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# AMBOY GUARDIAN



• VOL. 5 NO. 3 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015 •

## Mayor Diaz Delivers the 2015 State of the City Address



Dr. Sandrie Serrano Bermudez



Mayor Wilda Diaz  
\*Photos by Paul W. Wang

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – The Mayor’s Chief of Staff Lissette Martinez opened the ceremony up by thanking a lengthy list of politicians, organizations and boards at the 2015 State of the City. She then introduced Dr. Sandrie Serrano Bermudez of the Hand Foundation. Dr. Serrano is First Lady of Vineland, New Jersey where her husband, Ruben Bermudez is Mayor. Dr. Serrano is also a

motivational speaker and life coach.

She began her speech, “What a privilege and honor it is. Vision without action is simply an illusion.” She referred to Mayor Diaz as, “A woman of great value - a transcending woman that’s had a remarkable run. She created an open and honest government (in Perth Amboy). She is inspiring and a go-getter. Everyone grows. She is a woman who

## Employees Have Rights, Too

PERTH AMBOY - Resident David Caba directed a question to City Attorney Mark Blunda at the 3/25/15 Council Meeting. “I need clarification of the policy for the Freedom of Speech when it comes to City Employees. I think you (Mr. Blunda) were here when Mr. Fehrenbach (former B.A.) implemented the policy. Now there’s another City Employee that made a disparaging comment on social media. This employee said, ‘The cockroaches are out!’ We should all be offended by this. We have doctors, lawyers and other professionals living in this town.”

Blunda stated, “Under Federal and State laws, you have freedom of speech and (even employees) But there are limi-

tations if an employee says something that is dangerous to others. We are prohibited from discussing employee issues in public unless that employee gives permission to do so. This matter is a civil service issue. Labor relation unions protect the employees’ free speech. The issues you have addressed previously are under investigation.”

Caba said, “We as taxpayers need to know what discipline is taking place and I understand that you have to protect the employees.”

Blunda ended by saying, “The cockroach statement was inappropriate and reprehensible and this will be looked into. I am speaking for myself and not for the Business Administrator.”

## Easter Celebration



## South Amboy Seeks Change in Garbage Code

By: Joseph L. Kuchie  
SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Business Administrator Camille Tooker suggested changes to the city’s garbage codes at last Wednesday’s business meeting.

The first code that Tooker discussed was 79-2, which states that empty trash receptacles must be taken off the street no later than 6 p.m. the day of collection. Her recommendation to the council was to change the time to 8 p.m. to allow residents who come home late from work more time to get the receptacles off the curb.

“That’s early...a lot of people might not get home until after 6 p.m.,” Tooker said. “I’m recommending that it be 8 p.m.”

The repercussions for violating these codes were also discussed. Currently any resident that receives a summons for violating these code are required to appear in court, but Tooker believes residents should only have to pay a fine.

“In a situation like this I would like you [the council] to consider to waive that and allow people to pay the fine,” she said. “It’s a hardship for them to take a day off to come to the court”.

However, the council agreed that this potential change should only affect first time offenders. It was recommended that those who violate the code more than once still ap-



Business Administrator  
Camille Tooker

pear in court.

Tooker added that the city was “not looking to punish anyone” but that they “want the town to look the way it’s supposed to look.”

It was also announced that residents could now co-mingle recyclables using their 20 gallon blue container. Cardboard should be broken down and tied but the maximum size has been expanded from 24” x 24” to 48” by 48”.

Newspapers may be mixed in with everything or be placed in paper bags or tied but plastic bags are not permitted to hold recyclables. More information can be found on the city’s website.

Councilman Tom Reilly was not in attendance. The South Amboy city council will hold their next council meeting next Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m.

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**State of the City**

*Continued From Page 1*  
 takes action – a transcending vision. She took an unwavering stance to stabilize the inherited debt of \$250 million. Her administration established a capital improvement project. She saved the community from near bankruptcy. You fight the good fight. You brought in industry where companies have \$600 million invested in Perth Amboy through process and progress. That's something serious and amazing to see. She is the first woman elected Mayor of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association (NJUMA).”

Dr. Serrano continued, “20 years ago, Mayor Diaz started out as a bank teller. She started from the ground and worked her way up. She graduated from Perth Amboy High School in 1983. A dedicated activist, she was on the board of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation. She was featured in Real Simple Magazine as the Accidental Mayor. She was inducted to the Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame.”

Mayor Diaz then came up to speak and gave Dr. Serrano a round of applause. Diaz thanked everyone. She then mentioned Richard Pryce and Daethyn J. Nelson who both lost their lives recently. “They continue to be an inspiration to the leaders of tomorrow.”

Diaz continued, “In the closing of 2014 Moody's recognized the City's financial rating has increased to A3. It's the 3rd credit upgrade we've had in the past 3 years. We are in a healthy financial position. It is my duty to provide vital services. It took years to repair the financial mess we inherited. We were recently able to refinance \$200 million off our debt. We have reduced our overall debt. I am happy to announce in 2015 there will be no tax increase.”

Mayor Diaz continued, “The Waterfront will be completed this summer. We have a quarter million dollar grant for re-vamping the beachfront and \$17.1 million we reached a half million in federal funding for waterfront improvements. There will be improved restrooms and volleyball courts and 3.5 basketball courts by Wilentz School. The Second Street Park Project will be Six Acres on the former Goldberg Property. It will be a place for families to visit, relax and play.”

“The future dog park will have a play area for small and large dogs. There will be ample parking and a picnic area for families. We are the hidden gem of New Jersey. Perth Amboy is on the move. My administration will not burden your children's future. Buckeye has invested \$250 million in property improve-



The audience stands for the Pledge to the Flag  
 \*Photos by Paul W. Wang



WCTC Radio Personality Bert Baron stands next to Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano during the Invocation



Mayor Diaz poses with her proud family, (L to R) son, Greg Jr., daughter Samantha and husband Greg

ments.” Mayor Diaz listed the new industrial companies who have invested in Perth Amboy. She continued to speak about the redevelopment of our Train Station. “NJ transit has invested \$9.6 million for improvements and \$50 million to complete increasing transit ridership.”

Diaz stated, “Perth Amboy was rated 33 out of 40 best commuting communities.”

“The Hobart Street mixed use project will have 36 residential apartments. On Convery Boulevard there are 15 acres of 70 units of family housing. I am proud to announce that is the new home for PAHS students with a new High School. The most important investment is our future.” Diaz went on to mention a grant for bicycling from NJDOT and a Cognitive Improvement Program that will replace outdated City equipment. “There will be a new City website with a City Calendar of Community Events which you can access on a computer, tablet or smart phone.”

