• VOL. 4 NO. 40 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015 •

Perth Amboy Council Members Swearing In Ceremony 1/2/15

PERTH AMBOY - Mayor's Chief of Staff, Lissette Martinez welcomed those in attendance to the Inauguration Ceremony of the Swearing in of the Council Members. The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance were presented by the PAPD Color Guard. After the Invocation by PAPD Police Chaplain Msgr. John Gordon, City Clerk Elaine Jasko read the election results which were as follows: Joel Pabon - 2593, William Petrick - 2383, Fernando Gonzalez - 2297, Sergio Diaz -2288, Jelmin Caba - 2269, Ana Mascenik - 2111 and Miguel Nunez - 1393.

Jasko presented each newly elected Councilman their certificates of the election in alphabetical order.

Fernando Gonzalez was sworn in first by Judge Peter Jimenez, Jr. who stood in for Judge Mathias Rodriguez who was not present. Jimenez then proceeded to swear in Joel Pabon. William Petrick was sworn in by Judge George Bovd.

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez who is serving a second term after deciding to not seek reelection in 2012 was the first to make remarks. He started out by thanking everyone for being here on this beautiful day that we should all enjoy. He thanked his wife and children and all the people who voted in the election. He noted that this was the lowest voter election turnout in the history of the United States and this does not bode well. "I've been here before. I have been on boards and involved in elections since 1974. This election was a lot harder than 2008. There was an effort to suppress 530 votes. It's a sad commentary that some people do not want others to vote. In spite of this, there are a great number of people I have worked with before that are good. In spite of the election being over, there are still people being harassed. On January 12, 2015 I will be in court defending the rights of people to vote."



Fernando Gonzalez is sworn in by Judge Peter Jimenez, Jr.



Joel Pabon is sworn in by Judge Peter Jimenez, Jr.



William Petrick is sworn in by Judge George Boyd
*Photos by Paul W. Wang

Councilman Joel Pabon was next. He thanked the Mayor and other politicians present, his family and friends and those who voted in the election, whether they voted for him or not. "Moving the City forward is not going to be easy. I'm inviting all to attend the Council Meetings whether or not you have something good or bad to say. And I want to thank those who do attend the meetings."

He mentioned two business owners: one from Cibao Express and the Don Manuel Restaurant who talked to him how to improve the downtown business district. He congratulated his fellow newly elected Council Members and told those who gathered, "We are working for you."

"I want to thank my wife and kids for putting up with me in

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South Amboy Swearing In Ceremony & Reorganization Meeting 1/5/15







Mayor Fred Henry

Mickey Gross

Christine Noble

SOUTH AMBOY - Mickey Gross and Christine Noble were sworn in as Councilman and Councilwoman at Large by Middlesex Co. Surrogate Kevin Hoagland. Standing with Gross was his wife, Sue, while Christine Noble was surrounded by some of her young family members. After Gross and Noble were sworn in, the City Clerk Laura Kemble-Kalantsis made a motion for a temporary Council President. Gross was selected. Then a motion had to be approved for a permanent President and Gross secured that position. Christine Noble was selected for Vice-President after Gross made the motion and it was seconded by Applegate. Mayor Fred Henry was sworn in after Gross and Noble were elected to their new positions. Councilwoman Zusette Dato was absent.

South Amboy Memorial to Fallen NYPD Officers



SOUTH AMBOY - A South Amboy Patrol Car stands decorated next to the statue of a Police Officer outside of City Hall. This Patrol Car has stood as a Memorial since the murder of NYPD Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu that occurred on 12/20/14. This patrol car was decorated under the order of SAPD Chief Darren Lavigne.

*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

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Perth Amboy City Council Swearing In

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the past and there's just a few more years to go. The City's credit ratings are going up and the Waterfront never looked better. The basketball and tennis courts are being refurbished. There is a recreation building that will be in use, which is temporarily housing the library. Things started happening with the library (renovations) through this administration. We haven't been perfect, but I'm hoping that 2015 will be better and I'm looking forward to working with this Council and for you."

