



THE

Weekly Newspaper

AMBOY GUARDIAN



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Laying Down the Gauntlet Council President Nanton Puts Speakers on Notice

PERTH AMBOY - Some residents in attendance at the 1/14/15 Council Meeting were taken aback when Council President Lisa Nanton read the Rules of the Decorum for those making remarks at the Meeting.

X.Decorum(b) - Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who shall be come boisterous while addressing the Council shall forthwith be barred from further audience before the Council at that meeting, by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue or to again address the Council be granted by the majority vote of the Council.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski was the first to make remarks and he referenced R-6-1/15 on the Agenda regarding Kenneth Gonzalez. This resolution was to express appreciation and compliments to the former Councilman.

Sierakowski started to make personal attacks against Kenneth Gonzalez, and Council President Nanton interrupted him.

She said, "It is not appropriate for you (Sierakowski) to continue these attacks since the former Councilman is not here to defend himself."

Despite Nanton's request, Sierakowski continued. He said, "OK, I'm not going to use a name, but because of this person's past indiscretions he will be removed from his new position, just like the Chief of Police (who is currently on unpaid suspension).

Former Councilman Kenneth Balut came up to speak about 3 Resolutions.

The first one was: R-13-1/15 - Approving Arch Insurance Companies recommended settlement of Civil Action Marquez, et - als vs. City of Perth Amboy, et - als, in the amount of \$150,000 and authorizing execution and implementation of the settlement release and dismissal.

Balut reminded the Council, "The insurance money to pay



Council President Lisa Nanton lays down the rules of engagement.
*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

this was coming from us (the taxpayers)."

The second Resolution he commented on was: R-21-1/15 Authorizing an extension to the Firm of Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst and Doukas to cover cost associated with work to be performed from the last quarter of 2014 in connection with tax appeals before the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.

"This law firm keeps getting contracts from the City dating back from the Vas Administration and this is a political heavyweight Democratic law firm."

The third Resolution R-25-1/15 Authorizing a contract with McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, LLC. for continued representation of the City in Landings, et al. v. City of Perth Amboy et al. in the amount of \$75,000.

Balut said, "This firm is representing someone that is challenging the November 4, 2014 Council Elections. With all of these out of town law firms getting the City Contracts, is it a payback because of the donations that they gave?"

Challenging Nanton's comments stating that you cannot mention anyone's name, Balut continued, "When was the Bill of Rights changed if we can't use a person's name?"

City Attorney Mark Blunda answered Balut's question in reference to the law firm in Resolution R-25. "Since I've

been here, the City has put out bids for law firms to represent us in suits. Not one firm from the City that specializes in any suits that the City is involved in has submitted a bid. Re-development Law is this law firm specialties."

When it came time to vote on Resolution R-6-1/15 Councilman Fernando Gonzalez abstained and the rest of the Council voted "yes."

On Resolution R-13-1/15 Petrick moved, Pabon seconded - the resolution passed unanimously.

On Resolution R-21-1/15 - the motion was moved by Councilman Bill Petrick and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. It passed unanimously.

On Resolution R-25-1/15 Councilman Fernando Gonzalez abstained, citing what he believed was questionable ethical practices from this firm in a case in another municipality.

There was a bit of a controversy pertaining to late starter Resolution R-46-1/15 thru R-50-1/15. These were appointments to the Zoning Boards of Adjustments. They were removed from the Agenda.

Candidates for the Zoning Board of Adjustments were interviewed at the 1/12/15 Caucus Meeting. 6 positions were open - 5 Regular and 1 Alternate. Some of the candidates were seeking to be re-appointed. 5 Appointees were listed on the Late Starters.

Better Communications Needed



Acting Deputy Chief Larry Cattano



Councilman William Petrick



Councilman Fernando Gonzalez

PERTH AMBOY - Acting Deputy Chief of Police Larry Cattano addressed the City Council at the 1/12/15 Caucus Meeting. There were concerns about the closing of McGinnis School because of a health emergency. There were questions pertaining to how the situation was handled between the City, the Schools and informing the parents.

Cattano said, "The School Administrators notified the Police Department who immediately posted it on Nixle. We're planning on having a meeting with the Board of Education to address any future crisis plans."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez wanted to know who was the representative from the City Council to the Board of Education. "We need to properly have better contact with them and I think legally it has to be done."

Councilman William Petrick told Fernando Gonzalez that he nominates him to this position (as the liaison).

Gonzalez retorted, "You know I have a conflict of interest."

Fernando Gonzalez' wife, Obi is a Board of Education Member.

Board of Education President Samuel Lebreault and Interim Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez spoke before the Council at the 1/14/15 Meeting.

Lebreault read a prepared statement in reference to the emergency closing at the McGinnis School.

One of the comments in the statement was that the City

had not communicated with the schools in some emergency situations in the past year. Lebreault named 3 separate incidents where there was police activity near the schools and the school administrators were not immediately informed. Joel Pabon volunteered to be the Council liaison to the Board of Education. Lebreault stated that he is the liaison for the Board of Education to the City.

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, "There will be a draft of emergency practices to notify parents. The Peterson School was opened on 1/14/15 and McGinnis School on 1/15/15."

Resident Reinaldo Aviles said, "All schools should have been notified of this health emergency. This should include private and parochial schools. It's important to know what job a person has who is a carrier of a contagious illness."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "The Board of Education did a great job of addressing mistakes that occurred. I am glad you came and addressed the Council about this."

Mayor Diaz acknowledged that there is a lack of communications and the City had to call to get services to deal with the health problems in the school. "I wish the person a speedy recovery. I'm glad that Aviles brought up the fact that all schools should be notified about all emergencies - not just pertaining to health issues. I'm glad that Pabon is the new liaison and I'm glad about getting the new high school."

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**Now, It's Their Turn
 Second Public Portion 1/14/15 Council Meeting**

PERTH AMBOY - Resident Stanley Sierakowski challenged Council President Nanton again. "Any elected or public official can be mentioned at meetings." He rattled off some names such as: Former Newark Mayor Sharpe James, whom served time for corruption, "Or for that matter, the President." Sierakowski wanted to know, "Is the Rosengarten property that we're selling to the county still contaminated and who is paying for the re-mediation?"

At the 1/12/15 Caucus Meeting, Ken Balut had asked if former Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez was getting health benefits from the City and if the Chief of Staff, Lissette Martinez had required training necessary to be a Planning Board Member.

Business Administrator Jillian Barrick said, "Gonzalez was not getting any health benefits and that all Planning Board Members met the requirements and had the necessary training."

Balut also said, "A fence is needed around the Rosengarten property. Homeless people were living there and were burned out. And what is the latest status on YMCA?"

City Attorney Mark Blunda responded, "The Y is still in discussions and cannot be commented on."

Balut retorted, "The Y is making more money," responding to Blunda.

Then Balut addressed Council President Lisa Nanton, "You should read the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and maybe the Ten Commandments. It took 18 years to get Vas indicted. The Council gave Ruiz a raise and see what it got you."

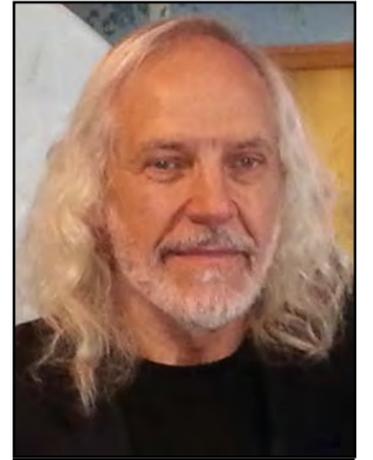
Resident David Caba was concerned about derogatory comments that were made on social media by the Mayor's Chief of Staff and an acquaintance. "If they make these comments, are they the right people to serve on the Boards? The staff should keep in mind that it's the taxpayers that are paying their salaries and not the Mayor."

