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AMBOY GUARDIAN



• VOL. 5 NO. 38 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015 •

Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



South Amboy Council Meeting -12/16/15 - 7 p.m.

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Municipal ID Programs Discussed

PERTH AMBOY - 12/7/15
Caucus Meeting - Director of the Department of Recreation Kenny Ortiz gave an extensive overview of the importance of Municipal ID's for City Residents.

An information packet was handed out to the members of the Council and a slide show presentation was shown for all to see.

Ortiz stated, "28% of households in the City have no bank accounts compared to 5% overall in Middlesex County. A taskforce was formed consisting of local businesses, banks and social services to address this problem to help our residents. There are fees for the ID cards. We understand that there are some who will not be able to pay for these fees. For these hardship cases, there will be no fees for them or reduced fees. The ID Program will fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services."

Deputy Chief of Police Larry Cattano came up to speak about this program. "Overall, the program (Municipal ID) will grow. People want to be able to get bank accounts."

Ortiz cautioned, "The ID Cards would only be valid in the City of Perth Amboy. They can be used as one of the points when applying for a driver's license. Businesses will have a decal displayed if they participate in the ID Program. Residents who do have Municipal ID's will be able to get a discount at these stores. Homeless people have used social service programs when they are in need. We can go to these different social service organizations and check with them to see if any of these homeless individuals were given assistance."



**Councilman
Fernando Irizarry**



**Dir. Dept. of Recreation
Kenny Ortiz**

Ortiz also cautioned that these ID's cannot be used for voting, passports or identification when traveling by air. "These are just some of the restrictions. Newark, New Jersey is one of the cities that has Municipal ID Programs in place."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry was concerned about the following: what kind of information would the applicant have to divulge on the form needed to be filled out? What information would be put on the card? Where would that record be stored?

"How long a time frame will be given to see if this program works out?" Irizarry asked.

Ortiz answered part of the question, "The Art Gallery on the corner of Reade and Fayette Streets would have storage space available where the applications would be stored."

A time frame could not be given by Ortiz if the City decides to abort the program.

At that point, Johanna Calle, a Representative from the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice came up to the podium and answered some of the Council's concerns. She stated how successful the program was

in other Municipalities. Calle was familiar with the success rate that the City of the Newark had with this program.

Calle added, "It's important that residents get government ID issues. It can be counted for federal funding."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "I think it's a great program. They're a lot of sports players that can use these ID's. It's worth a shot. It's a win-win situation."

That was not good enough for some people. Later on in the Meeting, during the public portion Resident Ken Balut stated, "No records are safe."

Pastor Bernadette Falcon-Lopez had a different view and emphasized the importance of Municipal ID's, especially when it comes to the homeless, "They need to have ID's (photos) so they can get services. Food pantries can supply the homeless with emergency food, but without the proper ID, they cannot get registered for the food banks."

For more information about the Municipal ID Program go to www.njimmigrantjustice.org/municipal_id

Parking Pay Stations Under Scrutiny

PERTH AMBOY - 12/9/15
Regular Meeting - R-562
-12/15 - Authorizing a contract with Amano Mcgann Inc. for 13 Solar Parking Pay Stations in an amount no to exceed \$104,613.

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said, "I received more information from a maintenance man and Interim B.A. that this resolution may be more than just about the Pay Stations.

After Gonzalez spoke, Chet Wilkolaski, a Representative from Amano Mcgann came up to speak to give an overview of the new pay stations and to answer any questions. "The new pay stations are 4-5 generations newer than what you have now. For the first year, you will have a parts warranty. The City (Perth Amboy) technicians will have the first line of maintenance. We are replacing only the pay stations. They run off batteries charged by the sun. The life expectan-

cy of the pay stations are 10-15 years. The new pay stations can run 3 weeks without being charged by the sun. We use specific pay-by-phone companies. It also takes credit cards. You can also pay through your smart phone but you need a contract with specific phone carriers that we work with to do so."

Parking Utility Director Jeanette Rios was very enthusiastic about the solar parking pay stations. "The Pay Stations can report to us in-house if there is a problem."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry had concerns that the Amano Mcgann is a priority contract.

Wilkolaski answered, "We have 40 offices worldwide."

Jeanette Rios came back and interjected, "There were two more companies that made proposals that were priced much higher than Amano Mcgann"

Councilman Bill Pet-

rick stated, "We won't have to replace servers if we keep this company."

One of the Council Members asked, "What kind of investment this would be?"

Rios assured the Council, "We will get our money back in 3 months guaranteed."