Councilman Bill Petrick thanked every single person that had anything to do with helping their campaign. He acknowledged that the Freeholders brought Perth Amboy its first County Park. He thanked his wife, children and parents for their understanding for the time that he needed to run for reelection and to serve the

community. "I want to thank the community for your faith in me. Our credit rating is up which is great for a community like ours. We went from looking at bankruptcy to positive bond ratings. I want to thank the City employees for what they do. They are sometimes under appreciated."

Mayor Wilda Diaz then made her remarks, "I'm thankful to God for this wonderful day. I want to acknowledge the Council, the Clergy and our Local and State Representatives that are here." She congratulated the Council and welcomed them back. "You again have an opportunity to work for the community." She acknowledged that the City had most recently been named "One of the most Caring Small Cities in New Jersey."

"Together we have improved recreational facilities and have recovered from Sandy. There is still much to do and we are learning every day how we can improve community relationships. Our MOODY ratings improved." She reiterated Bill Petrick's statement about how the City was facing bankruptcy six years ago. "I want to thank Council Members Nanton, Irizarry and former Councilman Kenneth Gonzalez for the work they've done. I want to thank the family members of the newly sworn in Council. On behalf of the Council, I want to thank the department heads for their dedication. I am not afraid to let anyone know about my faith in God and I have to think about the 50,000 residents." She ended her remarks by thanking the clergy and non-profits that provide services for the City's residents.

The Benediction was given by Rabbi Ari Saks.

Lissette Martinez welcomed those in attendance to stay for the Reorganization Meeting.

Perth Amboy Reorganization Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Nominations were made at the onset of the City Council Reorganization Meeting. Present Council President Joel Pabon nominated Councilwoman Lisa Nanton and it was seconded by William Petrick. There were no other nominations. City Clerk Elaine Jasko took a roll call and all the Council Members voted unanimously to make Nanton the next Council President.

When the meeting was open to the public, Resident Stanley Sierakowski had a question about Resolution R-4-1/15 Authorizing transfer of CY 2014 Budget appropriation reserves in the amount of \$750,000.

He asked if it was for the 2014 or 2015 Budget and if it is dedicated to any particular expenditure.

CFO Jill Goldy answered, "A transfer can be made from one fund to another account. When this item first came up, we were short one vote. This is a reserve for the 2014 Budget Insurance Accounts. We overestimated an amount in one account and underestimated another account."

Perth Amboy Democratic Party Chair Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez again reiterated having the elections move to partisanship. She addressed Council President Nanton. "I hope that now as Council President, you will change your mind and see that it's best for us move to partisanship. We have not saved any money by having all three elections held in November."

She also piggybacked off of Councilman Fernando Gonzalez about the voter suppression and harassment of people after the 11/4/14 election.



Lisa Nanton is sworn in as Council President by City Clerk Elaine Jasko. Joel Pabon whom Nanton succeeded as President holds the Bible while City Attorney Mark Blunda holds the mic.

*Photo by Paul W. Wang

Resident David Caba congratulated all three Councilmen who were sworn in. "We all have to work together to move forward. Critics are good and we all have our ups and downs, but we will make it better."

Turning to Councilman Joel Pabon, he complimented him on doing a great job as President. Caba was puzzled as to what made Pabon decide not to go for Council President again. "You (Pabon) ran a professional meeting."

Pabon said, "I will answer hat question in due time."

that question in due time." Former Councilman and the Council President before Joel Pabon, Ken Balut was upset that the recent police promotions were not mentioned in the paper and that they were deserving. He complained, "The outside politicians are still running the town. We pay too much money to the MCIA (Middlesex County Improvement Authority). How much money since 2000 did we give to the new County Park? I got duped into giving money to a developer when he was in negotiations about this land."

Fayette Street Resident Iris Rodriguez still was not happy about the parking or lack of it for the residents on her street. "There are three bars on the street where I live and I received a \$60 parking ticket at 4 a.m. There was a Police Car used for private duty at one of the bars. When I called the Police dispatcher to make complaints they were very rude. I will complain until the parking problem is addressed. Let the bars pay for valet parking if they can afford security officers."

