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Weekly Newspaper

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AMBOY GUARDIAN



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Stormy Whether or Not!

The BID War - Which Side is in the Right?



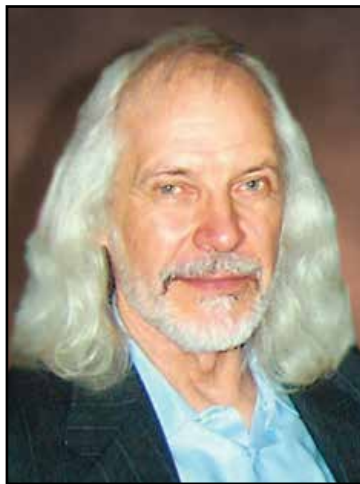
Barry Rosengarten



Virginia Lugo



Ken Balut



Alan Silber



B.A. Greg Fehrenbach

PERTH AMBOY - First it was the Housing Authority problems that became the focal point at previous Council Meetings. Now, it is problems within the BID that is overtaking the Council Meetings.

There is one thing that the BID and the Housing Authority have in common. One member in each group questions the operations taking place in each group.

BID Board Member Virginia Lugo read a statement at a City Council Meeting (*See 2/19/14 Amboy Guardian p.4. (BID Under Fire)*)

In that statement, Ms. Lugo started out by saying that she is not speaking as a representative of the BID Board but as a business owner. She is representing the businesses and people that do not have a voice. She gave a punch-list of what she viewed as violations and discrepancies of the BID by-laws.

A few of the items listed are: 1.) Elections of Board Members; 2.) Taxes that BID Members are charged which they are not aware of; 3.) What she perceives as BID funds not being used properly.

After Ms. Lugo's statements were read, this caused concern of the Council. Some Council Members agreed that the BID Chair (Barry Rosengarten) should appear at a future meeting to respond to Lugo's

charges.

At the 2/26/14 City Council Meeting, BID Chair Barry Rosengarten read a four and a half page statement to answer Lugo's accusations.

Rosengarten's letter started out stating, "I'm standing before you tonight to respond to the Council's request to address the public statements made to this Council by Virginia Lugo, who as you know is a member of the BID Board of Directors."

Rosengarten continued, "Ms. Lugo correctly stated in her letter that there have been inconsistencies in the operations of the Business Improvement District (BID). She failed to state that operating as an "Advisory Council" caused an inability to strictly conform to the BID by-laws. She also failed to state that the SID/BID by-laws were written to create the regulatory elements for operations as a Semi Autonomous self governing entity. They were not written to address operations as an "Advisory Council." Sometime in 2008, the BID converted from self governance to governance under the authority of the Administration and Council. Although the change did not impact our ability to service our area of responsibility. It changed the operations and procedures for selection of members, Board of Directors

and election of Officers from election by the BID Membership to "Appointment by the Mayor."

"Recently and with the intent to more closely conform to the still existing by-laws, we have once again transitioned to a Semi Autonomous Business Board."

"In that transition, Ms. Lugo has brought to our attention certain procedural differences between our operating as an "Advisory Council" and the operations of the BID as a Semi Autonomous Board."

"As Chairman of the By-Laws Special Committee, Ms. Lugo knows, we are in the process of addressing and updating the areas which have been identified. The Board has adopted to the transitions without losing any contact of the taxpaying members and has consistently maintained the programs, initiatives and performance standards that it is charged to accomplish." (*This is taken from the first page of Mr. Rosengarten's statement to the Council. See Page 6. for additional information. For the statement in its entirety go to www.amboyguardian.com*)

The clock was set at five minutes which is the allotted time given for a speaker for that portion of the meeting. When the time ran out, Rosengarten continued to talk until he was interrupted by Council

President Joel Pabon who told Rosengarten his time was up.

Rosengarten asked for additional time, (which he stated he would need about five more minutes) the Council was none too happy. Rosengarten was granted an additional five minutes when he told the Council, "You're the one who requested that I respond to Lugo's accusations. The only way I can do that is if you let me finish this statement. This will answer all of your questions."

Some of the statements made by Lugo that Rosengarten challenged included:

- 1.) How the Board Members are selected.
- 2.) That Business Owners don't have a voice and are not aware of special assessments that they may be charged with.
- 3.) How the BID's operating budget is handled.

Rosengarten gave a detailed explanation of these items in his statement. He also gave Lugo credit for pointing out some of the inaccuracies in the BID guidelines.

Rosengarten ended his statements by giving kudos to his fellow BID Board Members and Administrator. He touted the accomplishments of what the BID has done for its members and the community. "Our meetings are open to the public. We are constantly meeting with the BID Members, letting them know what grants

and programs they are eligible for. We are constantly running programs, seminars and recreational activities to benefit our members and the City.

There were other BID Board Members present at the 2/26/14 Council Meeting. The Council asked if any of them were going to make any statements. There was an "affirmative" on that.

Lugo said she wanted to respond to what Rosengarten said, but after all the other BID Board Members spoke.

When those BID Board Members were asked to come forward to make any comments, none came up to the mic.

When Virginia Lugo came up to the mic. to speak, she distributed two letters to the City Clerk. One letter had to do with the correspondence from the City Attorney Mark J. Blunda to Barry Rosengarten. It was Mr. Blunda's legal opinion on the interplay of City Ordinance 776-95 and 1451-2008 as they relate to the Special Improvement District and Downtown Perth Amboy Business Improvement District. (*See Copy of Letter on Page 10.*)



Lugo responded to Rosengarten's statements made at the 2/26/14 Council Meeting. When the Amboy Guardian requested a copy of her state-

Continued on Page 2

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**Stormy
Whether!**

Continued From Page 1

ments, Lugo e-mailed them to the paper. (See Page 6.)

