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Weekly Newspaper

AMBOY GUARDIAN



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Early Fireworks

Board Members Ortiz, Garcia Reprimanded

By: Katherine Massopust

PERTH AMBOY – At the 6/25/14 Special Board of Education Meeting, Board Members William Ortiz and Maria Garcia were accused by Board of Education President Obi Gonzalez of a violation of the by-laws 0.142. She stated that both Board Members William Ortiz and Maria Garcia have made disparaging statements against the Board and Board Employees. “Mr. Ortiz has violated by-law 0.142. He has published on his public Facebook page foul language. Both Maria Garcia and William Ortiz repeatedly made disparaging remarks about Board employees on Facebook and other public media. They have made the Board open for litigation. They are ordered to cease and desist (this behavior).”

Board Member Maria Garcia defended herself, “You make references to disparaging. When I was elected to the Board it was not as a sheep. When we ask tough questions we have a right to do so.”

Board Member Sam Lebreault said, “Any examples?”

Board President Obi Gonzalez said, “We can disagree, Ms. Garcia. If you disagree, you may disagree. You may not use statements such as “stuck on stupid.” That goes against the by-laws 0.142.”

Board Member William Ortiz defended himself, “I’m not a guy to silence myself. I’m not a guy to stop asking questions. My private Facebook page is mine. I’m not going to shut my mouth and be a “Good Spic.” When you (Obi Gonzalez) told me I wasn’t fit to go to college! You need to follow Robert’s Rules. I’m going to follow Robert’s Rules. I’m going to keep doing what we’re doing. Our graduation rate is 50%. When you compare with us Camden it’s because of the leadership. Bernice Marshall is a hero! I’m going to keep doing what I’m doing. I



PERTH AMBOY - Board Members Maria Garcia and William Ortiz listen as Board President Obi Gonzalez states both Garcia and Ortiz violated By-Laws 0.421

*Photo by Katherine Massopust

acted; I voted; I supported an individual – but you guys have your vote.”

Board Member Anthony Bermudez stated, “Your Facebook page is set to public. You made a false statement of facts. I’d advise you to use your 5th Amendment rights.”

Board Member Maria Garcia questioned the Board Attorney, “It’s not against the by-laws to ask questions?”

The Attorney answered, “No, but you cannot use remarks such as “talking stupid.” Terms such as “stuck on stupid” are offensive.

Board Member Maria Garcia said, “The former Superintendent let us speak our mind. Before we had a democracy – now we have a dictatorship!”

Board Member Anthony Bermudez said, “First Amendment Rights does not account for speech that is personally offensive.”

The Board voted for the reprimand, Milady Tejada, Ken Puccio, Sam Lebreault, Anthony Bermudez, Israel Varela and Obi Gonzalez voted “Yes.” William Ortiz and Maria Garcia voted, “No.” Board Member Dianne Roman was not present at the meeting. Motion passes.

Maria Garcia commented, “What are you going to do – make me wear a dunce cap?”

The Board Attorney said, “No, you get a public reprimand!”

During the public portion, parent Mel Knight stated, “You have to get your act together. If you can’t do it we’ll find someone who can. 0.142? What is that? I would like to read it. I think that some of you have crossed the line on more than one occasion. This is ridiculous. If you saw this type of behavior in school you would be calling up Moms and Dads. No one is making you do this. Do something for our kids. Kids need education.”

One High School Senior commented, “The way you (the Board) handled yourselves is atrocious. You are in front of a camera and the public. You can’t even listen to each other. It’s disgusting and unfathomable. You have no right to belittle my counselor. It hurt me to see this (in tears). What kind of professional protocol is that? I hope each and every one of you don’t bite your tongue. I’m shaking right now. I hope when you leave here today you have a right to speak your mind.”

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez offered closing remarks, “Abraham Lincoln said the largest room in any organization is a room for improvement. I am for one committed to make this the this work for the district.”

Residents Not Happy You Could Have Fooled Me!



PERTH AMBOY - New B.A. Jillian Barrick with Representative from Middlesex Water Company Rick Risoldi.

*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Some of the Attendees at the 7/9/14 City Council Meeting

*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY - Quality of Life issues came to the forefront at the 7/9/14 Council Meeting. Most of the residents who spoke were not happy with Code Enforcement or the lack there of.

A resident of Sherman Street was not happy with the neglected empty lots on Patterson Street. “The City broke ground and there is a hole in one of these lots and there’s no maintenance. Suspicious trucks are parked there overnight. Our houses are depreciating. We want to know what is the status of these neglected lots.” He specifically mentioned Patterson, Grant and Meade Streets.

Miriam Quiles who lives on Market Street near Watson Avenue spoke next. She and her neighbors were concerned about the backup of water in their basements after the 7/2/14 thunderstorms. “The insurance will not cover the damage and I was told to

call the sewer department. I can’t believe that water from the gutters did that much damage. I was told to talk to the Mayor. It’s been 3 days since I called and I have not yet received a return call. I walked around my neighborhood and they all had the same problem or worse. I think the valve was not properly closed. Where can we receive compensation for damage we received?”

A representative from Middlesex Water Company Rick Risoldi said, “We found that there was no failure of the pumps, but we are investigating the problem.

David Torres, a 15 year resident of Mary Street said, “My street is very overpopulated. We have called Code Enforcement several times but they haven’t come out. There are a lot of illegal houses. There are 25 cars for 4 homes. Sometimes I have to park on Krockmally Avenue.” He also

Continued on Page 8

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Ask the Rabbi
EDISON - On Thursdays, Rabbi Saks from Congregation Beth Mordecai, Perth Amboy is available for any and all questions from everyone at 12:10 pm at the food court in Menlo Park Mall in Edison.