Resident and former Councilman Robert Sottilaro received a chuckle from those in attendance when he told the Council to relax, "I'm not here to criticize you." He commended former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach and CFO Jill Goldy for, "A heck of a job you did to improve our bond ratings." He had a piece of sound advice for the Council. He told them, "To vote with your conscience - not for your

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Perth Amboy Reorganization Meeting

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convenience. When you deliberate, vote by principals and not by politics."

Business Owner Virginia Lugo said, "Our ratings are higher, but we got there with foreclosures going up because people cannot afford to pay their taxes. What about jobs for the residents? We have a high unemployment rate and a huge homeless issue."

Lugo said, "I'm assisting a client with a home that is assessed at \$150,000 and the taxes are \$10,000 a year for that property."

After Lugo made that statement, Tax Assessor JoAnn Jimenez said, "That is misinformation. The average assessment is approximately \$273,000 for residential properties and average taxes are \$7,400.

Resident Alan Silber also drew a chuckle from the crowd. He too, was curious about Pabon not being reappointed as Council President. Addressing Pabon, "I appreciated the way you ran the meetings, and you were even keeled. The last Council President before you was the President for 20 years."

It was then pointed out to Silber that the last Council President before Pabon was Kenneth Balut who was practically sitting in front of him in the audience. It was at that point that Silber realized it was former Council President Peter Jimenez that was President for 20 years.

Silber said, "We should do away with the Democrat and Republican Parties." He brought up the fact that Councilman Petrick thanked many people that didn't even live in town (e.g. State Senate President Steve Sweeney, and Assemblyman from the 20th District Joseph Cryan) but contributed money to their campaign. "There's got to be more oversight. Parks are being mentioned, yet they haven't been completed."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski spoke about Police Chief Benjamin Ruiz being suspended by the Mayor after the Prosecutor's Office charged Ruiz with theft of services. Sierakowski also talked about certain sections of the town who received tax deductions and the poorer home owners received none.

Resident Linda Ferreira wanted to thank the person who took care of the street sign on her street. "I like to see elected officials coming here, but I don't like it when they pick sides. I see a lot of pictures of photo ops, but there's a lot of talk and no action."

Rabbi Ari Saks said, "This is the first time that I have spoken at a Council Meeting. The police promotions did take place." He had a question to ask the Council, "How do you define unity and diversity?"

The Council said, "That can be discussed at another meeting."

Pastor Bernadette Falcon Lopez addressed the homeless situation stating that, "There are several soup kitchens and organizations who feed the hungry everyday - not just around the holidays."

Fellow Pastor Gregory Pabon said, "Everyone has the right to come and speak their mind." He asked that the Council make sure they weigh the pro's and con's of every speaker. "Don't base what you will say on what you think will come out in the newspapers. Don't be intimidated."

Resident Wilfredo Soto came up to speak and told the Council that he will keep them in his prayers. "We should thank the Mayor for the action that she took (suspending Ruiz without pay). Years ago a cop shot two Mexicans and he was suspended with pay."

Soto challenged some of the statements made about the high number of foreclosures. "A lot of these foreclosures were because the homeowners refinanced two and three times from the banks. Some of these banks were charged with fraud. Banks also sent original mortgages to other banks. I know that the City will move forward."

Mayor Diaz congratulated Lisa Nanton on becoming the new Council President and thanked Joel Pabon for the fine job that he did. In reference to tax reduction, "Every residential property was adjusted." She thanked Pastor Bernie for letting the public know how the homeless are fed throughout the year. Addressing remarks about outside politicians, "We have to get advice from the outsiders and have to work with all elected officials, especially when it comes to funding."

"I have always conferred with the Council on decisions made about our community. I have to work with every department head. We did have a Police Ceremony with their family members present."

Addressing Petrick and Pabon she said, "Don't apologize for people who supported your campaign. In the long run, you are doing what's right for the people of Perth Amboy. To Lisa, you have done a lot of volunteer work in the community and I am very proud of you."