Former Council President Kenneth Balut has made it known that he is not a big fan of the BID operations. Balut again brought up the issue of how unattractive the entrance to Smith Street looks. "Those bricks lining the street were part an investigation. Joe Vas has left, but you have the same cast of characters on all of these Boards. \$300,000 in loans have not been recovered. We're ripping up brand new sidewalks. The gum-busting machine is missing. How many lawsuits have there been because of these sidewalks (pavers)? You're getting worse than Joe's (Vas) administration. At least Vas showed all the meetings on TV (Council, PARA, BID/UEZ, etc.) Even the meetings involving the Dekalb Avenue case."

Resident Alan Silber chimed in, "Nobody goes to the UEZ/BID Meetings. You're supposed to have oversight. There was a \$468,000 loan line and the Jewish Renaissance got more than half of it. (Which was paid back) Five out of six businesses defaulted on loans. One of those defaults was a \$42,000 line item for a company that made banana pudding. In 2008, Vas was given money for his reelection and Diaz was given money by that same person after her election."

Speaking to the Council, Silber said, "Some of you got Rosengarten's money."

Silber continued, "As far as Ms. Lugo going to see a lawyer on her own. (In reference to possibly needing to hire one to help the BID on legal matters) - It's no big deal. I think Ms. Lugo should get one of those Proclamations for taking her job seriously. There are Councilmen who got money from six people who worked for Dynamic Claims Company. Three of them are now in jail as well as Gartland. (for insurance fraud)"

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach was not present at the Meeting but Assistant B.A. Jillian Barrick read a letter from him in reference to the BID Board. (See Page 10.)

Fehrenbach concluded his statement that was read at the Meeting. It said: "The BID's collective objection has been only to have a Business Improvement District that advances the best interest of businesses in the district. Once the disruptive conduct of a few can be controlled, this objective can be achieved." (See full statement on Page 10.)

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City Employees Recognized for Affordable Health Care Act Counseling - 2/26/14 *Photo by C. Maxwell



PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz along with US Department of Health and Human Services Dennis Gonzalez (3rd from Right) pose with City Employees who completed the Certification as Counselors for the Affordable Health Care Act. Perth Amboy and Jersey City are the only towns in the State offering assistance to those who need to side up for Affordable Health Care.

Conowingo Dam Announces Winners Of Third Annual Bald Eagle Photo Contest

**Photo submitted*



DARLINGTON, MD - The 2013 Conowingo Bald Eagle Photo Contest winners display their prize-winning photos. Left to right are: Ami Dyan of Amboy, N.J. (fourth place winner), Herbert Burket of Paradise, Pa. (third place winner, Paul McFadden of Lebanon, Pa. (second place winner) and displaying the 2014 winning photo "Bald Eagle Soaring" taken by Mitch Adolph of Lutherville, Md. is Conowingo Shoreline Specialist Fred Smith.

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<p><i>Joseph P. Diaz</i> Manager NJLIC No 3841</p>	<p><i>Gary Earl Rumpf</i> Director NJ LIC No. 3353</p>
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Perth Amboy Entrepreneur Launches BYOUtiful - Youth Mentoring Program for Females

News Release

PERTH AMBOY - Edison Jaquez, a young and inspirational NJ based entrepreneur serves as a mentor and motivational speaker dedicated to educate and bring community members together. After his recent success with B-Men, a youth mentoring program geared towards today's inner city men 17 and older, Jaquez is set to launch BYOUtiful, targeted towards Perth Amboy's at-rise youth females on March 4th, 2014.

BYOUtiful, a 10 week mentoring program led by CEO Jennifer Torres and founder Jaquez addresses the needs of young ladies and is aimed to educate and

create positive influences. Torres, alongside a group of dedicated professional volunteers, will work with at-risk female youth age 14 and older in a non-traditional setting. Classes will vary week to week and include topics such as building character, self esteem, finding your inner beauty as well as financial management, college preparation, interviewing skills and much more.

Recruitment is ongoing. Classes will be held on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 6-8 PM at the Renovation House located at 200 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy, NJ. There is a fee of \$5.00 per class. Date: March 4, 2014 (launch date) Time: 6 p.m.

www.amboyguardian.com

Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Bus Trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, March 30. Bus leaves the church at 12 noon. Sponsored by the Fellowship Circle of the Hungarian Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Pl., Perth Amboy. 6 hour stay at casino from when we arrive in AC. Cost \$25 pp. Receive \$25 slot play bagged lunch provided. To reserve a seat call: Julie - 732-261-8726.

Lenten Dinners

PERTH AMBOY - Lenten Dinners Every Friday During Lent Served From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Magyar Reformed Church Center, Corner of Fayette Street and Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, Dessert, Coffee and Tea will be served with each meal. Dinners are as follows: March 7 - Breaded Flounder, March 14 - Shrimp Scampi, March 21- Stuffed Shells (Spinach & Cheese), Friday, March 28 - Spaghetti and Cheese Balls, April 4 - Breaded Flounder, April 11 - 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, Pam - 732-257-7182 or Rev. Szasz - 732-442-7799.

PUSHM

Art Show

PERTH AMBOY - On Friday, March 21st, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. there will be an opening reception for an art show for People United for Self Help & More. Aside from PUSHM artists there will be other both famous and celebrated artists donating their time and talents for this worthy cause. Diverse media such as photo's, acrylics, computer generated pix's and more will show. From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on both reception nights, the artists will greet, meet and if expressed receive offers for their work. There will even be an artist creating his work live.

It will run during business hours daily when you can order, and until the closing reception on March 29th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hosting will be the Raritan Bay Coffee Company, located on the street level at 249 Smith Street, Perth Amboy Train Station, Perth Amboy NJ with free ample parking. Some proceeds will go to the charity. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments may be purchased at the Coffee Company. Come there for the enjoyable times. For RSVP or more info call 732 406-3574 or email PUSHMselfhelp@gmail.com.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Jousting



Sometimes when I attend the Perth Amboy Caucus/Council Meetings I feel as if I'm at a Medieval Times show minus the horses, lances and shields.