In conclusion, the Wilkolaski said, "Some of the towns that have these solar play stations in place include: Keansburg, Seaside Heights, Hoboken (which is expanding theirs) and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The new solar parking pay stations have been in use for about two years. They are programmed for up to ten languages and have larger screens to make them more user-friendly."

The resolution was moved by Councilman Bill Petrick and seconded by Fernando Irizarry. +



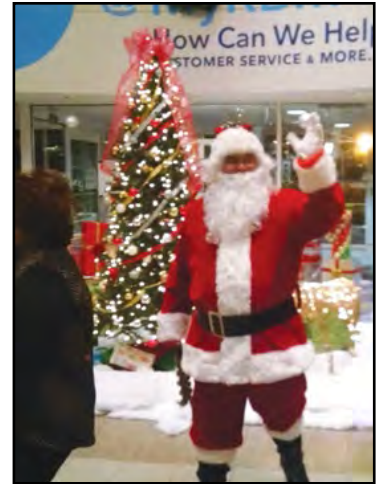
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\$100 Worth of Food for \$40
 PERTH AMBOY – The Jolin Food box program is designed to provide families with nationally branded food products at wholesale prices. On behalf of the Cathedral’s Community Development Corporation, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation’s AmeriCorps is helping promote the Jolin Food Box. Check out <https://jolinfoodbox.com> or contact us at 732-324-2114 x103

Knitting Club
 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. Teens & Adults. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Zumba
 PERTH AMBOY - FSC is bringing Zumba back to our center. Every 1st and 4th 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.





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Book Drop/Book Exchange/Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are establishing a use for the books you have read and would like to recycle!!! Drop off your books. Exchange them for books you have not read pick up a book or two (\$.50 for paperbacks/\$1 for hard cover) ... or select a “bag of books” for a price of only \$5. Please no text books or reference books.

Visit us at the Brighton Ave. Community Center located at the corner of Brighton Ave. and Sadowski Pkwy. in Perth Amboy. The schedule for the rest of 2015 is as follows: Mondays: Dec. 7 and 21 and on Saturdays: Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. We will be there from 12 noon until 2 pm (weather permitting).

For more info, e-mail us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Celebrating Christmas & Chanukah



A Letter From the Late Thomas Francis Clark My First Christmas

That was over eight decades ago. Has Christmas Day changed? My answer to that is "No" because the birthday of Jesus Christ is on December 25.

Has the Christmas Season changed? My answer to that is "Yes." The big rush is on. Let's stand in those long lines and get it over early. The retailers are having a ball.

Three things that I have always loved were Christmas, little kids and journalism. Around this time of the year, I always think of the Editor and Veteran Newsman. He wrote for a newspaper in New York called the Sun. His name was Francis Pharcellus Church. In 1897 he received a letter from eight year old Virginia

O'Hanlon. She said, "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus." Church answered that letter. He said, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." His response to that question has become history's most reprinted newspaper article appearing in dozens of languages, in books, movies and other editorials all over the world.

I was talking to a kid the other day. He said, "My name is Thomas and I'm ten years old." I asked him do you believe in Santa Claus? He answered, "Yes, but not the Fakes in the Department Stores."

I can still remember counting the days and waiting for Santa. I knew that he came because he ate the cookies and milk that I left for him.

During my life, I have spent many of my years with younger kids. Most of them are believers, but sometimes older kids or adults try to alter their way of thinking. These people are the non-believers and have no faith in anything. They have to see and want proof.

In 1973, The New York Mets pulled off a miracle and won the National League Title. A pitcher on that team was Tug McGraw.

He coined a phrase which has carried over in Sports ever since that year. He said, "You Got to Believe."

How can you be a winner if you don't believe? The answer is, "You are a loser before you start."

Things could be better for many of us out there. This year there is also a good feeling at this time of the year. Yes, my Friends and I'll tell you why, "Santa Claus is coming to town and you better believe it."

Merry Christmas!
Thomas Francis Clark

The Late Thomas Francis Clark was a frequent letter writer and one of our greatest supporters. Each year he would send this letter to the editor. In his memory we are republishing this letter. C.M.

Tis the Season for Warm & Fuzzy

This is the time of the year when people like to get "warm and fuzzy."

We will treat the homeless and less fortunate to a Christmas feast to make ourselves feel good, and then shoo them away for another year.

Some will decorate their houses with outlandish displays that will make the power companies happy.

Others will shop till they drop getting those retail percentages up for this quarter. Those that have the money that is.

Of course there are some that will put up signs and rent bill boards stating that there is no God, no angels, and that those that believe are fools. I guess that is their right under the first amendment. Wait a minute, the first amendment grants the right to "freedom of religion" not the "freedom of non-religion." Somebody should look into that. And that part about being fools offends me. Looks like a job for the ACLU, yea right!