Farmer's Market
PERTH AMBOY - The Y is proud to host a weekly Farmers Market! Be sure to stop by every Tuesday and load up on fresh fruits and veggies for your family. Vendors will set up on the parking lot in front of the Y, 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy on Tuesdays from 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m. starting June 10th. The Shaping NJ Community has provided funding to support our focus, Healthy Living! For more information or for photo opportunity please contact Steve Jobin, 732.442.3632 or sjobin@rbaymca.org.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Don't Punish the Majority for the Indiscretions of a Few



Park Near Jefferson Street Parking Deck



Five Corners Cement Benches



Fink Park Completely Void of Benches

*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell

When I walk down Smith Street, I am occasionally stopped by residents who lament the removal of the benches that were located at Fink Park and elsewhere downtown. Some individuals have used those benches to sleep and illegal activities have taken place there. But most importantly, I have seen shoppers or families using those benches just to take a breather. On very hot days it's a shame when residents or visitors can't find a bench to rest on, especially when they have their small children with them.

Our City Officials need to ask those shoppers, visitors or families how they feel about having those benches removed.

I remember when the City would hold community events in the Park such as handing out literature on Pedestrian safety. Young entrepreneurs would hold activities to display their

wares. Let's put the downtown mini-parks back to good use again.

Fink Park is big enough to have a small Police sub-station. It could help on cutting down illegal activity taking place there.

I don't know who owns Fink Park, but if other towns can have benches in their business districts, I don't see why Perth Amboy should be an exemption. Fink Park is in the heart of the business district and should be made into a beautiful focal point.

Parking in the business district is not free. Benches provide a place where people like to sit to talk and find out what's going on in the community.

Residents who live above businesses on Smith Street should also be considered. They should have a minipark to sit and enjoy the outdoors. **Carolyn M.**

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Ken Gonzalez, A Gentleman

I have read the various critiques that have been written about Mr. Gonzalez. While I will confess that I am purely

ignorant about politics, I must say that for all the years I have known Mr. Gonzalez, he has always been a gentleman and kind of an oddity in our modern society. He is the kind of person who will say good

morning or give you a warm greeting even if he doesn't know you.

Eralides E. Cabrera, Esq.

A Pattern of Behavior for Perth Amboy Board of Education

There have been many occasions that I thought called for attention to an ever prevailing pattern of behavior for Perth Amboy Board of Education but now as the district's Affirmative Action Officer and Human Resource Manager I think it requires immediate attention from the Department of Education as well as the Division of Civil Rights/EEOC. First there is a caveat. It is not my intention to degrade the employees of the Perth Amboy school district. It is not them that have created this hostile environment yet it is those that actively run the district that are at focus for this correspondence. (The Board of Education and the Interim Superintendent Dr Vivian Rodriguez) No one named in this correspondence provided any form of information to me. These are my words and opinions only.

In July of 2011 the district hired Dr Janine Caffrey as Superintendent. Over the next few months there were several disagreements that arose between Dr Caffrey and the Perth Amboy Board of Education. I cannot attest to the validity of all of the issues however one issue that she focused on was the Board's need to be actively involved with the hiring process of the district. The Board members would frequently chose to hire an individual of Hispanic descent without regard to qualifications or experience. This is a topic I can attest to.

Throughout my employment at Perth Amboy there have been several instances where I was asked by Board members if prospective candidates spoke the Spanish language so that could be a determinant of employment, or if individuals that were job offered resided

in Perth Amboy (a township that is 78% Hispanic). In the latter case I had to write justification as to why individuals that resided outside the confines of Perth Amboy were job offered. Even I was advised by a Board member that it was imperative that I learn the Spanish language and that it would be beneficial working in a district such as Perth Amboy. The last three examples might seem innocent to some yet they are discriminatory. What's even worse is that these practices spill over into the Board and the Interim Superintendent's treatment of administration. Once Dr Caffrey began to make the public aware of these allegations she was placed on administrative leave several times. She was ultimately placed on leave with a vote to nonrenew as of June 30, 2014. Unfortunately many of the employees that the Board consider to be expendable because they are not of Hispanic decent are systematically being purged from the district.

Although I have received exemplary evaluations throughout my employment, my Interim Superintendent along with the Board now sees fit to abolish my job description and terminate my employment. They would like the individual running the Human Resources Department to have a principal certification. But why??? This was determined only after I challenged a Board member during an interview about a Hispanic candidate that I thought did not fit the criteria for an administrative position. After that same interviewing session I was told by the Interim Superintendent to no longer provide feedback during interviews. Instead of actively participating in interviews I was instructed to introduce the candidate and serve water. It was shameful that my position as HR Manager had been

demoralized just for expressing my opinion of a Hispanic candidate.

Recently at the June 19th Board meeting the Board voted to non-renew the Transportation Manager Edmund Treadaway, no reason was provided. He too had good evaluations. This is the third non-renewal of an administrator in the last seven months. It just so happened that it occurred with all non-hispanic employees in a district that is 73% Hispanic. As of July 1st the Perth Amboy Board of Education will have three very critical administrative positions vacant. (a permanent Superintendent, a Director of Personnel and a Manager of Transportation) and there would have been more if it were not for some administrators having tenure. They also were not of Hispanic descent.