I just might come to the next meeting with different colored flags for supporters who come to speak out on different causes.

At previous meetings, the Housing Authority was in the forefront and that has settled down - somewhat.

The BID problems are the latest game in town. I know this is a very serious matter, but unfortunately it is starting to become too much of a side-show.

I'm almost tempted to go to other municipalities that have a BID in place and see how they operate.

Perth Amboy's City Attorney Mark Blunda, who is always a gentleman was quite astounded at how dysfunctional the BID has become when comparing it to how other municipalities operate their BID.

In a nutshell, he said, "It is becoming a power trip for some individuals."

I attended a BID Meeting a couple of weeks ago and I was shocked at the way some of the members "jousted" with each other.

Unfortunately, unlike the Medieval Times Show, I did not find it entertaining. It was very sad.

Don't get me wrong. I believe the BID Members are passionate about trying to make the organization work to be beneficial to their members and the City as a whole.

Behavioral problems of a few may cause the other members to leave which would be a loss to the City as a whole. This is especially true for

those members who not only have businesses in the City, but also live here.

A letter was read at a City Council Meeting by a BID Board Member expressing her unhappiness as to what she viewed as an infraction of the BID by-laws. (See Page 4 of the 2/19/14 issue of the Amboy Guardian BID Under Fire Letter.)

BID Chair Barry Rosengarten read a lengthy statement at the 2/26/14 Council Meeting responding to that Board Member's accusations. Rosengarten was there at the request to the Council who needed more information about the allegations. (See Page 6 for the abbreviated version of Rosengarten's statement and www.amboyguardian.com for the statement in its entirety.)

In this issue are three more statements pertaining to the operations of the BID Board.

Perhaps the by-laws need be reexamined and overhauled so they are crystal clear in black and white with no grey areas.

Council President Joel Pabon addressed concerns of some residents who wanted to know why a lot of the Board Meetings were no longer televised. Pabon said he was told that there was a time restraint of two hours and any meeting going over that was exempt from being televised.

Pabon said, "Any meeting that is videotaped should be televised regardless of the length."

I think we owe it to the residents to keep them well informed to see how decisions are made that may affect them. Meetings should be held at times when most people can attend. They should start meetings no earlier than 5:30 p.m. C.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Letter of Commendation - Mr. Frank Dann and the Dept. of Public Works

Last Spring the utilities company came through and trimmed the two trees in front of our home at 104 Madison Ave. When they left the trees were badly misshapen with the bulk of the trees leaning toward our homes at 104 and

106. Three large branches were leaning over the utility wires that serviced these addresses.

I spoke to Mr. Dann about this problem and he dispatched a crew to check out the situation. The crew removed the offending branches, shaped the trees back into some sense of order and cleaned up the entire job site. We will be enjoying these trees for years to come.

With the winter weather we have been suffering I have

no doubt in my mind that we would have lost these trees to ice and snow leaving my wife and I and our neighbors at 106 without light and heat for who knows how long.

Our greatest appreciation to Mr. Dann and his department.

Thomas P. Ward

A copy of this letter was sent to Mayor Diaz, The Perth Amboy City Council and Frank Dann, Dir. of Public Works

Prodigal Son Syndrome

It seems to me we have in this country what I call the "Prodigal Son Syndrome." If you screw up, you seem to get rewarded! Turn on the television and you'll see ads for people who didn't pay their income taxes and the I.R.S. will "settle" with them for a nominal amount. Don't pay your bills and live beyond your means - just file for bank-

ruptcy leaving people you owe money to holding the bag.

In both of these cases, the debtors somehow come up with the cash to pay someone to expunge their debts. Huh? Or turn on a talk show and you'll hear a recovering addict say he or she has been clean for such and such length of time and the audience will give them a big hand. What about the other lives they destroyed, either directly or indirectly as a result of their abuse? Or the single mother who has a half

a dozen kids by who knows how many men that lives off the taxpayers due to her promiscuity? She's "struggling to make ends meet." How about some applause for those who pay their taxes, pay their bills, never abuse drugs or alcohol and/or have a stable family environment because of smart choices? Maybe it's time to stop "rewarding" mistakes.

Michael Rusznak

Hawg Laigs

When I rode a bus from the Newark Train Station to the Veterans Administration Center in East Orange I felt uneasy and fearful. Fellow passengers stared coldly at me as if I was an intruder. The sections we were passing through were some of the most hostile. Shootings and violence were reported almost daily.

My feelings were similar to those I felt whenever I traveled from the air strip or harbor to my quarters on the island of Saipan months after the ma-

rines had secured the island of Saipan months after the marines had secured the island in 1944. There were still diehard enemy stragglers still loose. I breathed a sigh of relief if we were not attacked by them.

While on active duty in the military we were well trained in the use of firearms. We were issued 45 caliber pistols, dubbed by us GI's as Hawg Laigs (Hog Legs). I am thankful that I never had to use mine.

The best way to solve the gun problem is the military way.

Treat guns as lethal weapons in the same way as motor vehicles are treated. No one can own or drive a motor vehicle unless one is duly licensed. And each and every car or gun is accounted for. Even the National Rifle Association ought to accept this method. Article II Amendment to the US Constitution refers to "a well regulated militia" does not include individuals.

Very Truly Yours

Peter Book/a.k.a. Pedro Libro



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**What Do You Think?
Send us Your
Response!**

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-ptto@paps.net

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.

Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY...Raritan Bay Medical Center's Cardiac Club will meet Monday, Mar. 17, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Cardiac Club meetings are held in the hospital's Centennial Hall and explore heart conditions and healthy living. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 732-324-5178.

THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

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RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
7-ELEVEN	553 SAYRE AVE.
SHOP-RITE	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
IN SAYREVILLE:	
BOROUGH HALL	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
VENEZIA PIZZERIA	881 MAIN ST.
IN SEWAREN:	
MOBY DICK'S	351 WEST AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BISTRO	126 N. BROADWAY
CENTER DELI	250 N. STEVENS AVE.
CITY HALL	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	91 MAIN ST.
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ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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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.

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HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday's at 6 p.m. Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the hospital's Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

To register or for more information, call (732) 324-5022.

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. 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.
- WED. Mar. 12 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
- THURS. Mar. 13 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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Statement From BID Chair Barry Rosengarten

The following are more comments contained in the statement Rosengarten read in front of the City Council Meeting of 2/26/14. For Complete Statement go to www.amboyguardian.com

Recently, and with the intent to more closely conform to the still existing By-Laws, we have once again transitioned to a Semi Autonomous Business Board. In that transition Ms. Lugo has 'brought to our attention certain procedural differences between our operating as an "Advisory Council" and the operations of the BID as a Semi Autonomous Board. As Chairman of the Bylaws Special Committee, Ms. Lugo knows, we are in the process of addressing and updating the areas which have been identified.

As an aside, the Board has adopted to the transitions without losing any contact with the Tax Paying 'Members' and has consistently maintained the programs, initiatives and performance standards that it is charged to accomplish.

The BID has been operating under the present By-Laws and Municipal Ordinances that created and approved the operations of the SID/BID. The financial books, annual audits and programmatic reports are open and transparent for all to review. In addition, budgets, audits and financial reports are annually filed with the City Council and the NJ Division of Local Government Services.

The BID is a corporation with a Board of Directors consisting of business owners and professionals who serve voluntarily; not a private business

where an individual can make unilateral decisions. Ms. Lugo has independently attempted to usurp authority and has represented herself to outside entities as the official authority in seeking proposals for services or materials. Her representations are completely unfounded and were not requested by the Board or authorized by the Chairman of the Board.

Ms. Lugo inaccurately claims that all board members were selected by the Mayor, Chairman, and the Business Administrator, the Chairman and board members may recommend potential members that could serve on the Board of Directors and would most likely be viable candidates for Board membership. As an "Advisory Council" the actual appointments are made by the Mayor. (The fact is that the City Administration and the City Council are involved in this process.)

For the record, I remind Ms. Lugo that she and all others who serve were 'appointed' to the Board and accepted the position. Although she accused the Chairman of an imbalance on the board and committees, she was included as a member of the Special Committee for review and recommendation for the selection of Legal Representation for matters concerning the BID and was also selected as Chair of the special committee appointed to review, recommend and up-

date the existing and in effect, By-Laws.

Ms. Lugo continues to step out of the bounds of her assignment and solicited proposals from two law firms, representing herself as 'officially appointed' to request those proposals, In so doing she possibly violated the State Statutes, misled those firms and caused the BID to unduly delay the process of selections.

Ms Lugo is correct as she refers to not holding "Annual Meetings." In my recall, The BID has not - since its inception, held an annual meeting inclusive of all property owners located in the BID. I agree with Ms Lugo and believe the practice of inclusion as called for in the By-Laws should commence coincidental with the next election of officers.

Ms. Lugo asserts improprieties in the BID election for officers held at her insistence in July 2013. The BID Board as its first action in its transition back to the original status held an election of officers. As a member of the BID Board, Mayor Diaz made a motion to hold the election of officers as scheduled. The motion was seconded and carried. The election of officers was held after legal advertising for the special meeting was announced and publicized. Ms. Lugo, in the properly vetted election process accepted a nomination for Chair, voted

for herself and when defeated by vote accepted a second nomination for Vice Chair which also culminated in her defeat.

2) Virginia Lugo incorrectly states that:

A) "Most of the Businesses within the BID are not even aware that they are paying the special improvement tax.

FACT, ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE PRESENTED WITH AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CHARGES WHICH ARE CLEARLY INDICATED IN THEIR TAX BILL The Business's that are situated as tenants may or may not have the BID assessed portion of the owners tax bill charged as part of their annual rent. Perhaps our Board should consider mandating Property Owners to identify and notify their respective tenants regarding the inclusion of BID taxes as part of their rental payment. B) The BID operating budget is completely vetted, voted on and presented to the Perth Amboy City Council as created by the BID Board of Directors. The Income for its operations are extremely limited and based on a 'special assessment' included and charged to the commercial property owners situated in the BID district as part of the real estate tax. The gross total amount charged annually is \$232,130.00. The

BID reimburses the City of Perth Amboy for a portion of administrative expenses. The assessment has not changed in the past 15 years causing the operation to prudently and with a 'tight fist' operate in a deficit condition.

C) Virginia Lugo asserts that... "millions of dollars from BID funds and other sources have been under the control of City Hall when they should have been under the control of businesses within the BID".

She clearly doesn't understand the difference between the millions of dollars budgeted to operate the City of Perth Amboy which is 'under the control' of the City Council, and the BID annual \$232,130.00 budgeted to pay for the full services, including \$89,000.00 reimbursement to Perth Amboy for administrative costs provided to the BID by Perth Amboy.

D) Ms. Lugo has persisted in utilizing OPRA requests for historic documents including video copies of meetings dating as far back as ten years. The only thing that needs to be investigated is how a Member of the BID Board of directors could make so many accusations while lacking knowledge and purposely attempting to mislead the public.

Sincerely,
Barry Rosengarten
BID Chairman of the Board

Lugo Response to Statements Made by Rosengarten at 2/26/14 Council Meeting

I've been a business owner in Perth Amboy since 2004. This is my community and I care deeply about its health and prosperity.

I have been a BID Board member for over four years. At the outset, I was one of the true believers in the Administration and the BID Chairman. I truly believed that we were there to do the best we could for the businesses we represented and for the community at large. A community I'd long since grown to love.

It took me a while to understand fully how the system worked. I slowly realized, after a year or so on the BID Board, that we were not doing anything concrete for the business community.