Let me be clear about one thing. I am not and do not profess to be a religious man in anyway. In fact if I even stepped into a church it would probably fall down. However

I do not condemn religion or make fun of religious people. And yes I do believe in God. If that makes me a fool so be it. At least I'm in good company.

There are those that say there is no "War on Christmas" with a sheepish grin. We simply do not want to offend anyone. Well you people offend me by saying there is no war and then continuing to attack it. I know it's not really a war but merely a police action. Yea, that's the ticket.

Let's reflect. Christmas is a Christian Holy Day. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a Holy Day not a holiday. It is, in part, celebrated by the giving gifts symbolizing the Three Kings who came to Baby Jesus bearing gifts. It's this part of the celebration that the retailers love. Well if you love it so much call it what it is, Christmas not holiday. It is the Christians that are going to make your profits rise, so how about a little respect here.

When I was in school we used to exchange Christmas cards, (boy am I old). There were some Jewish students in my class. So instead of giving them a Christmas card we gave them a card that read Happy Holidays, since their Holy Days were in such close proximity to ours. Not because we were afraid of offending

them but because we wanted to include them in our season of "warm and fuzzy" and didn't want them to feel left out. Somehow this tradition seems to have gotten out of hand.

Christmastime is a time for peace and good will towards men. You hear stories of kindness to the extreme. It brings out the good in people if only once a year.

There is a story of the soldiers on opposite sides during WWI who stopped fighting on Christmas Eve and sang Christmas carols and exchanged rations and their care packages from home with each other. They were trying to kill each other the day before.

How could Christmas, a day with such power for good and kindness, be offensive to anyone?

In conclusion I would like to say two things:

1. For those who are offended by Christmas and those who think they are offending someone by the mentioning of Christmas; STOP CRAPING ON CHRISTMAS IN THE NAME OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS.
2. To everyone including the ones mentioned above: MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Joe Bayona

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. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. 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.

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HIV Support

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

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

Volunteer Firefighters Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department: Volunteer Division needs members. Accepting men and women ages 18 years or older. Volunteers must be a Perth Amboy resident. For more information please contact 732-442-3430 or 732-324-3505.

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. by appointment. 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

Tea Room Open

PERTH AMBOY - The Proprietary House is now open every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for tea and tours. The tea room has reopened, serving their usual delicious homemade cakes and assorted teas. Hostesses Dot, Helen and Joanne are back to greet you. A \$7.00 donation includes both the tea and a tour of the mansion. Although the house is still in the process of being restored, some rooms have been newly decorated, and we have acquired several pieces of antique furniture, including a 1700's desk and game table. The gift shop is also opened. A visit to the tea room is the perfect way to spend a pleasant afternoon. Groups are welcome, although reservations are required for groups over six people. The Proprietary House is located at 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Tel: 732-826-5527. Email: Info@proprietary-house.org.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

TUES. Dec. 22 BID, 12 Noon
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Dec. 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!



A Christmas Gift

During this season of giving

Each one of us can give a Christmas Gift
to our fellow man

With giving respect and kindness you may be giving a
person that is down on his luck a reason to
keep on living

You may lift up someone's spirit by giving
him a helping hand

By giving the gift of reverence of every human being
You will be receiving a Christmas Gift

A gift that was given to us over two thousand years ago
The gift of being selfless

The gift of love
By being tolerant and giving love to everyone you meet
during this Christmas Season

You will be giving and receiving "A Christmas Gift"

By "The Poet" Dioris Luis Arlequin



Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department Parade Committee

will be holding their 6th Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 16, 2016 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cafeteria of St. Stephen's Church

Mechanic Street Entrance, Perth Amboy

Adults \$10 Children under 5 - Free

Come out and support your local heroes!

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.

OPRA Requests Discussed by Residents

PERTH AMBOY - 12/9/15 Council Meeting - Resident Ken Balut was a bit concerned about the contract for the Solar Powered Parking Pay Stations. He stated, "I heard that they're were no bids on these meters. At the League of Municipalities, there were people there you could have talked to about our meters."

Balut also wanted to know, "Why are people (the Council and others sitting up front) texting during the meetings. You are not supposed to be sitting on OPRA requests. This is what you got here."

While Balut was talking, Interim B.A. Peter Pelissier snapped Balut's photo. "At least with Joe's (Vas) administration, OPRA requests were processed promptly. You gave some people raises, but you say you are broke. You violate civil service all the time. Do what is politically correct - not politically corrupt."