Addressing City Attorney Blunda, Caba still reiterated the fact, "There still has not been a release from the 12/4/13 shooting of Dixon Rodriguez." He stated there was another case in September 2014 in another town where a crime was committed and a judge ordered the tape released of the crime in a short period of time.

"In another instance a police officer in Buffalo, New York who had 19 years of service was suspended for being a whistle blower. That suspended officer was punished for reporting misconduct of another



Ken Balut



Alan Silber

officer while on duty," Caba said.

Resident Alan Silber still had concerns about the law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, LLC. "One of the attorneys served pro bono for the Mayor. They're representing Sergio Diaz who is contesting the November 4, 2014 Election results and they are representing the Redevelopment Agency. They are receiving \$75,000 on top of \$25,000. You (Pabon - Petrick - S. Diaz) all work together and shared expenses during the campaign for the election of November 2014. This law firm should be served a notice that they can't have a City contract while they are working on this case involving the election."

Silber addressed Council President Nanton saying to her, "Now you are telling us we can't mention a person's name that is on the Agenda? I have the utmost respect for the City Attorney, but he is not representing the residents. He is representing the City." Silber wanted to know if anyone has been down the Waterfront since Hurricane Sandy. "Part of Lewis Street is one-way but you wouldn't know it. I have seen cars going down that street at 60 mph. The sign indicating that street is one-way has been down for 2 years."

Nanton asked Silber, "Why didn't you let anyone know about this?"

Silber answered back, "It's not my job." He also commented about people who were City employees making derogatory comments on social medias. "Especially when it comes to talking about Members of the Council."

City Attorney Blunda answered the question about the law firm representing Sergio Diaz and the lawsuit about the 11/4/14 election. "There are only two parties of interest: Sergio Diaz and Fernando Gonzalez. The law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, LLC. has been representing the City in the lawsuit involving the Landings. No one in the City did anything improper. There is no conflict of interest for Councilmen Pabon and Petrick to vote on res-

olutions involving this firm."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said, "I am being deprived of voting on Resolutions involving this law firm because of the suit involving myself and Sergio Diaz."

Perth Amboy Democratic Chair Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez addressed the City Attorney Mark Blunda. "I'm investigating the election, too. Our City Clerk said there were discrepancies when ballots were turned in on election night. The Dominican Community is being harassed. Sergio Diaz and Fernando Gonzalez were not the only ones involved in this suit, but all who ran in the elections."

She talked about the Zoning Board of Adjustments where she has been a member of for many years and she was one of the candidates reapplying for her seat which was expiring shortly. She said, "I have been serving for 10 years with honesty and integrity and the Zoning Board has not been manipulated by the City or politics. You should vote on this in public. Give people respect if you want respect." Dominguez read a quote, "All power tends to corrupt. Absolute corrupts absolutely."

Towards the end of the meeting, she told the Council and the City Attorney and whoever else was interested that she can give them a full copy of the complaint filed by Sergio Diaz. "Perth Amboy is named in the suit." She also wanted to let them know that there is party being held for all the Democratic elected members. During the campaigning of the November 2014 election, I had people who came to up to me to say if I supported the Diaz team. It would be to my advantage, but I just chuckled at them."

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Knitting Circle
SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Knitting Circle on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Kidz Wii Club
SOUTH AMBOY - The Kidz Wii Club will meet every Monday from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. Ages 5 and under For more info call 732-721-6060.



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Perth Amboy Streets Speeding + Carelessness + Darkness = Danger

I will say 3 things about driving in Perth Amboy: 1.) People in Perth Amboy drive way too fast.; 2.) People jaywalk and cross streets with absolute no regard to traffic whatsoever.; 3.) It is too dark at night, especially on certain streets.

People in Amboy drive fast. Where are these people going that they have to be there in less than ten minutes? Perth Amboy is too small an area to be driving so fast.

Even in broad daylight, it is difficult to drive in Perth Amboy. One resident states, "It's even worse when you have to be alert when pedestrians walk in front of you. Pedestrians don't care anymore." How many times, specifically on Smith Street, Madison Avenue or New Brunswick Avenue do people walk right in front of you while talking on their cell phone or texting with no regard to incoming traffic. Pedestrians often purposely walk in front of cars that have the green light and don't even care. They believe that they don't have to obey traffic laws as pedestrians and they can cross in front of cars even if the signal for the walkway says "DON'T WALK."

I know it's the law to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, but sometimes it's very difficult because there are cars parked right next to the crosswalks (esp. on New Brunswick Avenue) and often hide the people standing there. Still, the pedestrians swing those baby carriages right into traffic. Perhaps Perth Amboy should take a page out of Metuchen or Woodbridge and have the crosswalks that light up upon pressing a button on either side to make drivers aware that pedestrians are crossing.

Even Resident John Siberry and Former Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez were in agreement at a Council Meeting about this.

We keep getting awarded these Pedestrian Safety Program Grants. Maybe Perth

Amboy has to go a step further and go the route of New York and start citing pedestrians.

Instead of taking the road test at the DMV, maybe they should come to Perth Amboy. If a new driver can successfully navigate the roads for a week, especially when school gets out they get their license awarded.

During drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon between the cars and the school buses it's very tough to navigate. All towns can have traffic problems but because of all the schools in the concentrated area, it's an impossible situation. One resident states, "I hate driving between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., especially around Amboy and Hall Avenue, specifically by the Charter School. Parents stop their car in the middle of the street and drop their kids off. The kids get their bags and run across the street. It's very dangerous. At least now there are two crossing guards there."

Another dangerous area is between Amboy and New Brunswick Avenue, especially around 2:30 p.m. The kids walking home from school will cut through New Brunswick Avenue either before or after the bridge in the middle of the street. Many people are aware of this and drive super slow, but what happens if someone from out of town drives there and hits a kid? I don't even want to think about it.

The first time I really noticed exactly how dark certain streets in Perth Amboy are at night could be was in 1998 when I was driving down lower Market Street around 7:30 p.m. Three men were jaywalking across lower Market Street. They all were wearing black clothing and walking a white pit bull. Thank God for the white pit bull because it was the first thing I saw (I saw

**Continued on Page 7*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Complicit in the Process

If we as citizens continue to accept the status quo of unethical behavior and accept the fact that all cities have corruption, if we submit to the notion that we have no choice but to embrace our share of it, we ourselves become complicit in the process by allowing the unethical behavior to continue. We may have the attitude that someone else will do it, someone else will come along to correct the problem. When no one else does, however, we're surprised and angry. We become even more cynical. But what we fail to realize is that no one else came along because that someone else was none other than ourselves. We pay for

every action we don't take. Our easy indifference costs us dearly. Some few others are making all your decisions for you. City officials, striving to maintain a semblance of order, roll out empty pageantry. They put on masquerades pretending that all the right things are being done for you, the citizens, while behind the flimsy façade, everything is burning. They count on our indifference, knowing it will allow the show to go on for the benefit of those in power and their benefactors. Every day, decisions are made for you as to how your tax dollars are spent. Decisions affecting your children's education, welfare, and safety. Decisions impacting the lives of the elderly, the poor, and the homeless. Decisions regarding such

important issues as the lack of employment, mental health, the cleanliness of our city, and the rampant epidemic of businesses closing citywide. Precious few of these decisions have ever resulted in tangible well-being for the public at large. We gaze on, passively, taking in the show. And then another day begins... Every non-action has a reaction, and comes laden with heavy consequences.

WHERE DO YOU FALL ON THE SCALE OF PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE AND COMPLICIT CONFORMITY?

WHEN IS ENOUGH FINALLY ENOUGH?

Virginia Lugo

Virginia Lugo Resignation Letter - BID

Distinguished Council Members and BA Jillian Barrick:

After my protracted and futile battle to correct the decades-long wrongs that have been perpetrated upon the Perth Amboy business community, I've come to realize that I'm just one voice crying in the wilderness. Lacking allies, I do not hold the power to make the necessary changes.