The problem was systemic. For years we operated under the misapprehension that we were an Advisory Board, not a Board of Directors, which was never the case, however insistently others may incorrectly assert, despite all evidence to the contrary. Who

has been benefiting from this years-long, carefully-planned confusion?

Why is this important? As an Advisory Board, we were severely limited. We could make suggestions, but we did not have the right to direct and enforce how the funds ostensibly under our purview would be used. This allowed the City free reign over our budget, rendering the BID Board an ineffectual onlooker regarding budgetary matters.

When I became involved with the budget committee, I came to realize that most of the funds comprising the annual BID budget went toward paying administrative costs and City expenses. Year after year, after signing Bill List after Bill List, I realized that we were just a rubber stamp to legitimize the transfer of funds to the City. There was very little left in the budget to do anything for the business district, our sole purpose for existing. This is why our business district looks the way it

does today.

I am a whistleblower. I have brought these matters to light at considerable personal cost. They will attempt to discredit me and they will try to draw attention away from the very real, factual issues I've raised.

I would urge all those who are on other committees on other boards to make sure that you have a copy of your by-laws and guidelines. Start questioning where the money is going. Question the RFP process. Who are the proposed vendors? Make sure that there's not only one person directing traffic, that you work as a collective unit. Make sure that there is something being accomplished for the betterment of the community.

Sometimes we get appointed because we have close relations or seem simpatico with the Administration, and the assumption is that our vote and our signature will be in agreement with theirs. We have a responsibility to our community. We ultimately have to answer

for our actions.

If this has been done with the BID, what else has been happening without our knowledge?

The pressing issues are:

1. The misappropriation of BID funds going back at least a decade
2. The fact that, until recently, no annual BID elections had been held for over 10 years
3. An independent attorney needs to be selected by the members of the business district to protect their interests as an entity entirely separate and independent from the City Administration.
4. BID meetings should be once again televised on channel 34. They should also be once again recorded on video and audio — something that has been unaccountably halted months ago.

I am an optimist regardless of the wrongdoing that has been done. I believe there are citizens and business owners who care about this City and want to see a beautiful and re-

vitalized Perth Amboy.

A vibrant business district increases property values and benefits the community at large.

When the funds are properly used, I do believe the BID will be a viable entity playing a great and honorable role in the development of our city.

I've requested that the City Council look into these matters. I spent over a year trying to correct this by working with the Administration to no avail. Something must be done. Too much time has been lost and too much money has been already wasted.

Virginia Lugo

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 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.

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.

www.amboyguardian.com

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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.



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.amerish.com/id4.html.

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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.



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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.

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.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY? FROM THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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GCF Statement for Council Meeting of 26 February 2014

This statement was written by B.A. Greg Fehrenbach was read by Assistant B.A. Jillian Barrick at the 2/26/14 Council Meeting

First I apologize for not being able to be present for the meeting this evening. I would have preferred to read these comments myself and not burden another with this task.

My second apology is to the dedicated board members of the Business Improvement District who have been working hard in the best interests of the business district. BID Board members asked me to listen to my comments at the last meeting. Listening to myself speak caused me to realize that I made several misstatements.

The following is my attempt to clarify in a simple way that which I intended to state at the last meeting:

- The vast majority of the Board members are conscientious, dedicated accomplished people who wish, simply and without controversy, to provide a good and valuable service to the City's business district and advance its overall interests. They have been hampered by the ongoing baseless charges of Ms. Lugo.

- Ms. Lugo's allegations that the BID Board of Directors has been operating illegitimately is false. In good faith, the members have been functioning consistent with the Board's practices over the past many years.

- o Were the procedures consistent with the By Laws? Not always. But they were done in good faith with the objective of advancing the interests of the business community.

- o When the last election of the Chairperson and vice chairperson took place, every possible method to comply with the Bylaws was engaged.

- o If the board is functioning well, acting in good faith, serving their mission and doing so with personal integrity, then their work should not be dismissed.

- Allegations regarding the finances of the BID are without merit. The payment of tax revenues to the BID are audited by the City Auditor and the receipt and expenditure of these funds is reviewed and examined by the BID Auditor. There have been no improprieties identified in these audits.

- In the past, the Mayor appointed persons to the BID Board based on past procedures she inherited. Once she learned that the By Laws called for a different procedure, she agreed to change the procedure to abide by the By-Laws. She never objected to this change of procedure.

- Ms. Lugo's allegation that the Mayor has tried to "stack" the Board is completely false. The Mayor appointed Ms. Lugo as she did all of the other current Board members. Since being advised of the Bylaws procedure, this practice has ceased.

- The Board has proposed changes to the bylaws; these recommendations originated in a committee-led process that was chaired by Ms. Lugo herself. However, the draft revision is awaiting review by an attorney, whom the Board will appoint once the proper public purchasing protocols are satisfied.

- The Business Improvement District spends public money. As such, they must abide by rules governing the spending of public money. The majority of the Board agrees and wishes to abide by these rules.

- The BID's collective objective has been only to have a Business Improvement District that advances the best interests of businesses in the district. Once the disruptive conduct of a few can be controlled, this objective can be achieved.

Greg Fehrenbach
Business Administrator
City of Perth Amboy

Black History Month Celebrated

PERTH AMBOY - Black History Month was celebrated on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the Senior Center, Olive Street.

The City of Perth Amboy, The Office on Aging and the Perth Amboy NAACP headed by Rev. Milton Lester joined together to present this program. The theme was: Two Generations - One Story.

The two generations included a poetry reading by Joshua Bishop, who is a student from the Academy of Urban Leadership, Perth Amboy and Shirley Woods who is a Deacon from the New Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen, New Jersey.

Music, Poetry and Soul Food was enjoyed by all in attendance.

One of the highlights was a Collard Greens Cook-off where prizes were awarded.

This program concluded the celebration of the official Black History Month that is celebrated in February.