City Resident Reinaldo Aviles came up to speak. He talked about meetings in general and OPRA requests. Aviles stated, "When I first started coming to the meetings, the Caucus was held on a Wednesday and the Regular Meeting was held on

the Tuesday of the following week. I've never had a problem with an OPRA request. Seven days is the suggested turnaround for an answer. If it's more than seven days, then the person who filled out an OPRA request is to be informed in writing why the request is taking more than seven days."

At the 12/7/15 Caucus Meeting, Aviles read part of the N.J.S.A. Resolution. The following is part of what he read:

N.J.S.A. 10:4-13. Exclusion of public; resolution; adoption; contents

No public body shall exclude the public from any meeting to discuss any matter described in [N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b] until the public body shall first adopt a resolution, at a meeting to which the public shall be admitted:

a. Stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed; and

b. Stating as precisely as possible, the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in closed session of the public body can be disclosed to the public.

For more extensive information go to <http://ogtf.lpcnj.org>



Reinaldo Aviles

OPMA.htm

This was a response to some of the residents questioning some legal items that the Law Director Arlene Quinones Perez said could not be discussed because of litigations taking place.

Some of the residents responded back to Quinones. "We can ask questions on whatever we want to during the second public portion, but the Council is not obligated to respond back."

Councilman Bill Petrick said, "That is true."

Raritan Bay Medical Center's Institute for Weight Loss Achieves National Accreditation

Press Release 12/8/15

OLD BRIDGE - Patients seeking surgical treatment for severe obesity and its related conditions have a high-quality choice for receiving treatment at a nationally accredited program that meets the highest standards for patient safety and quality of care in the greater Central New Jersey area. Dr. Ayotunde Adayeri, medical director of the Institute for Weight Loss at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, NJ, recently announced the Institute has been accredited as a Comprehensive Bariatric Center under the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement

Program (MBSAQIP). "The goal of our program has always been to provide patients with complete and comprehensive services to not only lose weight, but also make a lifestyle change to keep the weight off," said Dr. Adayeri. "This important accreditation confirms that we are providing our patients with the necessary comprehensive care and support services required to help them achieve their weight loss goals and maintain their health and well-being." To make an appointment or to learn more about weight loss surgery at a free seminar, call the Institute at 1-855-TIME-4-ME.

Selfies with Santa & Friends

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, Dec. 19th 12 Noon to 2 p.m. at Smith Street/Downtown Area.



CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I want to thank every resident in the City of Perth Amboy for making this another wonderful year. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one another and as a community, I am so proud to see that in motion, time and time again. I wish everyone a holiday season full of love, laughter and giving, with your family, friends and neighbors. I look forward to what we will achieve together in 2016 for our great, historic city. On behalf of the City of Perth Amboy and our City Council, have a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hon. Wilda Diaz, Mayor

Council President Lisa Nanton

Council Members

Fernando Gonzalez

Fernando Irizarry

Joel Pabon

William A. Petrick



Home for the Holidays

GIFT GUIDE 2015



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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The YMCA builds character and teaches the values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility?

We couldn't serve the community without your generous support. The Y would like to thank all of the angels who help us to give the gift of a healthy community!

Please support the Y and our community at www.rbaymca.org.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

**MAKE HOLIDAY SHOPPING A CINCH!
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE AT MEMBER SERVICES.**

Santa Fly-In

Press Release

PRINCETON - Forty years ago, the idea of having Santa fly into the Princeton Airport for the area children to watch was brought to life. Throughout the years, this has evolved into a wonderful annual event for families and those less fortunate.

The tradition will continue this year on Thursday, December 24th, when the Nierenberg family, owners of the airport, will open the hangar doors to children awaiting Santa's ar-

ival. Santa is planned to arrive at 11:00 A.M. Parents are advised to bring the children prior to then, as the Princeton Airport Flying Tigers will be serving cocoa and cookies, and local folk singer Pat McKinley will be leading the audience in holiday songs during the wait for Santa.

If parents would like to have a gift waiting for their child, they should bring a wrapped gift with the child's name on it in large print to the Princeton Airport lobby. Gifts should be no larger than 12" to ac-

commodate Santa. If parents have more than one child participating, the gifts should be wrapped in the same paper and tied together to speed up the distribution. Also, to have their child participate, parents need to bring a gift for the less fortunate as well. This is the most important feature of this -MORE- event. These gifts must be new and unwrapped, and will be collected by the Mercer County Board of Social Services. Personal checks made out to the "FoodBank Network of Somerset County", as well as canned or boxed food will also be collected at the airport. Donations from nonparticipants are kindly accepted, as well.