Council Comments were made after the public portion. Joel Pabon said, "One of the speakers had questioned my integrity when it came to taxes. I don't have control over that. My sons do work, but none of them have City jobs. I enjoyed my time as Council President but my time was up. I'm still here and I'll be sitting right next to Lisa. I like her professionalism and she's a good choice." Addressing Linda Ferreira, "You are right. I told the Mayor we should put out more information about how projects are progressing. While campaigning, I did go around to places where volunteers are feeding the homeless. A lot of those volunteers are kids who couldn't even vote."

Fernando Gonzalez said, "The new fencing on the Victory Bridge is not adequate. A friend of mine had a family member who lost their life on that bridge."

Nanton agreed with Fernando about the bridge situation.

Bill Petrick said, "We are all here for the community. That is something we all share. Pabon and Balut did an excellent job, and we all have something to give."

Fernando Irizarry said, "I wish everyone a happy, prosperous and healthy new year."

New Council President Lisa Nanton thanked her fellow Councilmen for voting for her as President. Addressing Rabbi Saks, "I look at Perth Amboy as 50,000 souls in one beautiful gift wrap. We (the Council) decided to rotate the Council Presidency." She then thanked Pabon for the job he did. "I'm glad you're sitting next to me in case I need your advice." She mentioned the existing corporations in town and upcoming cultural projects that will bring in job opportunities. "The city is situated in a position where we are at the crossroads of major transportation."

South Amboy Council Members are Sworn in 1/5/15 *Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Mickey Gross is sworn in by Middlesex Co. Surrogate Kevin Hoagland. Gross' wife, Sue hold the bible.



Christine Noble is sworn in by Middlesex Co. Surrogate Kevin Hoagland while some of her young family members hold the bible.



Mayor Fred Henry is sworn in by City Attorney John Lanza as his wife, Linda and his mother, Ann hold the bible.



Middlesex County Surrogate Kevin Hoagland watches as Christine Noble signs the certificate after she was sworn in.

SOUTH AMBOY - After being sworn in, Mayor Fred Henry addressed those in attendance to give a report on the progress the City has made. More details will follow in the next week's edition, the 1/14/15 Amboy Guardian.

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.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

How Will You View 2015? Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?



In the last few editorials, I have talked about the aftermath of what has taken place with the recent police shootings. I listened to the funeral proceedings of slain NYPD Officer Wenjian Liu that took place on 1/4/15. I paid special attention to what his immediate family members had to say.

It was just as heart-wretching as when the family of NYPD Officer Rafael Ramos spoke at his funeral on 12/27/14.

Even with the devastating loss of their loved ones, there was a hope of optimism that came through in their speeches. Something kept drawing me to look at the memorial of floral arrangements and sentiments left at the site where those two Officers were gunned down.

There were people from all walks of life in the neighborhood and outside of the State who came to pay their respects. Besides the families of those Officers I took note of perfect strangers comforting the Police who stood guard at that memorial. Even Eric Garner's daughter expressed her sympathy and left a wreath.

These are the pictures that make me feel optimistic about the future. In spite of what's going on, there are neighborhoods where people of all ethnic backgrounds live together peacefully.

I remember as a child going to New York in 1964 during the World's Fair, and we would stop by and to visit relatives who lived in high rise buildings in Queens. They were by no means "rich" but I never felt uncomfortable going there. I don't know when the dynamics changed. It was a building in a neighborhood where all ethnic groups existed peacefully. I can't remember seeing any gang activity or garbage or graffiti being prevalent.

I grew up in a neighborhood in Perth Amboy where I can tell you the names of all the families from

*Photo Courtesy of AP

blocks away, even the streets behind us and the streets surrounding us. Everyone knew who you were and if you misbehaved, trust me by the time you got home, your parents knew about it.

Maybe that's what's missing today. Don't get me wrong, technology is wonderful, but's it's kind of nuts when you are texting someone practically sitting next to you or across from you.

Technology is wonderful in one special way. I have a good friend (Jeff B.) who lives in Arizona who loves to send me YouTube Videos of things that might be of interest to me.