The Kearny Cottage will be holding their celebration which was postponed from February to April 13.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Bus Trip to Bally's Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, March 22. We will be leaving from the Knights of Columbus, 228 High Street, Perth Amboy at 1 p.m. and returning at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$30 pp and will include \$20 casino voucher. Food and drinks will be provided. For information and reservations, please call Ed at (732) 535-2562.

Black History Month Program - Olive Street, Perth Amboy 2/26/14 *Photos by Bob Ned



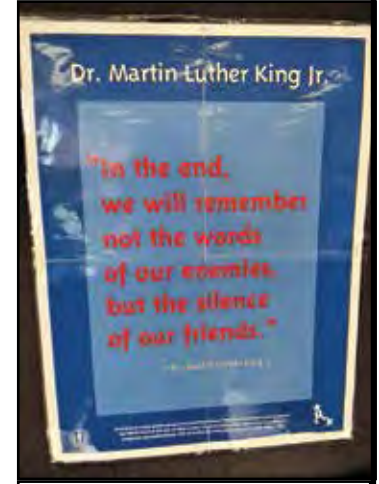
Shirley Woods, Deacon from New Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen



Perth Amboy NAACP President Rev. Milton Lester



Portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. King's Wisdom



Student Joshua Bishop from the Academy of Urban Leadership is surrounded by City Employees, Program Participants & Honorees



Students from the Academy of Urban Leadership



Two Lucky Prize Winners

Statement From City Attorney Mark Blunda

This shall acknowledge and respond to your June 10, 2013 letter request for a legal opinion on the interplay of City Ordinances 776-95 and 1451-2008 as they relate to the Special Improvement District and Downtown Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, Inc. My answers to your three (3) questions are:

1. Ordinance 1451-2008 does not eliminate Ordinance 776-95. The intent of the 2008 ordinance was to address and amend a number of reporting relationships in the City Ad-

ministration.

2. Downtown Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, Inc. (now commonly referred to as the "BID") was created in 1995 by Ordinance 776-5 to be a non-profit corporation governed by its own corporate by-laws. That remains the case. The operation of the BID corporation is governed by its corporate by-laws. That is not altered by the 2008 amendment of the City Administration's reporting structure.

3. As noted above, the Down-

town Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, Inc. (BID) continues to be a non-profit corporation responsible for carrying out the management functions set forth in Ordinance 776-95 in accordance with its corporate by-laws and the specific provisions of that enabling ordinance.

Mark Blunda
Law Director
City of Perth Amboy

**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

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.

Let's Dance

EDISON - The Family Success Center presents "Let's Dance." New Routine's every month. All styles of Latin Dance. Every last Friday Daddy & Me Hip-Hop. Free for all ages. Every Friday starting March 7, Edison Township Senior Citizen Center, 2963 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison. For registration call 732-324-0256 ext. 131.

Get Your Taxes Done for Free

PERTH AMBOY - Get your taxes done for free. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Jan. 27 to Apr. 15 at the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy. (Proprietary House). To make an appointment call now - 732-638-5063. You can also do your taxes online for by visiting MyFreeTaxes.com. "It's your money - Keep it!"

Home Repair & Advocacy Program

PERTH AMBOY - Attention: Seniors and People with Disabilities. If your home still has damage from Superstorm Sandy, help is available. The Home Repair and Advocacy Program can help you: Replace interior wall boards, remediate mold, restore heating and cooling systems, fix electrical, patch roofs, cut or remove trees, dispose of debris, refurbish major home appliances. Eligible households can receive up to \$5,000 in assistance. Home Repair Coordinators will be assigned to individuals who apply. Call 1-877-222-3737 to apply or visit your local Area Agency on Aging or Call 732-390-7074. This program is sponsored by the NJ Department of Human Services with \$8.2 million in federal Social Services Block Grant funds.

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.

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

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

Annual Fish Fry Dinners

PARLIN - OLV Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes will begin their annual Fish Fry Dinners on Friday, March 14, and then every Friday thru April 18 from 4:30 till 7:00 pm. The menu will consist of baked or fried flounder, fried shrimp, or combo platters, mac and cheese, pierogies, soup, pizza by the slice, roasted potato's and a fabulous salad bar. Soda, beer and wine will also be available for separate purchase. Take out orders accepted by walk in or call in beginning at 4:30pm. The OLV Council home is located at 775 Washington Rd in the Parlin section of Sayreville, directly across from the Parlin Post Office. For more info, or to place phone orders, please call our council home @ 732-257-2061.

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

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

Wake Up Mixer

EDISON - Wake Up Edison Business Mixer at Crowne Plaza, 2055 Lincoln Hwy, Edison on March 11 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Non-members \$30. For more info go to www.edisonchamber.com

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.



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.

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.

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.

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

University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club Visit

News Release PERTH AMBOY - On Sunday, March 16, 2014, Historic St. Peter's Church of Perth Amboy, NJ (183 Rector St.) will be hosting the University of Pittsburgh's Men's Glee Club as a guest choir during the 10am Choral Eucharist and for a short concert of both sacred and secular songs following the service. This is the last stop on the Glee Club's exciting 2014 tour of the tri-state area, including several performances in New York City.

This wonderful opportunity to hear a world-class men's choir is free and open to the public. All are invited and welcome. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Glee Club's tour, and CD's will be available at the door. The service begins at 9:50 a.m. with preludes and other special music, followed by a short pause to allow people to come in for the concert. The concert begins 11:45 a.m. More information can be found at: www.pittmensgleeclub.org or www.stpetersepiscopal.com or call 732-826-1594.

www.amboyguardian.com

Seminar a Huge Success!

PERTH AMBOY - Over 60 people attended a Network Business Seminar held at the Barge Restaurant held on 2/20/14. The UEZ/BID of Perth Amboy teamed with Business Consultant Milton Paris of Getting Ahead in Business to host the event.