After five years of service — four of which laboring under the carefully-promulgated deception that we were operating as an Advisory Board only — I am regretfully and respectfully resigning as a member of the BID Board of Directors.

The Mayor, along with perpetual BID chairman, Mr. Rosengarten, strategically stacked the BID Board with City employees and pliant

others, all carefully selected to do their bidding. Regardless of these appointees' personal beliefs, they had to vote in line with those who hold their jobs or other business interests in their hands.

This is a major conflict. And only one of many problems plaguing the BID Board and its operations, not least of which include its highly flawed handling of the budget and the structurally compromised design of the upcoming BID Board elections.

I thought that if I brought these problems to the attention of BA Fehrenbach, (and later, Ms. Barrick), the Mayor, and the members of the BID Board, they would in good conscience have self-corrected. When that did not take place, I brought it to the attention of the public, thinking that the harsh light of public scrutiny might finally lead them to make right the wrongdoing.

This also did not work.

I've been an idealist and a

novice in the world of politics, someone who thought that right always wins. I've come to realize that I was dead wrong. Those who hold the reigns of power nearly always win. They certainly did this time.

You were elected by the public to represent their interests. You have the power and the duty to correct these wrongs; however, you must first come to recognize what is right. I hope you come to that realization soon and find the courage and rectitude to act on it.

Though I am tired of tilting at windmills and being vilified for it, I still love the City of Perth Amboy and will continue to work for the betterment of this City and its taxpayers, ceaselessly hoping for a better tomorrow.

Respectfully,
Virginia Lugo
Member of the BID
Board of Directors.

Changing the United States Constitution?

A recent letter in a local newspaper recommended changes to the US Constitution. Ideas that ignore past experience and human nature will often fail in practice, no matter how good they sound.

1) That idea of "Appropriate Background Experience"

would prevent people from choosing the candidate of their choice. How much "Appropriate Background Experience" did Abraham Lincoln or Harry Truman have? Reagan and Bush had experience, how good were they for this country?

2) One "Six Year Term" for the President? That would be too long for a Hoover and too short for an FDR. Why not a two-ter term for Presidents

to allow people more of a choice? Why isn't FDR's portrait on the \$10 bill instead of a man who was forced to resign because of his faults?

3) The radical idea to "Eliminate the President's Control Over the US Supreme Court" is wrong. The President only proposes a candidate, the Senate must approve his choice. This provide checks and balances. The real problem is the lack of an age limit for SC

Letters to the Editor - Continued on Page 10

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UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	615 AMBOY AVE.
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:	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
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BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
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CENTER DELI	250 N. STEVENS AVE.
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COMMUNITY CENTER	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
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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.

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.

Food Stamps Assistance

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday there will be a Food Stamps Assistance Program 10 a.m.- 5 p.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).

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.

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.

Kearny Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
WED. Jan 21	Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
MON. Jan. 26	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED. Jan. 28	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
THURS. Feb. 5	Board of Education, 6 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.
South Amboy	
WED. Jan. 21	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

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Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Trip to Caesar's Casino Every First Thursday of Each Month. Bus leaves 12 Noon from Knights of Columbus, 228 High St., Perth Amboy. Cost \$30 per person. Receive a \$30 slot card. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

Super Bowl Party

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Game Start - 6:30 p.m.) Sunday, February 1 Cost: \$15 pp. with a Covered Dish \$25 pp. without a Covered Dish. Tickets sold at the door. For More Info Call: 732-718-3125 (Michelle).

Mardi Gras Dance

SOUTH AMBOY - Mardi Gras Dance at South Amboy Elks 784, 701 Washington Ave., South Amboy. Come and Dance Your Feet Off!!! Saturday February 7 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Featuring the fabulous - "Noisy Neighbors Band" Delicious Jambalya, etc., served. Drink Specials. Donations: \$15 pp. All proceeds will benefit: Drug Awareness - Peer Leadership Program.

Health Coverage

PERTH AMBOY - The Health Insurance Marketplace helps uninsured people enroll in health coverage. From November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015, the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center at 275 Hobart Street can help you apply for health coverage through the Marketplace. Plans cover essential health benefits, pre-existing conditions, and preventive care. Our Patient Navigators are available to help. Call us at 732-376-9333.

Healthy Heart Event

SOUTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a healthy heart event providing free education about chronic heart conditions, medication management, blood pressure screening and heart rate testing Wednesday, February 4, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at South Amboy YMCA, 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd. High blood pressure and irregular heart is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of these screenings and education to maintain a healthy heart.

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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.

Parent PARCC Party

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - There will be a Parent PARCC Party at the Samuel E. Shull Middle School, 380 Hall Avenue on Thursday, January 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You may have heard about the new PARCC Standardized Tests, but do you know how many changes that are in store for your child? Do you want to help your child succeed while taking assessments, but you aren't quite sure how? Samuel E. Shull Middle School would like to help you! On January 22nd, Samuel E. Shull Middle School is hosting a PARCC Party for parents to learn more about the new statewide assessment that is replacing the NJASK beginning this year. The purpose of this event is to promote student academic success on the upcoming PARCC assessment. Parents are welcome to join us for an information session followed by dinner, music, and prizes! Babysitting services will be available during the event and door prizes will be raffled off at the end of the event! (In order to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a door prize, parents must arrive by 5:50). We hope to see you at this exciting event! Dinner and Babysitting provided.

Apokriatiko Glendi

Carnival - Mardi Gras -
Masque

WOODBIDGE - Saturday, Feb. 21, The Forge Inn, Rte. 9 N., Woodbridge. Live Band for dancing by Maria L Stavros Damore. Fun, Prizes and Surprises. Doors open 7 p.m. Cash Bar. All are invited. Dress in your Favorite Jester, Joker Costume (Optional). St. Demetrios Board of Trustees will be honoring: Lambros Simatos (Elevator Committee/Past President); Kateina Ganiaris (Past President); Soterios Petroustos (Sexton); George Seitis (Chief Chef), Presvytera Eva Michaels and Zeffie Filindras (Beautification Award Winners). Must make Reservations in advance. Must RSVP on or before Feb. 15, 2015. Donation: \$45 pp; Children 7 to 16 yrs \$25; Under 6 yrs. Free. Seniors over 65 yrs. \$40. Please make checks payable to St. Demetrios Church and mail to Olga Mamaligas, 40 Henry St., Sayreville, NJ 08872. (732-254-0311). For more info call Irene Pakis - 732-591-1878; Afroula Kanelides - 732-423-7256 or Helen Horan - 908-756-6352.

Mathematics Instruction for PARCC Materials Discussed

PERTH AMBOY - At the 1/7/15 BOE Meeting, Board President Sam Lebreault asked how teachers are being selected to prepare students for the PARCC (Partnership for Readiness of College and Careers) exam, "Who is going to be teaching this?"

Interim Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez answered, "I don't know. This is the first year of PARCC. It's very different. We need to have one-to-one availability for students. The Math Teachers in Teach-to-One use online services."

Board Vice-President Israel Varela added, "The reason for addressing this is because Teach-to-One was supposed to be a miracle."

Board Member Obi Gonzalez said, "Teach-to-One is in question because standardized test math scores went down. Hopefully we will put money for what we need to do."

Interim Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, "Marie Bermudez came in November. She has done her best in math and science. We met someone - Dr. Milo from Rowan University. We really need to get a handle on our mathematics. I am asking the Board to be patient. We are looking to move forward. It took a while to bring you a true assessment to where we are now."

Board Member William Ortiz said, "This is \$45,000 on something we don't want (Teach-to-One). If it doesn't work with us in 2 years, it's got to go. Have people implementing the program and state why it's not working. The description for this program is very vague. I hope next time you (Dr. Rodriguez) can answer these questions."