Diaz went on to thank the

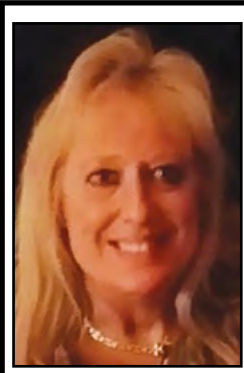
Fire and Police Departments. “There is a 20% decrease of fires in Perth Amboy. There are 20 new Volunteer Firefighters. I also wish to thank all the First Responders.” She thanked the Police Chaplain Corps for their support. She thanked those who helped get fencing on the Victory Bridge.

She mentioned the literacy program that will take place this summer and a new adult community theater. The Art Council will have their first show on Memorial Day Weekend.

She enthusiastically announced the Fireworks Spectacular which will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2015 in conjunction with South Amboy and Staten Island. She thanked Mayor James Otto of Staten Island and Fred Henry of South Amboy.

Diaz spoke about the recent November 2014 election. There will be an election on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 which will determine the last council seat.

“There is so much ahead of us.” Diaz concluded,



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## Storytime & Craft

**SOUTH AMBOY** - Wednesdays in April at 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.

## Bingo for Bags

**PERTH AMBOY**--There will be a "Bingo for Designer Bags" sponsored by St. John Paul II Parish on Friday, April 24, 2015 at St. Stephen's School Auditorium at 500 State Street. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Games start at 7:30 p.m. The cost of \$30 per ticket includes 12 games, dessert, and coffee. Outside food is welcome. You must be 18 years or older. For more information, please contact Liz at 201-921-6030 or the office at 732-826-1395. EMAIL: office@johnpaulsecond.com

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 This program is **FREE** to Members!

This outdoor fun introductory T-Ball League is a great exercise in developing team play concepts and motor skills. The League will start on April 4th and play for 6 weeks.

Teams will meet each week on Saturday for one hour. Players will be instructed by volunteer coaches in a half hour practice followed by a Thirty-minute game.

The inclement weather location will be the Raritan Bay Area YMCA Gymnasium.

If you are interested in volunteer coaching or have additional questions please contact our Sports Director, Louis Quinones @ (732) 442-3632 x 6522 or lquinones@rbaymca.org

## Convenience for Our Perth Amboy Taxpayers

Press Release  
**PERTH AMBOY** - Mayor Wil-da Diaz is pleased to announce that the City of Perth Amboy's tax office is now offering on-line tax services for payment. This online program would also allow residents to access their tax account information through the City's website for their convenience. Taxes are due by: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Visit the City's website at: [www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us](http://www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us)

For additional information contact the Tax Office at: 732-826-0290 ext. 4027 or for more information about the City of Perth Amboy, please visit: [www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us](http://www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us).

## Edison AARP Ch. 3446

**EDISON** - A trip to Resorts Casino is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2015. The package includes show tickets for the Neverly Brothers, and lunch at Sea Oaks Restaurant in Little Egg Harbor, NJ. Call Mary Ann at 732-738-0759 for reservations.

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 eyeglasses and metal can tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

For additional information, visit our website at [www.edisonaarp.org](http://www.edisonaarp.org).

# LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

## EDITORIAL

### It Never Gets Old



Director of Perth Amboy Office of Recreation, Kenny Ortiz (far right) poses with some of the members of the Office of Recreation Youth Alliance Group. \*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

One of the most pleasant aspects of Perth Amboy's Caucus/Council Meetings to me are when our City's youth come to speak. At the 3/23/15 Caucus Meeting, the topic for discussion was the Youth Alliance Group Mission, Goals and Objectives. I was very impressed with the Youth Alliance Group pictured above.

Although the Dept. of Recreation Director Kenny Ortiz was on tap to speak, he felt that the members of this group would be the best spokesman - and he was right!

The following are some of the highlights of what they had to say. One young woman started out as a summer camp counselor. She stated that one of the purposes of this group was an initiative to help prevent under aged drinking.

Another group member spoke about prevention programs which would bring awareness to liquor store owners and bartenders.

They related how their participation in the program brought a positive change to their lives. This enabled them to help the people in the community.

Some of the participants have already been accepted into college.

They also are heavily involved in Community Events with all age groups. One event a basketball game between the Fire and Police Departments held at PAHS. They are planning on participating in the Community Cleanup. Funding this program will help the

group get the word out.

They invited the Council to come to their meetings which are held on Saturdays. Councilman Irizarry was impressed by the speakers and he said "The evidence presented today shows that this program is working." He urged the Council to appropriate funds for the Youth Alliance Program. "It's an investment in the youth of our City." Irizarry wanted to thank the group for coming and he was really proud of them.

Finally, Irizarry thanked Kenny Ortiz for the work that he's done with this program and the City's youth.

I would encourage everyone to look at the Perth Amboy Youth Alliance Facebook page for more information.

I would like to congratulate Kenny Ortiz, who I personally think was the right choice to run the Office of Recreation. Any time Mr. Ortiz has come before the Council to explain any of the programs run by his department, he is very thorough. If he doesn't have an answer right away, he makes sure that he gets back to them promptly.

The Recreation Department runs programs for the youth, and the general public. The programs are well run and either free or easily affordable.

Perth Amboy's Waterfront is the gem of the City. Kenny Ortiz and his staff are the gems of the Recreation Department. *C.M.*

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

### City of Perth Amboy Special Municipal Election, Tuesday, May 12, 2015

County of Middlesex, New Jersey  
Voting Machine Sample Ballot

OFFICE TITLE CARGO	NOMINATION BY PETITION NOMINACIÓN POR PETICIÓN	A	NOMINATION BY PETITION NOMINACIÓN POR PETICIÓN	B
Member of the City Council 4 Year Term, Vote for One Miembro del Consejo de la Ciudad Término de 4 Años, Vote por Uno	Sergio DIAZ Perth Amboy United Perth Amboy Unido	A1	Fernando A. GONZALEZ New Direction for Perth Amboy Nueva Dirección para Perth Amboy	B1

*Elaine M. Flynn*  
Elaine M. Flynn  
Middlesex County Clerk

### More TV Coverage Needed

Your Sweet Peter Book, local resident and gadabout, now a guest at Amboy Care Center in Perth Amboy. Temporarily! I hope! I recommend that Television Station 34 name our

beloved Mayor Wilda Diaz as your local news and weather for speakers of daily events around noon from her City Hall Office.