The Perth Amboy Board of Education is very smug in their blatant disregard for Civil Rights and EEOC laws. Many administrators are aware but are in fear of saying anything. I too felt the same way but feel that it is an injustice not to say something at this point. When will enough be enough for the Perth Amboy Board of Education? When will the Board as well as the Interim Superintendent focus on the disturbing 58% high school graduation rate and a faltering literacy rate of 1st through 3rd graders? It is a sad case when a Board of Education's top priority is controlling who and how individuals are hired with no regard for federal and state laws. Their main focus should be the students that are obviously falling to the wayside. When will a higher authority intervene for the sake of the students and to protect the rights of non-Hispanic employees?

Bernice Marshall

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We Love to Hear From You!**

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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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Correction

PERTH AMBOY - On Page 8 of the 7/9/14 Issue of the Amboy Guardian, there was a misidentification of the first name under "Help the Planet Day at School #7." The photo identifies an Elaine Barcheski teaching students about recycling. The woman's first name is Geri. The Amboy Guardian apologizes for this error.

Citizenship Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday: : FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER is offering a free course to assist those who plan on taking the USCIS Citizenship Test. All details will be discussed at the meeting. All who plan to take the course must attend Orientation. Call or visit the office to register. 149 Kearny Ave. (Proprietary House) Perth Amboy.

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.

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

Monthly Book Club

SEWAREN - There will be a monthly book club at the Seward 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	
THURS. Aug. 7	Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
South Amboy	
WED. Jul. 16	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
MON. Jul. 28	Board of Education, Business /Public, 6 p.m. SA Middle/High School, Harold Hoffman Pl.

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Do you or someone you know have Old Photographs or Documents?

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For more info please call 732-293-1090

Car Show

WOODBIDGE - Raritan Bay Cruisers Car Show starting on Tuesdays from May 13 to Sept. 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Weather Permitting at Pizza Hut, Rte. 9, Woodbridge (Walmart Parking Lot) 50/50s & Trophy's Awarded. For More Info Call 732-585-7365

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - The Ladies Auxiliary of Sayreville #4699 of 575 Jernee Mill Road, are holding a Flea Market on August 16 2014 with a Rain Date of August 17, 2014 at 8 AM to 3 PM. \$15.00 will hold a space for you. This will help our servicemen and women overseas by sending them care packages every month. For more information call Lorraine Rock at 609-448-2587.

BBQ Showdown

SOUTH AMBOY - Best BBQ Event in Central NJ! Sunday, Sept. 28 at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, South Amboy. Hundreds of Vendors, Live Music on Stage, Workshops & Demos, Kids Activities, Shuttle Service Available. No Parking on Site for Day of Event. Presented by the City of South Amboy. Produced by IRUN New Jersey. For more info call 855-478-6888 or go to www.irunnewjersey.com

Civil War Living History Weekend

WOODBIDGE - The Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey will host its annual Civil War Living History Weekend at Parker Press Park on Rahway Ave., Woodbridge on Saturday and Sunday, August 2nd and 3rd.

Take a step back in time 150 years ago and see how soldiers from the North and South lived and fought in America's Civil War. Walk thru the military and civilian camps and speak with the re-enactors and Civil War living historians. Both days will feature a small battle followed by a medical demonstration. Also, you may purchase wares from Civil War era sutlers.

The camps are open to the public 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday evening there will be a special 150th Civil War Commemoration Ceremony at 8:00 p.m. followed by a candle light walk thru the camps 8:30-10:00 p.m.

All are welcome and admission and parking are free. This event will be held rain or shine.

www.amboyguardian.com

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Mother Goose E-Book Classes

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.

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.

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Family Movie Night

PERTH AMBOY - July 16th: Family Movie Night- The JRF's Family Success Center invites Middlesex County families for a night of family entertainment watching a movie at the local YMCA theater room. If interested in participating or for additional information/details please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy. The Lego Movie at Raritan YMCA 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Food Stamps Assistance

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday there will be a Food Stamps Assistance Program 10 a.m.- 5p.m.: JRF's Family Success Center families to come in and meet with a representative from the Community Food Bank of NJ to assist with food stamps application and eligibility guidelines. For additional information please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy (Proprietary House).

How Money Works

PERTH AMBOY - July 21st: How Money Works 6:30-7:30pm The JRF's Sandy Relief Initiative - invites Middlesex County families to a series of workshops where participants will learn financial strategies and techniques that they can use save money by understanding how it works and by the use of a budget. Program will be held at our offices: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy. (Proprietary House)

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY 6TH ANNUAL FAMILY DAY

Saturday, August 2, 2014

11:00AM-2:00PM RAIN DATE: SAT. AUG. 9, 2014

**AT THE WATERFRONT (LA PLAYITA)
SADOWSKI PARKWAY**

Juegos, Comida, Entretenimiento y Musica GRATIS!

RIDES, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC

FREE TO ALL CITY RESIDENTS

Residents Not Happy

Continued From Page 1

said, "The residents were blind sided by the street being converted to a one-way street. We were given short notice about this. I've worked 2 jobs for the last 12 years. This whole town is loaded with people living in attics and basements." Torres wanted to know if there is a Code Enforcement Office.

When one of the Council Members answered, "Yes."

Torres said, "You could have fooled me."

2 other Mary Street residents said, "Instead of converting the street to one-way, they should have put yellow lines on the corners so fire trucks could make the turns easily."

Business Administrator Jilian Barrick said, "We can talk to the City Engineer and the Police Department about additional parking on Mary Street."

Council President Joel Pabon said, "Code Enforcement has been to Mary Street several times but the landlords have had a hard time evicting tenants."