Mayor Wilda Diaz offered remarks to those in attendance. She explained the advantages of having your business in Perth Amboy, whether it's new, expanding or relocating.

Milton Paris introduced four businesses who gave a brief overview of their products and services. Speak-

ers included: Tillman Doe, Reinaldo Villahermosa and Tom Ploskanka.

Topics discussed were: How to comply with Payroll and Employee withholding laws; How to increase your sales thru text marketing; How and when to start planning for your own retirement; How to take charge of your goals in 2014.

Upcoming Seminars and Meet 'N Greet's will be posted in future editions of the Amboy Guardian. The next Meet 'N Greet will be held in April. Date and Location: TBA.

NJ on Shuffle Concert Series

WOODBIDGE - 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.

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.

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Divine Jesus, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." Behold me kneeling at Your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by Your Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary. I come to ask this favor: (*Mention your request*).

To whom can I turn if not to You, Whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of Your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives Himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to You, Heart of Jesus. In You I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that You can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of Your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy, and You will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of You, and Your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weakness a reason for granting my prayer.

Sacred Heart, whatever may be Your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving You. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of Your adorable Heart, which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all Your creatures forever.

Grant me the grace for which I humbly implore You through the Immaculate Heart of Your most sorrowful Mother. You entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with You. Amen. V.C.



MARCH EVENTS



Wellness through Tai Chi & Qigong

Classes Participants will be led through exercises. Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 24 & April 1 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. RBMC Old Bridge, Medical Arts Building \$40 for all classes, 10% discount for adults 60 or older. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.



Pet First Aid Class

Provide basic care for cats & dogs, learn when to call poison control / veterinarian. Thursday, March 27 - 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$35. Raritan Bay Area Y, Perth Amboy Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.



Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?

Monday, March 10 - 7 to 8 p.m. with Dr. Seun A. Sowemimo Wednesday, March 26 - 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri, Medical Director Institute for Weight Loss, Old Bridge Registration required, call 1-855-TIME-4-ME.



Tour of the Berkow Maternity Pavilion & Family Health Open House

Wednesday, March 12 - 6 or 7 p.m. 530 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.

One-Day Childbirth Education Class

\$125 per couple. Saturday, March 15 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Raritan Bay Area Y, Perth Amboy Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.



Visit rbmc.org/events for a complete schedule of events.



Tricky Tray

PERTH AMBOY - The Women of the Moose Chapter 1247 are having a Tricky Tray on Sunday, March 23rd. at the Moose Lodge, 989 Convery Blvd., (Rte 35). Doors open 12 Noon. Drawing Begins 2 p.m. \$5 in advance/\$7 at the door. Includes admission, coffee & dessert. For tickets and more info call 732-442-2827 or 732-442-3550.

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.

St. Jude Novena

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

**Remember
to Say
Your
Novenas!**

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.

Couponing Workshop

PERTH AMBOY - Learn how to super save! Couponing Workshop, Wed. March 5 at 6 p.m. at the JRF (Jewish Renaissance Foundation), 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy (Proprietary House). Light Refreshments provided. Absolutely FREE. Learn how to save 60-100% off regular prices, to find coupons, to organize them, to cut your budget. Registration required: 732-638-5063 ext. 131.

Fish and Chicken Fry

PERTH AMBOY - Good Shepherd - Rosary Altar Society will sponsor their Annual Fish and Chicken Fry dinner at our Good Shepherd Holy Spirit church at the corner of Brace and Hazel Avenues, in Perth Amboy on Wednesday, March 26 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Take out 4:30 p.m. Sit down and socializing dinner 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Adults \$15 Children under age 10 \$7. To acquire more information and tickets call Parish Center 732-826-4859 or Carol 732-826-2153.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- 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.
- MON. Mar. 10 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Mar. 11 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Mar. 12 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. Mar. 13 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Church Basement, Alta Vista Pl.,

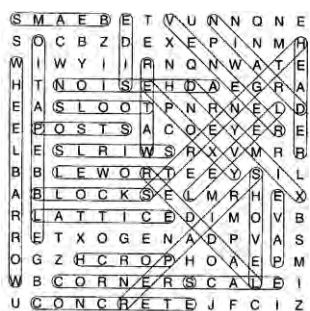
South Amboy

- WED. Mar. 12 South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Apr. 7 St. Mary's 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



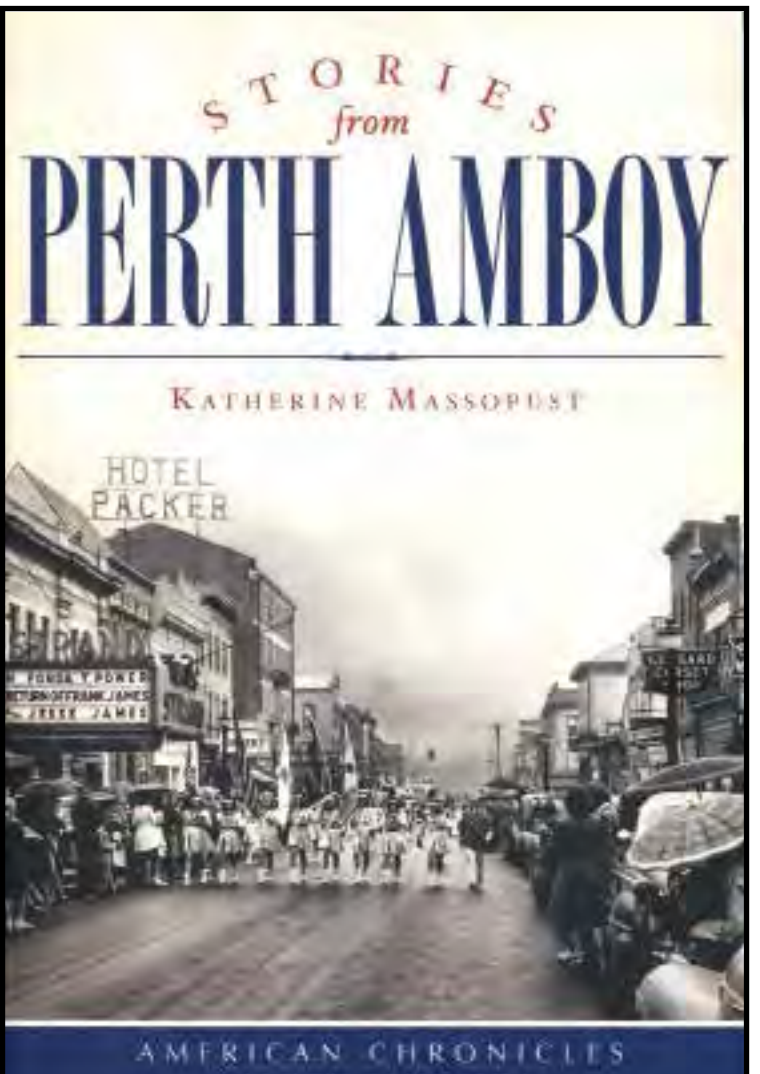
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - The Lucky Rollers were one of the many roller-skating clubs who skated at the America On Wheels Roller Rink in Perth Amboy from 1939-1949. This photo was taken in 1941.