She is a superb speaker and Leader of a revitalized bay city. Our historic and unique city of diverse culture and I peoples who enjoyed happy successful lives in Love, Peace, Good Will and Har-

mony for centuries! And did not so many of us marry each other! God Bless!

Thank you for your courtesies. Peter Book a.k.a. Pedro Libro



### Perth Amboy: Let the Phoenix Rise!

The city of Perth Amboy has turned into a pay-to-play and look the other way situation. The administration of this city fails to live up their promises made during campaigning. The open door policy established by the mayor is not a responsive program--I personally have requested to speak to the mayor and have not received a response in four months. Truth be told, there were numerous individuals running for city council. During that brief period they walked door to door and expressed concern in the issues of the people they encountered. Now that election days are over, none of them returned with a single answer to my questions. When does the individuals running for City Council become disconnected from the citizens? After they are elected, when the factors are not in their benefit they abandon the people. How can we continually elect individuals like this into powerful po-

sitions?

How can they disconnect themselves from the people of Perth Amboy once elected? Indeed, this is the case with many politicians, but in Perth Amboy's case, it is particularly foul. It is a shame, the little city of Perth Amboy had so much potential before being taken over by greedy developers. These developers waited to collect pieces of their puzzle, for future plans and the corrupt administration only urges them along. In reality, a small business wanting to come to our city's waterfront has virtually has no chance of succeeding because of the continuous abuses in our local government. Additionally, Perth Amboy is able to suppress incidents involving gang violence and mysterious shootings. The people are told nothing.

They fail in their duty as city officials to help the said trespasses, instead they focus on "feel good" projects such as monuments, parks, water front restoration, improvements and promoting Perth Amboy as a historical town. However, they do not focus on the issues that

ultimately shames Perth Amboy in the eyes of other towns. Don't they drive down the side streets and see the drug deals being made, prostitution, illegal business and general poor quality of our neighborhoods? They pride themselves on paper-thin achievements when in reality they are at fault for letting this city spiral out of control the administrative body of this city must be held accountable. We can longer afford to be seen as the trailer park of Middlesex County with transients coming, going and doing as they please. The property owners of this city deserve the respect, partnership and the support of administration! Without guidance there is no leadership without leadership there is no guidance. Now is the time for the citizens of Perth Amboy to take their town back and make it the phoenix of the future!

People will not come to this City because they look down on us. Countless surrounding towns have risen from the ashes, let this be the next phoenix! The Phoenix will rise again.

AJD

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

Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the paper at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.



Published by Amboy Guardian LLC  
P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862  
(732) 896-4446 Email - CRLYNMXWLL@AOL.COM  
(732) 261-2610 Email - KMASS514@GMAIL.COM

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COLONIAL RESTAURANT.....	366 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
LIBERTY BAGEL CAFE.....	326 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
ROOSEVELT'S DELI .....	684 KING GEORGE'S RD.
SUPER DUPER DELI III .....	650 KING GEORGE'S RD.
<b>IN HOPELAWN:</b>	
KRAUSZER'S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
SOVEREIGN BANK .....	571 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
<b>IN ISELIN</b>	
THOMAS PLOSKONKA C.P.A.....	1149 GREEN ST.
<b>IN LAURENCE HARBOR:</b>	
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KRAUSZER'S.....	9 LAURENCE PKWY.
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<b>IN PARLIN:</b>	
DAD'S ROYAL BAKERY.....	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
<b>IN PERTH AMBOY:</b>	
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7-11 .....	502 SMITH ST.
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER .....	178 BARRACKS ST.
ALAMEDA CENTER .....	303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE .....	321 MAPLE ST.
AMBOY EYE CARE .....	94 SMITH ST.
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COPA DE ORO .....	306 SMITH ST.
CRISPY CHICKEN .....	223 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
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EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS .....	87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER .....	175 HALL AVE.
FAMILY FOOT CARE .....	252 SMITH ST.
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FU LIN .....	79 SMITH ST.
INVESTOR'S BANK .....	598 STATE ST.
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER .....	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER .....	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS .....	73 SMITH ST.
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LAUNDRY ON MADISON .....	285 MADISON AVE.
LAW OFFICES .....	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET .....	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY .....	75 BRACE AVE.
LUIGI'S RISTORANTE .....	93 SMITH ST.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC .....	788 CONVERY BLVD.
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PORTUGUESE MANOR .....	310 ELM ST.
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QUISQUEYA MARKET .....	249 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT .....	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY .....	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET .....	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET .....	403 BRUCK AVE.
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BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BISTRO .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CENTER DELI .....	250 N. STEVENS AVE.
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S .....	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS .....	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
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NEWS & TREATS .....	99 MAIN ST.
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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](http://www.KearnyCottage.org)

**Community Calendar**

<b>Perth Amboy</b>	
MON. Apr. 6	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED. Apr. 8	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
TUES. Apr. 14	Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. City Hall, High St.
	UEZ, 6 p.m. City Hall, High St.
	BID, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
<b>South Amboy</b>	
WED. Apr. 15	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
MON. Apr. 27	Board of Education, Business/Public, 6 p.m. SA Middle/High School, Harold Hoffman Pl.

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## Incident at McGinnis School

PERTH AMBOY - There were reports that 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at McGinnis school were forced to put on their backpacks and march up and down the stairs during school hours. This was allegedly under the orders of Principal Dr. Myrna Garcia.

McGinnis School Principal Dr. Myrna Garcia has been placed on administrative leave along with the vice-principal and 5 other teachers.

The following are some of the statements regarding the incident which reportedly occurred on 3/27/15. It was stated that the students marched for 6 hours with a lunch break. One source stated that it was for 3 hours and another stated for 20 minutes. Some individuals stated that it was not the first time this happened. There are reports that this incident was videotaped by school cameras.

Some parents attended the 4/2/15 Board of Education Meeting. They were frustrated because they could not speak until the public portion at the end of the meeting and expressed their discontent.

By the time the public portion came, one parent spoke. "I am the father of 5 kids. The way I raise my child is not to be disciplined in that way. I'm concerned. Who gave her (Dr. Myrna Garcia) the authority? There is an investigation. I'm grateful about that. My job is to discipline my child. For this incident to happen in this town is awful."

PTO President Donna Stewart stated, "I am saddened. Over 70 teachers tried to transfer out of McGinnis School (over the years while Garcia was principal). It's about our children."

Resident Angel Leon stated, "It's a very sad day. I suggest Board Members sit down and talk to the school. We can't afford anymore lawsuits."