The last batch had to do with Flashmobs. These are the kind of Flashmob videos that make vou tear-up with joy. My favorite ones take place in large indoor malls during the Christmas Season. Yes, I said Christmas.

All of a sudden out of nowhere vou would hear one voice singing a Christmas Carol. Then all of a sudden other voices join in, some near the original singer, then all of a sudden you hear voices joining in on escalators, etc., and on different levels of the mall.

The most moving part of these videos is watching the expressions on the unsuspecting shoppers. Many of them will whip out their phones to take photos/videos of the event and sometimes will join in on the singing.

It is my hope that these Flashmobs that bring hope and optimism would suddenly appear at some of the disrespectful, disruptive protests going on.

They need a dose of the message of these Flashmobs. Whether you are religious or not, it would be hard pressed not to have a smile on your face or a little joy in your heart after witnessing these vid-

Watching and listening to the families of Ramos and Liu give me hope. They make me see the glass is half full. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Unfair

Why is it that a landlord is required to provide electricity, heat and water to a tenant who may be several months delinquent in rent, but a util-

ity company with millions of dollars in revenue per month is allowed to shut off the very same things for non-payment? I guess it doesn't matter that a landlord may need income

from rent to help pay utilities. taxes and/or a mortgage from his meager profit.

Yours Truly, Michael Rusznak

RinnyWhen January 1st comes along, many of us make resolutions hoping to better our positions in life. But sometimes situations arise and things change. I celebrated the New Year at midnight like millions of Americans. Little did I realize that my enthusiasm for the new year would be turned into tears. My little dog Rinny who is a Choodle, went on the porch to celebrate with me, when suddenly the sound of fireworks pierced her little ears. She panicked and ran off the porch and up the street. I searched for her until morning came. I called the animal shel-

ter to see if anyone may have seen her and heard the news that no one wants to hear. She had been hit by a car and was

For those of you with pets, remember this. They are with you all day in body or spirit and the memory of them never leaves you. My little Rinny was my best friend. When God made her, He broke the

Now I know what the meaning of a friend is - to be with you, console you when you are sad and comfort you. She left me with memories I shall never forget. Her eyes showed devotion that I never saw in a human. The way she followed

me around told me she didn't want me out of her sight.

When God brought her to us, I knew instantly that we would keep her. There could have been no other decision than "yes, she is a keeper."

Three years is not a long time for anyone - no less a pet. But she left us with untold memories. I thank God for those precious three years. I know God had her in mind when He took her. He must have wanted her for himself.

God's answer to loneliness is having a pet in your life.

Barbara Skokan

Voter **Suppression?** Today, I attended the swear-

ing in of the new council and I was taken aback when the newly elected councilman Fernando Gonzalez claimed that there are people who want to suppress the vote...On my way out I picked up the Amboy Guardian and there is a letter from the chair of the Democratic party claiming the same and telling voters not to cooperate with an investigation about FRAUDULENT CASTING OF VOTES...

My brain works very fast in questioning those that make outlandish illogical comments and pretend that it is something else instead of for their

own benefit..Let us think for a minute. If election law has certain rules in place, and those rules were not followed by some who submitted an absentee vote, is that suppression of the vote or is that implementing the law?

Why would the head of the Democratic party in this city tell citizens not to cooperate with an investigation if she believes that they are innocent and did all according to the rule of law? Wouldn't any of you if accused of something that damages your good name want the investigation to take place? If you are totally innocent wouldn't you tell all that supported you to comply with the law?

This is troubling in many different ways...First, if there was something illegal with the casting of votes, all of us are affected as citizens of this country. Our votes would have been manipulated and cancelled by those that shouldn't be voting.. The other concern is how can the representative of a political party advise people not to follow the law and cooperate with an investigation.. Lastly, what exactly are they are afraid of if they did follow the law and all who cast votes for them are duly citizens of the USA and duly residents of Perth Amboy then, let them speak to the investigators to clear their names and show all that the elections in Perth Amboy were clean and proper..

Maria Garcia

What Do You Think? Send us Your Response!