A resident from Broadhead Place complained, "Code Enforcement does nothing but ride around in air-conditioned cars." He complained about the work being done on the gas lines, "On my street the concrete along with the dust, dirt and debris has caused damage to my car. They are messing up the City. I've had to get permits to get work done on my property, yet out-of-towners don't have to get permits."

Penn Street Resident Angel Leon said, "Some of my neighbors will talk to me about loud music playing until 3 a.m. I'll call the Police Department about this. They'll come and the music will be turned down, but after the Police leave, the music will be turned back up. We need to enforce noise ordinances because every weekend this happens. In other municipalities there are no second chances. They take care of the disturbances the first time they are called out."

Businessman and resident David Caba read a statement: "Every department is lacking leadership and morals. At a meeting the Mayor and former B.A. Greg Fehrenbach attacked critics. I respected the former B.A., but not how he attacked the critics at his last meeting. The Council and Mayor have done unethical acts that will come out. I'm just leaving it at that. I see the leadership deteriorating. It is our right to come and question what is wrong. This room is packed because we are concerned and have a right to complain. Complaints should



PERTH AMBOY - Mary Street - Residents said that they received short notice that their street would be changed to one-way
*Photos by Joe Bayona

make you better."

Another resident from Sherman Street complained about the littering problem and possible drug dealing going on.

Former 2012 Mayoral Candidate Sharon Hubberman talked about the elderly woman with the unusually high water bill. (See Amboy Guardian 3/19/14) Hubberman said, "The infrastructure should be up to date." She also talked about a technology company that shows where water damage to infrastructures can cause inaccurate water readings. "Our quality of life is deteriorating. My mother has a business on Amboy Avenue. You can hear the loud noises from radios blasting music while you are sitting in her waiting room. I hope there can be a remediation on this lady's high water bill."

Council President Joel Pabon said, "This issue (high water bill) has been discussed and investigated for months."

Former Council President Ken Balut said, "The biggest mistake I made when I was on the Council was not calling the State about the illegal housing in the City. I also turned in 20 businesses about their illegal housing."

A resident who lives on Madison Avenue near the Waterfront complained about the kids playing baseball near his house and occasionally hitting the side of his house. "There used to be a net which was removed. If I come out to talk to the kids, they'll curse me out so I'm always calling the Police about this."

Resident Reinaldo Aviles

said, "The problem is that we don't have proper representation in this town. That's why we need a ward system. We need to have neighborhood meetings and the wards need to be reshaped. I'm surprised the Attorney General hasn't looked into this. I'm hoping that with the new Business Administrator we will have new eyes to see what's overlooked."

A woman from Water Street summed up how the quality of life has deteriorated. "Tenants are running amuck because landlords are just interested in collecting rent. No one picks up their litter. I see work being done on houses with no work permit signs. You can tell by the amount of people walking downtown that we are overcrowded. There are drugs, needles and guns on the streets."

In reference to the high water bill of the City Resident, the Council asked the Representative from the Middlesex Water Company to speak about their findings.

He said, "After a thorough investigation, we found no fault with our equipment."

Paul Danielczyk, who is the son of the resident who received the high water bill rose out of his seat to speak.

Council President Joel Pabon told Danielczyk, "You had the opportunity to do so at the public portion of the meeting." Danielczyk said that he wanted to reply to the comments made by Middlesex Water Co. Pabon denied Danielczyk and said, "You had your chance during the public portion."

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Rodgers Group: Program Questioned

PERTH AMBOY - Resolution R-324-6/14 Accepting the proposal of and awarding a contract to the Rodgers Group, LLC for accreditation/recertification in an amount not to exceed \$39,000.

Lieutenant Denise Sosulski gave a presentation spoke at the 6/23/14 Caucus Meeting to answer any questions about the Rodgers Group Training Program.

This program has been criticized by Ken Balut who was a former City Council President and a Retired Police Officer.

Sosulski said, "We have previously done this program before, but our accreditation expired. The State Police changed the whole program. The Rodgers Group has mentors to run through our policies they are under legal standards. They will measure our behaviors to make sure we do not get sued by our actions. They will work one on one with me and they have criteria and goals to make sure we get there. We are in the re-accreditation phase. The benefits to this program is to make sure we subscribe to the best practices and what we are allowed to do to avoid lawsuits. There will be training in November and I will help in doing the training for the Department. We will also know what to put in our reports and this re-accreditation will be in the last 3 years. For anyone interested, there's a Power Point presentation that can be shown. Officers will all be trained to do the same thing. If the police don't follow the best practices and procedures, there will be discipline involved. If we don't follow the best practices, we will not get accredited. The Rodgers Group is the only New Jersey Company that does this."

Sosulski continued, "New graduates are already doing Best Practices Procedures. They have no bad practices in place. This is the program of New Jersey Police Chief Association that accredits us. We will have a copy of the form

when we are accredited. The first time the program was implemented, it spoke to national standards, but this revamped program is specific to New Jersey. We were first awarded the accreditation in 2009. We lost it in 2012. Then the program was revamped by the New Jersey State Police Chiefs. I will be the main facilitator and will work with the other divisions in the Police Department (Detective Bureau, etc.)

Resident Alan Silber had questioned the Rodgers Group at the 6/23/14 Caucus Meeting. He questioned the \$39,000 for the accreditation/recertification and how was this difference from the \$20,000 that was spent the first time the training was done.

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach said, "This program on the agenda now is for online training and accreditation."