Board President Sam Lebreault read a statement saying that the Board of Education cannot interfere with the investigation and declined to comment on the incident until more information comes to light.

Corporal Punishment is illegal in New Jersey Schools. For more information go to <http://statelaws.findlaw.com/>

## Statement by Board of Education President Samuel Lebreault on Incident at McGinnis School

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy School District has been informed about some concerns pertaining to discipline issues at the McGinnis School recently. The District takes these types of allegations seriously and is conducting an internal investigation to ascertain the facts. The District expects its staff to adhere to policies and procedures relating to student discipline. What we know for sure now is that the conduct did not involve any type of physical assault on students. As a strictly precautionary measure, members of the administration and the teaching staff have been placed on administrative leave to allow an investigation to occur. Appropriate administrative and teaching staff have been reassigned to the McGinnis School to ensure the continuity of instruction.

The Board cannot make further comments at this time about McGinnis School because there is an ongoing investigation involving staff and students. We appreciate your understanding that student and staff privacy rights must be respected.

We continue to assure the public, parents, and the school community as a whole that student safety is the District's utmost concern, and the District will take all steps necessary to protect students.

## Vendors and Shoppers Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a Flea Market/Vendor Sale on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Raritan Bay YMCA Parking Lot, 375 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. For Vendor info please contact Kim at 732-824-1719 or [Kim62694@comcast.net](mailto:Kim62694@comcast.net)

## A.C. Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Bus Trip to Resorts Casino on Sunday, April 19 Sponsored by the Fellowship Circle of the Hungarian Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. Bus leaves the church at 12 noon - 6 hour stay at Casino from when we arrive in AC. Cost: \$27 pp. Return of \$25 in slot play. Bagged lunch provided. To reserve a seat call: 732-261-8726. Payment due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 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.

## Me Time

PERTH AMBOY - FSC has partnered up with the AUL Charter school in bringing a Parent Support Group to the community. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 333 High St. Perth Amboy.

## Waterfront Arts Festival

PERTH AMBOY - The Waterfront Arts Festival planned for Saturday May 23 from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. There will be live music, food vendors and artists selling original artwork on Sadowski Parkway. This is a family friendly event with free admission and will offer arts & crafts for the kids. The Perth Amboy Waterfront Arts Festival Facebook page has an event listing you can share.

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- PRAHD**  
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- Fortunata Valenty Outstanding Staff Member**
- Yvonne Lopez**
- Hon. Mathias E. Rodriguez Humanitarian**
- Tyrell Grant**
- Eddie Trujillo Community Ambassador**
- Margarita Bogliotti**
- Ida Greene Life Longing Perseverance**
- Abraham Pitre and The Perth Amboy Firefighters**
- Rose M. Lopez Outstanding Mentor**

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**Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!**

## When Teamwork Translates Into Skills Training

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - Late last fall, the Puerto Rican Association For Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) and the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters (NRCC) agreed to create a unique training program that offers a path and a ray of hope to the unemployed or underemployed.

We established a pre-apprenticeship program that allows participants to embark on that first, important step to becoming a full apprentice in a union carpenter program.

This comes at a time when job creation is on everyone's mind, accompanied by the refrain of the importance of education. We believe that our approach is both creative and a real-world antidote to the issues of unemployment, education and upward employment, the ability to earn and learn in a manner that allows participants to improve their socioeconomic status.

It is never easy to make a transition from no or low employment to a skillful job with a future. Indeed, it is a lengthy bridge that many never cross. Our program offers guidance and a helping hand that peo-

ple can grasp. The contributory factors that have spawned such confidence include:

- Small successes. The pre-apprenticeship program will bring candidates into a training regimen that builds confidence and instills a measurable, modest skill set that they might not have possessed previously. It is a powerful introduction on the road to a respected, well-paying job: becoming a union carpenter. Our objective is clear-cut: PRAHD lays the foundation for employment within our community and, just as important, it provides for sustainable employment. You can't export the skill and labor required for a construction job.

- Advanced Technical Education. Training provided to apprentices and journeymen is a superior educational option. While pundits often focus on a more traditional educational theme (attend college), their voices become muffled when discussing vocational and apprenticeship programs. Yet apprentice carpenters who become journeymen receive the equivalent of a college degree with a five-year curriculum and 1,000 hours of technical

training. Participants can also earn college credits and when they graduate, it usually leads to highly desirable employment because they actually worked in the field they studied.

- A broader view. We were very fortunate that NRCC, which represents both New Jersey and New York, were flexible in approving this trial approach. If successful, and we believe it will be, it lays the foundation for other trade organizations in Middlesex County to consider a new pathway for potential candidates.

PRAHD and the NRCC reached an agreement, in part, because the carpenter's union placed great value on our influence and ability to communicate to our specific audience of women and minorities. Sisters of the Brotherhood, which is a female component of the carpenters union, aided in this agreement. The Sisters have worked diligently in recent years to break the stereotype that women "can't make it" in the construction. They have, and we expect more to follow.

The NRCC is providing the same umbrella of training under which apprentices and

journeymen study. The carpenter's union has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on training throughout the country and justifiably describes their graduates as the best in the construction business. Locally, our candidates will train at the NRCC's training center in Kenilworth, N.J. We have designed the classes for evening instruction, which permits attendance for those who must maintain daytime jobs.

Throughout the United States, business leaders and owners constantly lament that they can't find qualified personnel to fill jobs. This bemoaning increases as more American workers enter retirement age.

Recently, President Barack Obama said that he believes students should be allowed to attend community college for free, if they are willing to work for it. The implementation of this idea, if it occurs, translates into a basis for education and jobs. However, its realization could be years in the future.

The initiative we undertook with the NRCC is an answer for education, employment and future job security, and it is available NOW.

## Strike Out Cancer And Spare Lives

HOPELAWN - Net proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society - Relay For Life of Woodbridge, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration starts 12:30 p.m. The festivities will be held at Majestic Lanes, 525 Rte. 9 North, Hopelawn. Costs: \$5 for Non-Bowlers (Food and Beverage Only) or \$20 pp. Includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, ball, food & beverage. Teams or individuals please fill out form below and submit with your check payable to the American Cancer Society by April 20th to: Relay for Life C/O Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce, 91 Main St. Woodbridge, NJ 07095. No refunds or cancellations. Teams of 6 recommended. If you do not have a full team, other bowlers may be added to fill in the lane. Maximum of 8 bowlers per lane. Any questions contact Amy - 732-887-5640. Lane sponsorship available. \$100 gets your business banner hung over 2 lanes. (Businesses supplies the banner).