Criminal Attempt Homicide Arrest

Press Release 1/5/15

PERTH AMBOY - On January 4th, 2015 at 3:05 am Police were dispatched to a City residence on Washington Street in reference to an assault which occurred. When Officers arrived on scene they found a 45 year old Hispanic female on the landing of the second floor stairwell in a seated position leaning up against the wall. The female had numerous stab wounds to her face and upper torso area. The female was transported by Perth Amboy EMS to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital where she was treated for a collapsed left lung and multiple stab wounds. As of this release the victim is in stable condition. Shortly after the incident a suspect who is an acquaintance of the victim was identified and arrested by Police. The suspect identified as Carlos J. Rivera (12/27/1963) a 51 year old City resident was arrested without incident and charged with Criminal Attempt Homicide, Aggravated Assault with a Knife, Possession of an Unlawful Weapon, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose. Bail to be set at County level. The investigation is still on-going and anyone with additional information please contact Detective Liza Capoat the Perth Amboy Police Department Detective Bureau 732-324-3815.

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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 mem-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 SUC-CESS 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. 7 Board of Education, 6 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.

MON. Jan. 12 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.

City Hall, High St. Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.

TUES. Jan. 13 City Hall, High St.

UEZ, 6 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

WED. Jan. 14 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

City Council, Business, 6 p.m. WED. Jan. 7

City Hall, N. Broadway

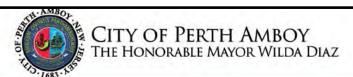


Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department **Parade Committee**

will be holding their 5th Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 17, 2015 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall 228 High St., Perth Amboy Adults \$10 Children under 5 - Free Come out and support your local heroes!



AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE ACT

FREE OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

FOR ALL PERTH AMBOY RESIDENTS

STARTING ON:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 6:00-9:00 P.M.

ALEXANDER F. JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER | 1 OLIVE STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ



FREE Registration assistance is available starting Jan. 13th to Feb. 17th every:

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 6:00p.m. — 9:00p.m.

Certified staff will be available to assist residents step-by-step with the quick online registration & application process for health insurance in English and Spanish.

*No appointment needed. Registration is first come, first served.

The screening process is confidential and no registration information is withheld by the City of Perth Amboy or volunteers assisting. The following information is <u>REQUIRED ONLY</u> for the registration and application process:

- E-mail Address Social Security Number Residency Card Mailing Address
 Phone Number Household Income (Bring proof, i.e. pay stub)
 Family Composition (# of people in household)
 - FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: OFFICE OF HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES 732-826-4300

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.

Atlantic City Bus Trip Date Change

PERTH AMBOY - Trip to Caesar's Casino Thursday January 8, 2015. 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.

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.





Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!

Military Assistance Center

WOODBRIDGE - 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

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 Sunday-January musicians. 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."



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

2015 HOLIDAY EXCLUSION DATES

NO GARBAGE COLLECTION ON THE FOLLOWING 2015 HOLIDAYS

NOTE: IF A HOLIDAY FALLS ON YOUR GARBAGE COLLECTION DAY, YOUR GARBAGE WILL BE PICKED UP ON YOUR NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED GARBAGE COLLECTION PICK-U

HOLIDAY EXCLUSIONS	NEW YEAR'S DAY MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY			
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1				
MONDAY, JANUARY 19				
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16	PRESIDENT'S DAY			
MONDAY, MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY			
FRIDAY, JULY 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY			
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	LABOR DAY			
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12	COLUMBUS DAY			
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	VETERANS DAY			
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26	THANKSGIVING DAY			
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY			

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

- All garbage is to be placed inside a garbage container no larger than 32 gallons.
- No bags should ever be set out at the curb on the ground. Summons will be issued.
- No recyclables should ever be thrown in the garbage. Recycling is NOT a choice, it's the law. Bags will be inspected.
- For more information on recycling, sanitation guidelines or for information in Spanish, please call: 732-826-2010.
- Para información en español, favor de comunicarse con el Departamento de Obras Públicas al: 732-826-2010.

