to follow family members included as well as others.

Mr. Lincoln organized the first Black Drum and Bugle Corp. He met with the President the Flagstaff

Foods Corp. They were the corps sponsors. Boys and girls from Perth Amboy and all over rushed to join Mr. Lincoln help to mold their lives. All was very proud happy. The Corps name was Flagstaff Drum and Bugle Corp of Perth Amboy. They became state champs - beautiful in every way.

Rest in Peace Mr. Lincoln. And an honor to know you. It will take a great man to walk in your shoes.



Harold G. Lincoln



The Flagstaff Drum & Bugle Corps marched in the 1945 Welcome Home Parade in Woodbridge *Photos Courtesy of Jerome Billings

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- WED. Feb. 26 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. 27 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Mar. 3 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Mar. 4 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Mar. 5 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. Mar. 6 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Mar. 3 St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Mar. 12 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!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15



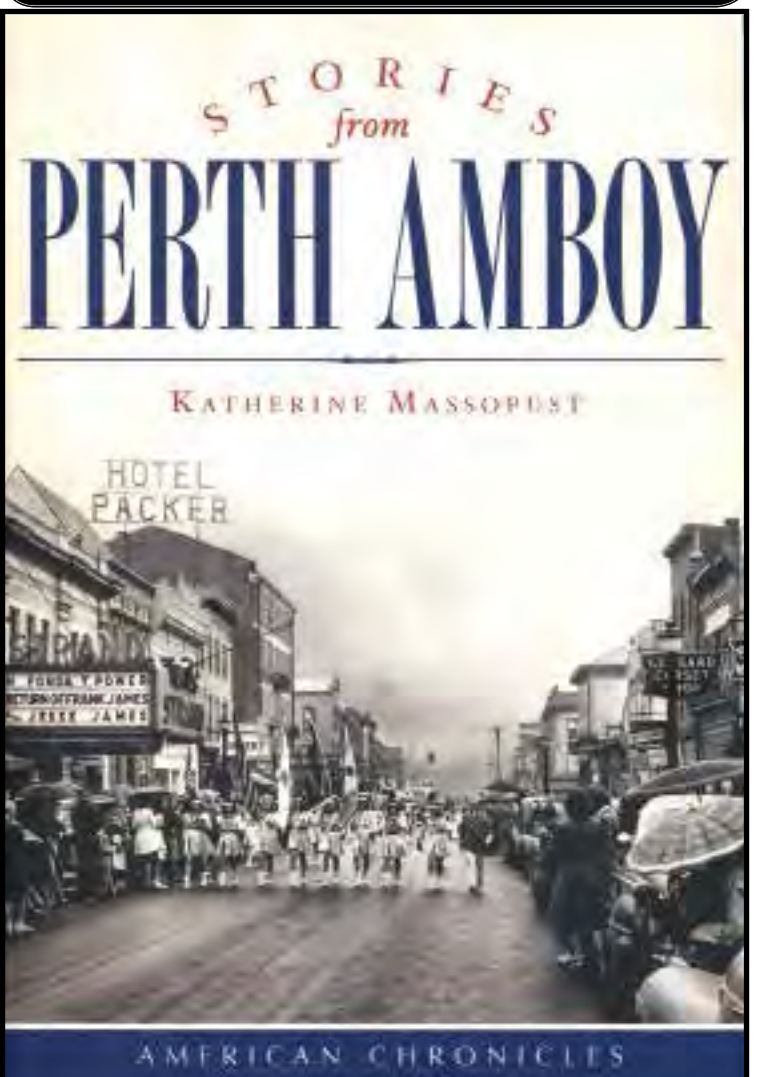
**Celebrate
Black History
Month!**

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Big Moment - Harold G. Lincoln (Center) of Perth Amboy is surrounded by Assemblyman Norman Tanzman, City Democratic Chairman Stanley Starego, Assemblyman Robert Wilentz and James Conover at dinner honoring Lincoln at he Bel-Air Manor. Circa late 1960's

*Photo Courtesy of Jerome Billings



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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200 lbs of free weights. \$10 Joe M. 732-423-1767.

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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to St. Joseph	Cost \$10. Pre-payment required.	A Petition to St. Jude
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.	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Initials at end of prayer _____ Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to: The Amboy Guardian P.O. Box 127 Perth Amboy, NJ 08862	May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. <i>Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.</i> 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	Thanksgiving Novena	Novena To St. Joseph
St. Jude Novena	Pray The Rosary	OTHER _____

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ACROSS

- 1 Military rank (abbr.)
- 4 Dusting powder
- 8 Furtive whisper
- 12 Turn soil
- 13 Butter's rival
- 14 Least bit
- 15 Long time
- 16 Cap and _____
- 17 Wolverine's group, with "The" (hyph.)
- 18 Ruckus
- 20 Birds and bees
- 22 Ship's letters
- 23 "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
- 24 Firefighter's weapon
- 27 Letters after a dentist's name
- 28 Follower of (suffix)
- 31 Hit makers
- 32 Strive
- 33 Cars from Munich
- 34 Hockey great Bobby
- 35 Cozy place
- 36 Some summer babies
- 37 Sailor's affirmatives
- 39 _____ Paulo
- 41 Whirlpools
- 43 Christmas beverage
- 47 Guy
- 48 Shamrock land
- 50 Departure's

opposite (abbr.)

- 51 "____ keep" (pro-crastinator's motto)
- 52 Fancy
- 53 Skid causer
- 54 Watched
- 55 White flakes
- 56 Order's partner

DOWN

- 1 Professional cook
- 2 Opposite of wealthy
- 3 Singer Horne
- 4 Caesar's

garments

- 5 At _____ (puzzled, 2 wds.)
- 6 Writer Wallace
- 7 Entrust secrets
- 8 Elf's cousin
- 9 At any date in the future
- 10 Pun or gang ender
- 11 Works with leather
- 19 Hints
- 21 Pounds (abbr.)
- 24 "Entourage" channel (abbr.)
- 25 Dinghy accessory

26 Sit astride

- 27 Tumult
- 29 Tango need
- 30 Double curve
- 32 Ships
- 33 Internet journal
- 35 Grade an egghead never gets
- 38 Give way
- 39 Watchmaker
- 40 Politician Spiro
- 41 Falco or Adams
- 42 Obligation
- 44 Finger feature
- 45 Killer whale
- 46 Expanded
- 49 "____ Tin Tin"

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