VOTE MAY 12 ★ **FERNANDO GONZALEZ** ★ B-1 FOR CITY COUNCIL

NEW DIRECTION FOR PERTH AMBOY

**VOTE B-1**

**DEMOCRAT FOR CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY MAY 12, 2015**



★

**Safer Streets**

**Lower Taxes**

**Improve Quality of Life**

**Economic Development**

**Strong Leadership**

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**FERNANDO GONZALEZ FOR CITY COUNCIL**

Paid for by Fernando Gonzalez for Council, Yesenia Velez, Treasurer

## Elevating the Issue

PERTH AMBOY - Resident Dot Daniel had a major concern that was brought to the attention of the Council at the 3/25/15 Meeting. "The elevator has been out of order in City Hall for a month now. This is a government building and should be accessible for the handicapped."

Business Administrator Jilian Barrick said, "The elevator has been repaired several times. Even after it has been fixed, people still have gotten stuck. The elevator is very old. Buildings and Grounds should be informed when City Elevators are not working."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "We need either to replace the company or the mechanic fixing the elevators."

It was brought to the attention by someone else at the meeting that the elevator at Olive Street is also not working."

Daniel was also concerned about the angled parking on High Street which leads to very dangerous conditions. "Starting from Harbortown to Commerce Street, how can vehicles be allowed to park like that?"

Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to address the parking situation. "The parking at Simpson Method-



Angled Parking  
\*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

ist Church was changed from angled to straight parking because of complaints. Because of that parking change, we did lose parking spaces. We can look at the angled parking situation further down High Street."

Pabon said, "There's plenty of parking on High Street to have all the spaces converted to straight parking."

Cattano finished the conversation by saying, "There have been modifications on the parking situation on High Street leading into Harbortown. The Traffic Bureau is doing calculations on this street to see how many spots we will lose if it's all converted into straight parking."

## Driving Privilege Cards for Undocumented Residents

PERTH AMBOY - When Fernando Gonzalez was sitting on the Council, he had requested as a topic of discussion Bills supporting special driving privilege cards for Undocumented Immigrants.

Carlos Rojas came before the Council at the 2/9/15 Caucus Meeting to speak on behalf on why these privileges are needed. On the 3/11/15 Council Meeting, R-119-3/15 was presented. Endorsing the passage of Companion Bills S1696 and A2135 supporting the issuance of driving privilege cards for undocumented residents.

The resolution was passed with only Councilman Bill Petrick voting "No."

Councilman Petrick was concerned about immigrants who were here legally, but still waiting to become citizens and the effect it would have on them.

## Repeat, Repeat, Repeat Offender...

PERTH AMBOY - 3/25/15 Council Meeting. Councilman Joel Pabon and City Attorney Mark Blunda were concerned about a list that former Councilman Kenneth Balut handed out. This handout showed over 29 incidents that took place at a bar at 417 Fayette St. from 12/9/14 thru 12/31/14. The complaints listed loud music, but there were several incidents that were blacked out.

Pabon stated, "We need to look into this list of summons for this establishment and the dismissal rates."

City Attorney Mark Blunda said, "I would like the Police Chief to look into these violations further, and what were the final resolutions?"

## Food Drive

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Post Office will take part in the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive which will take place on Saturday, May 9. Non-perishable foods can be brought to the Post Office during regular business hours on that day. Containers will be located inside the Post Office to place your items.

## Waste Not Want Not

PERTH AMBOY - Councilman Joel Pabon and Council President Lisa Nanton were not afraid to step in it. On Brace Avenue and in the Washington Park area there have been problems with people walking there because of animal waste.

Pabon said, "We need to start ticketing violators, because the City will have to take care of the problem. "This can be additional revenue if violators are ticketed. A Department of Public Works employee said something to a person who did not pick up their dog's waste and the employee was told off."

Nanton gave a brief history how fecal waste has been a health hazard in the past. "It's extremely dangerous to children." She was also concerned about the garbage cans in public areas, especially down by the waterfront. "They should be washed out when they are emptied. The smell is horrible."

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Whatever your family resolves to do this year, the Y is here to help. Whether it's shaping a healthier you, meeting new friends, spending more time together or making a difference in your community, the Y can keep you on track to make your 'someday' today





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## Carefree Bus Tours

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Call 732-826-4103 For Other Pick-ups & Times  
Hopelawn, Fords, South Amboy, Sayreville, Old Bridge

## Comedy Night

FORDS - The Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council #9199 of Fords is sponsoring "Comedy Night." Come on out for a night of fun, food and festivities!! The date is Saturday, April 11, 2015 and will be held in the cafeteria under the church. The church is on the corner of Ford Ave and Amboy Ave. Cost is \$30 advance sales and \$35 at the door. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Three professional comedians, a roast beef dinner, beer, wine, soda, coffee & desserts. There will also be door prizes, 50/50 raffle and an entertainment package raffle.

For tickets by mail, send check to Anthony Girgenti, c/o Knights of Columbus, 514 Crows Mill Road, Fords, NJ 08863. Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus #9199. For more info, call Anthony at 908-616-2570.

## Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - The monthly trip to Caesar's Casino will be on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

## Zumba

PERTH AMBOY - FSC is bringing Zumba back to our center. Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Recreation center located at 1 Olive St. Perth Amboy. For further information please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy.

## Let's Crochet With Urian

PERTH AMBOY - FSC has partnered up with NJIT - BRIDGES in bringing a crocheting class for beginners. This class will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 881 Amboy Ave. Perth Amboy. No registration required.

## 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!

## Ferry Slip Museum Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Come join us at "The Little Museum That Could" where YOUR volunteer efforts will really make a BIG difference! The Ferry Slip Museum Cordially invites you to our reorganization meeting on Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Whether it's a class of young children or a WWII veteran - everyone who visits is touched by the history of ferrying from the Lenape Indians to the 1960s. Our little museum demonstrates the importance of the Raritan to settling Perth Amboy as well as being a source of food, industry and transportation.

Stand in a place where history has been made for centuries! Imagine John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Edward Rutledge leaving from this spot to cross over the waters and meet with the British regarding the decision to go to war.

Soon to come - A mini museum on-site to be named "Made in Perth Amboy" with examples of the products that came from Perth Amboy and the history of the companies involved. Help clean out the space, stock it, and learn while you volunteer.

We are completely self-supporting and completely dependent upon volunteer to staff the museum, act as docents, clean, elicit donations and run our excellent speakers' program. Surely your talents in one of these areas will make a difference!