The collection of the gifts will begin the day after Thanksgiving and will end on Thursday, December 17th in order to enable county workers to arrange the best matches for the needy. The gifts can be deposited in the "chimneys" in the lobby of the airport between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Once Santa's plane lands, Santa will head into the hangar along with all the participants, to distribute each gift individually. In fairness to all, Santa will distribute the gifts in the order in which they are received at the airport. Children will also have the opportunity to take a picture on Santa's lap. Usually, distribution is completed by 1:00 P.M. and Santa continues his journey.

There is no charge for this event. The Princeton Airport is located in Montgomery Township, 3.5 miles north of Princeton on Route 206. The full address is 41 Airpark Road, Princeton, N.J., 08540. For further information, call 609--921-3100.

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Toys For Tots

EDISON - The United States Marine Corps Reserve will be collecting new unwrapped toys for its Toys For Tots Program every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from November 27 to December 20, 2015, in the Menlo Park Mall, Edison, NJ located by Santa Court of the Nordstrom Wing. Cash Donations are also accepted. For more information call Eddy Androvich Sr. at 908-565-1339. Make checks payable to "Toys For Tots." Mail to: Toys For Tots, 70 Marsh Ave., Sayreville, NJ 08872.

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Holiday Model Train Show

WOODBIDGE - The Holiday Model Train Show 25th Anniversary Year - November 28 - December 27 (closed December 25) at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more info call 732-634-0413. Exhibit hours M-F 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat & Sun 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free Admission. Donations Welcome.

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For a Happy, Healthy New Year

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 Evelyn Redondo, Angelika Lignell



*Dr. James Wolff
 Chiropractic Physician*

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Dr. Kevin D. Geiger

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Trolley Tour

SOUTH AMBOY - Have a Holly, Jolly Holiday Riding in the City's Trolley on a tour of South Amboy featuring Historical sites and the contest entries in South Amboy's "Holiday Home Decorating Contest." Tours of the decorated homes will be given on Friday, Dec. 18th starting at 5:30 p.m. in a beautiful Holiday Trolley! Call the Recreation Office at 732-525-5965 or email Events@SouthAmboyNJ.gov to reserve your seat beginning on Nov. 18th. Seating is limited - first come - first served. Open to South Amboy Residents Only, ID will be verified.

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Elks New Year's Eve Party

SOUTH AMBOY - The Elks New Year's Party will be held on Thursday, December 31st, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Elks Lodge located at 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy. Cost - \$60 pp. Includes a hot and cold buffet, open bar, midnight toast, raffles, prizes and more. Entertainment features D.J. Rambo Productions. For Tickets contact: Pete Chiofalo - (732) 525-0956. Joyce Medvar - (908) 614-8139 If needed, one can stop by the Lodge for more details. Reserve your table early. Deadline for Tickets Dec. 28th.

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No Paper Next 2 Weeks! See You January 6, 2016



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CHICKEN PARMIGIANA, MARSALA, OR FRANCAISE	\$60
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WHOLESALE!

Saturday, December 19th

Sunday, December 20th

9am—3pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Panettone Alto 2LB

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Season's Greetings Best Wishes For a Happy, Healthy New Year

306 Smith St., Perth Amboy
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PERTH AMBOY - Every December, Copa De'Oro Owner and President of PAMA (Perth Amboy Merchant Organization) Reyes Ortega holds a Christmas Party inviting the Children of the City. Besides gifts, a small meal is provided plus entertainment. This year Hugo Fleities Insurance/Santabana Travel VP of PAMA Wilma Matey joined Reyes in his venture. For several years PAMA has held a Gala recognizing businesses, organizations and individuals that benefit the City of Perth Amboy. They also hold a Scholarship Dinner for students in the Public, Catholic and Charter schools of every grade who are high achievers.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PERTH AMBOY

Congratulations to

The Kitchen-Catering Department of C-Town Supermarket



"Winners of the grand prize

People's Choice Award" for the second year in a row

Among 30 Other Restaurants in the Area for The Best Food in Perth Amboy.

This food competition event, "The Taste of Perth Amboy,"

took place at the Crystal & Silver ZPA Banquet Hall" on October 22, 2015.

Mil gracias a la comunidad de Perth Amboy y areas aledañas por seleccionar la comida de nuestra cocina por dos años consecutivos, como la mejor entre 30 restaurantes participantes. Haciendonos ganadores del gran premio Soberano por seleccion mayoritaria del publico asistente. El evento "The Taste of Perth Amboy," se celebros el 22 de Octubre 2015 en el salon de fiestas ZPA, de Perth Amboy.