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SAYREVILLE - The Sayreville United Methodist Church will be having their annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 6 - 8 pm at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872. Cost: Adult: \$10.00, Seniors/Students/Children 5-12: \$8.00, Children under 5: Free Dinner of Spaghetti & Meatballs. Dinner Includes: Corned Beef or Spaghetti & Meatballs, Boiled Cabbage & Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Rye Bread or Roll, Beverage and Dessert. For questions or additional tickets, please contact: Christine Glace (732)613-8768.

Editorial

*Continued from Page 4

Continued from Page 7

them later) and I was able to slow down and stop.

There was another instance when I was driving down outer Amboy Avenue and it was really foggy out. I was driving real slow and was barely able to see the Canadian Geese crossing the road. I was able to stop and avoid hitting them, but it is so dark down that road at night.

The darkest streets in Perth Amboy are High Street, lower Market Street, outer Amboy Avenue between rte. 440 and rte. 35. and certain side streets (e.g. Lewis Street). This is especially true if it's raining, foggy or just plain cloudy out that particular night.

One resident states, "High Street going toward the Waterfront is very dark. It's difficult to see people crossing when they are supposed to be crossing at the crosswalks (when they are jaywalking). If you need to make a left hand turn sometimes you don't see someone because the lights are so dim. The streetlights don't illuminate the area like they used to."

How many streetlights are blown out on Smith and Market Streets and for that matter all over Perth Amboy? In a past Council Meeting about 2 years ago Councilmen Fernando Gonzalez and Bill Petrick drove down Smith Street at night and counted exactly how many lights were out. The number was very high.

The combination of cars driving too fast, pedestrians who don't even look while crossing the street, and dim or blown out streetlights are a recipe for a tragedy waiting to happen.

K.M. & C.M.

Birthday Parties at the South Amboy Y

SOUTH AMBOY - Relax and let the Y host your child's next birthday party! No fuss, no mess, no worries... Parties can be almost totally customized by you. Try a Y! Party featuring traditional games, mat play, face painting, and parachute, or a Dance Party with your choice of music. Of course, most children love our Swim/Gym Parties with an hour of swim time, followed by an hour of sports play in the gymnasium. All parties include pizza and party hosts. Dates are booking quickly for the winter, so reserve your child's birthday weekend today! For more information on Birthday Parties, please contact our Member Services Desk at 732-553-9622.

*Courtesy of John K. Dyke

Send Your Events to:
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Military Assistance Center

WOODBIDGE - Sansone Auto Mall and Woodbridge Township are sponsoring a Military Assistance Center, 3rd Floor, Town Hall. Ronald G. Davie, Coordinator. 732-634-4500 ext. 2037. Email - Ron.Davie@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

We Keep You Moving

PERTH AMBOY - The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, February 6, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the medical center's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Session will be presented by clinical specialists. Registration required, call 732.535.4746.

Public Notice Middlesex Water Company Warns Against Imposters Posing As Utility Personnel

Press Release 1/8/15
ISELIN - - Middlesex Water Company is urging customers to be on the alert for individuals claiming to be water company representatives. Recently, the company has learned of incidents in its service area, where imposters, often working with another person, will pose as water company representatives, and will attempt to gain entry to a customer's home to check water quality or meter piping. Often, while the customer is distracted while complying with a request to check their tap or fixture, they will later discover they have been burglarized. The Company is urging customers to be wary of any water utility representative seeking to gain access to their home, to carefully check for company name and identification and to contact Middlesex Water's Customer Service Department at 800-549-3802 to verify the authenticity of the employee before allowing entrance. If a customer suspects a person or persons to be posing as water utility representatives, they are encouraged to get a detailed description of the parties in question and to notify the police immediately.

Contact:
Bernadette Sohler, Vice President - Corporate Affairs
Middlesex Water Company
1500 Ronson Road

Go Red for Women Healthy Heart Event

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is offering a Go Red for Women Healthy Heart Event Friday, February 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at seven different locations, including: Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ; Provident Bank: Old Bridge Branch, 3889 Rt. 516, Old Bridge, NJ 08857; South Amboy Branch, 600 Washington Avenue, South Amboy, NJ 08879; Administrative Office, 100 Wood Avenue South Iselin NJ 08830; Woodbridge Branch, 325 Amboy Ave., Woodbridge, NJ 07095; Perth Amboy Branch, 339 State St. Perth Amboy, NJ 08862; Sayreville Borough Hall, 167 Main St., Sayreville, NJ, 11 a.m. - 12 noon. High blood pressure is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of this free screening to know your pressure levels and learn basic steps to regulate and maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

Code Blue Heating Centers in Perth Amboy

Press Release 1/8/15
PERTH AMBOY - The Office of Emergency Management has announced a "Code Blue" in the City of Perth Amboy. Heating Centers are designated for the public in three Perth Amboy facilities due to low temperatures, until further notice:
1. Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center located on 1 Olive Street; open M-F from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Perth Amboy Public Library (Brighton Avenue Community Center) temporarily located on 57 Brighton Avenue; open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.
3. Raritan Bay Area YMCA gymnasium located on 357 New Brunswick Avenue; open M-F 5:30 a.m. - 9:45 p.m.
A "Code Blue" is activated when temperatures fall below 20 degrees. If anyone sees a person who needs help, they are urged to call the Perth Amboy Police Department at 732-442-4400. If needed, transportation will be provided by local emergency responders.

The NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch Elects Elizabeth Williams-Riley as President

Press Release - 1/13/15
PERTH AMBOY - The NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch is pleased to name its new slate of officers. Elizabeth Williams-Riley, a Woodbridge resident, will serve as President. Mrs. Williams-Riley brings more than two decades of experience in social justice education, training, community outreach, and consulting. Ms. Williams-Riley also serves as President & CEO of the New Brunswick-based American Conference on Diversity <http://AmericanConferenceOnDiversity.org>. She has been featured on radio and television programs in numerous cities in the tri-state area. Ms. Williams-Riley is a 2013 Diversity Journal Woman Worth Watching, 2015 Girls Scout Jersey Shore Woman of Distinction, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and attends Agape Family Worship Center. She has also been featured in news articles for her outstanding work with youth and adults to challenge stereotypes and create change agents. She is proud to have worked with: Prudential Financial, ADL, GLSEN, Bank of America, Simon Wiesenthal NY Tolerance Center, Teaneck Human Relations Council, South Orange Maplewood Coalition on Race, Newark, Jersey City and Woodbridge, NJ School Districts, Atlantic Cape Community College, Brookdale Community College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Monmouth University, Rutgers University, among others.

"With the nation's new focus on race relations, recent NAACP bombing, policies and practices that simply are not fairly enforced, our work is more important today than ever!" says Ms. Williams-Riley. "With unarmed Black men

being murdered daily, with families and communities being torn apart, with the equality movement gaining momentum nationwide, it's an honor to be serving as president of the NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch."

True to the NAACP's mission, Ms. Williams-Riley will be responsible for the development strategies to unite concerned citizens to respond to discrimination, racial prejudice, and unjust policy in the Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, and Woodbridge Township areas. Elizabeth is joined by Melvinia Knight, 1st Vice Chair; Angelene Fleming, 2nd Vice Chair; Louise Garrison, 3rd Vice Chair; Janice Clark, Secretary; Brenda Gumbs, Assistant Secretary; Angelo Adkins, Treasurer; and Inez Adkins, Assistant Treasurer.

The officer induction ceremony for Perth Amboy Area and Metuchen Edison Area NAACP Branches will be hosted by Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders on Monday, January 19, 11:00am at the North Stelton AME Church located at 123 Craig Avenue Piscataway, NJ 08854 <http://www.northsteltoname.org>.

D. Ronald Spevack, a member of the NAACP in Perth Amboy since 1963 expresses the great sense of urgency. Spevack's firm <http://www.woodbridgelawfirm.com> continues to support the NAACP on legal issues of discrimination. Spevack says, "The need for the NAACP is demonstrated every day by the headlines in the newspapers. NAACP must again fight for the rights for voters in the south and where states are doing everything possible to limit the minority vote."