Please join us for this important meeting. Chair a committee, join a committee or run for the Board. We need you and we know you'll enjoy the experience!

For more info: email DEPOW@aol.com or call 732-442-5425.



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<p><b>Childcare:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilingual Preschool Director - FULL TIME</li> <li>• After School Care Program Counselor</li> <li>• Summer Day Camp Counselor (June 29-August 21)</li> <li>• Bus Driver</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sports &amp; Enrichment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Coordinator - FULL TIME</li> <li>• Martial Arts Camp Counselor (June 29-July 10)</li> <li>• Basketball Camp Counselor (July 27-July 31)</li> <li>• Soccer Camp Counselor (August 3-August 7)</li> <li>• Cooking Camp Counselor (August 10-August 14)</li> <li>• Gymnastics Instructor</li> <li>• Ballet Instructor</li> </ul>

Our excellent benefits include medical and dental insurance options for full-time staff, retirement, YMCA membership, paid time for training and many opportunities for career and personal growth.

**HOW TO APPLY:** We encourage all qualified candidates to apply to our open positions. Pick-up an application at our Member Service desk or forward your resume and cover letter to [jobs@rbaymca.org](mailto:jobs@rbaymca.org). To learn more about our career opportunities visit: <http://www.rbaymca.org/main/careers/>.

Also, check out our volunteer opportunities on  **VolunteerMatch**  
Where volunteering begins.

The Raritan Bay Area YMCA considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, the presence of a non-job related medical condition or handicap, or any other legally protected status. The YMCA maintains a "zero tolerance" for child abuse and/or substance abuse. Criminal background check and other federal or state screenings for child abuse will be conducted.

**RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA | 357 New Brunswick Avenue | Perth Amboy, NJ | 732.442.3632**

**Knights of Columbus Shield Awards, Perth Amboy 3/21/15**

*\*Photos by Alejandro Roman*



The Knights of Columbus held their Shield Awards on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The Honorees were:  
 Police Shield Awards: Det Liza Capo, Aux. LT Robert O' Buck  
 Fire Dept Shield Awards: Capt Brian Lopazanski, Firefighter Michael Perez, Volunteer LT John Yuhas  
 Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Melanie Lawrence - Assumption Catholic School, Ms. Karen Stewart - PA Catholic Upper Campus  
 Senior Citizen of the Year: Fr. Andres - Our Lady of Fatima, Patricia Reyes - Business Owner  
 Community Service Awards: Harold and Maria Zayas, BP Lubricants USA, Inc., PA High School Culinary Class, Assumption Catholic School, Ken Ortiz, Dr. Thomas Hari  
 Community Sponsor Awards: All Star's Academy, AT Towing and Auto Recovery, Harry Moradia, Quisqueya Meat Market, Novak Funeral Home, Vas Law, Marge Palinkas  
 25 Year Service Award: Rev. Monsignor John B. Gordon  
 Knights of Columbus #299 - Free Throw Contest Champions, Assumption Catholic School (Boys & Girls categories 9-14)

**Business Financing Seminar for Small Businesses, 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution Bank in Conjunction with Perth Amboy BID, UEZ & PAMA 3/18/15**

*\*Photos by Alejandro Roman*



## B-Men Retreat

### 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.

### Women's Resource Center Help Program

SOUTH AMBOY - Tuesday, April 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

### Sandy Assistance

NEW JERSEY - Still need assistance to recover from Sandy? Housing assistance may be available for you. Visit [www.renewjerseystroner.org](http://www.renewjerseystroner.org) to learn more about Sandy Recovery Assistance. Free Housing Counseling is available. Call 1-855-SANDYHM(726-3946) Hearing Impaired Users Text Telephone Service (TTY/TDD) 609-984-7300 or 1800-286-6613.



Chef Hardy instructs a young man



Listening to Mentors



The B-Men learn computer skills  
\*Photos by Eric Salvary

By: Eric Salvary  
PERTH AMBOY - A three-day weekend intensive titled "Eat-Live-Exercise." helping young at risk boys become successful men. Hosted by B-Men's founder Edison Jaquez who partnered with Celebrity Chef Max Hardy, Ben Judah Ceo. Of Club 114 Fitness, Educator Reggie Clark, Howard Efron Doctor and Music Producer and Cricket Wireless.

From an information standpoint each seminar gave the youth real time knowledge rarely talked about in most urban settings. The subjects touched on ranged from how to be successful, turning your life around after making the

wrong decisions, health, eating right, networking and becoming a professional.

What made this weekend more than just a sit back and listen event was that Jaquez knew the goals that the youth had in mind. He strategically brought in speakers from each field to challenge each mentee by giving the kids hands on experience.

Preparing meals with Chef Hardy was one of the ways he met this goal. Chef Hardy said, "We are teaching kids and giving back, but at the same time they are giving back to me. It is fulfilling to see them smile when they make a dish and at the end they say, 'Wow this

tastes good and it's healthy for me."

Making Music with Dr. Efron, which is something more than a hobby as he does it professionally along with being a dentist and Surgeon was a mind capturing experience. He showed the young men the science of making a song down to the intricacies of the first sound you hear and the timing of a verse.

At one point, all participant's both mentor and mentee were able to give a heartfelt testimony. This gave the young men an open table to be transparent about their struggles and ask real questions about where they are in life and where they

plan to be.

Jaquez stated, "I believe this is an amazing opportunity for the participants to be educated on the importance of healthy eating, healthy living, and exercising. At the same time the young men develop leadership qualities along the way" This has truly showed itself through out the weekend as you could sense some of the young men's confidence grow whether it was taking on a task or learning how to network. The weekend turned into a great experience for all involved complete with great knowledge and great taste. These B-men are equipped for a bright future.



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## Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation to Hold Annual Art Show April 23 Event to Honor Robert Durso of Woodbridge, NJ, and Benefit the Medical Center's Center for Women

Press Release 3/12/15

PERTH AMBOY - Art aficionados and individuals looking to enjoy a fun night out in support of community health will want to attend Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation's 18th Annual Art Show "Inspirations for the Generations" Thursday, April 23, 6 to 9 p.m., at the medical center, 530 New Brunswick Ave, Perth Amboy, NJ. Longtime Woodbridge Township resident and City of Perth Amboy native Robert Durso will be the distinguished honoree at the event.