Silber also said, "The Police Chief accredits us and the Rodgers Group trains us. How many municipalities are accredited?"

Silber answered his own question when he told the Council, "It's less than 20% of municipalities in New Jersey. This is not coming from the state. We should table this."

B.A. Greg Fehrenbach also said, "The program offered by the Rodgers Group is much more affordable than the national program. Middlesex County has a lot of urban municipalities. One single lawsuit will swamp the cost of this program."

At the 7/9/14 Council Meeting, former Council President Ken Balut said, "In 2012 they said we were accredited. When did we lose it? The accreditation was supposed to save money for insurance. It's a scam. We have paid almost one million dollars on this. You (The Council) gave the chief a raise and we are not accredited. Did we save money on insurance? The Chief never told us we had lost our accreditation."

Parent Luz Malave stated, "Due to lack of trust at PAHS our school is dysfunctional. Our home is completely broken. They are no longer able to call school a home. Our students are special. We are in need of intervention."

One High School Senior said, "I know there has been a disconnection. I'm not going to bash the administration and say nothing good happens. But

bad things happen. I beg you if you choose to keep people in their title - watch them closely. You forgive but you never forget. There's a strict uniform search. I know this policy. I was pulled out. Why does this coincide when a bunch of children decide to speak out? I respect each and every one of these people. You give respect and you get it. Why should I respect someone who doesn't respect me?"

Student Vanessa Jimenez spoke, "My mom makes less than \$30,000 a year. Just because one person doesn't like art and music - one person sat me down that I never saw before. I love music. Next year I'm going to college. Music makes me happy. If it wasn't for music I wouldn't be happy. I'm not attacking him personally. What does he do with other students that don't do math and science?"

Another man said, "There is a lot of dysfunction going on. Every subject is important. If Mr. Reyes committed a mistake - don't hijack the meeting."

Math Teacher Ramon Ortiz then spoke, "I've been here since 1977 teaching math and trying to teach students. I can now see the situation clearly. For the first time we have the High School Administration that sincerely cares for our students. Whether it's a profession or a trade, we're here to prepare children for the future. I would like to see these Perth Amboy students represent us here one day. Critical thinking schools; make students stay in school for 9 periods; a childhood learning center is needed. Let's exercise our mission and the teachers, staff and administrators - let's work together."

A teacher of Spanish I-II-III-IV PreAP and AP spoke: "I think when you are a teacher you can do things. My students say to me - when they need things - I am there; they need me - I am here. Don't lie! Don't Cheat! I care about my students. I love my students. I'm proud of my students. I am proud of my school."

One student commented: "For the last 2 years we have gone through a period of sadness. Our focus shifted. We forgot many students come from broken homes. School was my second home. It's our obligation to listen."

Parent Luz Malave stated, "Due to lack of trust at PAHS our school is dysfunctional. Our home is completely broken. They are no longer able to call school a home. Our students are special. We are in need of intervention."

Another student spoke, "I'm enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After training with the Marines, I've learned that there is someone in charge. As far as lack of leadership, if you do something wrong, there is no proper detention. Mr. Anderson was principal at one time. He would ask: "Why I'm not in uniform." You got caught. I've never realized how hard it was. You (the Board) are only as strong as your weakest person."

One teacher spoke: "This is the first time I'm teaching A.P. Nobody told me to do this in High School (take A.P. Classes). We want to give the right info. In High School, in every class I was happy. I went to college and took remedial courses. I went to some students and asked: "What are you doing this summer? - Nothing? Why not take pre-calculus?" Those two students enrolled in the summer program. We're not taking away the art program. I'm not here to point fingers. Let's work together. It's for your benefit. Take the challenge. If you can do it - do it!"

Intense Discussion on Keeping Vice-Principal Special Board of Education Meeting 6/25/14

Another senior said, "You are the one to do your schedule. If you want to be a Senior - no one can stop you. You are the one who made your way."

Another Student, Rosemary said, "My mom works 2 jobs and makes less than \$30,000. My mom doesn't know what I'm doing here. Students are here to be future leaders of this school. We are the future citizens of Perth Amboy. It's sort of tough. This isn't just about the art program. It is a perfect example our students had their feet stepped on. I don't know exactly who to look up to. If students say something's wrong - you should pay attention to them."

Rosa Behr said, "It was mean and malicious. There are people with good intentions. I remember one day Mr. Roberto Reyes came with the desire to work for Perth Amboy. I told him: "You should be a physicist the way he talked to the students; the way they should be talked to. He's only here 3 months and you're judging him. When you hurt people, I'm very, very sad the way he's being treated. We should work together."

The Board then went into closed session. When they returned the Board offered their advice to the students who spoke. Board Member Maria Garcia spoke first: "Not all of us are the same. We have to re-

spect each other."

Board Member William Ortiz said, "Students were persisting that the Administrators were squashing their dreams. I don't think anyone should say what their pursuing is a worthless cause. It is your right to tell us what we are doing wrong. Always speak your mind. I'm a former marine, myself."

Board Member Milady Tejada said, "We are not only here to make decisions. I'm a parent and I know how passionate we are. I feel that at this time what the intention is. As parents you have to make tough decisions. I'll listen to you what is for the best."

Board President Obi Gonzalez said, "There was a movement to eliminate the Honor's Courses. We worked not to eliminate Honors and A.P. because they were under-enrolled and art and music classes were over-enrolled. In faith, we ask counselors to understand how important it is at a University. If you can fit your courses along with your dream courses. You should look at what the college of your choice requires. Your college transcript has to show that you are a good student. You can have a good GPA and get the whole picture right. I wish you the best of luck."