Headquartered in a demographically changing region

of New Jersey, the work of the NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch is critical to developing members who can join forces to champion what's right and just. We encourage individuals from our outreach areas to join us, renew your memberships, and be a part of the revolution of change that is happening nationwide and globally.

About the NAACP Perth Amboy Area Branch
The NAACP Perth Amboy branch was organized on September 8, 1941 in response to increasing discrimination, racial prejudice, and unjust policy. In response to heightened violence and hostility during the 1940's through the 1970's, members of the branch joined forces with students and civil rights/labor activists from Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, and Woodbridge Township to conduct mass demonstrations such as boycotts, walkouts, sit-ins, protest marches, and picket lines.

For nearly 75 years, the branch built and grew on the collective courage of men, women, and young adults who decided to stand firm and strong to champion what's right and just. People of all races, nationalities, and faiths united on one premise—that "all men and women are created equal"; thus changing America's history. Despite violence, intimidation, and hostile government policies, the NAACP and its grass-roots membership persevered. We pushed and continue to push America to fulfill its promise of equal rights for all. For more information and to become a member, please visit www.naacp-perthamboyarea.org or contact us via email at infor@naacp-perthamboyarea.org.

Childbirth Education Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a one day Childbirth Education class Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class is designed to help expectant parents better understand the childbearing process. A registered nurse with special training in labor, delivery and childcare techniques will facilitate the class. It will be held at Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy. The fee for the course is \$125 per couple. Registration required, call 1.800.DOCTORS (1.800.362.8677) and reference zip code 08861.

Healthcare Provider CPR Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing an American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR class Wednesday February 4, 6 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Participants will receive certification CPR for adults, infants and children and learn about ventilation devices, automated external defibrillators and how to clear an obstructed airway in responsive and unresponsive patients. Cost is \$80 per person. Make checks payable to RBMC. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS. (1.800.362.8677)

Tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's monthly tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. Newly expectant parents are invited to take the tour and learn about the maternity unit's modern comforts designed to provide a calm and relaxing birthing experience. Participants are asked to meet in the main lobby of the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration required, call 1.800.DOCTORS (1.800.362.8677) and reference zip code 08861.

**Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446**

Epiphany at St. Demetrios Church, Perth Amboy 1/11/15

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*

Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

January 6

PERTH AMBOY - The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

On January 6, the day of the Feast, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom



Zachary Giannakopoulos, winner of the 2015 Annual Diving for the Cross displaying the Cross thrown into the frigid Raritan Bay directly across the street from the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church with Reverend Father Angelo J. Michaels.



Children sing for the Epiphany



Honorable Marina Corodemus Parish Council President, Stavros Tsapatsaris, the Chantor of St. Demetrios who found the second gold coin, and Rev. Father Angelo J. Michaels

is conducted followed by Blessing of the Waters.

The Blessing of the Waters is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water to be retrieved by divers.

Here in Perth Amboy, the entire congregation of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church gathers cross the street at our beautiful water-

front to conduct the Blessing of the Waters including divers who are blessed by our Priest for their participation in the retrieval of the cross.

The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

Resource: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website (www.goarch.org)



Reverend Father Angelo J. Michaels of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Perth Amboy, Zachary Giannakopoulos and his brother, Dean Giannakopoulos



Helen Suravlas, Chairperson of the cutting of the Vasilopita and luncheon, Stella Wacker; Treasurer, Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos Society; President of St. Demetrios Philoptochos Society. Rev. Father Angelo J. Michaels, Zachary Giannakopoulos, Dean Giannakopoulos and Honorable Marina Corodemus, Parish Council President



Rev. Father Angelo J. Michaels, Carolyn Maxwell, holding the coin of the Vasilopita. The Greek word Vasilopita is directly translated as "Sweet Bread of Basil." When the bread is prepared, a coin is baked into the ingredients. Sweet flavoring is added to the bread which symbolize the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance. Stella Wacker and Honorable Marina Corodemus Parish Council President.



Parish Council Member George Petrakakis with Carolyn Maxwell

The Community Voice

**Continued from Page 4*

Justices like all other Federal Judges. Only royalty serves for life. The SC should be expanded to thirteen Justices, one for each Federal District, as was done in the beginning of our Republic. There were six in Washington's time (13 states), seven in Jefferson's time (18 states), and nine in Jackson's time (24 states).

4) That proposal for "four conservatives, four liberals, and one independent" failed to define those phrases. Earl Warren had "Appropriate Background Experience" before being named Chief Justice. Was he a conservative, a liberal, or an independent? Do people change as a result of experience? Why not three each of conservatives, liberals, and independents?

5) The wildest claim is for our leaders to act for the "best interests of America". Why aren't they doing that now?

If they aren't providing the greatest good for the greatest number whose fault is that? Would that require another revolution to give people more power over the government?

6) That letter failed to recommend doubling the membership of the House to allow smaller and more representative districts. This would follow the Original Intent in the Constitution, and could allow the Electoral College to better align with the popular vote.

Beware of political proposals that sound good but have a hidden agenda. There is always a trade-off in economics, engineering, and politics so if a proposal sounds "too good to be true" there is something hidden. People should get both sides of any proposal so they can understand what will be won and lost.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Correction to Article

We are writing to correct the inaccurate information printed in Guy Hogan's article about the Proprietary House Museum in a recent edition of the Guardian. Mr. Hogan states that the Proprietary House is the only Royal Governor's Mansion left from the colonial period. This is inaccurate. The Proprietary House Museum is one of four Royal Governor's Mansions from the thirteen original colonies. NJ, NH, NC and Mass. all have Royal Governor's Mansions which are still standing. There is the Wentworth Coolidge mansion built in 1750 for Royal Governor Wentworth in N.H. .

The Sherely-Eastis House built in 1741 for Royal Governor William Sherely in Mass.

The Tryon Place built in 1770 for Royal Governor William Tryon in N.C.

In addition, there is currently a trend by some to refer to the Proprietary House Museum only as the "Royal Governor's Mansion". This effort to promote the House, ignores the fact that while Royal Governor William Franklin who was appointed in 1762, did live in the Proprietary House, it was only for the last 21 months

of his fourteen years in office. The Proprietary House today is not a place that Governor Franklin would recognize, there are no interior walls today in the mansion that date from the Franklin residency due in a devastating fire after the Revolutionary War that left the house in ruins.

Unfortunately, the same misinformation about the history of the house has been repeated on our public access channel. While the goal of increasing historic tourism to the City of Perth Amboy is an important one, we shouldn't throw out the historic facts. The public should not be fed misinformation. The Proprietary House Museum is important for many reasons. It was one of the first resort hotels on the Jersey shore, the home of one of the wealthiest men in the country in the early 19th century, the home of a mayor of Perth Amboy and possible Tory spy in the 18th c. and a Presbyterian Church retirement home in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Royal Governor's brief stay there is only one of the many good reasons to visit this museum.

Dave Szilagyi, past President of the Proprietary House Association

Jane Hogya, past Vice-President of the Proprietary House Association

Allen, Vitale Bill Prohibiting Restraint of Inmates During Childbirth Advances

Press Release 1/15/15

19th DISTRICT - Bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators Diane Allen and Joseph Vitale prohibiting correctional facilities from placing restraints on inmates during or immediately after childbirth was advanced today by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

"Sadly, there have been instances at facilities across the country where female prisoners were handcuffed or physically restrained in other ways while in labor and right after delivery," said Allen (R-Burlington). "Shackling a woman during childbirth creates serious medical risks and is an affront to basic human dignities. This legislation will make sure that type of barbaric treatment doesn't take place in New Jersey."

According to a July 2014

New York Times article, an estimated 2,000 women give birth to babies each year while incarcerated, including in 2011 a Nevada woman who suffered severe injuries when corrections staff shackled her ankles together while she was in labor and then again minutes after her child was delivered through an emergency cesarean section. Over the past 15 years 21 states have enacted legislation prohibiting the restraint of inmates during labor.