This chic evening includes an open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, unique art available for purchase, live music by the Victor Quezada Jazz Trio and more. Featured artwork includes; cigar box purses, soaps, sweets, paintings of watercolor and oil, wall sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics and glass. Tickets cost \$50 per person and cash raffle tickets are available for \$10 each. To purchase event or raffle tickets, contact the Foundation at 732-324-5374. Proceeds benefit the medical center's Center for Women. Raffle winners need not be present to win.

Robert is a Broker Associate for the J.J. Elek Realty Co. and a member of their Management Team. He began his career at J.J. Elek Realty in 1985. Over the years, Robert has been one of the top-producing agents, winning

top salesman for the entire company in 1999, 2010 and 2011. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Middlesex County Association of Realtors. In 1991, he was named Realtor Associate of the Year for Middlesex County and is a "Million Dollar Club Award Winner" & "Circle of Excellence" recipient for the last 28 years. He has served on several Realtor Committees on both the state and local level, including their prestigious Community Service Committees. In 2004 Robert received the Professional of the Year award from the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce. And in 2009, the Distinguished Community Leader Award from the Prodigal Foundation. In 2010 Robert was named Citizen of the Year by the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce. Robert was born and raised in Perth Amboy and is a graduate of Perth Amboy High School. He is a third generation businessman in the area. His grandfather Joseph Comento was the owner and operator of the Eagle Barber Shop located on Amboy Ave. for more than 30 years. His parents Neil and Gloria Durso owned and operated the Duralco Mfg. Co., on So. Second St., for 45 years. He is married to the former Kally Efermides and they are the proud parents of two sons, Nicholas, age 23, and Zachary, age 20. Robert and his family have resided in Woodbridge Township for the last 26 years.

Robert is an active member of the Perth Amboy Kiwanis Club and is currently their President and has served as a past president. He is a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD). Robert is a Member and Past Chapter Chair of the Central Jersey Chapter of the American Conference on Diversity. Additionally, he serves on the Middlesex County Multiple Listing Board of Directors and The Middlesex County Association of Realtors Board of Directors, Robert served on the Mayor's Police Advisory Board and the Municipal Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition for the City of Perth Amboy. He is a Past President of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary's Holy Name Society. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Perth Amboy's Boys and Girls Club and as their CVO, the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce, St. James Advisory Council and Chairman of their Building and Grounds Committee.

Robert and Kally are also active supporters of the Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation where they have chaired the annual Harbor Lights ball. Robert has followed in the tradition of his parents and is committed to his family and actively participating in the improvement of the communities where he lives and works.

### Our Lady of Martyrs

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a feast in honor of Our Lady of Martyrs at Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Church, 188 Wayne St., Perth Amboy. The Celebration starts at 12 Noon on Saturday, April 11 and continues at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 12. Homemade traditional desserts, traditional Portuguese foods, games, raffle, etc. Everyone is welcome.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 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!

### Vendors Wanted

SAYREVILLE - Looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville to be held on June 6th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. The rain date is June 13th. Spaces are available for \$15 for one space, \$25 for two. A very limited amount of tables will be available for \$5.00 extra. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

### Healthy Cooking Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the JRF-Family Success Center, 149 Kearny Ave. (Back of Proprietary House) starting March 11. Registration is a must! Spaces are limited. 732-638-5063.

### Flea Market

SEWAREN - The First Baptist Church of Woodbridge Food Pantry Presents Spring 2015 Flea Market. Come for food, fun, crafts and bargains: Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date May 16<sup>th</sup>) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 130 Sewaren Ave., Sewaren. Vendors: reserve your space now! \$25 (Space - bring your own table); \$10 Table (You rent one of our tables); \$35 Both (You rent a space & table) For more information call: Deacon Jones 347-930-4764 or Sister Roman: 848-565-1886.

## Shull School's 2nd Annual Shullympics Competition

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - Many of us reflect on our middle school experiences as a time of transformation. For most, this transformation is full of memories, both positive and negative. At Samuel E. Shull Middle School in Perth Amboy, the faculty has made some bold moves to create a positive middle school experience for their students. Under the guidance of our principal, Mr. Michael Heidelberg, and the school leadership team, the school has undergone a dynamic transformation with the implementation of a "House Model" over the past two years. The model is based on the theory that smaller learning communities create a more personalized environment for teaching and learning. The 1400 students are divided up into four houses: Leopards, Tigers, Cheetahs, and Lions. Thus, the large populated middle school has come to be operated as four schools of 400 students within one school.

The transformation plan has been paying off for the school. School activities centered around the Houses have instilled a spirited learning climate within the building. Shull was recently identified as a Title I School that supports learning via the use of technology by the New Jersey Department of Education Title

I Office in partnership with the Consortium for School Networking (COSN) for its 1:1 classroom technology initiative in support of their implementation of the Common Core State Standards, as well school wide-efforts to ensure preparedness for the PARCC Assessments.

The Shull HOUSE pride will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, as the HOUSES will compete in the Second "Shullympics" events hosted by a group of teachers referred to as The Den. Students will join together to strengthen the entire school community with some friendly, but spirited, competition. Qualifying students, chosen by each House will compete in a variety of events to test their knowledge, strength and team spirit. The "Shullympics" will be held on the evening of April 15th from 6-8PM at the Perth Amboy High School Gym. The entire school is invited to attend, along with their parents and community members, to support our participants as they compete in a battle of the houses. With the help of the PTO and the efforts within each of the houses, refreshments and spirit items will be sold throughout the night. We're looking forward to another great turnout full of Shull School pride!

## To All Residents of the Greater Budapest Neighborhood:

PERTH AMBOY - The Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) located at 149 Kearny Ave, Perth Amboy, is offering scholarships for educational purposes and summer camps. All applications are due on May 22, 2015. No applications will be accepted after this date. Educational scholarships can cover: certifications and licensures, conferences, colleges and vocational skills courses. Educational Scholarship applications will be voted on, if approved will cover up to 90% of the total cost up to \$2000. Summer camp scholarships will be approved on a first come first served ba-

sis and will cover 80% of the total camp costs up to \$550. Please note, any person receiving a scholarship will be MANDATED to participate in the Neighborhood Association which meets the 4th Monday of every month. If you live in the neighborhood you may apply for either scholarship. Applications can be obtained by emailing William Kurzenberger at wkurzenberger@jrf-nj.org or you can pick up an application at the Agency on the 3rd floor in room #302. If you have any questions you can reach William by phone at 732-324 2114 ext. 114.