**Photo Courtesy of Chester Freid*

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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For Sale
 Medical Desk Dictionary - \$25 Meriam Webster Stethoscope & Manometer w/case \$25 - 732-734-7452

Snare Drum w/stand \$50 Hi-Hat Stand \$20 732-442-1093

29" x 41" Gold Framed Mirror \$40 732-735-2179

Emerson 4-Head VCR Boxed \$50 various movies \$5 each 732-676-3313

Ronald Reagan Memorabilia \$75 Shirley Temple Dolls '60's; Plate Sport Cards, Comics - 732-713-0536.

For Sale
 Ironman Inversion Table for Back Pain - "New" "Assembled" #5501 Value \$150 - Asking \$75 732-236-4479

Ski Boots, poles & skis \$50 - Lazy Susan \$10 - 732-634-3589

Craftsman 200 mph/430 CFM Gas Blower for leaves - mint \$40 732-721-4477

Brass Bugle Pioneer Circa 1940's \$40 - Great Display Piece 732-727-8417

2 Dressers \$70 each Kenmore Dryer \$75 3 Dining Room Chairs \$38 -732-829-5315

1960 Comic books, baseball cards/balls 1959/60, WWII Silver 2 Peso 75.00 negotiable. 732-713-0536

Pocketbooks \$3 clothes sizes 12-15 \$2-\$5 Dolls Porcelain \$75 - 732-324-2245

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

For Sale
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Patio Set 6 pcs \$70 Treadmill \$50 Elliptical \$75 732-857-4429

Ping Pong Table and Accessories included - \$50/B.O. 732-442-1642

Rocking Chairs, Office Chairs Household items, wall mirrors, desks, cash & carry - all under \$75 - 312-307-6542

Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Good Condition \$70 732-290-1551

Boat Chairs Helm \$75 each - One folding Stainless Chair \$50 - 732-636-3345

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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 F.M.J.
Prayer To St. Claire	For Employment	Prayer To St. Jude
Prayer To Blessed Mother	Prayer To Holy Spirit	Novena To St. Anthony
Prayer To Blessed Virgin	Thanksgiving Novena	Novena To St. Joseph
St. Jude Novena	Pray The Rosary	OTHER _____

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Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

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MASON'S WORK

S M A E B E T V U N N Q N E
 S O C B Z D E X E P I N M H
 W I W Y I I R N Q N W A T E
 H T N O I S E H D A E G R A
 E A S L O O T P N R N E L D
 E P O S T S A C O E Y E R E
 L E S L R I W S R X V M R R
 B B L E W O R T E E Y S I L
 A B L O C K S E L M R H E X
 R L A T T I C E D I M O V B
 R E T X O G E N A D P V A S
 O G Z H C R O P H O A E P M
 W B C O R N E R S C A L E I
 U C O N C R E T E J F C I Z

11. LATTICE
12. LEVEL
13. PATIO
14. PAVE
15. PEBBLE
16. PORCH
17. POSTS
18. REPAIRS
19. SCALE
20. SHOVEL
21. SIDE
22. STRENGTH
23. SWIRLS
24. TOOLS
25. TROWEL
26. VENEER
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PERTH AMBOY - Grocery Store has a lease (\$900.00) ending 2020 with 10 years option, monthly expenses \$775, monthly gross income \$18,200. **\$60,000**



AVENEL - Beautiful Bi-level all remodeled, great neighborhood, updated kitchen and main bath, A/C, nice patio, driveway, nice large fenced yard, custom shed and much more seller is very motivated. **\$279,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Not a short sale! Two family, Updated, on a Double lot with detached 2 garages, long driveway for that fits 4 + vehicles, 2nd floor is now vacant. **\$249,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Well maintained single family close to public transportation and high school. **\$159,900**



WOODBIDGE - Large updated Kitchen, Washer/Dryer Set up on 1st and 2nd Fl very convenient to wash clothes on both floors; Back yard has a large deck that leads to back yard. **\$343,900**



PERTH AMBOY - A must see, the whole interior has been redone, close to schools and public transportation. Great potential. OWNER IS VERY MOTIVATED. HURRY!!!!!!!!!!!! **\$125,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Nice ranch, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, nice size basement with laundry facility and two large storage rooms, A/C central, big fenced in yard with a nice shed. "A MUST SEE". **\$169,000**



PERTH AMBOY - This is a turnkey operation, great income producing property this sale includes a Broad "C" type 32 liquor license 2nd floor is an apartment rented for \$1,300.00. This is a fantastic opportunity to be your own boss. HURRY!!!! **\$460,000**