"You would be hard-pressed to find an obstetrician who thinks that tying a woman down, handcuffing her to a bed or restraining her while giving birth is good for the mother or good for the child," said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). "Yet, incarcerated women can be subjected to this inhuman act prior to, during and in the

aftermaths of labor. Restraining a woman in labor can not only restrict her ability to move positions to manage the pain or as part of the birthing process but can limit the ability of the doctor to move the woman's position for the safety of the child. It is an unsafe practice that must be stopped."

The legislation, S-221, prohibits correctional staff and medical providers from restraining an inmate during or immediately after labor or during pregnancy related medical distress. The legislation does allow for the least restrictive restraint necessary to be used in circumstances where the inmate is determined to be a significant flight risk or during other extraordinary security or medical circumstances that pose a safety risk to staff, the inmate or the public.

Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library will be meeting on Wednesday, January 28 at 7 p.m. at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info call 732-797-8074.

HIGHLIGHT THESE TAX DATES ON YOUR 2015 CALENDAR

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka

Don't subject yourself to penalties for missing important tax filing deadlines in 2015. Before you hang up your 2015 calendar, mark any of the following tax deadlines that apply to you or your business.

- February 2 - Employers must furnish 2014 W-2 statements to employees. 1099 information statements must be furnished to payees by payers. (Deadline for providing Forms 1099-B and consolidated statements to customers is February 17.)

- February 2 - Employers must file 2014 federal unemployment tax returns and pay any tax due.

- March 2 - Payers must file information returns (such as 1099s) with the IRS. (March 31 is the deadline if filing electronically.)

- March 2 - Employers must send W-2 copies to the Social Security Administration. (March 31 is the deadline if filing electronically.)

- March 2 - Farmers and fishermen who did not make 2014 estimated tax payments must file 2014 tax returns and pay taxes in full.

Work in Progress at the Waterfront, Perth Amboy

**Photos by R.J. Kawka*



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www.amboyguardian.com

Grand Opening Lu's Garden Chinese Restaurant, 774 Convery Blvd. Perth Amboy 1/14/15 *Photos by Joe Bayona



Outside of Lu's - Patrons can enjoy plenty of free parking available



The spacious and decorative interior of Lu's Garden



Ceremonial cutting of the red ribbon. Pictured (L to R), Mayor's Aide Irving Lozada, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Hong Lu, Tom Lu, and BID/UEZ Coordinator Roxana Troche



Mayor Diaz presents citation to Hong and Tom Lu.



Mayor Diaz samples the cuisine with Roxana Troche

Grand Opening, Farmers Insurance, 257 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy 1/13/15

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



(L to R) Farmers Co-Owner Gabriel Ubides, Andres Ubides, Mayor Diaz, Madison Tabares, Co-Owner Freddie Tabares, Alex Tabares, and Madeline Rodriguez



Cutting the Ribbon

Grand Opening Bread & Butter Cafe, 281 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy 1/15/15

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



Serving Cakes and Sandwiches



Mayoral Citation



Cutting the Ribbon

Lego Toddlers

SOUTH AMBOY - Ages 2-3 yrs. old. Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060. Come build with us!

C is for Cookie

SOUTH AMBOY - Ages 3-4 yrs. old. Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060. Decorate Cookies - Hear a fun story!

Kid's Winter

Bingo

SOUTH AMBOY - All ages! Wednesday, January 21 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

E-Book Help

SOUTH AMBOY - There are free E-Book Help on Thursdays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

South Amboy YMCA's Parents Night Out

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy YMCA offers a Parents Night Out which is available on select Friday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Our next PNO is Friday, January 30th. Children ages 4-12 enjoy a pizza dinner, play games, do arts & crafts, projects, and watch a movie while parents get a break from their routine. Registration 48 hours in advance is required and children must be toilet trained. If you have any questions, please call the Member Services Desk at 732-553-9622.

Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Cardiac Club will meet Monday, February 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the hospital's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Meetings are held in the hospital's Centennial Hall and provide education and support for those managing chronic heart conditions. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 732.324.5178.

**Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446**

Vet's Coffee House

PERTH AMBOY - Attention area vets of our Armed Forces. The Salvation Army Vet's Coffee House meets once a month, every 2nd Thursday for coffee, donuts and conversation. Time is 19:00 - 21:00 located at the corner of Washington Street and State Street, Perth Amboy. We can be reached at the Salvation Army 732-826-7040. We look forward to meeting you.

Assumption Catholic School Open House

PERTH AMBOY - Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy will host an open house on Sunday, January 25, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. as part of its Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Light refreshments and school tours will be available for prospective students and their parents. Founded in 1963, Assumption Catholic School brings the tradition of high-quality Catholic Education to the city of Perth Amboy, NJ. AdvancEd accredited, the school provides a Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of pre-kindergarten (age 4) through eighth-grade students. Before Care and After Care are available. To receive more information about the school, call 732-826-8721 or visit www.assumptioncatholicschool.net. If you have any friends or family that is looking for a school for their children, please let them know about our open house.

Edison AARP Chapter 3446

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, January 19, 2015. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall located at 167 Brower Avenue, Edison, NJ. Walter Stochel Jr. of the Metuchen/Edison Historical Society will present a program titled "Edison Then and Now". The following is a schedule of events for the coming months, which are open to non-members. February 19, 2015: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Jukehouse Heroes" - For information call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659. For information on the knitting and crocheting club, call Kay at 732-548-1976. Canned food for MCFOOD, and miscellaneous items for nursing homes & hospitals will be collected at the meeting, as well as metal can tabs & eyeglasses for Ronald McDonald House. For additional information, visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

Ask the Rabbi

EDISON - Every Wednesday, in January and February, Rabbi Saks of Congregation Beth Mordecai of Perth Amboy will be at Menlo Park Mall Food Court at 12 noon to 1 pm for his "Ask the Rabbi" program. He will offer a Jewish perspective on any question that you would like to ask.

Learn with the Rabbi at

Panera Yeshiva
WOODBRIDGE - Every Wednesday, in January and February, Rabbi Saks of Congregation Beth Mordecai of Perth Amboy will be at Panera Bread in Woodbridge (across from Wegmans) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. He will be teaching different Jewish subjects each week.

Ladies Auxiliary #4699

SAYREVILLE - the monthly meeting of the Sayreville Ladies Auxiliary #4699 on Jernee Mills Road will be held on January 27 at 7 p.m. All auxiliary ladies are invited to attend. A light refreshment will be served. For more info call 732-264-3041.

Photography Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Come learn Portrait Photography. Lessons take place at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave. at 7 p.m., Tuesdays starting 1/27/15 will last an 8 week session. Must have a Digital Camera. \$50 pp for 8 week session. For more info call Paul at 732-293-1090 or 908-812-4549.

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA

12 Weeks of Healing
SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Y is offering a FREE 12 week program for cancer survivors starting January 2015. Extensive research has shown that exercise for individuals recovering from cancer, and individuals going through treatment for cancer, can help reduce fatigue and loss of strength. The program meets twice a week, Tuesdays 6-7pm and Thursdays 1-2pm, and will give participants a gradual approach to exercise as they work hand in hand with our experienced trainers and staff. There will be a focus on cardio exercise and progress into weights, stability and endurance. For more information, contact Lois Griffin at 732-316-8219 or lois.griffin@ymcaofmews.org.

Chamber Players

WOODBRIDGE - Happy New Year! 2015 at the Barron Arts Center. All Seasons Chamber Players on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 8 p.m. Their 26th Season at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. Reservations Essential. Call 732-634-0413.

Pasta Night

SOUTH AMBOY - Come for Dinner, Stay for Music at Open Mic Night. Friday January 30, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. hosted by the Columibettes at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus, 308 4th St., South Amboy. Pasta Night - Spaghetti or Baked Ziti, Meatballs or Sausage, (1) beer, wine or soda, salad/bread/dessert and coffee - \$10 per adult \$7 per child - children under 5 yrs old free...Please call Maria for tickets 732-313-6483.