### Military Assistance Center

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

### Financial Peace

PERTH AMBOY - FSC will be bringing a nine-week curriculum based class on how to make your money work for you. This class will be every Monday from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy (Back of Proprietary House) Registration is required. "More than one million families have done it and you can too" - Dave Ramsey

**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.*

**Audra McDonald Performance**

PERTH AMBOY - With the growing need to serve more individuals in need, the Jewish Renaissance Family of Organizations (JRFO) has partnered with NJPAC as part of their 2015 fundraising campaign. The JRFO invites you to a night of captivating performance with Audra McDonald on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at NJPAC. Contact Lisette Lebron at 732-376-6642 for ticket information.

**Indoor Flea Market**

PERTH AMBOY - The Fellowship Circle of Magyar (Hungarian) Reformed Church is having a Flea Market/Yard Sale on Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hungarian Reformed Church Center, 347 Kirkland Pl, Perth Amboy. Entrance to hall is on Fayette Street. 1 Table is \$20, 2 Tables are \$30; 3 Tables are \$40. Make Checks Payable to Magyar Reformed Church. Doors open for setup 7:45 a.m. on the day of the Flea Market. For more info call Laura at 732-324-0180 or call the Church directly at 732-442-7799.

**Free Income Tax Preparation**

PERTH AMBOY - FSC is partnering up with United Way and is bringing back V.I.T.A. Anyone interested in this opportunity you must first schedule an appointment and come into our center to pick up the paperwork that must be completed prior to your appointment. If interested or for additional information/details please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy (Back of Proprietary House).

**Biker's Rally**

OLD BRIDGE - The Elks MC Present The 12th Annual Bikers Rally for Brain Injured Children (BIC) on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Live Bands, Food, Vendors, Refreshments - Rain or Shine! Donation \$20 Rally @ Old Bridge Elks Lodge, 67 Old Amboy Road, Old Bridge N.J. 08857. Escorted Rides to the Rally Point leaving from the following locations @ 12 Noon:

South Amboy Elks Lodge - 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy, N.J. 08879; Cranford Elks Lodge - 951 Lincoln Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016; Brick Town Elks Lodge - 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, N.J. 08723; Pompton Lakes Elks Lodge - 15 Perrin Ave., Pompton Lakes, N.J. 07442; Bayonne Elks Lodge - 364 Broadway, Bayonne, N.J. 07002; Red Banks Elks Lodge - 40 West Front St., Red Bank, N.J. 07701; Manville Elks Lodge - 1500 Brooks Blvd., Hillsborough, N.J. 08884

**Senior Scene**

**Happenings**

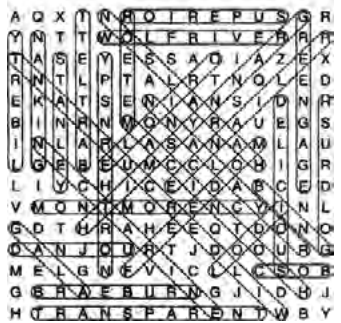
**Perth Amboy**

- WED. Apr. 8 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. Apr. 9 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
  - Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Church Basement, Alta Vista Pl.
- MON. Apr. 13 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Apr. 14 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
  - Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Apr. 15 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
  - St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- THURS. Apr. 16 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

**South Amboy**

- WED. Apr. 8 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Apr. 27 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. May. 4 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

**Answers From Puzzle On Page 15**

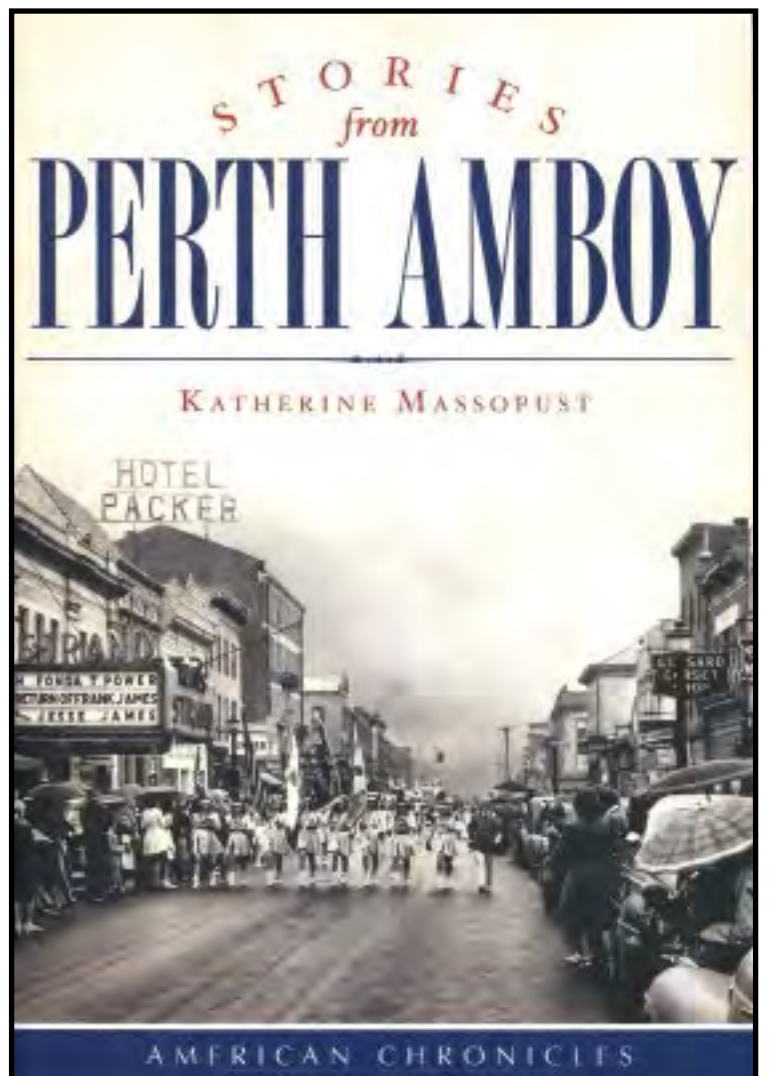


**LOOKING BACK**



PERTH AMBOY - The Saints Drum & Bugle Corps, Fords, NJ marches down State Street in a parade  
*\*Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library*  
 This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

**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**



**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 732-442-1079 - A Great Gift!

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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.*

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**PERTH AMBOY** - Nice 5 bedrooms and 4 bath house, Sold "As Is Condition". Buyer Resp. for C/O Inspection. **\$229,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Nice house for large family. Buyer is responsible for C/O and any repairs. **\$189,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Fantastic water view, 2 levels of glass, 3 full baths, elevator, garage parking, fitness facility and more Tenant pays \$1800. **\$160,000**



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