C-Town Supermarket 272 Maple St., Perth Amboy
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Home for the Holidays

GIFT GUIDE 2015

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2016

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Thursday, December 31st

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Cookie Walk

PERTH AMBOY – St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy is having a Cookie Walk on Sat. Dec. 19th. Time 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All gourmet items are handmade. Come to the Cookie Walk at 404 Division St, Perth Amboy and buy your Christmas cookies!

Bell Ringers Wanted

PERTH AMBOY – The Salvation Army is looking for Bell Ringer for their Christmas Kettles. The job is seasonal (Nov. 27 thru Dec. 24) and full time \$9/hr. 5 days a week (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. You need to have a Social Security and State ID. Come apply at the Salvation Army, 433 State St., Perth Amboy. Contact: Alex Rodriguez. 732-826-7040.



You Are Invited to Christmas Services at Cathedral International

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - There is a Christmas celebration happening at Cathedral International and everyone is invited to attend. "Join the celebration that acknowledges the birth of Jesus Christ because that's the real meaning of this season," states Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Senior Pastor at the church. The Bishop encourages the community to bring the entire family and neighbors to witness an unforgettable Christmas worship experience.

- Friday, December 18, 7:30pm, The Annual Christmas Concert "Rejoice!" Cathedral International's Music Department presents this festive Christmas Concert featuring The Cathedral Choir, Kingdom and Imani Dancers, Joy Bells Children's Choir, Keita Praise Junior Choir, New Generation Teen Choir along with the Sunday School's Annual Christmas Pageant. New Jersey's own Nancy Jackson, known across the nation for her heart-warming renditions of gospel music is a featured guest at the concert.

- Wednesday, December 23, 7:30 p.m., Blue Christmas Worship Service Holidays can be painful reminders of the absence of a loved one, loss of employment or a home. This is a service of remembrance and hope for those who are approaching the holidays with grief, loss, and pain.

- Thursday, December 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

You will not want to miss this beautiful display of lighting candles with family and friends on Christmas Eve. Bishop Hilliard celebrated 32 years of pastoring in November and for each of those years he has set a beautiful tradition of gathering children around his chair and speaking into their lives.

There is no fee to attend these services held at The Cathedral, 277 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. Visit our website at www.cathedralinternational.org for more information.



Arista Care at Alameda Center wishes you a safe and happy holiday!

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**Christmas Artwork Contest Winner
Perth Amboy 12/4/15 *Photos Submitted**



Press Release

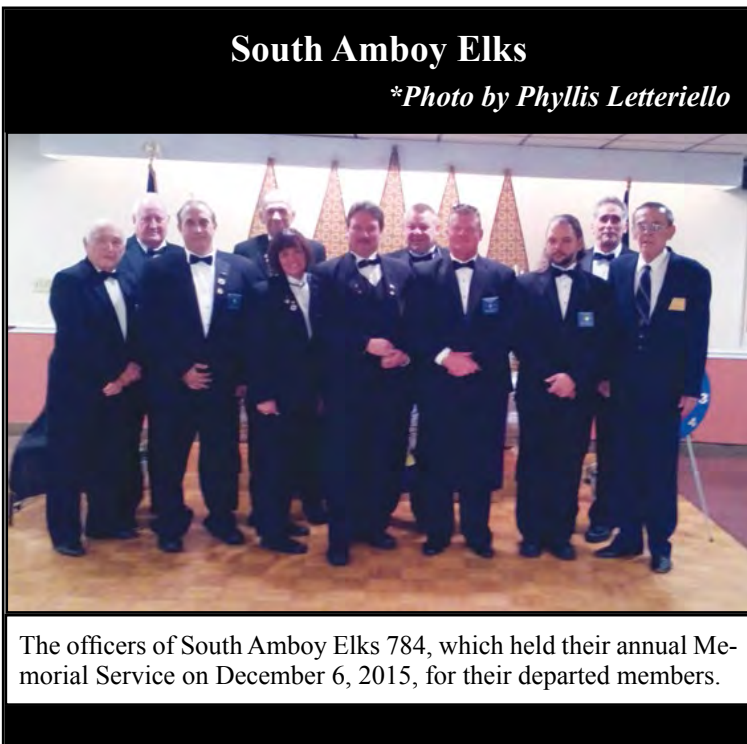
PERTH AMBOY - On Friday, December 4th, 2015, Miss Alyssa Sierra was honored at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. with a National Art Award. Alyssa's artwork was entered into the Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest last May by her art teacher at Perth Amboy Catholic School, Mrs. Rose Lavin Pennyfeather. Only 24 winners were chosen to have their artwork made into E-Greeting Christmas cards from over 10,000 entries nationwide. Alyssa attended the event with her family and her art teacher. Photo (L) Miss Alyssa Sierra with her winning artwork. Photo (R) Winners of Art Awards