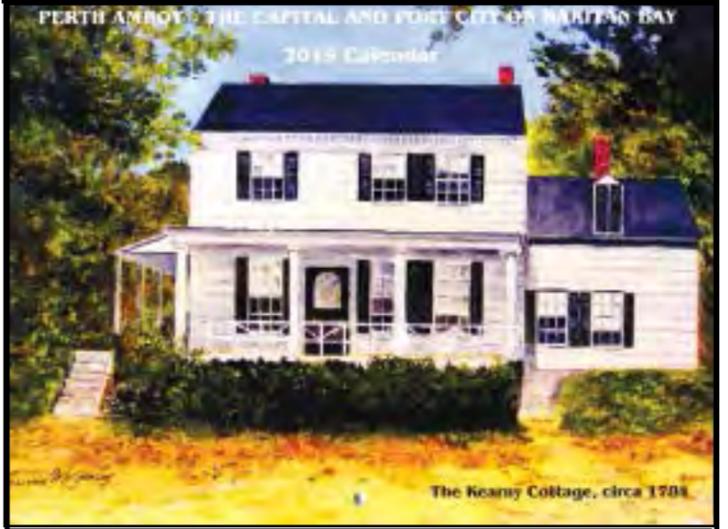
Celebration of Democratic Candidates

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Democratic Organization invites you in the celebration of the 2014 successful election of the local, county and state Democrats. Saturday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Portuguese Sporting Club, 782 State St., Perth Amboy. Catered by Chef Slavko of the Raritan Yacht Club. Tickets \$45 each. Make your reservations by sending payments to P.O. Box 844, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862. Checks made payable to the Perth Amboy Democratic Organization. Please make sure you include your full name, address and telephone number on the stub of the ticket with your payments. For additional info call Iris at 732-261-9309 or Barbara at 732-826-9466.

Music at St. Mary's

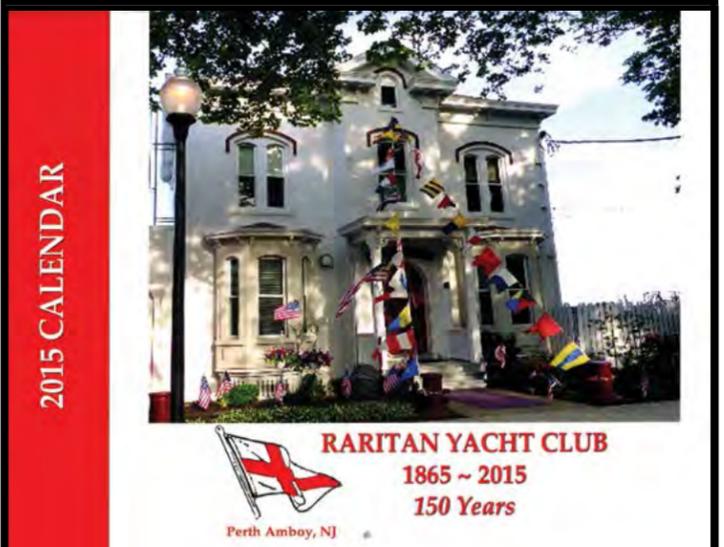
SOUTH AMBOY - "Calling music lovers of all ages! Music at Saint Mary's presents: Exit 4 Woodwind Quintet! This program of eclectic music for a woodwind quintet (flute oboe, clarinet, French horn, and bassoon) will be sure to delight the entire family. Unlike string quartets with their homogeneous blend of sounds, the 5-instrument composition of the wind quintet creates a delightful listening experience for the audience. Don't miss this opportunity to hear these incredibly talented musicians. Sunday-January 25, 2015; 4:00 pm, at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879! Free admission (\$15 donation suggested). A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert."

2015 Commemorative Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2015 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Dept. Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-646-8337 or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. This year, the Calendars feature full color paintings by Artist Francis McGinley from Donald Johnstone Peck's book, "An American Journey of Hope." Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$15 Each.

2015 RYC Commemorative Calendars For Sale



PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Yacht Club, Perth Amboy will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary in 2015. To "Kick Off" the New Year, a limited edition, commemorative calendar with 13 vintage photographs is available for \$15 by contacting the RYC Office 732-826-2277 or Barbara Booz 732-442-4234.

Piroghi and Cake Sale Grandparents Newborn Care Class

PERTH AMBOY - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 404 Division St., Perth Amboy is having a potato piroghi and cake sale starting on Mon. Jan. 26 to Friday, Jan. 30. Call 732-826-7067 between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to place your orders. Cakes are nut, poppy seed, apricot, raspberry and prune. Price \$11. Pick up date is Tues. Feb. 3 and Wed. Feb. 4 at the above address. Price is \$8 per dozen potato piroghi. All gourmet items are handmade.

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a Grandparents Newborn Care Class Wednesday, February 18, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. The class is about learning to help in your grandbaby's growth and development. The newest research in baby care will be discussed. Cost is \$50 per couple. Make checks payable to RBMC. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS.

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.

Prayer to St. Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of. Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to 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 (Here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.

B.K.

Edison AARP Chapter 3446

EDISON - The following is a schedule of events for the coming months, which are open to non members. Feb. 19, 2015: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Jukehouse Heroes" - For more info call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659. For additional info visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

Flu Shots Available

PERTH AMBOY - Don't Let the Flu Be Your Costume. Get your vaccination at the JRMC. Schedule your appointment today at one of our locations. Perth Amboy, 275 Hobart Street, (732) 376-9333 or email contactus@jrmc.us. In Newark - 5 locations (973) 679-7709 or email newarkhealthcenters@jrmc.us

HSE (GED) Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Interested in obtaining your high school equivalency (HSE formerly known as GED) diploma while getting paid to learn? If so, please contact the Civic Justice Corps program at (732)324-2114 Ext. 102 or Ext. 100 or visit us at 149 Kearny Ave. (Proprietary House) Room 401 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. CJC is a project of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation. We provide academic, leadership and career support to males between the ages of 18-25 years old. We also offer a modest stipend to all our participants.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- WED. Jan. 21 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. Jan. 22 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Jan. 26 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Jan. 27 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Jan. 28 Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
- Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- THURS. Jan. 29 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Jan. 26 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. Feb. 2 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Feb. 11 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave

Attn: If Your Club changes Your Schedule due to the Holidays or if you have Community Events to Submit Please give us two weeks advanced notice! 732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610 AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



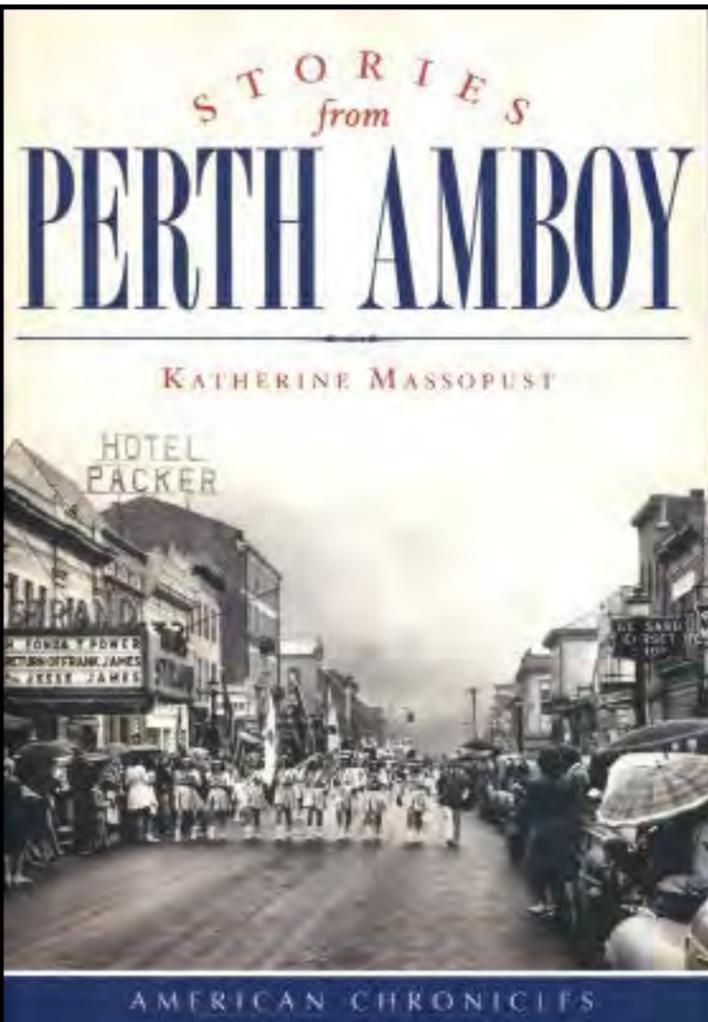
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - 5 Corner Cafe circa 1980's, State and Smith Streets. In the 1990's was the site of Palmer Video. Now it is the Site of a Dunkin' Donuts.