Board Member Ken Pucio said, "In High School you start your life. At age 13 you

was not present.

Barbara Skokan Statement The Festering Carbuncle

After receiving a disturbing call from a long-time friend concerning a denigrating posting on Facebook which in my humble opinion is interpreted as libelous, concerned a Vice-Principal in the Perth Amboy School System. I went to her home to see it for myself. First hand! I was appalled by the coarseness of the language used by this person which would be better suited for illiterate street thugs than an elected Board of Education Member whom one would assume to be respectable.

This could potentially lead to a hostile work environment suit thru the civil rights division of the Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Dept.

of Labor. Why would a Board Member delve into such low level tactics if he did not have a clandestine agenda to sabotage the employment of this Vice-Principal?

If this Vice-Principal is not retained, it may lead to labor relations charges brought about by the despicable actions of a single Board Member which brings shame upon the others in the City of Perth Amboy.

If this Board is supposed to be working for the betterment of the students and the taxpayers of our City, why is there a small minority of Board Members attempting to cause disruption?

Claims of First Amendment rights do not enter into this Facebook

posting. Hate speech is protected by the First Amendment but the U.S. Supreme Court in Rosenblatt verses Baer ruled that lies, liable and slander is not permitted.

The actions of a small minority of the Board give the entire Board a black eye. When most Board Members are working diligently to channel their energies into improving the educational standards of this City, it is despicable to see a scant few attempt to undermine and destroy their efforts.

There must be some legal means by which this Board could lance this festering carbuncle on the buttocks of this City.

Barbara Skokan

Celebrate the Amboys Fireworks: South Amboy - 7/4/14

**Photos by Aaron Beers*



(L to R) Lori Papernick, Mayor and Mrs. Fred Henry, Jim Papernick and Beverly Samuelson



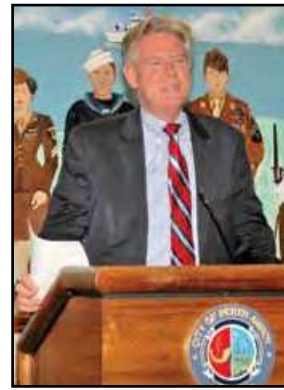
Brian O'Connor and the All Star Band



Fireworks over South Amboy

Independence Day Celebration - Reading of the Declaration of Independence & Fireworks - 7/4/14 - Perth Amboy

**Photos by Paul W. Wang & Carolyn Maxwell*



PERTH AMBOY - In spite of the overcast day, July 4th turned out to be spectacular. Earlier in the day the traditional Reading of the Declaration of Independence was held in City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Diaz rang the replica of the Liberty Bell in City Hall Circle 13 times to represent the 13 Colonies. Participating in the reading was members of the City Council, the City Historian and members of the City's historical societies. The night was capped off by a spectacular fireworks display which was the perfect way to celebrate Our Nation's birthday.

Stop the Funeral - Rev. Al Sharpton Visits The Cathedral International - 6/23/14 - Perth Amboy

**Photos by Eric Salvary*



Ukrainian Festival - 6/21/14 - Perth Amboy

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



Movie Review: Dawn of Planet of the Apes

By: Anton Massopust III
 "Together. Apes Strong." - Caesar



Many science fiction franchises don't get a second chance but Dawn of the Planet of the Apes is the second of the successfully rebooted franchise. More rare is the sequel that exceeds the original but Dawn shines above the first film, 2012's Rise of the Planet of the Apes. 10 years have passed since the simian flu was accidentally released from a research facility at the end of that film. Humanity and the world have fallen apart but Caesar and the apes help free have thrived, creating a large and richly developed society in the mountains outside San Francisco. Gary Oldman plays Dreyfus, the leader of a survivor outpost in old San Francisco. After 10 years they are running out of fuel, and without fuel the generators, and the lights, will go out. Dreyfus sends off a small group led by an engineer named Malcolm (Jason Clark), to try to restart a hydroelectric dam that will allow them to continue a meager existence.

The group unexpectedly runs into apes and one of them shoots an ape child. Caesar resists the urge to attack the group and orders them to leave. His second in command, Koba sends apes to follows them and they learn of the survivalists and their

cache of weapons. Caesar demonstrates a show of force to keep the humans at bay but Koba believes that war is inevitable, as does the Dreyfus. Desperate to get the dam restarted Malcolm returns to the ape outpost and pleads to be allowed to continue his work. Caesar grudgingly agrees and the rift between he and Koba grows wider, as Koba believes that the humans cannot be trusted. Koba wants to crush humanity, and despite this his anger and mistrust are understandable, since he was abused in the research labs. To say more would ruin several plot twists but the drama unfolds to a violent conclusion. Don't be fooled. This isn't an action film or even a war film, this is a drama. This is a highly intelligent movie that has a lot to say about politics, war, power, forgiveness, fear, revenge, morality and being a parent. It also bluntly confronts the question of what is justified in the de-

fense of your loved ones.

Can CGI apes hold your attention for two hours? You bet it can. Andy Serkis gives an outstanding performance as Caesar, but he is not the only one. After a while you forget you're watching actors in motion caption suits rendering in CGI and believe that apes can talk. The technical skill on display is amazing as you can understand the apes emotions and read their thoughts from the expressions on their faces and their body language. The apes are the primary focus in this movie and the human characters are given far less screen time and thus, less character development.

I highly recommend this film and suggest you take the entire family to go see one of the best films of the year. There is no doubt there will be a third entry in the series and I can't wait to see it.