**Edison AARP
Chapter 3446**

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, December 21 at 12:00 Noon for our annual holiday luncheon. The meeting will be held at The Forge Inn, 1002 Highway 9 North, Woodbridge, NJ. Entertainment will be provided by The Elderly Brothers. A trip to Doolans in Spring Lake, NJ on December 31st is being planned for a New Years Eve day celebration. Call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659 for information. Food for MC-FOOD will be collected at the luncheon. For additional information, visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

South Amboy Elks

**Photo by Phyllis Letteriello*



The officers of South Amboy Elks 784, which held their annual Memorial Service on December 6, 2015, for their departed members.

Check Presentations to RBMC, Perth Amboy 12/3/15

**Photos by Katherine Massopust*

PERTH AMBOY - Photo (T) President of The Raritan Bay Medical Center Auxiliary, Perth Amboy Division President Carmella Guarnera presented a check for \$20,000 to RBMC. Photo (B) Raritan Bay Medical Center Ernest R. Hansen Auxiliary Chapter President Marcella Massopust presented a check to RBMC for \$3,500. Both presentations took place at RBMC Perth Amboy Annual Tree Lighting on 12/3/15. Christmas Carols were sung by the Assumption Catholic School Students under the direction of Teacher Melanie Lawrence. Santa arrived to bring Holiday Joy for all.



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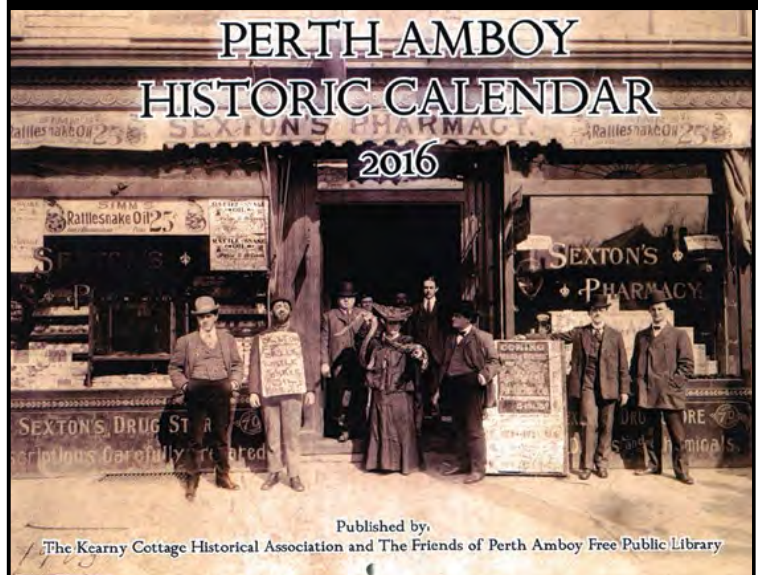
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Novena to St. Rita

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 the 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. G.T.A.*

AC Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - The monthly trip to Caesar's Casino, AC will be on Thursday, Jan. 7th. Bus leaves 12 Noon from KOC, 228 High St., Perth Amboy. Cost: \$30 pp. Receive \$30 slot play. For additional info call Joe: 732-826-0819.

Remembering Jayson Eaves



Jayson, My Beloved Son

Though it has only been one year since you have departed this life, it seems like an eternity...For, oh how I miss you my darling son. However I'm just so grateful for all the many memories of you that are forever resounding in my heart beats: The joys & comforts you brought me, the love we shared, your beautiful smile, your passion for family and the strength you exhibited during your illness etc...all put together with the grace of God, keep me going on. I am one that believe, love is the life of the heart, therefore as long as I live, you too, my son, will live, cause you are always being remembered Jayson, my one and only precious child.

From your mother Jackie, who will always love you.



Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- WED. Dec. 16 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. Dec. 17 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Dec. 21 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Dec. 22 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
 - Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Dec. 23 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
 - St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.