It is the responsibility of all property owners to notify their tenants!



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Xbox Club

SOUTH AMBOY- Xbox from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Knitting Circle SOUTH AMBOY - There will

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Knitting Circle on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-72 1-6060.

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.



2015 Winter I Programs Jan. 4th - Feb. 14th

HEALTHY STARTS HERE



Kids programs:

Baby & Youth Ballet Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Martial Arts Born To Move Families Fit Together Gymnastics Holiday Care Instructional Baseball Junior Slam Basketball Kids Fit Leaders Club Little Ballers Little Sluggers T-Ball Soccer Academy Sports Bugs Swimming Lessons Teen Center Y's Before & After School Programs

Adult Programs:

Cross Fitness Training Grit Series Group Exercise Classes Kickboxing

Open Sports Sessions:

- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- Soccer
- Volleyball

Meditation/Guided Imagery
Personal Training
Reiki Level One Training Class
Running Club
Private Sessions:
Swimming Lessons
Sports Training
Tai Chi

Senior Programs:

Group Exercise Classes Personal Training Swimming Lessons SilverSneakers Fitness Program

Movie Review: Interstellar

By Anton Massopust III "I've got kids, I've got children" ... "Then get out there and save them and save the world!'

Christopher Nolan brings us to the farthest reaches of outer space in the new movie IN-TERSTELLAR. Matthew Mc-Connaghey plays a former pilot named "Coop" while Earth is at the brink of disaster. All of the environmental problems that have been plaguing our time have built up and finally caught up to humanity. Michael Caine plays a brilliant scientist who comes up with two plans to save humanity. He tells Coop that they have already sent astronauts through a wormhole to a distant part of the galaxy, where they were to land on one or two planets that were suitable for mankind to retreat to. The first solution is to find out where the scientists

have landed and see if they can bring people to these potential new homes. The other solution is to make an antigravity space station where people can live in space until they fix Earth's problems. It is a major gamble and time is not on their side. Reluctantly, Coop goes on the first mission to do this.

The special effects on how they do this, and the exploration of real science versus science fiction is fascinating. But . . . the ending makes no sense and is very strange. Think of Stanley Kubrick's movie 2001: A SPACE OD-YSSEY . . . if you did not get that ending, you will not get the ending to INTERSTEL-LAR. Is this worth seeing on the big screen? Yes, but if you have a big screen TV at home, this is better watched at home. The movie is over 3 hours and



the conclusion to the film just drags. Matthew McConnaghey's performance is great, as is always, and the rest of the cast is good too - I especially liked the robot in the film. It is worth seeing, and I say it is a B+.

Free Meditation/Guided Imagery class PERTH AMBOY - The Divi-

sion of Integrative Medicine at Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a FreeMeditation/ Guided Imagery class Monday, January 12, 7:35 to 8:35 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Learn quiet, sitting, standing and guided meditations for peace of mind and to manage pain and stress. Registration required, call 732-324-5257 or email integrative medicine (a) rbmc.org.

Healthcare Provider **CPR Class**

PERTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing an American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR class Wednesday, January 7, 6 p.m. to 10 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)

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

Tour of Berkow **Maternity Pavillion**

PERTH AMBOY- Raritan Bay Medical Center's monthly tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, January 14, 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

Childbirth **Education** Class

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a one day Childbirth Education class Saturday, January 17, 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.

Flu Shots Available

2015 CALENDAR

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@jmc. us. In Newark - 5 locations (973) 679-7709 or email newarkhealthcenters@jrmc.us

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.

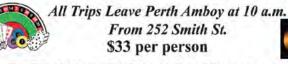
Free Tai Chi/ Qigong class

PERTH AMBOY...The Division of Integrative Medicine at Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a Free Tai Chi/ Qigong class Monday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Practice this system of exercises, practiced slowly and smoothly, to promote calmness, relaxation and reduce stress, and to improve strength, stability, balance and coordination. Registration required, call 732-324-5257 or email integrativemedicine@ rbmc.org.

Carefree Bus Tours

Back By Popular Demand AC & Sands Trips Each 2 Times a Week!