Tealicious Summer Kick-off Party Dowdell Library -

South Amboy - 6/16/14

*Photos Submitted by Jan Simone



SOUTH AMBOY - the Dowdell Library of South Amboy had a kick-off a tealicious summer with a tea party on Monday, June 16th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 pm. Tealicious blends and sweet refreshments were served, accompanied by door prizes and opportunities to win a tea basket.

For more information on other summer events, contact the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School.



Summer reading kick-off party. Winners. Left. Lauren Mullen. Right top. Olivia Wierzbicki. Bottom. Lia McNulty

Dine to Donate

PARLIN - (Free Press Release Distribution | iNews-wire) June 27, 2014 - Join Team Cindy's Stars for DINE TO DONATE Night at Texas Roadhouse in Old Bridge, NJ to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Simply bring a copy of the flyer to Texas Roadhouse (located at 1000 US Rte. 9 N in Parlin, NJ) on Monday night, July 28, 2014 from 4pm-10PM and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your entire check to LLS.

In addition, we will be holding a raffle with prizes to be determined that will also benefit LLS. Texas Roadhouse has generously donated dinner for two as one prize.

Team Cindy's Stars was formed as a LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK team in 2009 in memory of Lucinda Dingman who succumbed to Leukemia in February of that year. Since 2009, Team Cindy's Stars has raised over \$15,000 for LLS. This year, we will once again be walking in the Light the Night Walk in Long Branch, NJ on Saturday, Oct 18. Our team goal for this fundraising season is a generous \$5,000. Since 2009, our team has

grown and we now walk with over 20 people who walk in memory of either Lucinda or other loved ones who have been lost to Leukemia and Lymphoma.

LLS has an important mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Today, LLS is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to finding cures for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other blood cancers. To date, LLS has invested nearly \$ 1 billion in research to advance therapies and save lives. Thanks to research, survival rates for patients with many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the early 1960s. Despite these advances, about one third of patients with a blood cancer still do not survive even five years after their diagnosis, which is why more funding is needed to bring better therapies to patients, and faster.

Patrons can download a copy of the flyer at <http://pages.lightthenight.org/nj/LongBranch/CDingman> or at www.facebook.com/TeamCindysStars

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.



18th/19th Century Victorian Tea Fundraiser

PERTH AMBOY - A Tea Fundraiser for the Perth Amboy Domestic Violence Response Team to be held at the Knights of Columbus, 228 High St, Perth Amboy on Sunday, July 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission \$10 pp. Sponsored by the Perth Amboy Police Domestic Violence Response Team.

Dominican Festival

PERTH AMBOY - The United Dominicans of Perth Amboy will be having a Dominican Festival on Friday, August 15 from 5 p.m. to 10 a.m.; Saturday, August 16 from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, August 17 from 12 noon to 9 p.m. Parking available in the Municipal Parking Lot (Next to Wilentz School Field).

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy Girl's Drum Corp. (L to R) Beverly Maxurek, Martha Kennington, Kay Shaffer, Annette Schinella. July 4, 1956, Fourth of July Parade on Smith Street near the Train Station. *Photo Courtesy of Kay Fodor

Learning with the Rabbi

WOODBIDGE - Every Thursday, Rabbi Saks from Congregation Beth Mordecai, at 9 a.m. will be in the Woodbridge Panera Bread across from Wegmans.

Crafty Kids

WOODBIDGE - July 22nd: CRAFTY KIDS No-Slip Socks at Woodbridge Housing Authority 12pm-3pm: JRF's Family Success Center and AmeriCorps is offering several arts and crafts activities this summer at 10 Bunns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ. Feel free to join us in creating memories with your children they will never forget.

Christmas in July Vendor Fair

HOPELAWN - Are you interested in doing some of your Christmas shopping in July? If the answer is yes, then you will enjoy visiting and purchasing at the Christmas in July Craft Fair sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish. The event will be held in the air-conditioned, elevator accessed Msgr. Gambino Hall at Most Holy Rosary Church, 625 Florida Grove Road, Hopelawn on Sunday, July 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Unique vendors and gold buying opportunities available for the shopper's eye and homemade refreshments provided at a reasonable price for your palate to taste. Entertainment and a visit from Santa will delight your children. Free parking. Call Joyce (732-887-7800) for details.