*Photo by Paul W. Wang

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 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!

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Classifieds

Sharpening

Make dull stuff sharp "Cheap" - knives, scissors, garden tools - 732-442-3430

For Sale

Sony 3D Blu-Ray DVD Player - used one time - \$60 - 732-721-4477

Pre-lit X-mas Tree 7 1/2 ft. 700 Lights - Excellent Cond. Pd. \$150 - Sell \$45 - 732-324-0964 - leave message

1950s Wood Sled - \$30; 50/60 Typewriter; Fog Lights (2); 1900 Tobacco Cards asking \$75 - 732-713-0536

For Sale - Vintage Playboy Hustler Magazines \$10 Each or 3 for \$25 732-826-3716.

Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Ball Model - Like New \$75 - 732-290-1551

For Sale

Music Sheet Music for Piano \$1 - Music Books \$5 732-442-1953

Show display cases - good condition - must sell \$20 732-382-5096

Lionel 027 Train Set with Diecast Engine \$75 732-727-8417

Cement Mixer - Electric, 3 Cubic Feet, Good Working Condition \$50 or Offer 732-750-1340

Three Piece American Tourister Luggage with wheels \$75 732-442-1642

Upright Vacuum Hoover with Attachments \$50 732-442-9454

Oak Armor with TV included. Can Send Picture \$75 732-925-6542

Whirlpool Electric Dryer - Runs Great! Moving! - Must Sell - 732-417-9209

Chain Saw - Gas - 16" Homelite - Mint Condition \$60 - 732-721-4477 x

2 Dell Computer Bags - Nylon 17 inch \$10. Excellent Condition - 732-642-7182

For Sale

Household Items - Carpet Steamer - \$45, lamp - \$10 TV - \$20 - 732-967-6587

Joe Weider Workout Bench Signature Series Like New \$60 732-727-1306

Super Blower Vacuum Toro Electric Model \$1587 - 732-826-6324

Kenmore Gold Washer \$35; Kenmore White Gas Dryer \$35 732-826-1651

Blue house birdcage \$20 732-277-0706

Sony Megastorage 200 CD Player \$45 732-595-6334

Christmas Decore - large assortment lights, wreaths, balls, etc. \$25 - 732-826-5865

Pet Blue in/outdoor Playpen Exercise - Heavy -New - \$40 - Hard to Find - 732-734-7452

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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to St. Joseph

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.**

Cost \$10.
 Pre-payment required.

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

A Petition to St. Jude

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. *Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.*

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 _____

Classified Ads

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BRING AD

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 28 Advanced degree (abbr.) | manner | 8 Pants holders |
| 1 Islanders's gp. | 29 Heavy weight | 48 Related (to) | 9 Groom's response (2 wds.) |
| 4 Hunt for herring | 30 "Step ___!" (2 wds.) | 49 Actress Teri | 10 Naught |
| 8 Cherry type | 31 23rd Greek letter | 50 Owned | 11 Alternative to hairspray |
| 12 "___ Blue?" (2 wds.) | 32 Actor Ken | 51 Mail | 16 Leader's place |
| 13 One opposed | 33 Cornish clucker | 52 Spud buds | 19 Unprincipled lout |
| 14 Actress Falco | 34 Dieter's enemy | 53 "Oz" aunt et al. | 20 Luau farewell |
| 15 Certain iron (2 wds.) | 35 Unenthused | DOWN | 21 Fishing strings |
| 17 Take it easy | 36 Analyzes ore | 1 Scold | 22 Pocket jinglers |
| 18 Portray an event | 38 Large groups | 2 "Managed care" inits. | 24 "___ Shrugged" (Rand novel) |
| 20 Author Louisa May ___ | 39 Inaccuracy | 3 "___ Liza Jane" | 25 Idaho's capital |
| 23 Winter melon | 41 Ten cents | 4 Gem surfaces | 26 Bancroft and Baxter |
| 27 Roaring beasts | 44 In an impassioned | 5 Lakeshore's recess | 28 Attention-getting sound |
| | | 6 Shock | 31 "A ___ to India" |
| | | 7 Japanese grill | 32 Mary-Kate or Ashley |
| | | | 34 Memo letters |
| | | | 35 Bread producers |
| | | | 37 Modify laws |
| | | | 38 Sierra ___ |
| | | | 40 Dentist's office item |
| | | | 41 Prosecutors (abbr.) |
| | | | 42 Alibi ___ |
| | | | 43 Hr. portion |
| | | | 45 Billy ___ Kid |
| | | | 46 Run away quickly |
| | | | 47 Cloth measurements (abbr.) |

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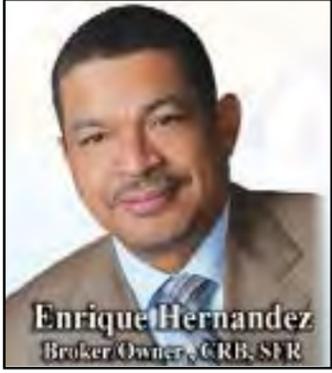
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OLD BRIDGE - Wow, spectacular price for this home, beautiful layout features hardwood floors throughout first floor, terrific maple cabinets with granite counter tops, 2.5 baths, large family room, laundry room, all large rooms, Master bedroom, breakfast bar, finished basement with beautiful floors great dead end street location. **\$361,000**



ELIZABETH - Great opportunity!! First level a Barber Shop and a Beauty Salon plus 2 3 bedrooms apartments. **\$200,000**



PERTH AMBOY - All remodeled side by side large two family in 2014. two blocks from waterfront. all separated utilities a "must see" to appreciate. **\$309,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Charming 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom property at the desirable waterfront section, freshly painted full basement, Formal dining room, water view and much more! **\$269,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great potential with this handy man special, all brick, no heat, electricity, needs lots of work but huge possibilities. Subject to sub-division. buyer is responsible for all repairs and C/O. This can be purchased as package with 363 Ashley Street. **\$159,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Completely updated interior. This establishment has a large following of patrons which also includes appearances by Celebrity DJs, and Professional Athletes, This is a great opportunity to be your own Boss and run a business. Liquor License and Restaurant Business. **\$255,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Very busy grocery store monthly income of \$45,000.00. leased \$1,700.00 5 year lease with 5 years option \$100.00 increase per year. all inventory is included with sale. Expenses: employees \$800.00 weekly, Electricity \$1,000.00 monthly. Ins. \$1,800 annually. snow removal, clean up and maintenance \$200 per month. **\$209,000**



PERTH AMBOY - This beautiful and lovely split is located in the very desirable Washington Park section of Perth Amboy. Features Family room, kitchen, Dining room living room 1.5 bath and 3 bedrooms. huge corner property. Abandoned in-ground Oil tank. **\$225,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful Ranch in the great Eagle Rock location, hardwood floors throughout. buyer is responsible for C/O, Termite and all Repairs. **\$189,000**