> Atlantic City - Wednesday & Sunday Sands, P.A. - Monday & Thursday

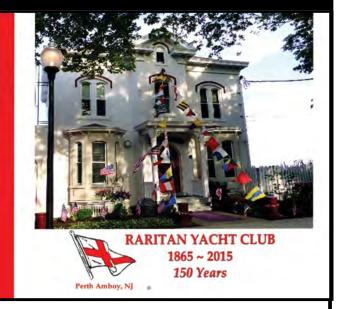


From 252 Smith St. \$33 per person

Call 732-826-4103 For Other Pick-ups & Times

Hopelawn, Fords, South Amboy, Sayreville, Old Bridge

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.

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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 Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

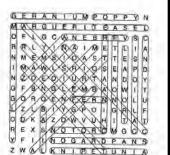
O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

Cardiac Club

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Cardiac Club will meet Monday, January 19, 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.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 11



Edison AARP Chapter 3446

EDISON - The following is a schedule of events for the coming months, which are open to non members. Jan. 13 & 14, 2015 (9 a.m. to 12 Noon): AARP Drivers Safety Program - To register call Bob at 732-885-1789. 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.

Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Event

WOODBRIDGE - Raritan Bay Medical Center is providing a Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Event Sunday, January 11, 12 noon to 4 p.m., Center Court, in the Woodbridge Center Mall, 250 Woodbridge Center Drive.

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.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

WED. Jan. 7 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. 8 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m.,

Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

MON. Jan. 12 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall Commerce St

Fellowship Hall, Commerce St. TUES. Jan. 13 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m.,

Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m.,
 Presbyterian Center, Market St.

WED. Jan. 14 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.

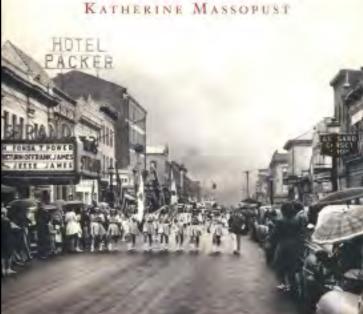
THURS. Jan. 15 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

MON. Jan. 12 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave. WED. Jan. 14 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave. MON. Jan. 26 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash 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

PERTH AMBOY



AMERICAN CHRONICIES

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!

LOOKING BACK

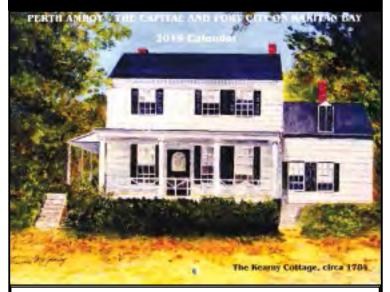


PERTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE - Rededication Ceremony of the Victory Bridge, June 8, 2004. Amongst the dignitaries lined up for the ribbon cutting included, Fr. Scott, Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Governor James McGreevy and his wife, Dina, Perth Amboy Mayor Joe Vas, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Representatives from Figg Bridge Engineers, and the George Harms Construction Company and a Representative from the Veterans Group. Two Elephants walked across the bridge to show the strength of it.

*Photo Courtesy of the Jerome Billings

This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

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.

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> Ads Sell Call Carolyn 732-896-4446

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

> Uprite 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

For Sale

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

Refrigerator and Gas clothes dryer \$25 each 732-925-1072

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

Super Blower Vacuum Electric Toro Model 51587 - 732-<u>826-6324</u>

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

Round Kitchen Table w/4 chairs, leaf \$35, wall mirror 42" x 28" \$25 - 732-442-2521

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-

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

A Petition to St. Joseph

Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confi- Name dently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all Initials at end of prayer_ the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the Please circle one prayer, and return special favor I now ask there form with check or money order to: 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.

Cost \$10. Pre-payment required.

Address Phone_(_

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 Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit

Prayer To Blessed Virgin Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary St. Jude Novena

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

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21. POPPY

26. ZAMIA

18. MORNING

22. SNAPDRAGON

GLORY

23. TEASEL

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