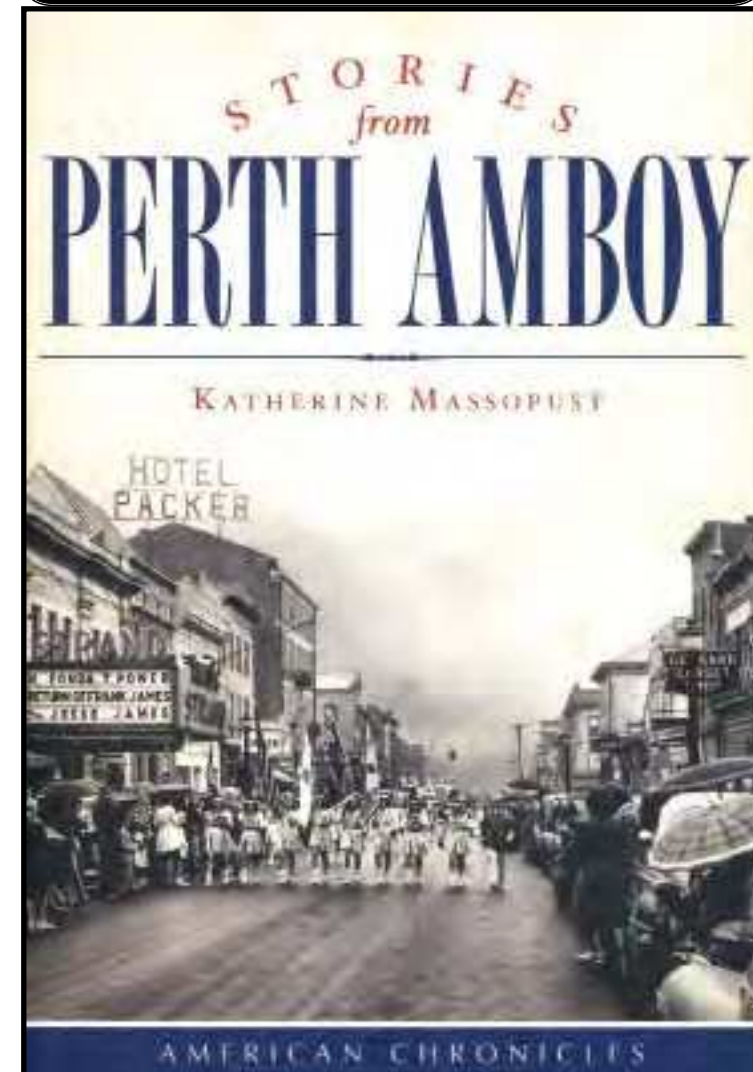
Senior Scene

Happenings

- Perth Amboy**
- WED. Jul. 16
 - 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. Jul. 17
 - The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
 - MON. Jul. 21
 - St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
 - TUES. Jul. 22
 - Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 - Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
 - WED. Jul. 23
 - 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. Jul. 24
 - The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- South Amboy**
- MON. Aug. 4
 - St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
 - WED. Aug. 13
 - 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!



Stories From Perth Amboy
 PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig's Department Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - or Fertig's at 732-646-8337 - A Great Gift!

Shull School Flea Market - Perth Amboy - 6/8/14

*Photos by Joe Bayona

PERTH AMBOY - Shull School hosted their annual flea market on Sunday, June 8, 2014. It was one of the last activities held at the school before the end of the school year. There was a variety of merchandise for shoppers to look through and purchase. It was a hot spring day as evidenced by some of the vendors sitting under their umbrellas to block out the sun. All in all looks like everyone had a fun time.



Deadline for Print Ads: 7 p.m. Thursday
 Office Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Classified's

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Room For Rent Room in nice 3 bed, 2 bath home. For single person only. No overnight guest. \$665 All Included. 732-566-2945 8/6	Baby's High Chair - Good Quality - like new \$40 - 732-721-1753 5 pcs patio set \$40 3 pcs patio set \$10 AB Lounge new - \$25. 732-857-4429	Misses Blazer Jackets - never worn Size 8 - \$10 each - 732-634-3589 36 Gal. Fish Tank w/cabinet stand and accessories \$75 - 732-442-1953
Sharpening Make dull stuff sharp "Cheap" - knives, scissors, garden tools - 732-442-3430	Golf Shoes - Adidas wet/dry size 10 1/2 - 11 like new \$10 (Br. Wht.) 732-721-4214 Bedroom Furniture \$75 Twin Beds - Antique \$75 Need Truck - 732-727-8417	4 pce Sofa \$75; 3 Beds - \$50 each; 3 pce Sofa \$50 - 2 Dressing Table \$50; Dining Table \$25; Bedroom End Tables \$25 Each - 732-803-2225
For Sale TV's - 3 13" Panasonic 19" Sharp, 28" Philips No Flat Screen \$50 - 732-283-0975 x	Dryer Gas Maytag White Works Great \$75 Leave Message 732-826-4852 DP Body Tone 250 - \$25 Woodbridge Area. 732-634-1851	Two old Bikes - antique \$50 each VCR working \$15 - 732-887-2235 Refrigerator Frost Free works fine - doors are rusty \$75. 732-566-2945
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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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ACROSS

1 Gdansk's locale (abbr.)
4 Weekend-lover's letters
8 Insurance plan option (abbr.)
11 Sis's sibling
12 Perfected
14 Very long time
15 Baseball's Maglie
16 Andretti, e.g.
17 Grippe
18 Told untruths
20 Pays to play
22 Select few
24 Watson of "Harry Potter"
26 Has a late meal
27 Those who play hooky
30 Eastern "truth"
31 Diver's hazard
32 Gen. Eisenhower
34 Scold
36 Among
37 Insignificant
38 Rotates rapidly
39 Strength
42 Dolt
43 Track circuit
44 Tractor producer
47 Country lodge
50 Wide street (abbr.)
51 "Little Orphan"
52 Vague

DOWN

1 Public TV initials.
2 "...man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
3 Temple's "Good Ship"
4 Magi count
5 Urge on
6 Business abbr.
7 Doctor's charge
8 Importance
9 Beauty mark
10 Load
13 Stage plays
19 "___ My Party"
21 Fabray, to friends
22 New York time (abbr.)
23 Waikiki picnic
24 Bert's pal
25 Newsman
27 Salty discharge
28 Shyness
29 Peel
31 Reporter Starr
33 McMahon and

35 Letters on a Yuppie vehicle
36 Military mail abbr.
38 Frozen rain
39 Uninteresting
40 Producer's dream review
41 Pinnacle
42 Baby's resting spot
45 To the bitter
46 Compass pt.
48 Hoop group (abbr.)
49 Forty winks

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