South Amboy

- MON. Dec. 28 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. Jan. 4 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Jan. 6 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave

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

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19



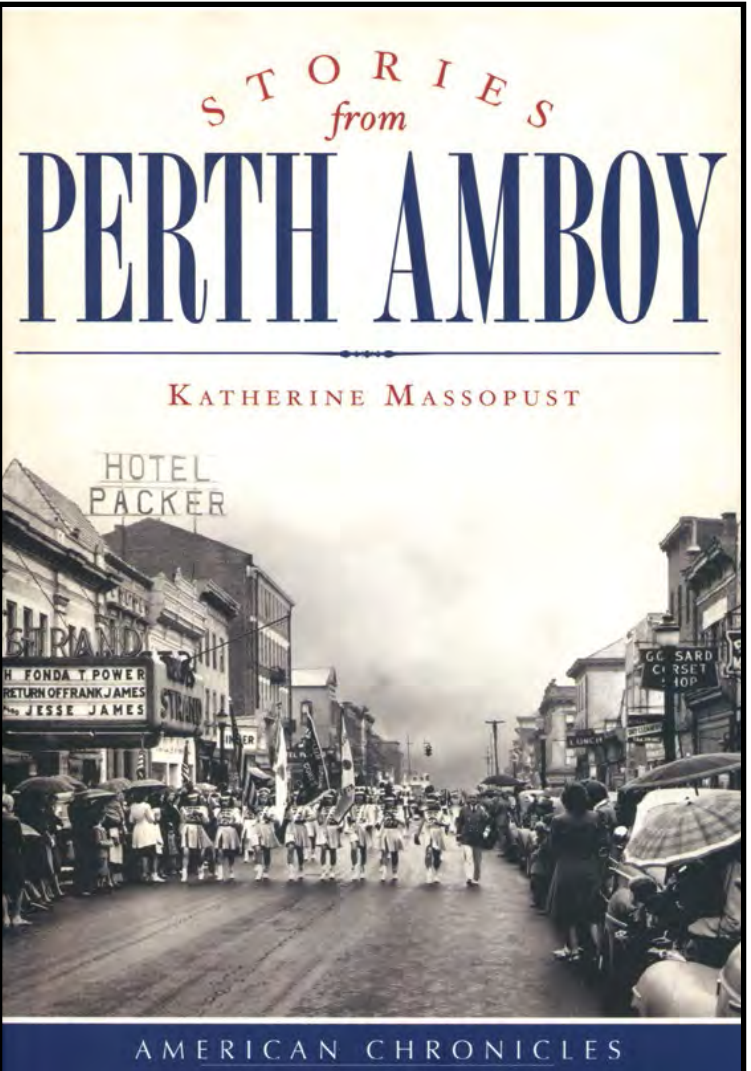
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - A new toy car for Christmas.

**Photo Courtesy of 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



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! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!

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For Sale	Hess Trucks and Mini's 1988 to 2010 \$25 & up 732-718-9137	Thatcher for Snapper Power Lawn Mower Good Condition \$20 732-826-8522
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Prayer To St. Clare For Employment Prayer To St. Jude

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ACROSS

- 1 Military rank (abbr.)
- 4 Dusting powder
- 8 Furtive whisper
- 12 Turn soil
- 13 Butter's rival
- 14 Least bit
- 15 Long time
- 16 Cap and ___
- 17 Wolverine's group, with "The" (hyph.)
- 18 Ruckus
- 20 Birds and bees
- 22 Ship's letters
- 23 "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
- 24 Firefighter's weapon
- 27 Letters after a dentist's name
- 28 Follower of (suffix)
- 31 Hit makers
- 32 Strive
- 33 Cars from Munich
- 34 Hockey great Bobby
- 35 Cozy place
- 36 Some summer babies
- 37 Sailor's affirmatives
- 39 ___ Paulo
- 41 Whirlpools
- 43 Christmas beverage
- 47 Guy
- 48 Shamrock land
- 50 Departure's

opposite (abbr.)

51 "___ keep" (pro-crastinator's motto)

- 52 Fancy
- 53 Skid causer
- 54 Watched
- 55 White flakes
- 56 Order's partner

DOWN

- 1 Professional cook
- 2 Opposite of wealthy
- 3 Singer Horne
- 4 Caesar's

garments

5 At ___ (puzzled, 2 wds.)

- 6 Writer Wallace
- 7 Entrust secrets
- 8 Elf's cousin
- 9 At any date in the future
- 10 Pun or gang ender
- 11 Works with leather
- 19 Hints
- 21 Pounds (abbr.)
- 24 "Entourage" channel (abbr.)
- 25 Dinghy accessory

26 Sit astride

- 27 Tumult
- 29 Tango need
- 30 Double curve
- 32 Ships
- 33 Internet journal
- 35 Grade an egghead never gets
- 38 Give way
- 39 Watchmaker
- 40 Politician Spiro
- 41 Falco or Adams
- 42 Obligation
- 44 Finger feature
- 45 Killer whale
- 46 Expanded
- 49 "___ Tin Tin"

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